

A final thought...

The words "Jesus himself stood in the midst of them" may carry our minds forward to the time when he shall stand in the midst of all of his people, just and unjust, and then some will be "terrified and affrighted." Indeed, I think all will to some extent. We may talk much now of our longing desire for the presence of the Lord, but it is a question if any one can enter his august presence without trembling, and anxiously watching his countenance. O, if we can but catch a smile won't our "hearts burn within us?" If we can but hear the words, "Peace be unto you," "why are you troubled, and why do thoughts arise in your hearts?" shall we not leap for joy and shout for gladness? That dreadful word, Depart! will strike confusion and despair into the minds and hearts of some: God forbid it should be any of us. We have learned to love each other with a love divine, begotten by the Truth which binds us together in faithful affection. God grant that this love may keep us together, and that we may never hear that fearful word "Depart." Some are falling out by the way, and causing division and trouble among us. Let us help them if they will let us. If they will not, let us pray for their recovery before it is too late. Looking down into our hearts let us see that there is no hatred, no malice, no envy, but that we have nothing but the interests of the Truth, the glory of God, and the well-being of His creatures at heart. Maintaining this attitude all along the way to the end of life's weary journey we can brace ourselves up for the ordeal of that judgment that will declare our eternal destiny; and even if for a short moment we are "terrified" and "affrighted," our anxiety will soon give place to a gladness and "Joy unspeakable and full of glory." Amen.

Thomas Williams, excerpt from "He is Not Here, But is Risen"

THE SANCTUARY-KEEPER



*A Magazine for the Exposition and Defense
of The Holy Scriptures*

In this issue:

- "Generation Me"
- In Whom Does Israel Trust?
- The Sons of Korah
- The Assyrian Empire
- The Reality of the Flood
- The Bible – Its Promise of World Unity
- Things New and Old from the Treasures of the Spirit

Contents

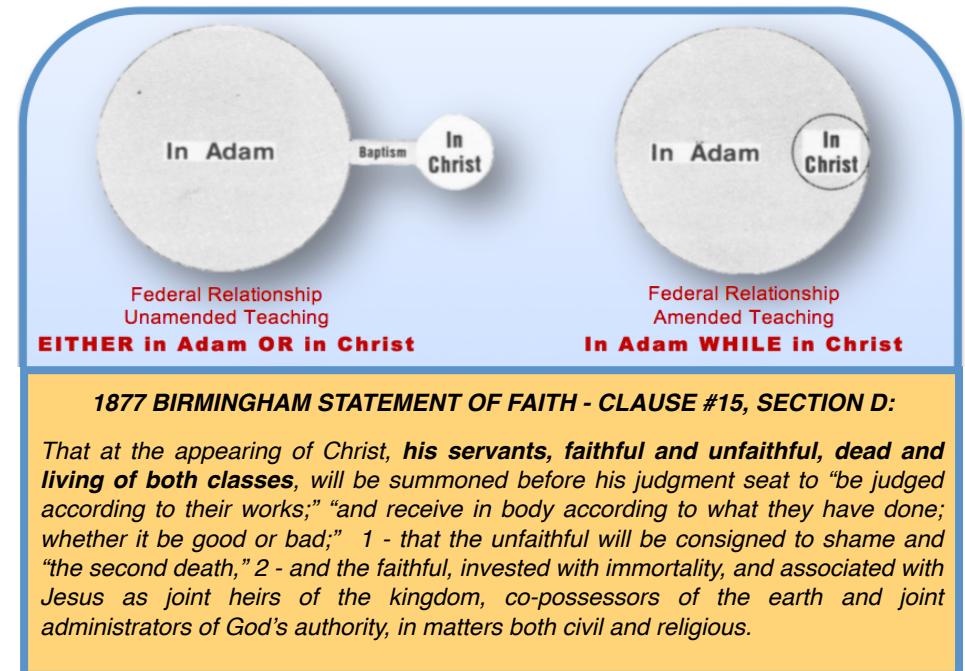
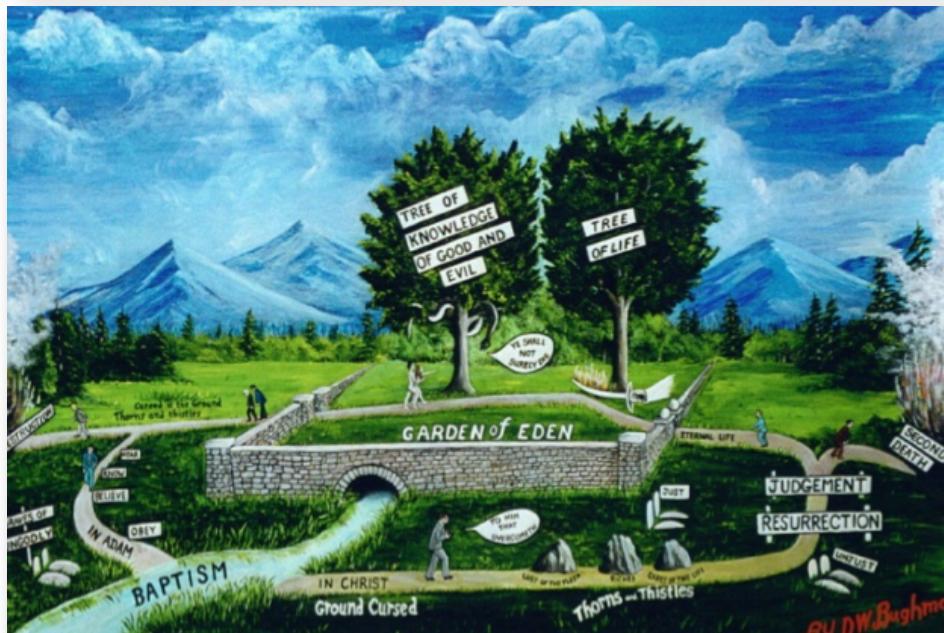
- p. 1 "Generation Me"
- p. 6 In Whom Does Israel Trust?
- p. 11 The Sons of Korah
- p. 19 The Assyrian Empire
- p. 31 The Reality of the Flood
- p. 41 The Bible - Its Promise of World Unity
- p. 50 Thing New and Old From The Treasures of The Spirit
- p. 52 Editorial Flyleaf

Front Cover: Dust storm in the Negev - "whirlwinds of the South"
Courtesy of sis. Faith Gini

Back Cover: Quote from bro. Thomas Williams

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1877 BIRMINGHAM STATEMENT OF FAITH - CLAUSE #15, SECTION D:

That at the appearing of Christ, his servants, faithful and unfaithful, dead and living of both classes, will be summoned before his judgment seat to "be judged according to their works;" "and receive in body according to what they have done; whether it be good or bad;" 1 - that the unfaithful will be consigned to shame and "the second death," 2 - and the faithful, invested with immortality, and associated with Jesus as joint heirs of the kingdom, co-possessors of the earth and joint administrators of God's authority, in matters both civil and religious.

THE ORIGIN AND EXTENT OF THE KINGDOM OF MEN

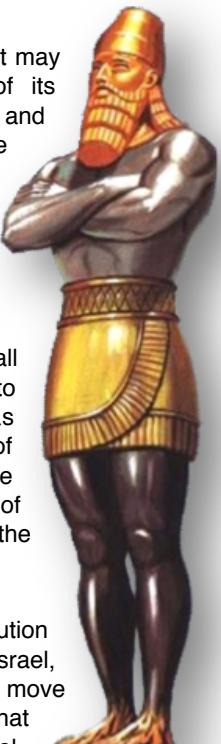
In taking a general survey of the contents of the Book of Daniel, it may be seen that two great powers are the principal subject of its predictions. The one is styled the KINGDOM OF MEN (Dan. 4:17) and the other the KINGDOM OF GOD (Dan. 2:44; 4:3; 7:27)...It will be seen that the Kingdom of men has been diversified in its constitution, extent and throne since its foundation by Nimrod to the present time. It has nevertheless been the same Nimroudian kingdom with Babylon and Assyria for its characteristics. (Exposition of Daniel, pp. 7,8)

THE FEET OF THE IMAGE

While the head, breast, arms, belly, thighs, legs and toes have all existed, the feet have not yet been formed; so that it has hitherto been impossible for the colossal image to stand erect as Nebuchadnezzar saw it in his dream...It is therefore, the mission of the Autocrat (of Russia) to form the feet and set up the image before the world in all its excellent brightness and terribleness of form; that all men subject to the kingdom of Babylon may worship the work of its creator's power. (Exposition of Daniel, p. 87)

THE DESTRUCTION OF THE IMAGE

The Russian Autocracy in its plenitude and on the verge of dissolution is the image of Nebuchadnezzar standing upon the mountains of Israel, ready to be smitten by the Stone. When Russia makes its grand move for the building up of its Image-empire, then let the reader know that the end of all things present constituted, is at hand. (Elpis Israel, preface)



THE
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“Ye shall keep the charge of the sanctuary, and the charge of the altar”

Num. 18:5

“Ye are...an holy priesthood to offer up spiritual sacrifices.”

I Peter 2:5

“Thou hast kept My Word and hast not denied My Name” - Rev. 3:8

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“GENERATION ME”
EDITORIAL COMMENT

A few months ago we attended a presentation associated with required “professional development” for our job in education. The presentation was titled **“Meet Generation NeXT: Understanding, Teaching and Serving Today’s Students.”** The presentation addressed the changes in the culture, how such affects incoming students and how teachers are to deal with such changes. It was delivered by a “professional” speaker that presents this type of material to businesses, organizations and schools across the country in trying to deal with the radical changes in attitudes and behaviors that is taking place in the culture among students and the work force.

Unlike most painful meetings and staff development events, we actually looked forward to this from a sense of curiosity. As Believers in these last days all of us have been very aware of the extraordinarily rapid decline taking place within the “Western” culture. Such has been a free fall into ignorance, apathy and moral confusion as God’s principles and laws (even if once held under the umbrella of Apostasy) have been completely abandoned for Man’s definitions of right and wrong. As working in education, we have watched this decline on a yearly basis, as each new group of children coming through show new levels of deterioration. Many have no understanding of right and wrong, simple concepts of decency are not comprehended, they demonstrate a lack of work ethic, as well as a lack of shame and conscience. It is very noticeable, and it is also

being recognized by the people of the world - especially many educators that have been around long enough to watch the change take place and remember a "better" time.

Because of our understanding as Believers of the nature of sin's flesh and the ramifications of the Godless times in which we live, it should not be difficult for us to understand the problems and from where the problems stem. I was curious to see what this "Doctor" of education had to say and if he truly recognized the issues, and how he proposed to address them. We weren't looking for solutions as we know that there is nothing that will turn this evil tide around except for the return of our Master, but still found interest in how far the speaker would be willing to honestly identify the issues.

We were pleasantly surprised to hear some of the speaker's assessments of what the generational problems are - also dubbed "Generation Me". In one of his initial questions he asked - "*What is the deal with these students, and how did they get that way?*" His answer - "*we created them.*" But as expected, he provided no real solution to the problems but essentially offered a "go along to get along" type of approach, with attempts at behavior manipulation rather than a return to the old methods of parenting and societal limits, based upon Biblical principles.

A Generation Shift

The speaker first identified what he perceived to be the roots of the problem - what he called a "generation shift" that first took place among the so called "baby boomers" of the post World War 2 era. Such was a generation (generally speaking) that was beginning to reject what they perceived to be the "*authoritarian, critical, emotionally distant and physical*" characteristics of their parents' generation. Such was a transition from the parent being an authority figure to a "friend/facilitator". Families became "child-centric" or in other words the children became the center of all attention ushering in the era of the "*wanted, precious, protected, perfect child.*" This was accompanied by lots of praise and limited criticism. The baby boomers also promoted the "**human potential movement**", characterized by the attitude of "*I'm ok; you're ok*", and accompanied by "*less fear, shame and guilt.*" The principles of self-sacrifice and delayed gratification were abandoned towards a more self-centered, self-pleasing world view. This was not an immediate change, nor new in the history of the world but one that accelerated with the "baby boomers."

As Believers, we should easily be able to see that what was taking place was the full embracing and promotion of the spirit of Humanism in the society in which we live. This was when schools began to dramatically change to promote such newly embraced "wisdom" in the attempts to engineer wholesale changes in society through manipulation of the young people. Attitudes changed, behaviors changed, tolerances changed, spirituality and morality changed, and definitions of common civility changed...and quite dramatically.

The Consequence

What did this generation shift create? Some of the characteristics as offered by the presenter were offered in two stages - the generation that has or is reaching adulthood now ("Millennials" or "NeXters") and those currently coming up as children. Both fit into the "Generation Me" mindset. These are

GENERATION “ME”

the offspring of what is called “Generation X” - the children of the “baby-boomers” and those born from the early 1970’s into the early 80’s. This “Generation Me” are creating major problems as higher education and businesses struggle to deal with the ramifications of a spoiled and entitled generation.

The following is a sampling of the characteristics of the “NeXters” as provided by the presenter:

- Generally positive, confident and optimistic but to the point of overrating their own skills and underestimating the effort needed to be successful.
- Addicted to technology - specifically their phones and social connectivity through technology.
- Narcissistic
- Comfortable with and champion diversity.
- Value “fairness and human rights”.
- Interested in social change
- Feel entitled to rewards.
- Problems accepting responsibility, especially for their own learning.
- Sensitive, easily threatened and may need a “safe space.”
- They have been coddled, protected, and therefore are dependent.
- They are in constant need of help.
- They are immature and praise dependent.
- And, they have serious issues with academic readiness. (Essentially, their brains do not work very well.)

Do we see any problems with the above characteristics? Many of the world view a good portion of these characteristics as positives. But as Believers, do we not see serious clashes with Scriptural principles in regard to the humility, self-abasement and mental endurance that is required of those who wish to follow after Christ? Do we perceive the spirit of Humanism pervading the very core of how these so called “NeXters” see the world and see themselves?

It does get worse. The younger generation of children coming up through elementary levels are displaying characteristics that further reveal the damage that is being done. They are influenced by the full implementation of Humanistic values as well as COMPLETE immersion into a technological age (internet, cell phones, digital media, etc.) that acts as a debilitating drug on development. Some call these gadgets - “electronic pacifiers”.

- They display anxiety and depression.
- They are growing up (emotionally/mentally) slowly.
- They are showing delays in adolescent transitions.
- They are less interested in “independence”.
- They are averaging 6 to 8 hours a day on technology, with two more hours on television.
- Increase in screen time increases loneliness/unhappiness/depression.

- An even less mature, less social and more delicate group than the “NeXt” generation that preceded it.

The Warning to Us

So what do these statistics and observations have to do with us as Believers in these last days? The world has always been evil and Believers of all ages have been commanded to be separate from it. We have to live, work and function within this world while maintaining a lifestyle totally absorbed in the principles of Yahweh that are at complete enmity with it. But we live in a world where the influences of a self destructive culture are more powerful and more intrusive into our lives than it has ever been in previous generations. It's debased philosophies (through the upbringing of children by parents **[the primary factor]** and schools, pop culture, mass media and government intrusion) have completely transformed the very way people think, feel, behave and interact to such a degree that our own hearts and minds are not immune from its influence. And, it is getting even more difficult to resist. As we have heard stated before (and a sad truth) - “As goes the world, so goes Christadelphia.”

The troubles we have seen within Christadelphia over the last few decades, and the acceleration of changed beliefs, behaviors and attitudes over just the past few years are directly related to the changes seen through the transformation of how a generation saw the world and themselves and manifested those changes through how they raised their children, and the upbringing of their children's children and so forth. Once the world stepped out onto the slippery slope, there was no turning back. This has been brought to bare by how each generation increasingly rejected God's ways to the embracing of ever increasing laxness and promotion of fleshly thinking, self gratification, misplaced praise and reinforcement of liberal behavior upon the next generation. Once Believers began to blur the lines between themselves and the world they surrendered to the same natural tendencies. Such has had a direct influence on the spiritual dysfunction we have seen as well.

The Household has not been immune from the characteristics previously listed in this article and neither have Christadelphian ecclesias in regard to how these influences mold our spiritual views on the most profound of levels: rejection of the authority and disciplines of the old paths for newer and more flesh friendly attitudes; over-inflated sense of confidence in regard to spiritual health; spiritually immature and in need of praise; dependent upon social interconnectivity and digital media; a sense of entitlement (and therefore a lack of gratitude); a promotion of tolerance towards various doctrinal/spiritual views; etc., etc. The spiritual deterioration of the Household is a mirror image of what has and is happening in the world itself as the world has been allowed into our lives. Charismatic brethren of a false and liberalized spirit promised decades ago that change would not come to Christadelphia through the adults “but through their children” - and they were right.

None of us are immune to the subtle but powerful “Me” friendly spirits that constantly undermine the non-flesh pleasing principles of God's laws. Such spirits reject God's authority and disciplinary methods in developing both natural and spiritual children. They are not able to see that God's methods are in fact the highest form of love, compassion and benefit to a corrupt and dying race. Rather, their form of “love” is of the diabolos nature in its natural inclination towards “the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life”

- that which the modern “Me” generation fully embraces, promotes and celebrates in almost every facet of life.

Our desire in this editorial is simply to take a warning and lesson from the tragic failures of man’s attempt to “direct his own steps”, which has emotionally and spiritually crippled an entire society from the ground up - starting with the children. Something that which has reached its corrupting hand into the Household of Faith itself over the years, and continues to be a most dangerous threat. In all of this we are simply reminded of the frank Scriptural admonition to *“train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it”* (**Prov. 22:6**). This has much to do with how God continues to train His spiritual children as well (**Heb. 12:5-11**).

A. Thomas

The following comments are an observation by bro. Thomas on the role of apostate religion and superstition in society. We are now living in a time when even this mode of restraint has been greatly diminished.

We do not care to convince men of error unless we can also convince them of the truth. Men without restraint are wild beasts; better therefore that they be restrained by superstitious dread than not restrained at all. This is the providential arrangement under which the world exists. God knows that in the absence of His power in manifestation anarchy would be universal, and violence would fill the earth if mankind were not subjected to their fears. Hence till the establishment of the dominion of the saints he leaves the masses in subjection to strong delusion minister by the spirituals of wickedness in the heavenlies. By this agency they are restrained. They fear hell-flames, they fear the Devil, they fear the clergy, and they fear the myrmidons of the law. They fear all these as the ministers of God; and in this sense they fear God. They are afraid of him with a fear that hath torment. They are restrained from perjury, robbery, murder, and adultery, not because they love truth, are naturally honest, humane, and chaste; but because they fear the flaming torrents of an endless hell, which it is the special business of their clerical guides, whose mission is to lead them into the ditch of perdition, to enstamp in sulfurous and livid characters upon their minds. We would not withdraw them from this influence if we could. Better that mankind should live in terror of “the Devil and his Angels,” than that they should fear neither God, devil, nor man.

Herald, 1861, p. 54, reprinted in The Christadelphian, March 1881

IN WHOM DOES ISRAEL TRUST?



COINCIDING with Israel's 70th anniversary was overflowing excitement among the Israeli people at the move of the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. After years of stalling by the U.S. and continued refusal on the part of all other nations of the world to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capitol (a refusal made upon no other nation on earth) - the Trump administration finally followed through on "The Jerusalem Embassy Act" passed by Congress on October 23, 1995. What has made this even more impactful is the diametrically opposed

stance that the Trump administration has had in support of Israel as opposed to the continued attempts by the Obama administration (and over 70 years of State Department policies) to undermine Israeli interests and goals at every turn. As of two years ago, it would have seemed that such a supportive move by the U.S. was an impossibility. This is so impactful to the Jews, they are even comparing Trump to Cyrus The Great (see Israeli coin above).



There are no Bible prophecies pointing to this specific move by the U.S., but nonetheless it has (or should) stir in Believers a heightened sense of interest and excitement. In both a natural and spiritual sense it is pleasing to our sensibilities to see the continually bullied, marginalized and insanely hated Israeli nation receive a measure of limitless support from a world power this side of Christ's return. We are also seeing, with this move by the U.S., an even greater centralized focus by the world upon Israel and increasing vitriol which brings us ever closer to the day of crisis when Yahweh will "*gather all nations, and will bring them down into the valley of Jehoshaphat*". The nations are enraged by this move of the United States, as they see part if not all of Jerusalem as the capitol of a supposed "Palestinian State" and do not want to see Israel

IN WHOM DOES ISRAEL TRUST?

legitimized. This move by the U.S., though bringing a sense of joy and fulfilling a deep seated hunger by the Israeli people to be accepted and validated on the world stage - we can be assured that the appearance of benefit to Israel is only short lived.

But there is an even deeper rooted problem in all of this. Where is Israel placing their unqualified trust? Is it in Yahweh? Is it in their Messiah? No - it is in President Trump and the United States, along with a continued trust in their own military strength and technological superiority. One of the banners (see below) put up to commemorate this dual celebration of 70 years statehood and of the U.S. recognition of Jerusalem as the Israeli capitol reads:

"TRUMP - MAKE ISRAEL GREAT AGAIN!"

This makes the hair on our neck stand up just a bit. Again, from a natural standpoint we can understand the appreciation that Israel would have for the U.S. standing against the world community in standing up for Israel. And from the standpoint of the Believer, it is pleasing to see Israel (God's witness) given a slice of encouragement and support in the midst of a world that increasingly wishes to see Israel wiped off the world stage once and for all. But who is it that will truly make "Israel great again"? Joel 3:16 - 20 - **"but Yahweh will be the hope of His People, and the strength of the children of Israel. So shall ye know that I am Yahweh your Elohim dwelling in Zion, My holy mountain: then shall Jerusalem be holy, and there shall no strangers pass through her any more."** Isaiah 49:26 - **"I Yahweh am thy Saviour and thy Redeemer, the mighty One of Jacob."**



The prophetic reality that is unfolding before us is that Israel has yet to be humbled to recognize the true source of their strength and salvation. As they have done many times in their long history, they are placing their trust in the wrong places which has always ended with disastrous results. Most notably we have Israel's false reliance upon Egypt - Isaiah 31:1 - **"Woe to them that go down to Egypt for help; and stay on horses, and trust in chariots, because they are many; and in horsemen, because they are very strong; but they look not unto the Holy One of Israel, neither seek the LORD."** Like all Gentile nations, which are rooted in the Dominion of Sin, they are bound to their own self interests and cannot deliver on their promises - 2nd Kings 18:21 - **"Now, behold, thou trusted upon the staff of this bruised reed, even upon Egypt, on which if a man lean, it will go into his hand, and pierce it: so is Pharaoh king of Egypt unto all that trust on him."**

There are prophetic facts that help us to understand the vain and fleeting nature of what little support Israel is given prior to the coming day of crisis, when the Gogian Confederacy will in fact "*ascend and come like a storm...like a*

cloud to cover the land." Where will the U.S.*, Britain, Canada, Australia (and a few others) be found when Israel stands on the verge of annihilation? These are allied countries (most being English speaking and former British colonies) that stand in opposition to the Gogian Confederacy (Ezek 38:2,5,6) that we scripturally refer to as the Tarshish or Lion power - "*Tarshish, with all the young lions thereof*" (Ezek. 38:13). Again, where will these nations stand? What will they be able to do for Israel? The answer is nothing. Bro. Thomas comments on this in Elpis Israel (p. 446):

"and when the Autocrat (for Gogue is an autocrat, ruling by his own will) invades the Holy Land for the purpose of spoiling the Jews, the Lion-power of these countries assumes a threatening attitude, and dares him to execute his purpose. "Art you come to take a spoil? Hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey?" Thus it speaks to Gogue: as much as to say, "Thou shalt not spoil Israel and subdue their country, if we can help it." The prophet Daniel, however, shows that the only effect of these threatening tidings is to make him furious..."

Though they may protest, and no doubt they will be extraordinarily alarmed as they watch Russia and its allies make an unprecedented geo-political move in neutralizing the prosperous, wealthy, innovative, confident and peaceful Israeli nation - they are helpless to repel the Gogian onslaught. The Jews must come to realize the reality of their only source of greatness, strength and salvation.

The prophet Daniel tells us that Gogue/the King of the North will "*go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make way many. And he shall plant the tabernacles of his palace between the seas in the glorious holy mountain*" (Daniel 11:44,45). This phrase "to make away many" is an interesting but frightening and sobering indicator as to the catastrophic nature of the Russian confederacy's exploits. "*To make away many*" actually means to "*destroy utterly, completely destroy, dedicate to destruction, exterminate.*" So it will be the Gogian confederacy's objective to eliminate as many as they can, just as it was the objective of Nazi Germany.

The prophet Zechariah reveals the degree of destruction and carnage that will in fact take place when he revealed - "*that in all the land, saith the LORD, two parts therein shall be cut off and die; but the third shall be left therein.*" The intended extermination is not total, but it is gravely significant. This will be the "*time of Jacob's trouble*" as referenced in Jeremiah 30:7. But, as the verse in Jeremiah continues - "**but he shall be saved out of it.**"

Isaiah provides additional description - "*In that day shall the Branch (i.e. Messiah) of the LORD be beautiful and glorious, and the fruit of the earth shall be excellent and comely for them that are escaped of Israel.*" Escaped from what? Answer - the Gogian invader. He continues - "*And it shall come to pass,*

*Whether or not the U.S. scripturally qualifies as a "young lion" and what role the U.S. will play at the time of Crisis this writer is not certain, but for the time being the U.S. is certainly playing the leading role in the Tarshish alliance.

IN WHOM DOES ISRAEL TRUST

that he that is left in Zion, and he that remaineth in Jerusalem, shall be called holy, even every one that is written among the living in Jerusalem: When the LORD shall have washed away the filth of the daughters of Zion, and shall have purged the blood of Jerusalem from the midst thereof by the spirit of judgment, and by the spirit of burning."

In Isaiah 28:5 we read - "*In that day shall the Yahweh of Armies be for a crown of glory, and for a diadem beauty, unto the residue of His People, and for a spirit of judgment to him that sitteth in judgment, and for strength to them that turn the battle to the gate.*" "Residue" is from the Hebrew "she'ar", which means a "remnant" or "remainder". Why are the Israelites saved by the hands of the Yahweh of Armies referred to as a "residue"? Due to the fact of the coming judgments and purification that Israel still must go through as testified throughout the prophets.

There are those in Christadelphia who recoil in horror and disgust at what we point out here (and that which has been long understood by Brethren) - refusing to believe that any significant harm will ever befall the Jews or Israel again. They claim that "the time of Jacob's trouble" and any references to mass casualties or destruction belong to prophecies fulfilled either in 1948, the Holocaust or earlier. They rhetorically ask the question - "Why would God bring the Jews back to their land just to destroy them?" The fact of the matter is that the Jews have been brought back to their land on other occasions as well, to either lose it or suffer greatly. They were brought back from the Babylonian captivity, only to eventually suffer under the hands of the Seleucid Greeks and then eventually purged and scattered by the Roman Empire.

But as in all things Yahweh does, there is purpose. The humbling and purification process for the Jewish people is not yet complete. Again, we ask the question found in our title - "In whom does Israel trust?" Right now it is in U.S. diplomatic and military power, as well as trust in their own selves. This is going to be corrected as Israel must learn the extraordinarily difficult lesson (as will the whole world) where strength, power and salvation rests, AND they must recognize their Messiah and his position as The Son of God.

Israel's allies will not be able to save Israel. Why? Bro. Thomas correctly observes:

"The lion-and-merchant-power Tarshish will not be permitted to usurp the glory of the Lion of the tribe of Judah. It is to the latter that Jehovah has assigned the work of delivering His people from the destroyer. The Lion-power of Tarshish, which will possess Edom, Moab, and Ammon (territories of Jordan - S.K.), as well as Sheba and Dedan (territories on the Arabian peninsula - S.K.), will be indeed a covert to Jehovah's outcasts (Isa. 16:4); and therefore will "Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon escape out of his hand:" but it is only Michael the great prince, who commands the artillery of heaven, that can "break in pieces the oppressor."

"Trump - make Israel great again"? No, such is not to be. Though there may be a period of increased prosperity, an expanded sense of self-confidence (Ezek. 38:8); and an expectation of "peace" for the Israeli nation - all this will only be

temporary and will simply kindle further rage, envy and scheming by the Dragon (Russia), Beast (Western Europe), and the False Prophet (The Papacy) as they use the emotional tool of the frog-like spirits to work the nations into an irreversible frenzy against Israel (Rev. 16:13-16) - the falsely accused scape goat for all of the world's troubles. It's been done to the Jews many times over the last 2,000 years and will be done one final time to a grand conclusion when the nations are gathered "*to the battle of that great day of God Almighty.*"

But this time a "remnant", a "residue" of Israelites will come through in great victory after much suffering - but not a victory at the hands of fleshly device. Bro. Thomas again:

"The men upon the face of the land shall shake at His presence; and the solid earth itself will be convulsed. He will turn their swords against themselves; and Judah shall fall upon them, and augment the slain (Zech. 14:14). Mutual slaughter and pestilence will be aggravated by terrors from above; for "the Lord of hosts will visit them with thunder, and with earthquake, and great noise, with storm and tempest" (Isa. 29:5-8), and "an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire, and brimstone" (Eze. 38:18-22). "Thus," saith He, "will I magnify Myself, and sanctify Myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they shall know that I (Jesus) am the Lord." Elpis Israel, pp. 446, 447

Is it the name of "Trump" or any other world leader that is to be praised throughout the Land of Israel and in Jerusalem? No, as there is only room for the praise of One Name in that Land and among its people that God calls "*the apple of Mine eye*" (Zech. 2:8), as well as throughout the entire earth.

70 years have passed since Israel declared statehood, marking a milestone of expectation among Believers in regard to Israel itself and the long awaited Return of our Master. 2018 is far from over, and the last few years have seen remarkable developments with Russia establishing itself firmly in Syria with an ever growing military presence and control over Middle Eastern affairs; Britain in the act of removing itself from the European Union; a gathering of power in the E.U. under German authority; the joining of Israel, Saudi Arabia and Egypt in military alliance against Iran; increasing influence of Papal Rome, the U.S. embroiled in social and political division; and the growing influence of the frog-like spirits...just to name a few. The times are stunning, and as we have recently passed the 70th year anniversary in Israel of their statehood, we can't help but sense we are on borrowed time, as it were. Are we days, months or years from our Master's return? Whatever the timeframe, we are seeing the end-time prophetic picture come together EXACTLY as we are told to expect. We are at the time of the end, and therefore await the Master's call. "*For yourselves know perfectly that the day of the Lord so cometh as a thief in the night. For when they shall say, "Peace and safety;" then sudden destruction cometh upon them, as travail upon a woman with child; and they shall not escape. But ye, brethren, are not in darkness, that that day should overtake you as a thief. Ye are all the children of light, and the children of the day: we are not of the night, nor of darkness. Therefore let us not sleep, as do others; but let us watch and be sober.*" (1 Thess. 5:2-6) - S.K.

THE SONS OF KORAH



PSALM 84 presents a summarized historical account of the faithful example of a group of individuals that have been identified in God's Word as the sons of Korah. The Scriptures do not provide a lot of history about this group of faithful believers, but the lessons that we can glean are very powerful. In the book of Psalms, we are presented with twelve different Psalms that are authored by this group of the sons of Korah. The first section of Psalms can be found in Psalms 42 through Psalms 49 and the next group of Psalms 84 and 85 followed by Psalms 87 and 88. It is always interesting when we find the number 12 brought to our attention in God's Word. There is always a special significance when we see that number used in the pages of God's Word.

Before we focus on the teachings of truth that we find in this 84th Psalm which is authored by the sons of Korah, let us turn up the pages of inspired history that introduces these brethren and get an understanding of the way they are presented in God's Word as examples for all generations.

Let us start our historical review of this family by identifying the man Korah who was the ancestor of this group of believers. **Numbers 16:1** presents the genealogy of this man. He was the grandson of Kohath and the great grandson of Levi, the son of Jacob. In **Exodus 6:16-21**, we are taught that Korah and Moses were from the same lineage and therefore closely related. The genealogy mentioned in Exodus 6 teaches us that Moses and Korah were first cousins. This relationship between these two families provides us with a great deal of understanding in regard to the future grief and joy that the family of Korah would experience.

Korah and his brethren along with Moses and his brethren were all descendants of Levi. One of the first key incidents involving the tribe of Levi after their Exodus from Egypt can be found in Exodus 32. The Scriptures state in **verse 26** that all of the sons of Levi gathered around Moses and assisted him in destroying the evil and wickedness associated with the creation and worship of the golden calf. Since Korah and his family were of the tribe of Levi, we can conclude that he was part of the faithful group who were repulsed at the worship of this false god. This tribe of Levi became very special in the eyes of Yahweh. As we read in Numbers 1:48-53, they were given the special privilege and responsibility of the assembling and disassembling of the tabernacle and of

all of the tabernacle vessels. They were also appointed to encamp directly around the tabernacle. They were the closest tribe to the tabernacle.

Korah must have initially taken part in this special relationship with Moses, Aaron and Yahweh. However this was not enough. He wanted more responsibility and more power. Korah's prideful and lustful attitude was his ultimate downfall. His fall from grace and ultimate death is recorded in great detail in **Numbers 16**. However, Korah's downfall probably started previous to the events recorded in **Numbers 16**. In **Numbers 13**, we read of the events of the 12 spies and their assessment of the condition of the land promised to Israel and the strength of the current inhabitants of that Promised Land. The negative assessment of 10 of the spies is recorded in **Numbers 13:31-33 (Read)**. This negative assessment greatly distressed the entire nation. They started murmuring, fearing the death that they thought was to come upon them and their families. They wanted to return to Egypt and wanted a captain to lead them back to their previous way of life in Egypt. **Nehemiah 9:16-17** confirms that they actually choose this captain. Who was this captain? The Scriptures do not give us a name, but it may have been Korah, the leader of the rebellion as recorded in **Numbers 16**. In **Numbers 16:5, 6, 8, 16, 19, 32, 40 and 49**, the man Korah is specifically referenced as the leader of the rebellion. Let us also take note of the words of Moses and Aaron in **verse 22 of Numbers 16**. These two divinely appointed leaders of Israel reference the sin of one man – which was probably the leader of the rebellion – Korah. We also find that Jude only mentions the name of one of the rebels in **Jude 11** – Korah. As we think of the family relationship between Moses and Korah, we can certainly see the principle spoken by Christ and found in **Matthew 10:36** is applicable to all generations. "A man's foes shall be they of his own household." Faithful believers cannot let the *phileo* love between family members deter them from the *agape* love of our Father. **Romans 8:35-39** instructs us that nothing in this world should separate us from the love of our Heavenly Father. Faithful believers cannot let anyone or anything detract them from the one path that leads to obedience and ultimately to eternal glory. We see this faithful application of this principle of not forsaking God in the history and lives of Korah's faithful sons as we will discuss later.

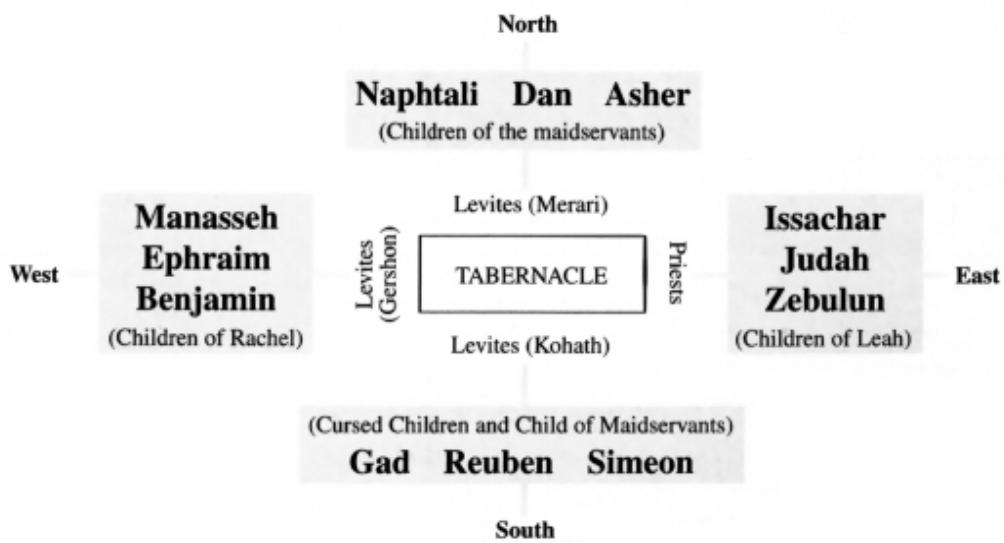


Returning to the details of the rebellion in **Numbers 16**, we find that not only did Korah and his company rebel against the leadership of God's chosen leader, they also rebelled against the religious requirements set forth by Yahweh. In **Numbers 16:15**, Moses asks Yahweh to have no respect for their offerings. The word for offerings in this verse is the Hebrew word "*minchah*", which is primarily used under the Law of Moses to describe the meal offering. This was

THE SONS OF KORAH

an offering that did not include shed blood. It appears that the rebels had forsaken and forgotten the principles of atonement. This type of bloodless offering was also made by Cain in **Genesis 4**. Both Cain and Korah choose a different way to worship Yahweh and a different means of making offerings to God. **Numbers 16:24** also indicates that the rebels lead by Korah had established their own tabernacle. The word for tabernacle in **verse 24** is "mishkan" and the word for tents in verse 26 is the Hebrew word – "ohel". Both words are used at times for the true tabernacle that Moses was instructed to build and both have been used to describe the normal dwelling places for man. However, since there are two different words used, the first is singular and the second one is plural, it appears that in **verse 24**, Moses was talking about a specific place for religious worship and in **verse 26** about the natural dwelling places of the rebels. We should note that in **verse 26**, there is a reference made to a specific scriptural principle. This verse teaches that any association, direct or indirect, with those in opposition to Yahweh's plan of salvation leads to ultimate death. As **2 John, verse 11** states – "*He that biddeth him (those that teach false doctrine) God speed is partaker of his evil deeds*". Direct association with the works of evil will bring condemnation on those that willfully chooses to embrace the evil. **Verse 26** states "Depart" or withdraw or separate from the evil doers. Don't stand by and justify the evil acts, even for a little amount of time. The events in this chapter teach us that condemnation and eternal death are the outcomes for both those who carry out the evil acts and those who associate themselves with the evil and wickedness and false worship of the evil doers. **Proverbs 22:10** provides the principle that should have been followed by the faithful remnant in the land and also by that same faithful remnant of all generations.

Moses displaying righteous anger, addressed the rebellion of Korah and his 250 associates by challenging them to bring forth censers with fire and come forth before the Lord and then Yahweh would choose between them and Aaron. The men that brought the 250 censers which were made of brass, had to use both strange (unholy) fire and strange incense. These 250 men had no right to the divinely appointed fire and incense. We know that Nadab and Abihu were also put to death for offering strange fire before the Lord. The 250 associates would appear to be Levites as we see in **verse 7**. They were men of renown,



famous in the congregation. Leaders and elders of their tribe. This group of rebellious Levites from the family of Kohath would have to come forth from the south of the Tabernacle to present themselves before the Lord on the east side.

Numbers 16:3 tells us that the complaint of the entire group of rebels were against both Moses and Aaron. However, we see in **verse 11** that Korah and his associates were murmuring about Aaron. This shows us the uprising of religious apostasy. In **Numbers 16:12-14**, we read of the complaint that Dathan and Abiram had against Moses, the divinely appointed leader of the Israelites. These two men being from the tribe of Reuben, the first born of Jacob, probably thought that their tribe should be given the leadership of the nation. The rebels of Dathan and Abiram were rebelling against the governmental aspect of God's divine appointments.

Both groups of rebels came under the condemnation of **Proverb 16:18** – "Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall". Pride is one of the abominations to Yahweh. This is a lesson for all to overcome all manners of pride.

How Yahweh deals with rebellion

In **Numbers 16:23-35**, we are taught how Yahweh stamped out the rebellion. Moses was told to leave the east side of the Tabernacle and go to the place where the false tabernacle was established, in the south side of the tabernacle. He warned those associated with the rebel group to depart and get away from the places in which the rebels dwelt. He told those of the rebel group that if they would die the common death of all men, then Moses would admit that he was not sent by Yahweh.

But, if Yahweh would create a new way of destruction by opening the earth and swallow up the rebels, then the congregation would have to believe that the rebels provoked



Yahweh by their pride and rebellious attitude. Indeed, Yahweh made the earth open up and all of the men that were associated with the rebels and who did not heed the warning of **verse 26** were taken down alive into the pit. Not only the men, but all that appertained to them, their families, their belongings, everything. We then read in **verse 35** that fire came out from Yahweh and destroyed Korah and his 250 associates. We need to keep in mind that Korah and his associates were called to the east side of the tabernacle, while the issue with Dathan and Abiram had been addressed on the south of the tabernacle.

THE SONS OF KORAH

The death of the rebels lead by Korah, Dathan and Abiram verified the accuracy of the divine appointment of Moses and Aaron over the nation of Israel.

This appears to be a type of the latter day destruction that will be carried out by the prophet like unto Moses against those who will be in opposition to God and His Son. The Word instructs us that the first entity that will be destroyed in the latter day of the Lord will be he who sets his goal and desire to be the leader of those in the land promised to Abraham. Ezekiel 38 and 39 identifies this as Gogue. It is interesting that in **Daniel 11:45**, it is proclaimed that Gogue will set his tabernacles in the glorious holy mountain and will be destroyed and none will come to assist him. The word for "tabernacle" in Daniel 11:45 is "ohel" which is the same word that is used for the tents of Dathan and Abiram in **Numbers 16:26**. Gogue will be destroyed by miraculous means and none will come to his side with assistance. This is the same thing that happened to the "tents" of Dathan and Abiram.

The next group that was destroyed in the account of the rebels of Moses' time

were the religious apostates. After Gogue is destroyed and all of his associates, the next powerful opponent of God that will be destroyed is spiritual Babylon. The same aspect of judgement that was poured out on Korah and his followers will be poured out on the false apostasy of the day of the return of Christ – Rome and her associates. Compare **Numbers 16:35** with **Revelation 18:8**.



In **verses 36-40**, we are taught of how Yahweh commanded that these censers of the rebels were to be dedicated to Himself. The censers were to be made into broad plates for a covering for the altar. The destroying fire probably came from the fire of the altar. Therefore, through this holy fire, the censers were now holy. The brass (**verse 39**) of the censers represents sin's flesh. The purification of the brass represents purified flesh. As these were placed on the altar, which represents Christ, the brazen covering, represents His sinful flesh purified. These purified brazen altar coverings were to be a memorial unto the children of Israel. When gazed upon, the children of Israel were to remember that God's requirements and commandments could not be ignored or changed without dire penalty of death.

Although implied, **Numbers 16** does not tell us of outcome of the family of Korah. This chapter never mentions Korah's family as it does with Dathan and Abiram. However, there are plenty of references to these descendants of the rebel Korah. Read **Numbers 26:11** – "they died not". This is a simple phrase

that is full of grace and mercy. They died not. These sons of Korah chose the way of righteousness instead of the way of evil and wickedness. They chose to associate themselves with the men of God rather than with the men of their own family. It is hard to imagine their grief when their own father was struck down for his own insolence and disobedience and pride and lust. We should also remember the close relations between Moses and Korah and his brethren. What grief this man suffered in carrying out God's commandments.

The Sons of Korah

In **Exodus 6:24**, we read of the sons of Korah at the time of the rebellion. What faith these must have been manifested by these three men and their families. How did they learn of the faith that Yahweh required? Their father was not a good example and did not provide spiritual instruction to his family. In **I Chronicles 9:19-20** identifies the person that had a great influence over these sons of Korah. Phineas, the son of Eleazar, the grandson of Aaron was their distant relative. This was the same Phineas who exhibited godly zealousness in the matter of the death of the adulterous Israelite with the Midianitish woman as recorded in **Numbers 25**. This man of faith must have been the source of godly wisdom that was learned and exhibited by the sons of Korah at the time of their father's rebellion and continued by their descendants.

Other than the three sons of Korah mentioned at the time of the rebellion, there is very scant information provided about other specific individuals from this family. Return to **I Chronicles 9:17-31**. Here we learn that the primary responsibilities of the sons of Korah were to be porters or gatekeepers in God's temple. **Psalms 84:10** presents the choices that these faithful men made during the course of their generations. They chose not to dwell in the tents of wickedness and their reward from Yahweh for their faithfulness was to become gatekeepers in the temple of God. **I Chronicles 9:17** states that there were 4 chief porters and **verse 22** indicates that there were 212 total porters. There was a porter stationed on the east, west, north and south of the temple. **Verse 25** seems to indicate that the porters were relieved every seven days. Their specific responsibilities are noted in verses **19, 26, 28, 29, and 31**. I did not include **verse 30 or 32** in this list as these responsibilities mentioned there appear to be assigned to different families of the Levitical tribe. When we leave out the italics in **verse 30**, it appears that the preparation of the anointing spices were done by the priests. And **verse 32** seems to indicate that other descendants of Kohath were responsible for the preparation of the showbread. When we look at the specifics of these responsibilities, we get a good picture of what is expected of the faithful sons of God that are typified in the sons of Korah.

1. 1Chron. 9:19 - Believers should maintain the purity of God's word and turn away evil and those not approved by Yahweh.
2. 1 Chron. 9:26 - Chambers = storage areas. Treasuries = areas to store things of value. Believers are to store up God's Truth both for themselves and for the Ecclesia. Be good stewards
3. 1 Chron. 9:28,29 - Believers are to oversee and are held responsible for the spiritual maintenance of all aspects of the Ecclesia – the

THE SONS OF KORAH

temple of God. All of the spiritual matters that individual brethren need are to be supplied by the Ecclesia

4. 1 Chron. 9:31 - Believers are to present spiritual food that is provided by Yahweh to the Ecclesia for their sustenance. Words and Deeds.

I Chronicles 6 presents a very detailed genealogy of the sons of Kohath which includes the sons of Korah. If we start reviewing this genealogy at **verse 22 through verse 38**, we find in two different places (**verse 28 and verse 33**) that Samuel the prophet was from the lineage of Korah. It is very interesting to note that in **I Samuel 3:15**, Samuel's duties even as a young lad, included maintaining the entry to the doors of the House of Yahweh. Just as his descendants would do when the temple was set up.

The scriptural examples of these faithful descendants of the rebellious Korah teach us of their faithfulness, their humility, their trustworthiness, and their integrity. This all stemmed from their fathers performing one very small, but very difficult act of faith – They refused the evil and choose the good. They separated themselves from the foolish ways of the flesh and allowed themselves to be instructed by the Word of God presented by another faithful man of God.

As we stated at the beginning of our discussion, there are 12 Psalms that are attributed to the sons of Korah. I think that it is significant that there are 12 Psalms attributed to these men. We do know that there are 12 gates referenced in the description of New Jerusalem in **Revelation 21**. These spiritual gates would be attended by the spiritual porters of the age who will grant access only to the approved of the age who will be allowed to enter therein to enjoy divine fellowship.

Lessons from Psalm 84

Let us now take a brief look at the teachings of **Psalm 84**. This Psalm gives the appearance of three divisions. The first division can be found after verse 4, the second after verse 7 and the third at the end of the chapter.

The first 4 verses speak of the beauty and desirability to reside in the House of God. I think that these verses have a dual meaning. The first meaning is the desire that we manifest to be part of the spiritual temple of God in this age. An individual who comes to the knowledge and understanding of God's Plan and purpose with His creation cannot help but be stirred by the glory and majesty and honor of having the privilege of being called a son or daughter of Yahweh, as well as being recognized in God's eyes as a brother or sister in Christ. Those who have come to the realization that there is no hope outside of the covenant with God will choose to depart from the wickedness of the flesh and join in covenant relationship with God and His followers. Think of the example of the sons of Korah. They chose good, not evil; they chose God, not family; they chose the ways of righteousness, not the ways of the flesh. They separated themselves to God. The Hebrew word for amiable in verse 1 means beloved or lovely. The tabernacle of God is where He dwells. There is no comparison between the place where God dwells, the true Ecclesia, and the tents of Dathan and Abiram, the typical representation of those in the world who opposes God

and His authority. For those in covenant, members of the true Ecclesia, we cannot take our responsibilities lightly. As the sons of Korah eagerly awaited their time to fulfill their duties as gatekeepers of the physical temple of God, we too must always be eager without complaint or murmuring to do our part in the maintenance of God's Truth and to be a good example in the fulfillment of these responsibilities. We also have a responsibility to be a gatekeeper over our own lives – guarding against the entry of the ways of the flesh or the outpouring of the evil works of the flesh and the venomous speech from unguarded lips. For those in covenant with God and His Son, their constant desire is to be an immortal participant in the future blessings offered by Yahweh. They will order their lives as the descendants of Korah did. As the beloved David stated, this is all our hope and all of our desire. Our soul longeth and our hearts cry out for the living God.

In the second section of Psalms 84, verses 5-7, we see that in the desire of an individual to dwell eternally with Yahweh, the source of their strength comes from Yahweh manifested through His Son whose strength dwelt in His Father. As all mankind does, these individuals who love the dwelling places of Yahweh are not exempt from the sadness within this mortal life in which we now dwell. However, those whose future will be blessed to be participants in God's Kingdom will use their vision of the Kingdom of God to help them overcome all trials, tears and affliction. The valley of Baca implies a valley of weeping. The antitypical sons of Korah are strengthened consistently and constantly with the vision provided by God in His Holy Word concerning the beauty and glory of the Age to come. They progressively become stronger and stronger through each succeeding trial, thus going from strength to strength.

The last 5 verses of Psalms 84 provides a vision of our ever present source of strength – even Yahweh himself. It is very possible that our Master would have remembered these words throughout His life. We can visualize Him repeating these when all of His loved ones forsake Him and when He was all alone, except for His Father, on the stake of crucifixion. To eternally dwell with God in the age to come is much more pleasant and comfortable and blessed than 1,000 days anywhere else. In this hectic life, we may not think about this comparison as often as we should. But when we do, think of how our spirits are lifted, our spiritual zeal increased, and how peaceful that we feel.

The last verse of this Psalm summarizes everything that we have discussed – How blessed is the man that places his trust in Yahweh. Everyone needs to think of the scope and fulness of this verse. Trust in God is the key. There are no blessings, no hope outside the boundaries of God's Word. Let us always remember each day that the fullness of the blessings promised to the antitypical sons of Korah are unimaginable.

B Henderson



THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

The Winged Lion and Predecessor of the Babylonian Empire



Reader, please commence this article by reviewing the following scriptures: Dan 2:31-44, Dan 7:1-8, 15-17.

FROM these verses we may gain an understanding of the foundation of prophecy concerning the Kingdom of God. In the first reference we have an image of four metals and clay which is destroyed by a stone cast at the feet. In the latter we have four beasts, all diverse one from another. At the end, a power arises and defeats these beasts. Without these prophecies we have no base from which to develop latter day prophecy and the entire book of Revelation becomes a mystery that is unable to be translated. But why is this important to study? Simply put: because it is involved in the Gospel message. What is the Gospel? The Good News and Glad Tidings of the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the Name of Jesus Christ. The Kingdom of God involves things future, and to be prepared for its coming we should understand the things that will occur leading up to its arrival. Besides that, if these things were not necessary for us to know, then God would not have allowed them to be placed in the Bible. In other words, if it is in the Bible it is worth knowing and God intended for us to search it out.

The first thing we should do with these references, as diligent students of the Bible, is to develop a correlation between them to prove that they are speaking of practically the same thing. Daniel says that Nebuchadnezzar is the head of gold in chapter 2:38. He precedes this by detailing all the things over which Nebuchadnezzar rules. These therefore are details pertaining to the Kingdom of Babylon, and not just to Nebuchadnezzar as king. Daniel also says that the other metals are representative of Kingdoms and not just kings, thereby giving us the same impression as did the head of gold. Jer. 4:7 – “*The lion is come up from his thicket, and the destroyer of the Gentiles is on his way; he is gone forth from his place to make thy land desolate; and thy cities shall be laid waste, without an inhabitant.*” This verse gives a perfect reference point because Jeremiah is telling us that Babylon is the lion, though which lion we have yet to discover. Gold is a most precious metal; it supersedes all other metals. The Lion is referred to as the King of the jungle. It is also the most powerful and



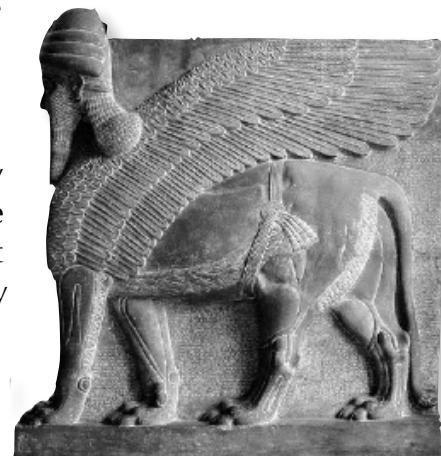
dominant of the beasts of the field. Both of these characteristics being at the peak of their class of variables, allows us to draw a line of correlation between them. Besides this, the gold was given the face of a man while the lion was caused to stand up as a man and was given the heart of a man. Again, we find a correlation between the two.

Secondly, the bear with the elevated shoulder relates to the breast and arms of silver. The arms would certainly include the shoulders of the body and we might imagine that the image had one shoulder elevated above the other. This was an unnecessary detail as these things would be hashed out in Daniel's own vision of the beasts. The ribs in the bear's mouth we might say correlate to the chest which includes the ribs of the man.

The Leopard, the fastest of all creatures reflects its power, and this relates to the core of the man. The belly and sides of brass are synonymous with the epicenter of the man, for the strength of a man is derived from his core. If one has a weak midsection then all the strength in the world found in the arms and legs will be of little value because there is no stabilizing force upon which to act. Also, the core is commonly divided into four quadrants just as the leopard had four heads and wings.

The ten horned dragon was last along with the legs of iron and feet of iron and clay. The dragon had iron teeth relating to the iron of the legs. The dragon also stamped and destroyed and broke kingdoms to iron subdueth all things." The ten horns relate to the ten toes as it was the time of the little horn "speaking great things", when the beasts were cast down.

Concerning the beasts, technically we may say that there are five beasts considering the change in the first beast. Who then is the first beast with the wings; since if it is so blatantly obvious that the standing, wingless lion with the man's heart is Babylon? To find the answer we must search history. Based on the progression of both the beasts and the metals



THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

of the image, we should be looking for an empire that preceded Babylon, but one that is not very different from it, since they both resemble the lion in the visions. What does scripture say? **Jer. 50:17**– “*Israel is a scattered sheep; the lions have driven him away: first the king of Assyria hath devoured him; and last this Nebuchadrezzar king of Babylon hath broken his bones.*” Jeremiah tells us that both Assyria and Babylon are lions. When was the Assyrian Empire in relation to Babylon’s time? Immediately before. The Babylonian Empire succeeded the Assyrian empire and essentially took over its rule, though some conquest was necessary. These two nations were very closely related as we will learn. To get to the bottom of the symbols found in the lion vision we must look at history and distinguish between the winged lion and the standing lion. What characteristics did each have and what purpose did they serve? Because it came first, we will take a look at the winged lion, which is Assyria by default, since we have already established that the standing lion is Babylon.

Assyria

The Assyrian Empire with which we are concerned was the last and greatest of the Assyrian Empires. There were three Assyrian Empires; the predecessors of our focus of study being the Old Assyrian and Middle Assyrian Empires. Near the end of the Middle Assyrian Empire, there were about 300 years of Dark-Ages for the entire Near East, North African, Asia Minor, Caucuses, Mediterranean and Balkan regions. There was great upheaval of countries and mass movement of people between 1200-900 B.C., resulting in the decline of the Middle Assyrian Empire around 1056 BC. The nation did not have the ability to rise in power again until 911 BC. Why was it important for this period of Assyrian

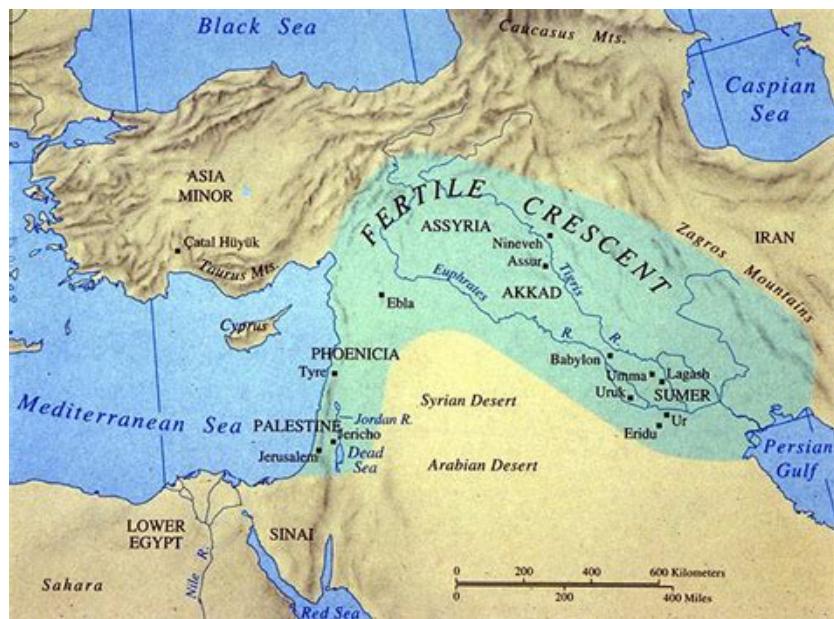
w e a k n e s s t o transpire? If Assyria had been allowed to grow as it had in the previous Empire, known as the Neo-Assyrian Empire, it would have overrun all of Israel before it had a chance to grow. The time of the Assyrian Dark Age coincided roughly with the time period of Samuel to Rehoboam. We recognize that most



of this stretch of time was a faithful era for Israel with a period of relative growth as well as earthly and spiritual success overall. It was during Rehoboam's reign that Assyria once again began to rise in power. Why was Assyria allowed to

build its power again? It was the force by which Israel and Judah would suffer. It had to start growing at that time in order to be strong enough to punish Israel when the time was right. Going back to our topic of the image, why was the Assyrian Empire not given its own metal at the top of the image? Why did it commence with Babylon? There was a lion dedicated to Assyria, why not a metal? **It was because Assyria did not end the succession of David's seed upon the throne of Israel.** There are Assyrian accounts that describe Judah's kings as vassals to Assyria, and it would not be unheard of for Israel to subjugate themselves to another nation for protection. They did it with Egypt more than once and Egypt was never given a metal in the image. The only time that Assyria came against Jerusalem successfully was during Manasseh's reign. He was returned to Jerusalem after repenting. If the image is symbolic of the kingdom of men, then its existence came about when the Kingdom of God came to an end. We know that the end of the Image Empire signifies the beginning of the re-establishment of the Kingdom of God. So the image, while signifying literal kingdoms, is also a map of time[†], extending from when Jerusalem was dominated by the Kingdom of Babylon and David's (line through Solomon) was removed from the throne, until the ten toe kingdom powers are destroyed and the image coalition with them. That period of time is book-ended by periods of the Kingdom of God.

The Assyrian Empire was the first real world empire in that it was the first to truly matter in the grand scheme of things and had an effect on all subsequent timelines and empires. Why was Assyria the perfect empire to begin this series of world dominating empires outside its prior experience? It was a strong, centrally located nation with perfect access to the most bountiful and prosperous lands on the earth. It was dead center in the fertile crescent. Based on images of the Assyrian empire's territory, why did they choose to conquer the lands they conquered? #1 Fertile land. All this



[†] Though giving a picture of successive empires that have come and gone, it is to be noted that the Image as a whole is a picture of the political situation "in the latter days" (Dan. 2:28), and that all the metals are "broken to pieces together" (vs. 35). The image in its complete manifestation is representative of a political entity that will have authority over all of the territories represented by the Image - namely Gog. - S.K.

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

land was within the Fertile Crescent and therefore could pay tribute to Assyria. #2 They desired sea ports for trade and war which could be found on both the Mediterranean and the Persian Seas. (Does this remind us of anyone or any nation in our times?)

One thing important to keep in mind when we discuss the wars of the Assyrians is that during the first couple hundred years, the army had little over 5000 men strong. No country used a standing army.

Citizens went out and fought during the early and summer months and during the harvest time as the soldiers were the ones performing the harvest. **2 Sam 11:1** gives reference to this fact - *"And it came to pass, after the year was expired, at the time when kings go forth to battle, that David sent Joab, and his servants with him, and all Israel; and they destroyed the children of Ammon, and besieged Rabbah. But David tarried still at Jerusalem".*

Though they had a limited army and war time was only a few months long, it did not make the Assyrians a soft people. The Assyrians were vicious. They conquered people faster than any before and were known for their great speed and surprise in attacks. An historical account recorded by Sennacherib reads, *"At the command of the god Ashur, the great lord, I rushed upon the enemy like the approach of a hurricane...I put them to rout and turned them back. I transfixed the troops of the enemy with javelins and arrows. Humban-undasha, the commander in chief of the king of Elam, together with his nobles...I cut their throats like sheep...My prancing steeds, trained to harness, plunged into their welling blood as into a river; the wheels of my battle chariot were bespattered with blood and filth. I filled the plain with corpses of their warriors like herbage."* The speed with which they marched and attacked is described well by Sargon II in this account, *"The harassed troops of Ashur, having come a long way,*



Painted sketch of Sennacherib taken from a relief on the walls of his palace in Khorsabad, near the ruins of Nineveh.

were very weary and slow to respond, having crossed and re-crossed sheer mountains innumerable, of great trouble for ascent and descent, their morale turned mutinous. I could give no ease to their weariness, no water to quench their thirst; I could set up no camp, nor fix defenses." This quote described his

march just before battle with an Uratian king whose troops broke at the speed and surprise of the attack. The King abandoned the city as well as many of its inhabitants.

The Assyrians preferred willing subjugation rather than battle which is why they used such frightening tactics to scare their opponents into submission. The way they did this was by their speed and their reputation for brutality. Their overall strategy was to colonize areas by deporting locals and bringing in Assyrian-trained leaders to rule the regions and train conscripts for the army. If they could not colonize a land they resorted to total destruction. Ashurbanipal recounts, *"For a distance of a month and twenty-five days' journey I devastated the provinces of Elam. Salt and silhu I scattered over them... The dust of Susa, Madaktu, Haltemash and the rest of the cities I gathered together and took to Assyria... The noise of people, the tread of cattle and sheep, the glad shouts of rejoicing, I banished from its fields. Wild asses, gazelles and all kinds of beasts of the plain I caused to lie down among them, as if at home."* Again he recounts his ferocity, *"I built a pillar at the city gate and I flayed all the chief men who had revolted and I covered the pillar with their skins; some I walled up inside the pillar, some I impaled upon the pillar on stakes."* Another quote, *"With battle and slaughter I stormed the city and captured it, 3,000 of their warriors I put to the sword; their spoils and their possessions, their cattle and sheep I carried off. Many captives from among them I burned with fire, and many I took as living captives. From some I cut off their hands and their fingers, and from others I cut off their noses and their ears. I put out the eyes of many. I made one pillar of the living, and another of heads, and I bound their heads to posts round about the city. Their young men and maidens I burned in the fire, the city I destroyed, I devastated, I burned it with fire and consumed it."* And lastly, *"I took the city, and 800 of their fighting men I put to the sword, and cut off their heads. Multitudes I captured alive, and the rest of them I burned with fire, and carried off their heavy spoil. I formed a pillar of the living and of heads over against his city gate and 700 men I impaled on stakes over against their city gate. The city I destroyed, I devastated, and I turned it into a mound and ruined heap. Their young men and maidens I burned in the fire."*

These tactics, though inspire fear they did, were far more enraging to the subjects and vassal nations of Assyria. This lead to numerous revolts throughout the time of this Empire. When reading these accounts remember the ferocity of the lion and the speed that the wings gave the lion, yet it did not have the heart of a man, something people could respect. Besides this vicious attack strategy, the Assyrians used psychological warfare. One king was credited with using sound to terrorize the people he was marching against. (However, this was not the first time this had been used if we remember Israel outside of Jericho). Also, the thought of being deported from their homeland was terrorizing for people which made them easier to destroy. By bringing in a multi-ethnic population to a region, national sentiment was curbed. The alternative to deportation being butchery, taken into slavery or conscription was a much better sounding offer. Siege warfare was mastered by the Assyrians. In the early years they would use mainly ladders to scale the walls with shielded archers laying down covering

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

fire. However, they also would mine under the walls causing the foundations to crumble and walls to fall. Eventually they developed battering rams that they covered with animal hair that could be watered down to prevent them from catching fire. Battering rams could be used at any point of the city, not just the doors, because the walls were made of mud, not stone, causing them to crumble much more easily. Esarhaddon says of his siege warfare, "*I fought daily, without interruption against Taharqa, King of Egypt and Ethiopia, the one accursed by all the great gods. Five times I hit him with the point of my arrows inflicting wounds from which he should not recover. Then I laid siege to Memphis, his royal residence, and conquered it in half a day by means of mines, breaches and assault ladders.*" All of these strategies combined together made Assyria a very deadly enemy indeed and highly terrifying as well. The reader may recall the account of Rabshekeh during the time of Hezekiah when he yelled at the people on the wall of how they would suffer as all those he had conquered before in an attempt to weaken their resolve. This too was a type of psychological warfare.

In 911 B.C. Adad-Nirari II began his rule over Assyria (contemporary with Jeroboam and Rehoboam). He is considered the first king of the Neo-Assyrian Empire. He began his rule by subjugating areas that were previously under only nominal Assyrian vassalage. Next he conquered and deported to far off places the Arameans, Hittites and Hurrians. These conquests secured lands at the northeast corner of the Mediterranean Sea. He next conquered land in the Caucasus, which would be Azerbaijan and Georgia in our time. After this he moved onto the lands of northern Babylon.

In 891 his son, Tukulti-Ninurta II (concurrent with Asa and Baasha), continued this expansion further into Asia Minor (Turkey) and east into the Zagros Mountains. This was the first Assyrian King to have been recorded using cavalry.

In 883 Ashurnasipal II took the throne (concurrent with Omri and Asa) and expanded the Kingdom deeper into the Caucasus, conquered the Aramean lands and the Hittites as well as put Phoenicia to tribute along with much of Asia Minor. As many before and after him he fought in the Zagros Mountains and conquered the local people. He was the Assyrian king who developed sound strategy in his campaigns. He also would pass over fertile and growing fields to fight directly in the cities that owned them in order to use the substance of the land to support the Assyrian war machine.

In 859 Shalmaneser III took the throne. This was not the Shalmaneser we read about in the Bible. This Shalmaneser had a 35 year reign that spanned the times of Ahab, Ahaziah, Joram and Jehu, kings of Israel; and also Jehoshaphat, Ahaziah, Athaliah and Jehoash or Joash, kings of Judah. This Shalmaneser was very war-centered, marching his army out every year to battle. He had a great victory over all of Babylonia, making it a vassalage. He also fought against Hadadezer king of Damascus who headed an army supplied by 10 other nations. This battle was indecisive and resulted in Assyria attacking several of these nations separately later on. However, it is this Hadadezer who was Ben-hadad, King of Syria that tried to vanquish Ahab but was instead turned on his heels (I Kings 20:20-21, 26-27, 29, 34). It was Ben-hadad's successor (Hazaël)

who Elijah anointed and who Elisha told would succeed his master (I Kings 19:15, II Kings 8:7-15). Shalmanezer later on defeated Hazael, putting him to tribute, thereby conquering the land of Syria. Assyria writings say Shalmanezer put Jehu to tribute, but this is not recorded in scripture. However, Hazael did fight against Israel during the time of Jehu and if Jehu was a tributary of Hazael then Hazael's defeat likely ended with Jehu being tributary to Assyria (II Kings 10:32-33). The last decade of his reign was rife with interference by his eldest son leading revolts. Several prominent cities followed his son, fighting against those who were perceived to have disproportionate amounts of power.

The king's second son (Shami-Adad V 824-811 B.C.; contemporary with Jehu and Jehoahaz of Israel and Joash of Judah) assisted with ending the revolts and succeeded his father to the throne. However, during this time of civil war the Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Syrians and Hittites were able to loose themselves from Assyrian rule. The Armenians also shook loose and exerted rule over a large area to the Assyrian's north. Shami-Adad V spent the rest of his reign attempting to subjugate the Babylonians, Medes, Persians, Syrians and Hittites.

The son of Shami-Adad V, Adad-Nirari III (811-783 B.C., contemporary with Jehoahaz, Jehoash and Jeroboam II of Israel and Joash, Amaziah and the first year of Uzziah (Azariah) of Judah) once again subjugated the Syrians and Hittites to the west, Phoenicia, Philistia, and Israel (not recorded in scripture; only that Hazael and his son fought against them) to the southwest, Edomites to the south, the Medes and the Persians to the east and south, and lastly the Chaldeans to the south and east as well.

The next 40 years were of stagnation in the empire where very little was accomplished and the few victories obtained were not attributed to the king, but rather the generals leading the army: Shalmaneser IV (783-773 B.C.), Ashur-Dan III (772-754), Ashur-Nirari V (754-745 B.C.). These were all sons of Adad-Nirari III. This time period coincided with the reigns of Jeroboam II, Jehu's great grandson through Menahem who killed Shallum, the destroyer of Jehu's lineage. In Jerusalem this was about the middle of Amaziah's reign and lasted through the middle of Azariah, his son's reign. I believe this period of stagnation could have been to the benefit of both the current and future kings of Judah at that time. The reprieve would have allowed them freedom from tribute and war against such a strong army. It also established an opportune time for Assyria to be shamed and brought low by a small nation such as Judah when Hezekiah was king.

In 745 B.C. an army general named Pul or Pulu took the throne by force during a period of civil war. He claimed to be a son of Adad-Nirari III but Assyrian history cannot corroborate this. When he took the throne he changed his name to Tiglath-Pileser III. He made sweeping changes to the Assyrian system of rule and war which caused Assyria to become the power it did. Most importantly he created the world's first standing army. How did the standing army affect the victories Assyria would achieve? A standing army did not have to return home at harvest time. Just waiting out the siege against one's city no longer worked and one could be starved to death. This enabled many more

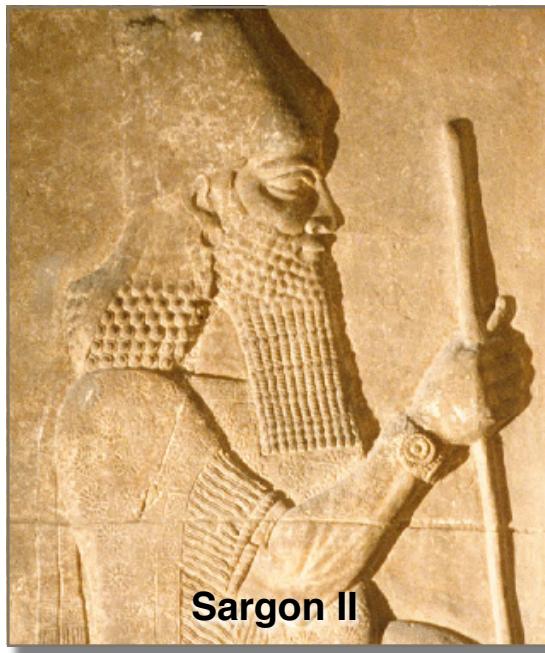
THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

victories for the Assyrians. Besides this, his greatest accomplishment was conquering Babylon in 729 B.C., after which he crowned himself king Pulu of Babylon. This is of particular importance in respect to our topic. The crowning of himself as king of Babylon, something never mentioned of another nation, links these two together. He also defeated Armenia, Media, Persia, the Hittites and Syria. Assyrian writings say he conquered Hatham who was an ally of Azariah, king of Judah and thus compelled Judah to pay tribute. However, the scripture does not record this. In 738 he came against Israel near the end of Menahem's reign and put Israel to tribute (II Kings 15:19-20). Sometime around 729 B.C. Ahaz king of Judah paid Tiglath-Pileser tribute to aid his kingdom against Israel and Syria (II Kings 16:5-9). This is likely the same campaign in which he took much Israeli territory east of the Jordan River (I Chron. 5:26). However, this partnership did not serve Ahaz well because he did not rely on YHWH (II Chron. 28:19-20). Tiglath-Pileser was contemporary with Menahem, Pekahiah, Pekah and Hoshea, kings of Israel; and Azariah, Jotham and Ahaz of Judah.

Shalmaneser V ruled Assyria from 727-721 and was contemporary with King Hoshea of Israel and Kings Ahaz and Hezekiah of Judah. During this time Hoshea, king of Israel, ceased paying tribute to Assyria and instead sent the tribute money to Egypt in an attempt to get So, king of Egypt to rally with him against Assyria for freedom. This was about 725 B.C., or seven years into Hoshea's reign. Shalmaneser descended on Hoshea and besieged Samaria three years before taking the city, scattering Israel and repopulating the land with foreigners (2 Kings 18:9-12, 2 Kings 17:1-6, 24).

From 721-705 B.C. Sargon II ruled Assyria. He was the top ranking military leader of the land at the time. He was contemporary with Ahaz and Hezekiah. He also came to rule at the time Israel was defeated and deported and was likely the one who executed the deportation of Israel, an order given by Shalmaneser

V before he died. Early on in his reign he ran into some difficulties that caused him to make a pact with the Babylonian king, securing Babylon's freedom for the time. He then went on to conquer Syria, Gaza and an Egyptian troop (Egypt was a significant empire itself at the time). He forged back into territory to the north and east, conquering again the Armenian lands and the Persian lands. Shortly thereafter, in 711 B.C., an uprising in the Philistine city of Ashdod was crushed by Sargon II as mentioned in Is. 20:1. In 710 B.C. Sargon conquered Babylon again, deposing Berodach-Baladan (who fled to Edom), and crowned himself king of Babylon



(thus re-establishing the link between Assyria and Babylon). Again the arch-enemy of Assyria, Babylon, was conquered. Sargon II died 5 years later leaving his son, Sennacherib, as king of Assyria.

Sennacherib (705-681 B.C., contemporary with Hezekiah and Manasseh) moved the capital of Assyria back to Nineveh after his father died (who had moved it to Dur-Sharrukin after building the city). His reign was marked by less conquest and more architectural renovations, though there was unrest that he calmed with a firm hand. In 703 B.C. Berodach-Baladan returned to Babylon and took advantage of the unrest following the succession of Sennacherib by crowning himself king of Babylon once again. Sometime around 702 B.C. Hezekiah's life was extended fifteen years and the king of Babylon at the time sent him a gift, seeking after his health (2 Kings 20:12 These events took place right around the time, and likely just before those found in 2 Kings 18:13). It could be the Babylonian was searching for a partnership from the west to combine forces against Assyria as Babylon was at war with Assyria and about to be conquered. Sennacherib did conquer Babylon and Berodach-Baladan fled to the marsh lands. He was searched for but not found. Once the Assyrians left Babylon, Berodach-Baladan set about organizing another rebellion. Sennacherib returned in 700 B.C. and fought the rebels in the marshes. Berodach-Baladan fled again to Elam and died there. Backing up to 701 B.C., just after Hezekiah recovered from his sickness and Berodach-Baladan sent him a gift, Sennacherib came down on Judah and Jerusalem capturing cities all the way, including Lachish. This rebellion of Judah was supposed to be supported by Egypt who forsook them (II Kings 19:6-9 "king of Ethiopia" is also king of Egypt) and was instigated by Babylonia as mentioned earlier. Judah had likely been paying tribute to Assyria since the time of Azariah, Hezekiah's great grandfather. According to Sennacherib's account he was victorious after claiming some 46 Jewish cities and carrying away more than 200,000 Jews captive. He exacted a tribute of 300 talents of silver and 30 talents of gold which were sent to him at Nineveh. However, the truth of the matter lies in scripture. 2 Kings 18:13-17, 2 Kings 19:35-36. After this there were several more wars with Babylonia and Elam as one king or another claimed the throne of these kingdoms. This lasted until 689 B.C. when Sennacherib attacked Babylon by opening the canals around the city to flood it, turning it into a swamp and leaving it uninhabitable for several years. This was his last notable battle. He was killed by two of his sons while worshipping in a temple in 681 B.C. (2 Kings 19:37 This obviously took place several years after he came against Jerusalem).

—Esarhaddon, Sennacherib's son, ruled from 681-669 B.C. and was contemporary with Manasseh. He was on campaign when his father was killed. He returned to Nineveh and defeated his brothers' armies who then fled the land. Esarhaddon rebuilt Babylon shortly thereafter and made it one of his capitals. His time on the throne was wrought with battle. Notable points were that he captured Jerusalem and carried Manasseh away captive. Manasseh turned his life around and God permitted him to be returned to the land to rule (unsure of dates; 2 Chron. 33:10 - 13). Esarhaddon also conquered Egypt

THE ASSYRIAN EMPIRE

sometime around 671, something no other Assyrian king had been able to do. This was the last Assyrian king to trouble Judah as all subsequent kings of Judah were likely under tribute to Assyria.

Ashurbanipal (669-627 B.C., contemporary with Manasseh, Amon and Josiah), son of Esarhaddon, reigned following his father's death in Egypt. According to legend he was the only Assyrian king who ever learned to read or write because he was never expected to inherit the throne over his elder brother. He was therefore educated to take a place in court. However, when his brother

d i e d i n 6 7 2 ,
Ashurbanipal became
the crown prince.
Once he ascended to
the throne he also
crowned one of his
younger brothers King
of Babylon, though
he himself was called
King of the Universe.
He was popular with
his subjects but
known to be brutal to
his enemies with
s o m e p i c t u r e s



Artist rendition of Nineveh

depicting him putting a dog chain through the jaw of a defeated king and then making him live in a dog kennel. He fought several wars with Egypt and conquered the region again after it was lost at the end of his father's reign. It was at this time that the Assyrian Empire was the largest the world had ever seen. It stretched from Georgia to northern Africa and from the Mediterranean to central Iran. In 640 Elam was conquered again and the head of the king was placed on display in Nineveh. In 652 Ashurbanipal's brother, King of Babylon, rebelled. A couple years later Babylon was defeated and the city burned, though not completely destroyed. However, the rebels were tortured quite severely. Ashurbanipal was the last strong king of Assyria.

From 627-605 B.C. there were no subsequent kings of note. All lost power and territory due to weakness and insubordination of tribes and vassal states. In 620 Nabopolassar, a Babylonian, captured Nippur making him master of Babylonia. In 616 B.C. Nabopolassar struck a deal with Cyaxeres, king of Media. These two, with the help of the Scythians and Cimmerians attacked Assyria, and in 612 Nineveh fell with its king dying in the process. It was at this time that the wings were plucked from the lion and it was made to stand on its feet. The Army General was named King of Assyria and enlisted Egypt's help as Assyria had set up the present Egyptian king, Necho II. The remnant of the Assyrian army was holed up in Haran and supported by bands of Egyptian soldiers sent from Necho II (2 Kings 23:29-33, II Chron. 35:20-22). In 608 B.C. an Assyro-Egyptian army was defeated by a Medo-Babylonian army which ended Assyria as an independent nation. A last Assyrian remnant was put down

in Carchemish with their Egyptian allies in 605 B.C. thus ending the Assyrians as even a nation-state on the earth for their barbarity and blasphemy against God (Jer. 46:1-2).

Comparisons with the Latter Day "Assyrian"

As a side note, we might mention Russia at this time and show some similarities between them and the later day Assyrian which they are known to be (Micah 5:5).

Both the Assyrians and the Russians had no useable ports and were always on the search for such to use for trading. Assyria found theirs through conquering and obtained ports in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf. Russia has secured allied ports in Syria, has conquered lands in the past for a port in the Baltic Sea which became St Petersburg, and for a port on the Black Sea which proved unbeneficial to them because access to the Mediterranean was blocked by which ever country held the Bosphorus Strait. Russia still seeks to gain control of that strait.

Assyria had several eras when they were a dominant power in the world. Russia has also experienced this with Ivan the Great, Ivan the Terrible, Peter the Great, Stalin, the Cold War era and now under Putin. Russia is now beginning to inhabit militarily the same territory as the old Assyrian Empire. Their final end will be the same as that of the Assyrians as well. They will find themselves opposed by an army they cannot fight, will likely call on their allies in the area and will meet their ultimate end with complete annihilation at the hands of Christ and his saints.

"And this Man shall be the peace, when the Assyrian shall come into our land: and when he shall tread in our palaces, then shall we raise against him seven shepherds, and eight principal men. And they shall waste the land of Assyria with the sword, and the land of Nimrod in the entrances thereof: thus shall He deliver us from the Assyrian, when He cometh into our land, and when he treadeth within our borders." Micah 5:5,6

Paul Kuipers



"The Scriptures were not given that man might be intellectually superior to the non-reader of the Word, but that the man who aspires to draw nigh to God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works." - James Stanton

THE REALITY OF THE FLOOD



IN Genesis chapter 6 we are enlightened as to the state of the world in the days of Noah. **Verse 5** - “*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. And it repented the LORD that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.*”

Do you notice how there is a balance of two hearts between these two verses? We have the imagination of man’s heart, “only evil continually”, in the 5th verse and it grieved God at His heart that he had made man in the 6th verse. Two very different hearts - One of man and one of God.

We are told that because of the wickedness of man (6:12,13): “*And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.*”



The word “destroy” in the 13th verse is the same word in the Hebrew as “corrupt” in the 12th verse. There is almost a sense here that God is going to recompense man according to his own evil. Verse 12 says that man had corrupted God’s way upon the earth and as a result of that, God says, I will corrupt them with the earth in the 13th verse. Man was going to be paid back, as it were, in kind, according to how he had treated God’s ways. He destroyed God’s ways (verse 12) God would destroy him (verse 13).

Here we have the historical accounts of the flood of Genesis and Noah and the ark. In the next chapter, Genesis 7, let's read what the Bible record gives us about the account of this flood in the days of Noah (Gen. 7:11,12, 19-24).

In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened. And the rain was upon the earth forty days and forty nights... And the waters prevailed exceedingly upon the earth; and all the high hills, that were under the whole heaven, were covered. Fifteen cubits upward did the waters prevail; and the mountains were covered. And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life, of all that was in the dry land, died. And every living substance was destroyed which was upon the face of the ground, both man, and cattle, and the creeping things, and the fowl of the heaven; and they were destroyed from the earth: and Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark. And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days.

This was God's judgments upon an ungodly society. A worldwide flood according to a careful reading of this chapter.

- Vs 20: And the mountains were covered.
- Vs 21: All flesh died
- Vs 22: All in whose nostrils was the breath of life
- Vs 23: Every living substance was destroyed

This was a worldwide judgment by Almighty God upon the achievements of mankind to this point in time because of the ungodly society which they had generated upon the earth. The Bible is quite clear and specific about this event. The Bible says that God brought that judgment upon mankind because man had become so evil in corrupting God's ways upon the earth.

We live in an age of so called enlightenment where a lot of people think that this is simply a Biblical story. These are Jewish fables. These are Jewish legends. These are set in the Middle East so maybe there was a flood, a local one. Perhaps a heavy downpour in the area of the middle east but certainly not something of worldwide dimensions.

Many in the world believe that the account of the Genesis flood is farfetched and just a story for children. However, we know that this is not the case. There is a tremendous amount of evidence outside the Biblical record that would lead us to the unmistakable conclusion that what God said about this flood is exactly what happened upon the face of the entire earth. This is not just a Bible "story". This is the history of the world. This flood really happened. Mankind everywhere, really was destroyed by God's hand.

So our intent is to go over a few reasons why we believe this to be the case. It's important that we establish very clearly that what the Bible says has

credibility when we assess it from other aspects. This really did happen. This wasn't just a local phenomenon. We believe there is substantial evidence in support of the fact that the flood was truly a worldwide judgment on mankind just as the Bible says it was.

There are many different things we could look at. We could go on for several hours just looking at evidence concerning the flood. Of course, we don't have time to review all of the evidence but we do want to review a few key areas that prove the flood actually happened in the way the Bible has stated.

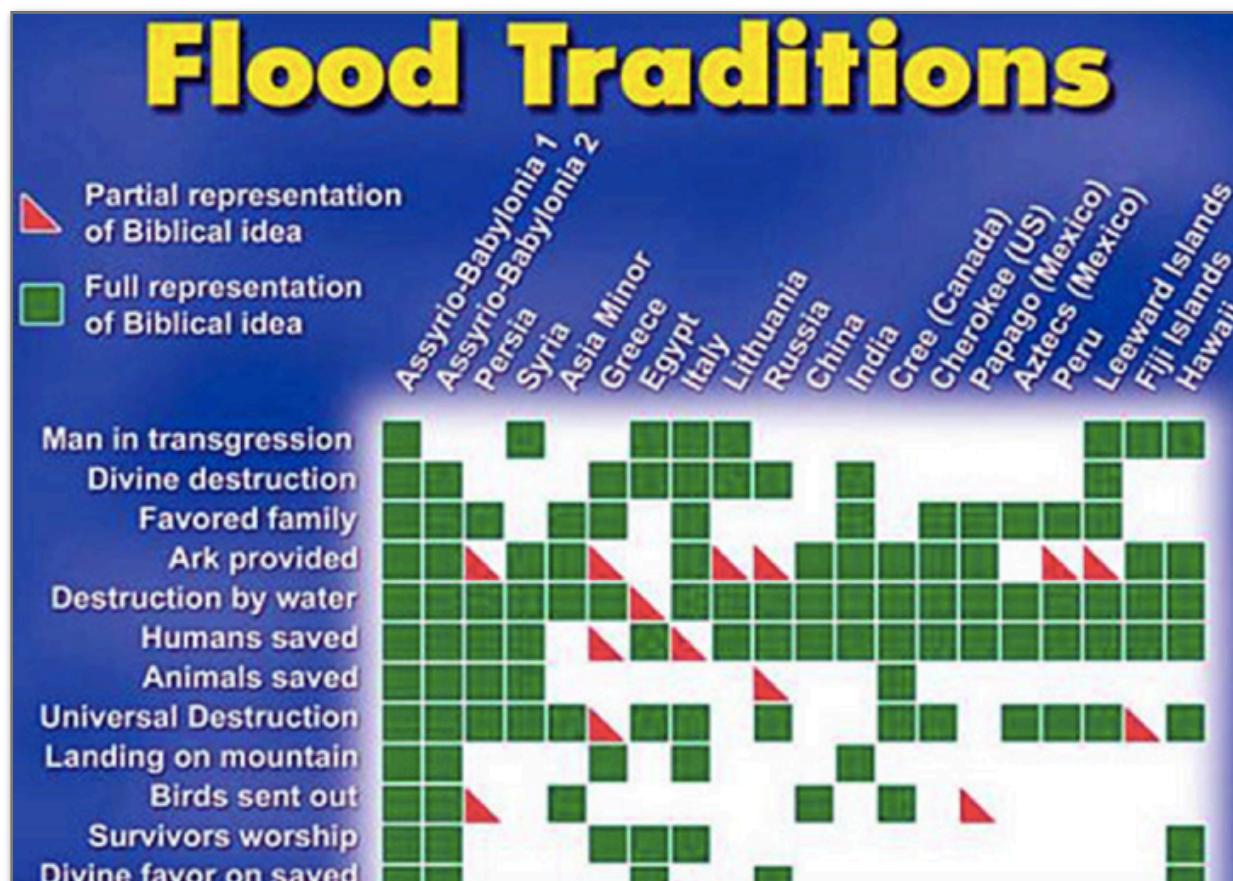
Perhaps one of the most striking testimonies is that in 72 different languages, all around the world, there are records of the flood. Meaning, there are 80,000 writings, all over the world which contain information about the flood. There are many different records about this historic event.

Then we have the testimony about the erratic boulders, the fissures, the rocks, the deposits of fossils, the mountains, and the seas of ancient times. We plan to look at only a few examples to see if it can help prove that what the Bible says really did come to pass.

Overlapping Accounts

Why would there be historical accounts of the flood in different places of the world unless it really did occur?

Apart from the Bible account itself, found in Genesis 6 and 7, records of the flood can be found from across the world including from Alaska, Hawaii, Tahiti,



North America, Mexico, South America, Iceland, Lithuania, Finland, Siberia, Greece, Sudan, Nigeria, Africa, Persia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Indonesia, New Guinea, and Australia.

Why would it be recorded in all of these locations if the flood wasn't truly a worldwide phenomenon? Why would it be that these legends abound from north to south, from east to west, right across the globe, to all four corners of the earth? And, what's interesting is that the account is always the same! It's about a man; A man who built a boat; A man who took his entire family on the boat; A man who put animals on the boat; A boat that floated at the time of a great flood; At a time when everything else died.

It is a strikingly similar account wherever you go. How could that be unless the flood really did occur and the Biblical record was right? Well, we believe that is exactly the truth of the matter. That what the Bible had to say about this flood is in fact provable from a number of different positions of evidence.

Erratic Boulders

What about the erratic boulders?

Question: What is an erratic boulder?

Answer: It is a piece of rock that differs from the size and type of rock native to the area in which it rests. Basically, erratic boulders are rocks that are in places where they shouldn't be.

So let's have a look at some of these boulders in the wrong places.

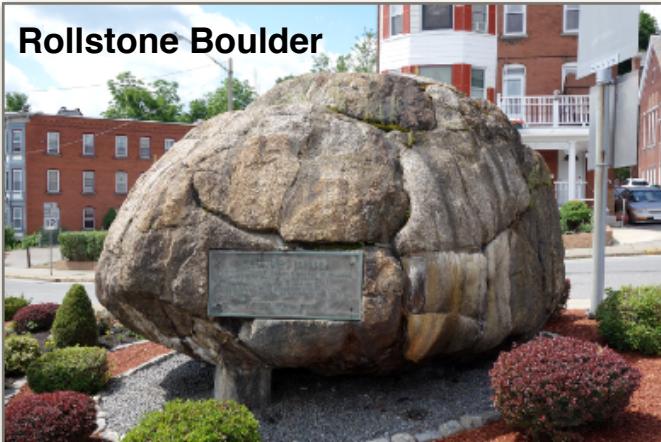


First, let's go to the Jura mountains of Switzerland in Central Europe where rocks that have been removed from the Alpine Mountain range have been transported to the Jura Mountains some miles to the west and two thousand feet above Lake Geneva. So these rocks have been broken off one chain of mountains, transported across a lake and then elevated 2,000 feet above another set of mountains and deposited onto the top

of them. So we ask the question, what breaks rocks off one set of mountains and deposits them onto a different set of mountains?

On the west coast of England there are enormous quantities of stones which are not native to England at all, but have come from the mountains of Norway, transported across the North Sea. What power is capable of

THE REALITY OF THE FLOOD



transporting boulders from Norway and depositing them on the coast of England?

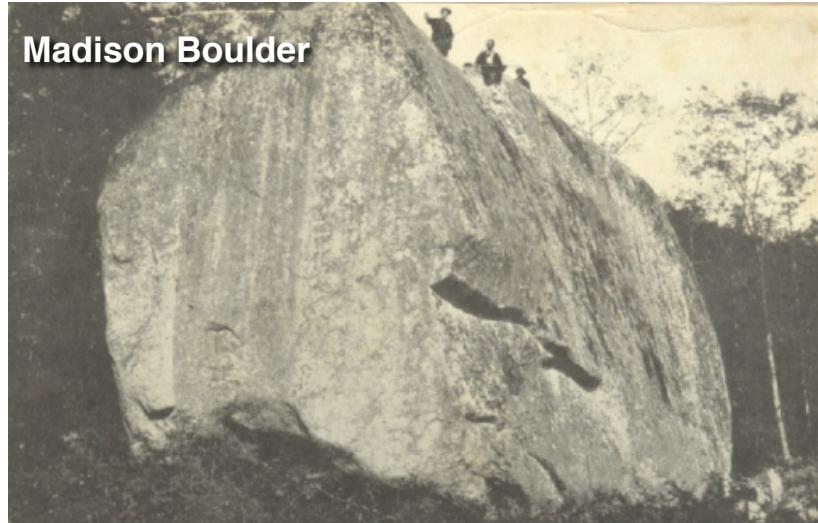
A little closer to home, in Massachusetts, the 110 ton Rollstone Boulder was transported from New Hampshire, some 100 miles away.

The great flat erratic in Warren County Ohio weighs 13,500 tons and covers three quarters of an acre.

Madison Boulder is the largest known erratic in New England. Madison Boulder is a huge granite rock measuring 83 feet in length, 23 feet in height above the ground, and 37 feet in width. It weighs upwards of 5,000 tons. A part of this roughly rectangular block is buried, probably to a depth of ten to twelve feet.

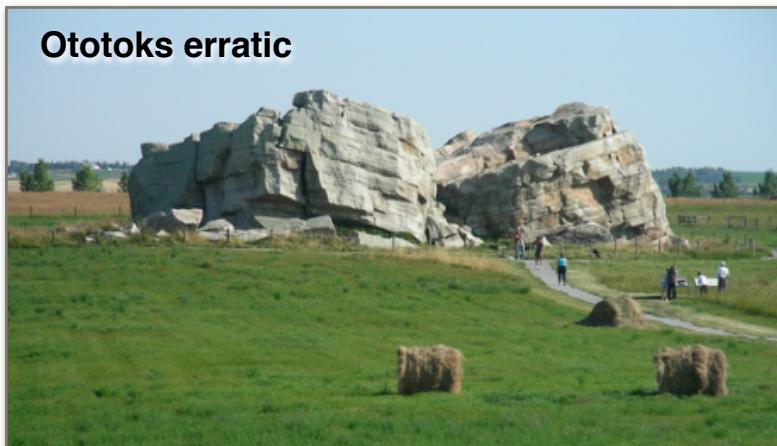
These are the sorts of rock that have been moved. What power is capable of moving stones of this size?[‡]

The Ototoks erratic, thirty miles south of Calgary, Alberta, consists of two pieces of quartzite derived from a location at least 50 miles to the west. It weighs over 18,000 tons.



On the Carpathian range of mountains in Czechoslovakia, there are boulders that have been transported across the sea from Finland. They have been lifted up and over the top of Poland and have been brought down to rest in the Carpathian mountain range in the middle of Czechoslovakia. Any explanation as to how this might have happened?

[‡] Modern geologists claim that such was the work of melting glaciers during the “Ice Age”. Even if this were the case (and does not appear to be a plausible theory in every instance), there are strong arguments that any ice age that may have occurred on the earth were the after effects of a major flood. - SK



In the highlands of Brazil, there are great fans of rocks that have been scattered out, as if by a giant hand in a large semi-circle. But the semi-circle runs for miles and miles. A giant circle of rocks spanned out, all across the Brazilian plane.

What force apart from the rushing waters of a giant, enormous, worldwide flood is capable of moving rocks of these sizes and transporting them all across the face of the globe to another location part?

Rock fissures

What about the rock fissures? These are cracks in the rock that reveal evidence for the flood in another way.

In Kirkdale, Yorkshire England there is a cave situated about 80 feet above the valley, and underneath whose floor is covered with the bones of various animals, including those of the bones of elephants, rhino's, hippos, horse, deer, tiger, bear, wolf, hyena, fox, rabbits, and ducks. All in the one cave. All smashed together.

Elephants and deer, tigers and ducks, don't normally go together in the same cave. What strange power was it that drove different species of animals from different habitat all into the same place, in the one cave?

In the isolated hills around Paris and central France, there are crevices in the rocks that are packed with animal bones that have been splintered into innumerable sharp fragments. No one knows how they got there.

The rock of Gibraltar in the region of the Mediterranean is extensively cracked and fractured. These cracks are crammed with the smashed bones of animals of many and various descriptions.

A large cave in Palermo Sicily is similarly crammed with the bones of animals that normally have nothing to do with each other. Different species, different habitats and all of these bones lie together at the foot of one cave.



THE REALITY OF THE FLOOD

Just to give an idea of the enormity of bones that have been discovered in these caves; in Sicily alone, within the first 6 months of discovery, 20 tons of bones were shipped just from one cave. That's a lot of bones. That's a lot of animals. What was it that brought all of those animals together to their death in that cave?

In China, near Peking, there lies another mass of animal bones from different species that have also been smashed together. What was it that not only drove these animals into the cave but then smashed the bones together beyond recognition?

In Maryland, there is a strange mass of bones that are smashed to pieces but they are not surrounded by water in anyway. It's as if they were just freshly smashed and immediately covered over.

How do we account for the numerous bones in the cracks of the rocks all over the world? Unless, a worldwide flood drove those animals together in absolute fear and terror and smashed them together in a last place of refuge until there was nothing left but bones upon bones.

The Scotland sandstone deposit

The Old Red Sandstone deposit in Scotland covers an extensive area. Parts of the area in this particular deposit are made of quartz. Quartz is very very hard. In fact, it is so hard that it easily cuts glass and it can strike fire from steel. It is tremendously hard.



In the Old Red Sandstone deposit there is a layer of quartz that has been ground down to pebbles. Now remember that quartz is exceedingly hard. And yet some force, some power has ground that quartz into pebbles.

Well, do you know how high the layer of quartz pebbles is? It's a layer of quartz pebbles 150 feet thick.

What power was able to grind that quartz into pebbles of that description? Unless there was some enormous and tremendous power such as a worldwide flood of water?

Fossil deposits

What about the fossil deposits?

The La Brea Tar Pit on the western outskirts of LA is actually an asphalt pit about 50 to 100 feet thick. Amongst other bones in the deposit are tiger and wolf skulls, found at the rate of 20 skulls per cubit yard.

In the Agate Springs Quarry on the south side of Niobrara River in Sioux County, NE, there is a fossil deposit with interlocking smashed bones. One section of 350 feet yielded 164,000 bones making up 820 skeletons. When they

look at the entire area, they worked out that there were literally thousands upon thousands of animals that were carried an unknown distance and smashed together into a common grave.

The Alps in Germany have a strange phenomenon in that large deposits in the top of the mountains have fossil fishes. They exhibit all the marks of violent death. Figures are contorted, spines are curved and fins stick out indicating that they are obviously in the throes of convulsions and contortions; showing all of the marks of having been removed suddenly from the water and immediately buried. But these fossil fish are in the top of a mountain range in the middle of Germany. What took them there?

The account of the fossils is also the account of a worldwide flood where mountains rose and mountains fell and valleys became new mountains. It is where the entire land structure changed dramatically and where the waters of the flood moved so violently and so powerfully about the earth that it produced all of these phenomena we can witness today from a geological point of view.

Mountains and Seas

Consider the account of the mountains and the seas.

The Sahara desert is the largest desert in the world, covering about 3.5 million square miles. When one travels around the Sahara Desert, one finds drawings, cave drawings, and implements from the various peoples that have obviously inhabited this desert in the past. Those drawings indicate that the desert of the Sahara was once a vast green area of forest. It was densely inhabited by man and rich in lush green pastures. In fact, there was a lake there known as Lake Tritonis. At some stage, Lake Tritonis emptied itself into the Atlantic Ocean. Earthquakes sealed the springs that fed the lake and all that was left was the



Fish fossils found at the top of the Rockies in Wyoming. Notice that the top fish is in the act of swallowing another fish. Indicates that the death and burial was immediate.

THE REALITY OF THE FLOOD

sand of the lakeshore. Thus the Sahara desert was born. What turns lakes upside down so they can empty themselves out?

The Arabian Peninsula likewise shows the hallmarks of being a wonderfully fruitful place in the past, until something changed it into being the desolate place it is today.

In the Andes mountain range, of South America, lies the remains of an ancient city, Tiahuanaco. It was built with giant stone blocks on the southern side of Lake Titicaca. Above the former city there is a series of terraces indicating the cultivation of vegetables and produce. The terraces go up the side of the hill well beyond the village itself.

The interesting thing about this city is that it is situated 12,500 feet above sea

level and the cultivation terraces ascend to the level of the present line of snow. Who was growing vegetables up there? Unless perhaps at some stage that particular city was down in a valley and that valley was uprooted as part of the flood. Now it becomes a mountain and the vegetable terraces of this ancient city of yesteryear are now in fact lying in the very region of the snow itself.



The Himalayas are the highest mountains in the world. The highest of course is Mount Everest which is over 29,000 feet. That's over 5 miles high. At the top of these mountains there are rocks filled with the skeletons of fish. Yes, right at the top of the Himalayan Mountains. There is obviously something strange that has gone on in the world in the past. How else do we account for these sorts of phenomenon?

In the mid-Atlantic Ocean, oceanographers made an interesting discovery. They discovered a beach. A pre-historic beach with sand deposits of a beach. The curious thing about it was that sand is a coastal shelf phenomenon. Sand occurs only on the coastal shelf where the water meets land. But this was a definite beach. The interesting thing about it was that, it is 1,200 miles from shore and 3.5 miles down. How do we have a beach in the middle of the Atlantic unless the earth has been violently moved around at some stage in the past?

Conclusion

So what we are really stating is that the account of the flood from the book of Genesis, is perhaps not quite as silly as it sounds some might think. We believe it really happened. When God said it was his judgment upon the world that had

become willfully ignorant of his ways and that he intended to judge the earth for the wickedness that had come upon the earth, the Bible was true. That is in fact exactly what happened.

Joel Thomas

-The covenant with Abraham-

Hence, the Second Advent is as necessary as the first. The appearing in sinful flesh was necessary for the dedication of the covenant by the death of the **substitutional** (representative – SK) testator; and the second appearing in the spiritual nature in power and great glory, for the administration of the will by the sole executor. For it is manifest, that the will cannot be administered except by one who is all powerful. Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and all constitutionally in them, are legatees. The legacies bequeathed to them are eternal life, the land of Canaan, and "a city," or state, "whose architect and builder is God." Hence, the executor must be able to form them out of the dust, and to give them life forever. He must be mighty in battle; for he will have to expel the Mohammedans, Catholics, and other barbarians, from the land; and to restore the kingdom of David "as in the days of old." The accomplishment of these, and many other things to be hereafter developed, makes the future pre-millennial advent of Christ a necessity. There is no room for opinion upon the subject; for opinion implies doubt. It is a matter of absolute certainty; and the belief of it is as essential to a participation in the kingdom of God, as faith in the death and resurrection of the Lord. For a man to deny the advent of Jesus to Palestine in power and glory before the millennium is to proclaim to men and angels his utter ignorance of the glorious gospel of the blessed God. To talk about his coming at the end of the millennium to make a bonfire of the world, is ridiculous. Restitution and renovation, and not destruction of the earth, is the Almighty fiat, as I have already shown at sufficient length. "Come, Lord Jesus, come quickly!" is the heart breathing of the true-believer, who with the hearing ear rejoices in the bridegroom's voice, which says, "behold, I come as a thief, and quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame" (Rev. 22:12; 16:15). The prolonged absence of Christ for ten more centuries would break the hearts of the saints of God; who have long since cried with a loud voice, saying, "how long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them who dwell on the earth?" No, no; the day is come at length, when he is about to gather the vine of the earth, to reward his saints, and to destroy the oppressors of the world (Rev. 11:18; 14:19-20). Then will "the kingdoms of the world become those of Jehovah and of His King; and he shall reign for ever and ever;" and the covenant with Abraham concerning Christ will be fulfilled in every jot and tittle of its details. (Elpis Israel, pp. 244,245)

THE BIBLE - ITS PROMISE OF WORLD UNITY



A promise of world unity and peace is something that can easily be scoffed at in our times. All over the world, conflict, civil unrest and corruption of society and morals, dirty the earth and pollute mankind's way of life. But it is nothing new to the 21st century. Throughout time every form of government has been tried, every conceivable ideology has been implemented. But none of these examples of human endeavor has provided lasting benefit for mankind. All have failed and brought their own measure of misery. Every system of philosophy has been tested; every imaginable political scheme has been attempted. But to what end?

The problem always seems to be, despite the good intentions of a minute few, human greed, the ultimate selfishness of man, disregard for others, all of which could be labeled as the moral badness of human nature. The solution of this planet's problems, therefore, is to nourish goodness and to make that the influencing factor in the world. But what is "goodness" and how can we turn the tables on man's deterioration and fashion a world full of "goodness"? Let's turn to God's Word and see if we can find help in solving our problem. Surely in God's word, if nowhere else, there is advise on how man can be full of goodness.

In Matthew 19:17 - we read that even Jesus Christ, the Son of God, said: "*Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God*". So apart from Almighty God, no one is good. We could look at other passages that illustrate that mankind continues to flounder in a sea of problems of his own making. He is unable to achieve the happiness he so desperately needs, because he has turned his back on God, who is the only source of goodness!

"A people who will not be ruled by God are destined to be ruled by tyrants."

William Penn, (founder of the U.S. state of Pennsylvania)

Man has continued to ignore divine ways and has strived to preside over himself by human laws and judgements. The history of humanity, therefore, is a record of man's inability to govern himself and his fellow-man in a way that could lead to lasting peace and well-being for the human race. Man has failed to correctly and wisely govern; he has failed to adequately provide for the needs

of the destitute; he has failed to relieve the distressed and the impoverished; he has failed to feed the hungry, clothe the needy and house the homeless; he has failed to bring peace to the nations, to establish justice and mercy in the place of tyranny and ruthless temporal power. In all areas of authority and dominion - on social, moral, political and religious issues - the history of mankind is one of abject failure and division among fellow man. Such ineffective leadership and lack of sound direction have resulted from one simple cause: Mankind's consistent rebellion against the supremacy and sovereignty of the Supreme Being, Almighty God, who created all things "for His glory" (Psalm 72:19).

The cause of world **DIS**unity is man's own natural ways. The prophet Jeremiah declared: "*O LORD, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps. O LORD, correct me*" (Jeremiah 10:23). These are the words of a man dedicated to the service of his Creator. He confesses his awareness of the weakness and limitations of human nature. Men and women, he says, are not capable of directing their lives or those of their fellows in ways of wisdom and prudence for the well-being of the race. With a similar understanding the Psalmist wrote: "*The entrance of Thy Word giveth light; it giveth **understanding** to the simple... Order my steps in Thy Word: and let not any iniquity have dominion over me... All Thy commandments are truth*" (Psalm 119:130, 133, 151).

True wisdom and proper direction in life can only come from a reading and understanding of God's inspired Word, the Bible. It is only when the principles of the Scriptures are allowed to direct the heart and mind, that men and women will find real pleasure and satisfaction. But, unfortunately, very few are prepared to follow this principle. God has always understood mankind's inability to rule themselves. The tragedy of human history is that men have not understood these things. The results have been predictable and inevitable. Individuals, families, communities and nations lurch from one crisis to another. We live in a civilization plagued with doubts, fears, heartache, violence and lack of wise direction. World leaders are faced with an explosive and paradoxical situation. Whilst in modern times there have been unparalleled advances in science, medicine, technology and in other fields, there have also been extraordinary increases in the many forms of evil which are undermining and destroying society. What is the answer? Is there an answer?

Our world is being swept towards a holocaust of unprecedented magnitude, with corruption and depravity adding their blight to the scene. Virtually every country is touched by an ever spreading malaise. Forty thousand children die daily from preventable diseases. Famine and drought destroy millions. Diseases, in many terminal forms, are spreading among the nations. Poverty and degradation are seen on every hand. The environment is continually destroyed as species after species are annihilated. And what of the moral pollution? In almost every city there is a breakdown of law and order, with citizens fearing for their well-being whilst vicious criminals receive greater consideration than their victims. In big cities police wear militarized uniforms and carry tasers as a police state emerges. Young and old destroy themselves in unprecedented

numbers through drug and alcohol abuse. Every form of vice flourishes and the grossest forms of immorality are openly accepted, and even encouraged. The breakdown of family life is escalating on a scale never before witnessed. Violence stalks the streets like a hideous monster, everywhere spreading fear and terror.

Many of these situations are the result of man's inability to agree with his neighbor and live in unity with one another. Is this the kind of world in which you wish to live? Is this the sort of society you wish to see your children and grandchildren inherit? Do not the facts show beyond doubt that mankind is in desperate need of a New World Order? In recent times politicians have spoken of such a concept, without the slightest evidence that such a utopian state will be produced for the benefit of all nations headed by Christ. World leaders are powerless to halt the decline of civilization or to offer any real hope for the future. Can world leaders prevent warfare and the ceaseless blood shedding that continues unabated? Can they feed, house, and clothe the poor and needy of the world? Ordinary intelligent men and women know that world leaders are powerless to stop the disintegration of society. However the Pope and many world leaders have their own agenda separate from God's agenda. They plan on establishing a new world order and ruling by tyranny.

The “new world order” according to man

I have some quotes from key political figures and world leaders from recent times that I would like to share.

- Adolph Hitler was the first to use the term “new world order” in recent times. He was quoted as saying the following during World War 2: *“National Socialism will use its own revolution for the establishing of a new world order.”*
- George Bush Sr. was quoted as saying the following during the Persian Gulf crisis: *“The world can therefore seize the opportunity [Persian Gulf crisis] to fulfill the long-held promise of a New World Order where diverse nations are drawn together in common cause to achieve the universal aspirations of mankind.” “We have before us the opportunity to forge for ourselves and for future generations a new world order, a world where the rule of law, not the rule of the jungle, governs the conduct of nations. When we are successful, and we will be, we have a real chance at this new world order, an order in which a credible United Nations can use its peacekeeping role to fulfill the promise and vision of the U.N.’s founders.”* 1991
- *“We must establish a new world order based on justice, on equity, and on peace.”* Fidel Castro, United Nations, 1979
- *“We are moving toward a new world order, the world of communism. We shall never turn off that road.”* Mikhail Gorbachev, 1987
- *“Our nation is uniquely endowed to play a creative and decisive role in the new world order which is taking form around us.”* Henry Kissinger, *Seattle Post Intelligence*, 1975

- Henry Kissinger at the World Affairs Council Press Conference, Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel , April 19th 1994: "*The New World Order cannot happen without U.S. participation, as we are the most significant single component. Yes, there will be a New World Order, and it will force the United States to change its perceptions.*"
- Quoted from a page in David Rockefellers' book 'Memoirs', published in 2002: "*Some even believe we are part of a secret cabal working against the best interests of the United States, characterizing my family and me as internationalists and of conspiring with others around the world to build a more integrated global political and economic structure, One World if you will. If that's the charge, I stand guilty and I am proud of it.*"
- Pope John Paul, Excerpt from John Paul II's Address to New Israeli Ambassador to the Vatican . . . June 2nd, 2003: "*It is precisely this hope and this concept of solidarity that must ever inspire all men and women — in the Holy Land and elsewhere — in working for a New World Order based on harmonious relations and effective cooperation between peoples.*"
- Pope Benedict, In his first Christmas address, urged humanity to unite against terrorism, poverty and environmental blight and called for a "New World Order" to correct economic imbalances.
- Time Magazine, "*The Bush administration would like to make the UN a cornerstone of its plans to construct a New World Order.*"
- Gary Hart, Fmr. Senator for Colorado on C-SPAN: "*There is a chance for the President of the United States to use this disaster (9/11) to carry out a phrase his father used and that is a New World Order.*"
- Zbigniew Brzezinski, "*Finally, I have no illusions about World Government emerging in our lifetime. . . We cannot leap into World Government though one quick step. . . The precondition for eventual and genuine Globalization is progressive Regionalization because by that we move towards larger, more stable, more cooperative unites.*"
- Bill Clinton, "*We had a World view, Republican and Democratic presidents alike; from Harry Truman to George Bush. . .stood for freedom. . .and stood for certain propositions that would make America strong and healthy and grow the middle class and shrink poverty and stand against Communism. . .and after 1989 President Bush would (say) a phrase I often use myself that we needed a New World Order.*"
- Henry Ford II, President of the Ford Motor Co.: "*It is well enough that people of the nation do not understand our banking and monetary system, for if they did, I believe there would be a revolution before tomorrow morning.*" "*The one aim of these financiers is World Control by the creation of inextinguishable debts.*"
- Robert F. Kennedy, Former U.S. Attorney-General, in 1967: "*All of us will ultimately be judged on the effort we have contributed to building a New World Order.*"

THE BIBLE - ITS PROMISE OF WORLD UNITY

- Arthur Meier Schlesinger Jr., In Foreign Affairs (July/August 1995): "We are not going to achieve a New World Order without paying for it in blood as well as words and money."

Almost all of the political leaders in the world at this very time are calling for a new world order. The former President, Barak Obama, gave a speech in Germany before being elected president calling for "global citizenship." Do not be deceived. The "new world order" that man wants is a one world government with a one world currency, one world religion (paganism) and secular humanism, and one world army or militarized police force.

2 Thessalonians 2:2-4

"That ye be not soon shaken in mind, or be troubled, neither by spirit, nor by word, nor by letter as from us, as that the day of Christ is at hand. Let no man deceive you by any means: for that day shall not come, except there come a falling away first, and that man of sin be revealed, the son of perdition; Who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, or that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, shewing himself that he is God."

The man of sin that was yet to be revealed during the apostle Paul's time has long been revealed as the head of Catholicism. The word "opposeth" is from the Greek - *antikeimai*. The prefix "anti" means to be opposed to something, or in the place of. The international elite of the beast nations of Europe along with the pope want to put their one world, socialistic dictatorship ruled by tyranny in the place of the Divine one that Christ will set up. (This is why they view the existence of the nation of Israel with such disdain, as it stands as a witness to God's plans through the Jews. - S.K.)

The source of world unity is not man! Is a New World Order and a unity of all people an impossible dream then? The peoples of the world desperately need a Saviour, a Deliverer; someone to appear on the world scene who has the power, the dedication, the wisdom and the means to right the wrongs which are inexorably forcing the nations to the brink of devastation. Everyone who has tried to date has failed abysmally. Is there a man, or group of men, anywhere on the face of the earth with the necessary means of accomplishing all these things? To ask is to answer. There is no one - at least not among the Adamic race. What, then, is the destiny of humanity - and, for that matter, of all life upon earth? Are things to simply continue as at present until life becomes impossible and everything ends in a series of unavoidable catastrophes?

The answer to this question is found in the Bible. In Genesis 3:15. He promised that One would come who would be the "*seed of the woman*" - that is, descended from Eve the first woman - who would overcome the power of sin, thus making eternal redemption possible for humankind. The answer is further augmented in God's promise to Abraham that his "*seed*" - a singular descendant - would reign supreme over all his enemies (Genesis 22:15-18; Galatians 3:16). Further, God made a third promise, this time to David. He promised David "*a seed*," descended through the line of Eve and Abraham, who would also be the

Son of God. This descendant would re-establish the "throne" and the "kingdom" of Israel (II Samuel 7:12-14). The identity of this One, whose coming with power and authority has been promised by God, is obviously the key to understanding God's grand purpose.

Who is this personage who will provide redemption for humanity, and restore the kingdom of God and the throne of Israel? Who is this one who will bring blessings to "all families of the earth" (Genesis 12:1-3)? Upon examining the passages of Biblical evidence which we have set before the reader, there should be little difficulty in recognizing that the One who is to accomplish all this, and reign as supreme monarch over all the world, is none other than the Lord Jesus Christ.

Christ - The Head of The New World Order

An abundance of evidence supports this claim. The opening words of the New Testament direct immediate attention to this very question: "The book of the generation of Jesus Christ, the son of **David**, the son of **Abraham**" (Matthew 1:1). When tracing the Lord's birth-line back to Adam and Eve (Luke 3:23-38), the question may be asked: why, out of all the Lord's natural forebears, should the New Testament Bible begin with direct references to David and Abraham? There can be only one answer: because of the paramount significance of God's promises made to them, concerning the coming of the promised "seed." It is then explicitly stated that the "seed" through whom all God's promises would be fulfilled was a singular personage, none other than the Lord Jesus Christ (Galatians 3:16). The apostle Paul refers directly to God's promise to David (II Samuel 7:10-16) in his letter to the Romans: "*His [God's] Son, Jesus Christ our Lord, which was **made of the seed of David** according to the flesh...*" (Romans 1:3).

Peter leaves no room for doubt on this matter. On the Day of Pentecost, after Christ's resurrection from the grave and ascension into heaven, thus fulfilling Psalm 110:1, Peter preached the gospel to the Jews: "*Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both dead and buried, and his sepulcher is with us unto this day. Therefore being a prophet, and knowing that God had sworn with an oath to him, that of the fruit of his loins, according to the flesh, **he would raise up Christ to sit on his throne;** He, seeing this before, spake of the resurrection of Christ...*" (Acts 2:29-31).

The Gospel of Luke identifies this personage beyond doubt. In announcing to Mary that she would give birth to the Son of God, the angel said: "*Fear not, Mary: for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him **the throne of his father David:** And he shall **reign over the house of Jacob for ever:** and **of his kingdom there shall be no end***" (Luke 1:30-33). Peter speaks of "*the times of refreshing*" that "*shall come from the presence of the Lord; and **He shall send Jesus Christ...** whom the heavens must receive* (Psalm 110:1, Acts 2:32-33) ***until the times of restitution of all things,*** which God hath spoken by

THE BIBLE - ITS PROMISE OF WORLD UNITY

the mouth of all His holy prophets" (Acts 3:19-21). Obviously, Peter was referring to "*the kingdom*", which is to be re-established, with the throne in "*Jerusalem... as in the days of old*" (Malachi 3:4).

When instructing his disciples in the principles of prayer, the Lord Jesus taught them to pray to their heavenly Father: "*Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven*" (Matthew 6:10). The Lord Jesus did not believe that a kingdom of God existed in his own times; he looked for a kingdom to "come" at some time in the future. Christ's hope may be summarized in words God addressed to Moses: "*Truly, I live! All the earth shall be filled with the glory of the LORD*" (Numbers 14:21). It should be noted that, as with the "*Lord's prayer*," the full emphasis of this declaration is that God will be glorified in the earth, at a time in the future when His Word will be respected and obeyed by mankind - the world will live in unity! Not mans' unity, But God's unity in Christ's Divine Kingdom - a true New World Order. This is God's purpose with the earth. He will surely bring it to pass. Evil men, pursuing their own goals and ambitions, driven by greed and a lust for power, will not be permitted to frustrate God's Great Master Plan for the earth. All of the political and religious leaders of today calling for a new and one world order are in direct opposition to God's plan. Christ will confront the nations at his return. They will acknowledge his presence, his power, and his authority. At the same time he will "*destroy them which destroy the earth*" (Revelation 11:18), thereby removing all human authority and opposing power worldwide.

The prophet Jeremiah foretold this coming conflict. "*The LORD shall roar from on high, and utter His voice from His holy habitation... He shall give a shout as they that tread the grapes, against all the inhabitants of the earth. A noise shall come even to the ends of the earth, for the LORD hath a controversy with the nations, He will plead with all flesh; He will give them that are wicked to the sword, saith the LORD...A great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the LORD shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth*" (Jeremiah 25:30-33). This prophecy has never been fulfilled. Yet, prophetic signs in the Word of God warn that the second coming of Christ is near, and therefore the time for the fulfillment of these prophecies is imminent.

What will Jesus's New World Order consist of ?

(Adapted from another Christadelphian source.)

- **ONE KING** (Jesus Christ) by divine right reigning over all nations: "*The Lord shall be king over all the earth*" (Zechariah 14:9).
- **A NEW ADMINISTRATION** directed by Christ's followers then made immortal: "*They lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years*" (Revelation 20:4) "*on the earth*" (Ch. 5:9-10).
- **ONE UNIFYING RELIGION OF TRUTH:** "*My name shall be great among the Gentiles; and in every place incense (a symbol of prayer) shall be offered unto My name, and a pure offering*" (Malachi 1:11). "*Every one that*

is left of the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts. . . ." (Zechariah 14:16)

- **A UNITED WORLD:** "All kings shall fall down before him; all nations shall serve him" (Psalm 72:11).
- **TOTAL DISARMAMENT AND ABOLITION OF WAR:** "He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: 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" (Isaiah 2:4).
- **A NEW ECONOMIC SYSTEM:** Isaiah 23:18, "And her merchandise and her hire shall be holiness to the LORD: it shall not be treasured nor laid up; for her merchandise shall be for them that dwell before the LORD, to eat sufficiently, and for durable clothing."
- **INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND GOODWILL:** "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" (Isaiah 9:7).
- **DOMESTIC SECURITY:** "None shall make them afraid" (Micah 4:4).
- **EQUITABLE DISTRIBUTION OF WEALTH AND RESOURCES:** "They shall build houses, and inhabit them; they shall plant vineyards, and eat the fruit of them. They shall not build and another inhabit; they shall not plant, and another eat" (Isaiah 65:21-22).
- **FIRM GOVERNMENTAL CONTROL TO THE BENEFIT OF ALL:** "He shall judge the poor of the people, he shall save the children of the needy, and shall break in pieces the oppressor" (Psalm 72:4).
- **VAST INCREASE OF THE EARTH'S PRODUCTIVITY:** "The days come, saith the Lord, that the plowman shall overtake the reaper, and the treader of grapes him that soweth seed" (Amos 9:13).
- **NO UNEMPLOYMENT:** "They shall build the old wastes, and shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the waste cities" (Isaiah 61:4).
- **A SOUND EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM:** "Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem"; "And wisdom and knowledge shall be the stability of thy times" (Isaiah 2:3; 33:6).
- **NEW SOCIAL STANDARDS ENFORCED:** "The earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord"; "The work of righteousness shall be peace; and the effect of righteousness quietness and assurance for ever" (Isaiah 11:9; 32:17).
- **GOD'S WILL ESTABLISHED IN THE EARTH:** "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10).
- **THE ASSURANCE THAT IT WILL HAPPEN:** "When the Lord shall build up Zion, he shall appear in his glory" (Psalm 102:16). The revival of Israel in our time is the assurance that God's plan and purpose is on the eve of fulfillment.
- **WHAT IS NEEDED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS GLORIOUS FUTURE -** "He that believeth (the Gospel) and is baptized shall be saved" (Mark 16:16).

- **GENERAL SUMMARY:** "*Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men*" (Luke 2:14).

We want to close this article by reading from **Daniel 2:44** - "*The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever*".

Sam Dew

SCRAPS FROM DR. THOMAS' PAPERS

The Natural Condition of Man

I.

Although God made man - *thub amed* - "VERY GOOD," yet He created him NEITHER *mortal* NOR *immortal*.

2.

Man's DESTINY, or *eternal condition*, was *not necessitated*, but predicated upon his obedience to the law of God.

3.

NATURE, by which I mean *the world of mankind*, is a system based upon SIN. Hence it may be termed THE KINGDOM OF SIN. "ALL men," in the most universal sense of the phrase, being "born of the flesh," are born into this kingdom, and thus, by their natural birth, come under the constitution thereof, which may, therefore be termed THE CONSTITUTION OF SIN.

4

ALL men being citizens of the kingdom of sin, they are *by nature* entitled to *all the prerogatives*, communicable by its constitution.

5.

A constitution can only impart such rights, prerogatives, and immunities, as are commensurate with the power of that principle to which it owes its being.

6

THE CONSTITUTION OF THE KINGDOM OF SIN *being based upon Sin*, can constitute men heirs only of NATURAL *good and evil*, such as the "pleasures of sin for a season," pestilence, famine, fire, sword, flood, death, corruption, and a *final resolution into their native dust*.

7.

"ALL men" being naturally or constitutionally born into the state or kingdom of sin, are therefore bondmen or SLAVES TO KING SIN, whose objects have no right or title to the things which pertain to "*the glorious liberty of the sons of God*."

(The Christadelphian, May 1872)

THINGS NEW AND OLD FROM THE TREASURES OF THE SPIRIT



By F.R. Shuttleworth



REFERENCE TABLET, No. 16

THE DISCIPLES' VADE MECUM[§] OF DUTY

- Let your repentance be toward God, and your faith toward the Lord Jesus Christ - (Acts 19:21).
- Let God be your fear and your dread, and His law your supreme delight.
- Do not rest satisfied with believing God, but seek to love Him with all your heart.
- Let your springs of action be in God, and let it be your meat and drink to do His will.
- Take Jesus, the apostles, and prophets as your examples in suffering, affliction, and patience. - (James 5:10).
- When you pray, speak to God and not to men, and remember that He is in heaven and you upon earth, therefore let your words be few, and use not vain repetitions. - (Eccl. 5:2)
- Let your first things be the kingdom of God and His righteousness. - (Matt. 6:33)
- Let your conduct be holy and unspotted from the world. - (James 1:27).
- Let your speech be sound, savory, and edifying - well seasoned with grace. - (Col. 4:6).
- Cultivate courtesy, sociability, and sympathy. - (1 Peter 3:8).
- Do not fret because of the prosperity of evil doers, for they shall soon be cut down. - (Psalm 37:1)
- Let the afflicted pray, and the merry sing psalms. - (James 5:18).
- Quench your thirsting spirits daily, at the wells of salvation.
- It is permitted for saints to glory, but only in the Lord. - (Jer. 9:24).
- Cultivate a forgiving spirit, and a tender heart. - (Eph. 4:32).

[§] "Vade Mecum" - (1) *Something a person carries about for frequent or regular use.* (2) *A book for ready reference; manual; handbook.* Pronounced "vey-dee mee-kuhm"

THINGS NEW AND OLD FROM THE TREASURES OF THE SPIRIT

- Reward of the flesh, for it is a beguiling serpent, our nearest neighbor, but our most subtle enemy.
- Do not confine your attentions to men of high degree, but condescend to men of low estate. - (Rom. 12:16)
- Cultivate devoutness of mind, purity of heart, and meekness of spirit.
- Study to deliver the gracious message of salvation in a gracious spirit. - (Luke 4:22)
- Trust not in your own strength, but in the living God.
- The kindness of saints is due to all men, but especially to fellow-pilgrims.
- Be content to be poor in spirit, yet seek to be rich in faith and good works.
- Seek to be found always in the way of the Lord's commandments. - (Psalm 112:1)
- When you do anything, do it heartily as to the Lord and not to men. - (Col. 3:23).
- Be not moved away from the hope of the gospel by the consideration of such as turn aside to lies. - (Col. 1:23).
- Give Yahweh no rest until he establish Jerusalem a praise in the earth. - (Isaiah 62:7)
- Let not him who hath ten talents despise him who hath only one.
- Never mince the truth to please your friends, yet be not uncourteous but kind.
- Flatter no man, yet do you render honour to whom honour is due. - (Rom. 13:7)
- Give your heart to the truth as well as your head. - (Prov. 13:26).
- Do not flatter yourself that you can divide your affection with Christ and the world. (May, 1872)

REFERENCE TABLET No. 17

THE GOSPEL OF THE 1ST CENTURY

(Eighteen subjects of Discourse by Paul, as recorded in the Acts of the Apostles.)

- "The Hope of the Promises made of God unto the Fathers." - (Acts 26:6)
- "That Christ is the Son of God." - (9:20)
- "The Things which the Prophets and Moses did say should come." - (26:22)
- "That Jesus is the very Christ." - (9:22)
- "The Sure Mercies of David." - (13:34)
- "Another King, one Jesus." - (27:7)
- "The Unknown God." - (27:23)
- "Jesus and the Resurrection." - (Acts 17:18)
- "Everlasting Life." - (13:46)
- "The Kingdom of God and the Things which concern the Lord Jesus." - (28:31)
- "The Hope of Israel." - (28:20)
- "The Faith in Christ." - (24:24)
- "That there shall be a Resurrection of the Dead, both of the Just and the Unjust." - (24:15)
- "The Hope and Resurrection of the Dead." - (23:6)
- "Righteousness, Temperance, and Judgment to come." - (24:25)
- "Repentance toward God and Faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ." - (20:21)

- "Forgiveness of Sins and Inheritance among the Sanctified." - (Acts 26:18)
- "The Gospel of the Grace of God." - (20:24)
- "The Appointed Day in which God will Judge (rule) the World in righteousness by Jesus Christ." - (17:31)

This is the only gospel possessing saving qualities and the seal of the Spirit: it was the power of God to salvation before any of the present religious inventions and expedients had any being. Why turn away from it? Or, having turned away, why not return to apostolic faith and practice? (July, 1872)

EDITORIAL FLYLEAF

APOCALYPTIC VISIONS OF GLORY

The series "Apocalyptic Visions of Glory" will be continued (Lord willing) with our next issue of the SK. We hope to pick up with Revelation 5, with focus on the declaration - "Worthy is the Lamb".

ARKANSAS BIBLE SCHOOL

This issue of the Sanctuary-Keeper should be out to our readership before the Bible School begins. This year's date is June 16th - 23rd.

Teachers include:

Prophecy - Bro. Tom Azbill - "History, Present, and Destiny of Israel"

Exposition - Bro. Aaron Thomas - Doctrine of the Atonement - "The Problem of Sin & Its Destruction"

Exhortation - Brethren Darrel Pye, John Manson, Lou Locklear, Pat Hamilton, Sid Strickland, Ernie Glass

We look forward to a week of spiritual food, rest from the troubles of this world and fellowship with those of like precious faith.

SELECTED

(**The Christadelphian Advocate, August, 1886**)

Oft in danger, oft in woe,
Onward; brethren, onward go!
Fight the fight, maintain the strife,
Strengthened with the bread of life.

Onward then, in battle move!
More than conqueror ye shall prove;
Though opposed by many a foe,
Christ's true soldiers, onward go.