

The Berea Baptist Banner

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"Dinks" Have Double Incomes and No Kids

By G. Russell Evans

Norfolk, Virginia

The clever acronym "DINKS" appears in Pat Buchanan's best selling book *The Death of the West* (Dunne Books, 2002). It stands for "Double Income No Kids," meaning plenty of money for couples to live it up and no brats to tend to at five o'clock in the morning. It can also mean: Sleep in 'til 10:30 AM Saturdays, followed by a champagne lunch, lobster dinner and whatever pleasure the weekend has to offer.

The DINKS life of no kids can be a shallow one, adding nothing to the propagation of the race and family line, and contributing to the decline of Western civilization. DINKS will never know the joy and pride of bringing up sons and daughters, seeing them develop into productive citizens, educated and trained in the



G. Russell Evans

fields that make America special, and faithful to the old folks when the time comes.

SINISTER WARNING

Pat Buchanan's subtitle is "How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization"—a sinister warning, backed up by irrefutable documentation and impressive and historic examples. He calls it: "Depiction, not prediction."

It is a depiction with statistics of countries with slowly dying populations and others, including the

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Is It Scriptural for Women to Preach?

By Roy Mason

(1894-1978)

A Subject That Needs Restudy

Have Baptists decided to junk the teachings of the New Testament as their standard of faith and practice?

Have they decided that they will take only those Scriptures that coincide with their preconceived wishes and opinions as authoritative, and throw away the rest?

Have they decided to revise the Scriptures so as to make them suit the "trend of the times," and the standards of this world?

It would seem that many of them have.

I could illustrate this by a number of different incidents and I could mention a number of different things in which many Baptist churches have plainly departed from the teachings



Roy Mason

of the New Testament, but I have in mind just now to mention one matter as illustrative of the charges that I have just brought. The one matter I refer to is *The Woman Question*.

Baptist churches in some sections ordain women to the ministry!

The Southern Baptist Convention puts women up to speak (or preach, for it is one and the same thing).

Some women missionaries on our Baptist foreign mission fields are carrying on a preaching ministry

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The Doctrine of Rewards

Part 2

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

Thirteenth, there is special recognition for the earnest seeker: **"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him"** (Heb. 11:6). Here the idea is to seek God out diligently by faith. This includes prayer, Bible reading, meditation, church attendance, and Christian fellowship. The Greek word here means God has laid a charge upon Himself and takes it to be His job to render reward. To have this reward the seeker must be diligent; he must be earnest: **"And ye shall seek me, and find me, when ye shall search for me with all your heart:** (Jer. 29:13).

Fourteenth, one of the greatest of all rewards will go to the dying martyr: **". . . be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown**

of life" (Rev. 2:10). The phrase **"unto death"** is found only two other places in the New Testament (Acts 22:4; Rev. 12:11). The thought is degree rather

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The Conflict of Power at the End of this Age

By Wilbur M. Smith

Part 2

(1894-19??)

III. THE INCREASING ACCUMULATION OF POWER IN THESE DAYS

The New Testament, and especially the Book of Revelation, as we have



Wilbur M. Smith

seen thus far in our study, clearly predicts a time at the end of this age when the earth's greatest powers will be united in a monstrous, cruel, godless,

world dictatorship, finally bursting forth in a violent, though futile, attempt to destroy, not only the people of God, but the very Son of God Himself. In preparation for this final manifestation of power, as we have just seen, the very political and philosophical thought of modern man, in exalting power to a place of pre-eminence, forms a perfect background for the fulfillment of

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The Church in the Wilderness

By Milburn Cockrell

Mantachie, Mississippi

"This is he, that was in the church in the wilderness with the angel which spake to him in the mount Sina, and with our fathers: who received the lively oracles to give unto us" (Acts 7:38).

In this message I want to compare Israel with the New Testament church. It is almost with reluctance I do this, for there are some who make Israel take the place of the church. I do not believe the church took the place of

Israel, nor that all Israelites are now reprobated by God. I do not believe that the Israelites were too hard for an omnipotent God to handle, and so God turned to the tender-hearted Gentiles. Such reasoning is both foolish and absurd.

There are a number of clear distinctions between Israel and the church (I Cor. 10:32). I want to point out some of these. First, Israel was one

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"THOU HAST GIVEN A BANNER TO THEM THAT FEAR THEE, THAT IT MAY BE DISPLAYED BECAUSE OF THE TRUTH" (PSALMS 60:4).



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Doctrine of Rewards

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than duration. The meaning is to be faithful to the extent you will die for your faith, not merely until you die.

The martyr who gives up his natural life for Jesus Christ will be given a crown of life by Jesus Christ. This is not eternal life as some contend, for eternal life is not given for faithfulness (Rom. 6:23). This is as much a real crown as the crown given at Smyrna to the priests of Dionysus at the expiration of their year in office. This is a special crown above eternal life. The physical life lost for Christ is found again; **"For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it"** (Mark 8:35). They shall reign in life with Jesus Christ (Rom. 5:17).

Fifteenth, there is a reward for the toiling laborer: **"And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy**

servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth" (Rev. 11:18).

This verse concerns rewards for the tribulation saints. This is not the Judgment Seat of Christ, but it is most likely a judgment for martyred tribulation saints about the time of the Judgment of the Nations. The idea in the Greek is the giving of the well-known and long-promised reward. The verse teaches there are rewards for His servants, the saints, and those who fear the name of God. I Timothy 5:18 says: **"The labourer is worthy of his reward."**

Sixteenth, there is a reward for the active church member: **"Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honour to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready"** (Rev. 19:7). The aorist tense **"made herself ready"** shows that the process of preparation is complete. The righteous deeds in the life of the saints on earth have become the glorious bridal attire of Christ's virgin bride. **"Granted"** is another aorist, referring back to the Judgment Seat of Christ where the words of church members have been divinely evaluated.

Each local New Testament Baptist church is presently the bride-elect of Jesus Christ (John 3:29; II Cor. 11:2). To be in the bride you must have scriptural baptism and be an active member of the church. If you are an unfaithful church member, you will be excluded from the church and be out of the bride, seeing the bride is the local church. When an excluded member is restored to the full fellowship of the church, he is restored to the bride. Hence being in the bride is a reward for being an active church member, and rewards are according to works.

Arminians reverse Acts 13:48. The verse actually says: **"As many as were ordained to eternal life believed."** But when they get through mutilating it they have it saying: "As many as believed are ordained to eternal life." But some sovereign gracers reverse Revelation 19:7. The verse actually says: **"His wife hath made herself ready."** But when they get through mutilating it they have it saying: "Christ has made her ready for Himself." This is a complete reversal of what the verse really says.

There are a number of things wrong with reversing Revelation 19:7. First, this is a very poor handling of holy Scripture. Second, it has Christ dressing His own bride. I have never known any bridegroom to dress his own bride. Have you? Third, the Greek word is not *dikaioisune*, but

dikaioima, a righteous act. The meaning is clearly to the righteous acts of the saints themselves. Fourth, if those in the bride are there by the imputed righteousness of Christ, then all the saved are in the bride. Hence the brethren who hold that Christ dresses His own bride in truth believe in a universal, invisible bride. Fifth, it must be shown from holy Scripture in other places in the Bible that **"righteousness of saints"** means the imputed righteousness of Christ. Where is the verse? Sixth, if election and imputed righteousness puts one in the bride, then all the elect are in the bride or church. Then there is no such thing as a local church bride. Seventh, if all the saved are in the bride, then why be an active Baptist church member? Would it not be just as well to be a Protestant or Roman Catholic so as to escape the odium of being a "hardnosed" Baptist? Verily if there is no reward for being an active Baptist church member, then why be one? Let the universal bride brethren give the answer.

I also have a problem when I hear people say that the Lord adds some to His church or bride, and that once you are added, you are eternally secure in the church. This confuses salvation and church membership. Salvation cannot be lost, but church membership can be lost. You can be excluded from the church (I Cor. 5:1-13). If some church members are elected to bridal status and other church members are not, then we have an invisible bride known only to God, and the local, visible church is not the bride.

I heard some one say, "Well what about a church who does not exclude disorderly members? Will they be in the bride? Answer: such a church has ceased to be the virgin bride of Christ and none of its members will be in the bride.

Brethren, I believe in a local church bride now, and that the aggregate of all true churches make up the bride in Heaven. My bride is always local and visible; it is never universal and invisible. To say that the bride is all the saved, and then teach the word "church" is always local in the New Testament, is to fail to see the church is the bride.

I believe it does make a difference if you are an active church member, for inactive excluded members are not in the bride. Being in the bride is a reward for being baptized and for being an active church member. I do not preach that baby sprinklers will be in the bride. I do not care for a universal, invisible church, nor do I care for a universal, invisible bride. I believe the Lord Jesus Christ will reward a person for being a faithful

church member.

THE REWARDS

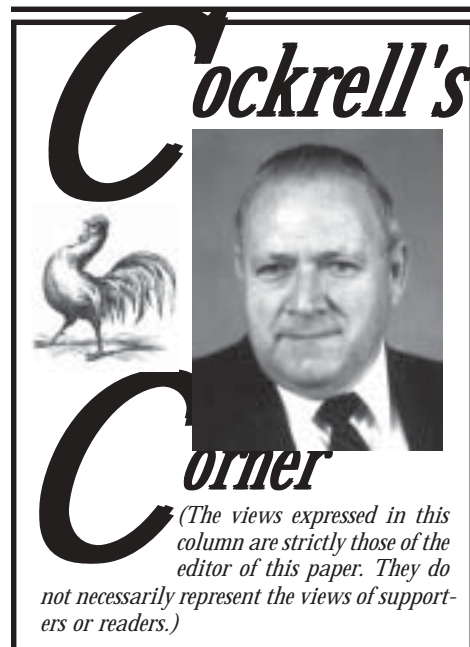
First, the rewards to be given out by Christ are great: **"After these things the word of the LORD came unto Abram in a vision, saying, Fear not, Abram: I am thy shield, and thy exceeding great reward"** (Gen. 15:1). God is not only the Rewarder, but the Reward. To have God as our God is an exceeding great reward indeed. As an old writer said: "If He is thine, all is thine." What a reward it is to be able to enjoy God forever. Rewards must be great, if they are given out by our great God and Savior, Jesus Christ. Paul declared: **"Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him"** (I Cor. 2:9).

In the earthly life I doubt if we can comprehend the greatness of our rewards. We read in Psalm 19:11: **"Moreover by them is thy servant warned, and in keeping of them there is GREAT reward."** The wages which the Lord pays are great. They are given to those who have a carefulness to know and observe the Bible. Our Lord taught: **"But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again; and your reward shall be GREAT, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil"** (Luke 6:35). Here Christ pronounced the reward of the righteous everlastingly great.

Second, the rewards to be given out by Christ are sure: **"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ"** (Col. 3:24). If these rewards are to be given out by Christ Himself, what could be more sure? Not even a cup of cold water will be overlooked by Him. The passing out of rewards is not a matter of doubtful disputations. We can be sure that we will receive them, for He who cannot lie has promised to do this. In Jeremiah 31:16 it is written: **"For thy work shall be rewarded, saith the LORD."**

Third, the rewards given out by Christ are varied: **"Now he that planteth and he that watereth are one: and every man shall receive his own reward according to his own labour"** (I Cor. 3:8). Some believers plant and some water, for all do not have the same abilities and opportunities. **"Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit"** (I Cor. 12:4; cf. I Pet. 4:10). At the Judgment Seat of Christ our Lord will make a difference among believers, according to the different

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Cockrell's
Corner

(The views expressed in this column are strictly those of the editor of this paper. They do not necessarily represent the views of supporters or readers.)

WHY I USE THE KJV

In my 44 years in the ministry I have used the KJV of the Bible, and so have the members of the churches I have pastored. I urged all church members to secure and study the KJ Bible. I do not recommend to them that they throw away their KJV and get new modern Bible versions. That this is so can be ascertained from any church where I have ever pastored, although there are rumors to the contrary being circulated by some brethren.

Some of my brethren use the KJV because they have read and studied books by a cussing Arminian preacher in Florida, or because they are afraid they will be called a liberal or modernist by the followers of this man. I, for one, marvel that some brethren follow a cussing Arminian preacher and are influenced by him. Our King James Version says in James 1:26: **"If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain."** Evidently, some brethren do not believe the KJV here and prefer a new version of some kind.

Some years ago I attended a Bible conference where one preacher got up and said in his message he was a follower of this cussing Arminian preacher in Florida. I immediately wrote him down as an ultradispensationalist, a universal church man, and an Arminian heretic. I did appreciate his honest confession. Our churches need to be aware of such men so as to keep them out of their pulpits.

I do not use the KJV because of the teachings of some cursing Arminian preacher. Neither do I use it because I am afraid some of the followers of this man in our group of Baptists will call me a liberal or Bible

corrector. I used the KJV before I ever heard of this man. In fact the idea that this man teaches is not as old as I am. It is a mere novelty never believed or taught by any Baptist before the modern era.

Brethren, here are the reasons I use the KJV. First, I believe it was made from the best Greek and Hebrew texts, which are the preserved Word of God. I refer to the Masoretic Hebrew Text preserved by the nation of Israel, and the Textus Receptus Greek Text (or Byzantine text). This is the Greek text preserved from A.D. 452 to 1453 by the Greek Church, the Waldenses, and Albigenses.

All modern translations are based upon the reconstructed Greek text of Westcott and Hort, two Romanist oriented scholars, whose purpose was to replace the Protestant and Baptist text with those of the Roman Church and thereby wean back Protestants to the Roman fold. These two men denied the blood atonement of Jesus Christ, exalted Mary worship and the Romanish masse, denied the Genesis record, and were ardent evolutionists and had universalist tendencies.

About 95 percent of all Greek manuscripts that we have are the Byzantine type. This means that the Westcott and Hort texts disagree with 95 percent of extant sources, including Scripture quotations from the writings of the early church fathers, who antedated the texts on which the Westcott and Hort reconstruction was based. The W & H texts came from Rome and Egypt, depicted as God's enemies in Scripture, whereas the text of the KJV came from Syria and Greece, the areas of the initial outreach of Christianity.

All translations since 1611 have not been made entirely from the Textus Receptus. These did include some of the Textus Receptus but they largely depended on the Vaticanus and Sinaiticus. Codex Vaticanus was found in the pope's library in A.D. 1481 and Codex Sinaiticus was taken from a waste basket on a Mt. Sinai monastery in 1859. Both of these manuscripts include the apocryphal books outside of the New Testament canon. This makes the new translation based largely on these texts essentially Roman Catholic translations. They resemble Jerome's Latin Vulgate and the Rheims-Douai versions of 1582 authorized by the Roman Catholic Church at the infamous Council of Trent.

2. The KJ translators employed a method of verbal equivalence (a word for word translation) rather than the method of paraphrase or dynamic equivalent (a meaning for

meaning). The idea of the KJ translators was to give us what the Bible writers really wrote instead of what some committee of liberals scholars thought they wrote. This practice was not followed by modern-day translators.

The KJ translators believed every word placed in the original text was exactly as God intended. Their regard for verbal inspiration is reflected in the use of italics in translations wherever words were added in English, which were not in the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. This practice has not been followed by modern versions.

Personally, I look upon most modern version (especially the New Testament) as new Bible versions. I say this because a translation of the Bible to be true to its name must be the writing down of the message into another language without changing its meaning. The natural man cannot understand the things of God (I Cor. 2:14), and he cannot be trusted to put God's thoughts into correct English.

3. The KJV has been read and examined by some great minds since 1611, and wherein it has weak translations these have been pointed out by men like Henry, Pool, Trapp, Gill, Spurgeon, Pink, Graves, etc. This is not true of any of these modern versions. The examinations which have been made of these are limited, and they have resulted in unsatisfactory reports.

4. The KJV has been the Bible of my Baptist fathers. It is the one I have studied, memorized, and preached from for 44 years. It was the one being preached from when I was converted to Christ. It was the Bible of the church which baptized me, and of the church and men who ordained me to the ministry. It is the Bible I have heard preached all my life. I have no plans to throw mine KJV away for some new version made by infidels from Catholic manuscripts.

5. I believe the KJV is a faithful translation of the preserved Word of God in the Hebrew and Greek manuscripts. It is the best we have for the English speaking world in this generation. As long as any translation follows the the Textus Receptus and the Masoretic Hebrew text, they are inspired. When they choose to do other wise, they are in error. This rule applies to the KJV as well as others. I believe that only the original autographs were perfect or inspired. God has preserved His Word in Hebrew and Greek, but no translation has come down to us from inspired translators, and this includes the KJV.

The Purpose of the Death of Christ

XI. TO PUT AWAY SIN.

In Hebrew 9:26 it is written: **"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself"** (Heb. 9:26). The words **"put away"** (*athetesis*) is elsewhere translated **"disannulling."** It denotes absolution, or cancellation, or a setting aside. Christ did away with sin by the sacrifice of Himself. He abolished all the debt we owed to the justice of God. Jesus paid it all. He did not make a down payment so we could take up installment payments. He paid a hundred percent, and we have nothing to pay.

John Gill's comments on this verse tells us in what sense Christ put away sin: "...the filth of it, by His blood; the guilty of sin, by His atoning blood; and the punishment of it, by His sufferings and death....this putting it away signified by His bearing, carrying, and taking it away; by removing it as far as the east is from the west; by finishing and making end of it..." (*An Exposition of the New Testament*, Vol. III, p. 441).

John Owens writes on this verse: "He appeared, He was 'manifested in the flesh,' that He might suffer and offer Himself to God. This He did to 'put away sin,' in its nature and effects, and in its root and fruits, in its guilty, power, and punishment, and that absolutely and universally with respect unto His church that is sanctified by His blood, and dedicated unto God" (*Hebrews*, p. 182).

The great and glorious truth of the gospel of grace is that Jesus Christ has made a complete atonement for all the sins of His people so that their condemnation is removed (Rom. 8:1). He puts sin out of God's presence, out of His book or remembrance, so that it has no power over us. Only the sacrifice of the God-man could make this to be true. This Christ has done by providing a full pardon for the sins of a great multitude out of all nations. Christ not only put away sin from the justice of God, but He also destroyed sin in our hearts by progressive sanctification and final glorification. The final fruits of His death will make us completely holy as if we had never been sinners.

I believe the Bible. I believe that Christ really and truly put away the sins of His people. Sin is gone from the justice of God so far as the elect are concerned. It is no more. In the new covenant God says: **"For I will**

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Cockrell's Corner

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be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more" (Heb. 8:12).

I charge that Arminians do not believe Hebrews 9:26. They would say that this is true of the believing sinner, but it is not true of the unbelieving sinner. According to their theory, Christ put away the sins of those who by self-originating faith make up what is lacking in the atonement of Christ. Although Christ suffered and died for those who will never believe, He utterly failed to put away their sins. He made an attempt at doing so, but in their case He utterly failed. It was a bigger job than He could handle. Even though Christ suffered for the sins of those who die in unbelief, these unbelievers must also suffer for their sins. God made these people pay double. The Father made Christ to suffer and die for them in vain, and then He made these unbelievers pay what Christ has already paid! This whole idea is an insult to the holiness and justice of God. Nothing could cast more aspersions on the sufferings and death of Christ than such foolishness. It has the Father making Jesus pay, and then has the Father refusing to accept what Christ paid in the case of those who die in unbelief. It has the Father requiring something of Christ and then refusing to accept what He required!

God does not require double payment, first at the hand of Christ and then again at the hands of the unbelieving sinner. If Jesus Christ put away a person's sins, then that person will not suffer for them. If the sinner suffers for his own sins, then any person ought to know that Christ did not put them away. Hence the Bible teaches an atonement limited to the elect of God. Please remember that the purpose of Christ's death was to put away sin. Hebrews 9:26 does not say He made an attempt to put away sin; it says He actual put it away for all for whom He died. Jesus Christ is not a failure! The old prophet said of Him: **"He shall not fail nor be discouraged"** (Isa. 42:4).

Doctrine of Rewards

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services performed (I Cor. 15:41-42). He shall assess each servant and his work. The criterion will be the servant's labor, not his success. The penitent thief cannot expect to receive as much reward as will the laborious

Paul.

Fourth, the recompenses to be handed out by Christ will be sufficient. **"An hundredfold"** (Mark 10:30) will be more than sufficient to reward us for our self-sacrificing. It will be enough to know our services have been accepted by Christ: **"Wherefore we labour, that, whether present or absent, we may be accepted of him"** (II Cor. 5:9; Matt. 25:21). Every one will be satisfied with his own reward. The Scriptures know nothing of some servant complaining of his recompense of reward.

Those faithful in a few things are to be given many things. Some of the saints will rule over 10 cities (Luke 19:17 and some over five cities (Luke 19:19). Some overcomers of the church age are to have **"power over the nations"** (Rev. 2:26). At least a few are to share the throne with Christ: **"To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne"** (Rev. 3:21). Eastern kings did not occupy a single-seat throne, but a large one where more than one person could sit. Christ is to share His millennial throne and its royalty with a few overcomers. Christ now shares His Father's throne, and Christ is to share His millennial throne with some overcomers. Oh, to sit on His right and left hand in the kingdom (Matt. 20:20-23)!

Fifth, the rewards given out by Christ are eternal: **"For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory; While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen: for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal"** (II Cor. 4:17-18).

Our afflictions are light and momentary. There awaits us an eternal weight of glory which **"far more"** exceeds any of our sufferings on earth. No expression could be stronger. Here are laurels which never wither and crowns which perish not with the using. Our afflictions on earth are the procuring cause of eternal glory: **"For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory which shall be revealed in us"** (Rom. 8:18).

Sixth, they are to be coveted: **"Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward"** (II John 8). Consider the words **"Look to yourselves."** In salvation we look to Christ (Isa.

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WFTA, Tupelo, MS	Sunday 9:30 - 10:00 a.m.	101.9	3,000 FM
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WVSA, Vernon, AL	Sunday 7:00 - 7:30 a.m.	1380	1,000 AM
WLZA, Starkville, MS	Sunday 1:00 - 1:30 p.m.	710	2,500 AM
WCNA, Myrtle, MS	Sunday 12:30 - 1:00 p.m.	95.9	3,000 FM
WCTT, Corbin, KY	Sunday 9:00 - 9:30 a.m.	680	5,000 AM
KARI, Blaine, WA	Saturday 10:30 - 11:00 a.m. .	550	5,000 AM
KORE, Springfield, OR	Sunday 8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	1050	5,000 AM
WDBS, Sutton, WV	Sunday 6:30 - 7:00 a.m.	97.1	50,000 FM
DXRA, Davao City, Philippines	Sunday 8:15 - 8:45 a.m.	783 Khz ...	10,000 AM
DWSS, Manila, Philippines .	Sunday 5:30 - 6:00 p.m.	1494	16,000 AM

45:22), but when it comes to rewards we are to look to ourselves. We are to be on continuous guard lest we destroy our own accomplishments by yielding to false teachers. Going after deceivers and antichrists will affect our rewards.

In Colossians 2:18 I read: **"Let no man beguile you of your reward in a voluntary humility and worshipping of angels, intruding into those things which he hath not seen, vainly puffed up by his fleshly mind."** Again the context is about false teachers. Stay away from them, for they seek to rob you of your reward. They can cost you some palms of victory. In Revelation 3:11 Christ says: **"Behold, I come quickly: hold that fast which thou hast, that no man take thy crown."** It is not the start, but the finish which determines the fitness to wear the crown. If you let go of the truth, you will lose your crown.

I believe some will lose some honor, praise, and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ (I Pet. 1:7). In I John 2:28 it is written: **"And now, little children, abide in him; that, when he shall appear, we may have confidence, and not be ashamed before him at his coming."** To abide in Christ calls for a continuous intimate fellowship as a standing duty. Those who do this can appear before Christ at His coming with assurance and candor (I John 4:17-19). To **"be ashamed"** means "shrink away from Christ in shame." Some believers will regret their feeble attempts at service and the worldliness in their lives. These will suffer loss of rewards (I Cor. 3:13-15). Oh, how awful to be ashamed before Jesus Christ! ashamed before Him who is not ashamed to call us His brethren (Heb. 2:11)!

THE REWARDING

First, a believer is to be rewarded according to his works: **"For the Son of man shall come in the glory of his Father with his angels; and then he shall reward every man according to his works"** (Matt. 16:27). Observe that we are to be

rewarded according to works, not religious profession. As an employee is paid after his work is done, so the Christian is rewarded when his work is done and he stands at the Judgment Seat of Christ. Those who work the hardest will receive the most rewards.

Dionysius caused musicians to play before him, and promised them a great reward. When they came for their reward, he told them they had already had it in their hopes. Christ does not disappoint His servants: **"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be"** (Rev. 22:12).

Opportunities will be considered when it comes to being rewarded according to our works. Mary of Bethany anointed the head of our Lord in token of His coming burial. For this act she was highly commended by Christ: **"She hath done what she could: she is come aforehand to anoint my body to the burying"** (Mark 14:8). She had learned much at the feet of Jesus. Mary of Bethany did not join the other women who brought sweet spices to the tomb of Christ (Mark 16:1).

"She did what she could" is the true standard of all service to our Lord. He only expects what we have the ability to perform. Many say, "I'm doing all I can," but they lie like Ananias and Sapphira. Few are really like Mary of Bethany. Our position in this world may be lowly and our opportunities of usefulness few. But let us do what we can. If we do this, the same One that commended Mary of Bethany will commend us at His judgment seat.

Second, these rewards will be openly given: **"That thine alms may be in secret: and thy Father which seeth in secret himself shall reward thee openly"** : (Matt. 6:4). Note the Father **"himself"** shall reward you. God the Father is to reward us personally, not as servants, but as sons who serve Him. We are to be commended before men and angels (Mark 8:38). Though the works were

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Doctrine of Rewards

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done in private, the rewards will be given out in public.

Third, our compensation for good works will be full: **"The LORD recompense thy work, and a full reward be given thee of the LORD God of Israel, under whose wings thou art come to trust"** (Ruth 2:12). The God of the Bible is a God of rewards. The Hebrew word (*shalem*) translated "full" means "just or perfect." As Lange comments, the idea is a complete reward. Ruth's heroism and self-denial would receive a complete reward. She would miss nothing but would recover all. God's reward is always a full reward. All earthly rewards for the saints are partial, but in Heaven they will receive a full recompense.

When it comes to rewards for things like the kindness Ruth showed to her mother-in-law, we must ascribe these good works to God who works in us. Isaiah 26:12 says: **"LORD, thou wilt ordain peace for us: for thou also hast wrought all our works in us."** It is written in Philippians 2:13: **"For it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure."** After we do all the good works we are required to do, we are still **"unprofitable servants"** (Luke 17:10). Man by nature is so depraved that he is **"unto every good work reprobate"** (Tit. 1:16). Our best works are stained and imperfect (Isa. 64:6). There is little proportion between them as the infinite weight of glory wherewith Christ is to reward us. In truth, rewards are not given us so much for our own inherent worth, but because of God's free grace, Who crown His own work in us.

Fourth, some rewards are in this present life: **"But he shall receive an hundredfold now in this time, houses, and brethren, and sisters, and mothers, and children, and lands, with persecutions; and in the world to come eternal life"** (Mark 10:30). Note the words **"in this life."** Those things left for Christ will bring a hundredfold by new relationships with fellow-believers in this present age (Mark 3:31-35) and at the coming of Christ eternal life. What an encouragement to serve Christ!

This truth is seen in other Scriptures. **"But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you"** (Matt. 6:33). **"For bodily exercise profiteth little: but godliness is profitable unto all things, having**

promise of the life that now is, and of that which is to come" (I Tim. 4:8).

Daniel's self-denial was rewarded on earth when he was given heavenly wisdom. The same may be said of Joseph. Not all rewards are given out in Heaven at the Judgment Seat of Christ. We receive some rewards on earth in this life.

Fifth, these prizes are given out when Christ comes for His saints: **"And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be"** (Rev. 22:12). **"My reward"** must mean the rewards Christ brings "with Him" at the rapture and which are to come from Him. When He comes He will reward each believer for his services and sufferings. The singular **"work"** sums up a lifetime of service on earth.

Other verses teach this same truth. Our Lord declared: **"And thou shalt be blessed; for they cannot recompense thee: for thou shalt be recompensed at the resurrection of the just"** (Luke 14:14). **"Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also who love his appearing"** (II Tim. 4:8). **"And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away"** (I Pet. 5:4).

Sixth, these rewards are to be enjoyed in the millennial reign of Christ: **"He said therefore, A certain nobleman when into a far country to receive for himself a kingdom, and to return. And he called his ten servants, and delivered them ten pounds, and said unto them, Occupy till I come. . . . And it came to pass, that when he was returned, having received the kingdom, then he commanded these servants to be called unto him, to whom he had given the money, that he might know how much every man had gained by trading. Then came the first, saying, Lord thy pound hath**

gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities. And the second came, saying, Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities" (Luke 19:12-13, 15-19).

The nobleman represents Christ coming to set up His millennial kingdom on earth. The two servants represent the saints to whom rewards are to be given for faithful service. You will note that neither of the two boasted of their skill as businessmen. They claimed none of the pound for themselves--**"thy pound."** The rewards correspond, not to the one pound, but to those gained, whether ten or five. Observe also different degrees of rewards in the millennium--**"ten cities"** and **"five cities."** Those faithful in a few things now shall be given larger responsibilities commensurate with the way they handled their opportunities in this life.

The reward of the apostles of Christ is the right to rule over the twelve tribes of restored and regenerated Israel: **"And I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; That ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel"** (Luke 22:29-30).

All the glorified saints in the first resurrection are to reign with Christ on this earth: **"And hath made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth"** (Rev. 5:10). **"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and shall reign with him a thousand years"** (Rev. 20:6). When Christ comes with His saints they will have been rewarded for their labors. Clothed with heavenly bodies, they can enjoy the heavenly kingdom.

Seventh, while the saints are to enjoy their rewards especially in the millennial kingdom, they are destined to enjoy them through eternity. We are to possess an **"eternal weight of glory"** (II Cor. 4:17), and we are to shine **"as the stars for ever and ever"** (Dan. 12:3). Our inheritance is **"incorruptible, and undefiled,"** and it **"fadeth not away"** (I Pet. 1:4). At the Lord's right hand there are pleasures for evermore (Ps. 16:11). The crowns given out at the Judgment Seat of Christ are crowns **"that fadeth not away"** (I Pet. 5:4).

CONCLUSION

1. Like Moses, we ought to have **"respect unto the recompense of**

the reward" (Heb. 11:26). Like the lawgiver, we must look far beyond the horizons of Egypt and temporary pleasures to the unseen and eternal. Let us press toward the mark for the prize. Let us so run that we may obtain the crowns; otherwise, we shall have nothing to cast at our Redeemer's feet (Rev. 4:10).

2. There are rewards in Heaven and degrees of punishment in Hell.

3. Just as the saints are rewarded for the good they do, even so the unsaved are rewarded for the evil they do. **"...the LORD shall reward the doer of evil according to his wickedness"** (II Sam. 3:39). **"Knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ. But he that doeth wrong shall receive for the wrong which he hath done: and there is no respect of persons"** (Col. 3:24-25). **"...and every transgression and disobedience received a just recompense of reward"** (Heb. 2:2).

Conflict of Power

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these particular prophecies. We must now consider another aspect of this question--the amazing *accumulation of power* in modern times. By what standards may power be measured? Well, I think one can say principally (1) by population, and (2) by the energy, physical energy, which this population is able to control. We shall consider first the increase of population; then the amazing acceleration of power in modern military weapons; and then, briefly, the development of physical power, subsequent to the discovery of gunpowder, leading up to the hydrogen bomb.

1. Population power

At the dawn of our era, that is, in the first century, about the time our Lord was on earth, the entire population of the Roman Empire, it is estimated, was about 54,000,000. This, of course, did not include China, Japan, India, or the continents of America; but it does represent the largest mass of people under one rule, including all the lands around the Mediterranean, as far east as the Tigris and Euphrates Rivers, and as far west as Britain. Exactly how many people there were in the world then we do not know. In 1940, however, there were more people in Germany proper than in the entire Roman Empire nineteen hundred years ago. The entire population of the world today has been estimated at approximately 2,231,000,000, of which nearly

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MARK OF THE BEAST

Look at your name on the front page of this month's paper. If you see the mark 4-02, so detestable to a Baptist, wash it out by renewal of green-backs. If not your paper will stop next month. We are not able to credit. It is not a good plan.



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200,000,000 are now living in North America. Consequently, the *power* of mass population has developed enormously in modern times.

2. Military power

Nations today, however, measure their power not so much by the mass of people living within their boundaries as by the number that can be immediately commandeered for military service, and, of course, by military equipment. This, too, has shown a great acceleration in the last three hundred years. Dr. Quincy Wright of the University of Chicago, outstanding authority in the Western World today on the history of war, estimates that in the sixteenth century, armies seldom exceeded 20,000 to 30,000. In the seventeenth century, armies rarely exceeded 50,000 to 60,000 when about 3 in every 1,000 of the population were found in the army, approximately the same as in the Roman Empire. In the eighteenth century, individual armies sometimes numbered as many as 90,000; Napoleon always had 200,000, and at times he may have had a million men, or five per cent of the French people, mobilized. Before the nineteenth century was over, however, the eight great powers averaged 500,000 men *each* in the army and navy. At the time of World War I, these individual armies averaged about 600,000, or about 5 to every 1,000 of the population, and for their maintenance one-third of the national budgets of these respective countries was demanded. In 1937, the world as a whole had 8,000,000 men in standing armies—France as many as 19 for every 1,000 population. It is estimated today that the army man power of the world is 16,379,000.

In the middle of the eighteenth century two field guns were generally counted for each 1,000 men; in the second World war 20 guns were assigned to each 1,000 men, and in some of the offensives of 1917, there were 300 guns to a mile. Up to the middle of the nineteenth century, all military maneuvering was at a marching pace. Today most armies are mechanized, able to travel 50 times as fast, and, if necessary, for many more hours. Bombing, too, has now become a terrific factor. In 1943, 180,000 tons of bombs were dropped on Germany by Great Britain and America alone, and in the following year over 100,000 tons were dropped in one month; at Caen 5,000 tons were dropped in forty minutes. In 1850 the number of bullets fired by a smooth bore muzzle-loader by 1,000

men in one minute was 500, and their range about 300 yards. Today we have machine guns which fire 1,000 rounds a minute, making 1,000,000 for 1,000 men, with a range of nearly 4,000 yards. Besides, we now have pilotless planes, flying bombs, and long-range rockets. In addition to all this, we have submarines, airplanes and tanks. This subject will be dealt with further in the next chapter.

3. Power from natural resources

From the earliest times, men have used flowing water and wind for the development of power. Coal also may have been used for some purposes by the Romans, but only in a very limited way. But in 1769, when Watt applied for a patent for the steam engine, man really began to use in great quantities the latent energies buried in the earth. First, the use of coal phenomenally progressed; by the middle of the nineteenth century trains were crossing America and Europe, and vast loads of merchandise and thousands of people could now be swiftly carried without the use of horse and carriage. Soon electricity burst upon the world, and steam was made to turn vast turbines. These in turn produced electric currents, which not only gave power but also transmitted the power hundreds of miles over wires and cables, for use in any locality man determined. About the same time, men began to use petroleum and natural gas, which though known from early times, were not harnessed for light and heat until about 1860, and not for power until near the end of the nineteenth century. It has been estimated that today a man with an automobile at his disposal, with his home and barns furnished with electric current, and with his farm machinery mechanized, can do the work on any farm that a hundred years ago would have taken sixty men to complete. Thus the power of man is being infinitely multiplied.

4. Atomic power

In the last ten years man has tapped another source of energy, dreamed of by the ancients, sought out by scientists for over one hundred years, and at last made available—the awful power which man has acquired through the release of energy in splitting the nuclei of atoms, especially for the atomic bomb in the fission of the atoms of uranium.

QR: The enormous amount of energy released in the fission of the atoms of one pound of U-235 (an isotope of uranium) has been clearly set out by Dr. Selig Hecht of Columbia University in his recent and authoritative work, *Explaining the Atom*: "If a chain reaction could become established and all the atoms

in the pound of U-235 be fissioned, the energy produced would be over 400 billion ergs, or in common units, 12,000,000 kilowatt-hours. If this energy were released slowly, under control, it would furnish the electric current that keeps 12 million 100-watt lamps going for a 10-hour day, or about enough to illuminate all the homes in New England for an evening. If however, it were released quickly, say in a fraction of a second, it would have the explosive force of about 10,000 tons of TNT. Since there are 2,000 pounds in a ton, this is a factor of 20,000,000 and indicates that, pound for pound, U-235 could yield an explosive force 20,000,000 times more powerful than TNT. If only 10 per cent of the atoms in a pound of U-235 were to fission, it would be 2,000,000 times as powerful as TNT; or even if only 1 per cent of the atoms in the pound of U-235 were to fission, it would still be equivalent to 200,000 times the explosive force of TNT. Clearly a new order of explosive force was possible, and the sleep of those who made these calculations was not an easy one.

"The temperature existing in the atomic blast can be calculated. The total energy given off when an atom of uranium is split is 200,000,000 electron volts, and 1 electron volt is equal to 10,000 degrees centigrade.

The temperature of the atom at the instant of disintegration before its energy has been divided between radiation and the kinetic energy of the ejected particles would be 2,000,000,000,000 degrees. For a conservative figure, it can be estimated that only 1 per cent of this energy appeared in the form of radiation, and that the radiation which came out of each atom burst in the form of 2 quanta. Under these conditions, the temperature of the radiation would be of the order of 10,000,000,000 degrees."

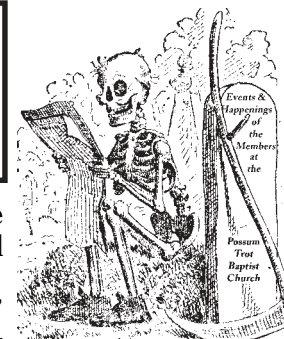
5. Other destructive agencies

In the *U. N. World*, for November, 1947 (p. 13), Rear Admiral Ellis M. Zacharias, U.S.N. (Ret.), Wartime Deputy Chief of Naval Intelligence, in an article entitled, "Absolute Weapons—More Deadly than the Atom," warns us: "There are today in the arsenals of several of the great powers other absolute weapons, chemical, biological, and climatological, more devastating than the atom. They are capable of exterminating the last vestige of human, animal, and even vegetable life from the face of the earth. This is not a prediction of horrors to come. *These weapons exist. They are being manufactured right now, while you are reading these words* [all the italics his]."

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Funnybone

"... A time to laugh..." (Eccl. 3:4).



After church the other Sunday little Jimmie Johnson told Pastor Brown, "When I grow up and get a job, I'm going to give you some money."
"Well, thank you," the pastor replied, "by why?"
Jimmie answered, "Because my daddy says you're the poorest preacher we've ever had."

Sister Johnson invited a number of people from the Possumtrot Baptist Church home for Sunday dinner. She turned to little Jimmie and said, "Would you like to ask the blessing?"

"I wouldn't know what to say," Jimmie replied.

"Just say what you hear mommy say," sister Johnson answered.

Little Jimmie bowed his head and said, "Dear Lord, why on earth did I invite all these people to dinner?"

Little Jimmie Johnson and his older sister sat together in church on Sunday morning, seeing their parents were home with the "flu." Jimmie giggled and talked loud during the service.

Finally, his big sister had had enough. She looked at him and said, "You are not suppose to act this way in church."

"Why? Who is going to stop me?" Jimmie answered.

His older sister pointed to the back of the church and said, "See those two big men standing at the back door? They're hushers."

Pastor Brown's youngest daughter asked him, "Daddy, did you see the stork when he dumped me out of the suitcase?"

The good pastor thought a moment and then said, "No, I did not, but I did get his bill in the mail."

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They are not an American monopoly. Several nations are known to have them, to be making them, and to be improving them. Furthermore, unlike the atom bomb, they are of such a nature that smaller nations with limited industrial facilities are in a position to develop them."

Even before the announcement of the hydrogen bomb, the Director of the Sheffield Scientific School at Yale, Dr. Edmund W. Sinnott, had said that today "we face the possibility, not only that vast areas of the world may be made unfit for human habitation, but that man himself may actually be destroyed, not alone through the deaths of millions of individuals, but through such a profound alteration of his own germ plasma as to prevent the continued production of a population of normal human beings" ("Man and Energy," *Yale Review*, Summer, 1947, XXXVIII. 646).

6. The hydrogen bomb

Without going into details, it may simply be said that the hydrogen bomb does, on a small scale, what the sun continually does (from which comes its vast energy, the source of almost all energy in this solar universe), namely, builds up atoms of hydrogen, the lightest and simplest element, into atoms of helium gas. Theoretically, there is no limit to the power of such an infernal device; practically it is estimated it will be from 10 to 100 times more powerful than the atomic bomb. As Mr. William L. Lawrence has put it, "When detonated, the explosion (of the bomb) would release tremendous quantities of neutrons, the most penetrating particles in nature. These in turn would enter into the nuclei of the incorporated element and make them intensely radioactive. If an element such as cobalt were chosen, it would be transmuted into a radioactive element about 320 times as powerful in its radioactivity as radium. This deadly radioactive cobalt would be scattered into the atmosphere and carried by the westerly winds all over the surface of the earth. Any living thing inhaling it, or even touched by it, would be doomed to certain death." Mr. Lawrence is here reporting the frank statements of some of the outstanding physicists of America, in a broadcast from Chicago, on Sunday, February 26, 1950 (see the *New York Times*, February 27, 1950). The Book of Revelation takes on a profounder significance in days such as these.

(To be continued)

THE EURO: Will This Be The Monetary Standard Of The Revived Roman Empire?

By Philip C. Parks

Lexington, North Carolina



Philip C. Parks

During the weekend that ushered in the new year of 2002, an interesting event occurred which affected the entire continent of western Europe. This event is described as "perhaps the most concrete evidence of Europe's transition from a divided continent to a team of nations working toward the same goals."¹ Whether or not Europe is fully united is yet to be proven. It can be speculated that other nations will join this union in order to survive economically and politically. But rest assured that over time, nations and their populaces world-wide will buckle to this union.

It wasn't that long ago when this event was inconceivable to even the liberal political thinker. Just a few short years ago, the world was dominated by two great powers in their respective and opposing global hemispheres: The North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) headed up by the United States, and its archenemy, the Warsaw Pact, which was ruled by the iron fist of the Soviet Union. Most of the world's nations clamored to be a member of one or the other of these organizations, or at the very least, curry favor and protection from one of these two great powers. Those who were on the outside had nothing of value to offer nor to protect.

Today, neither of these two powers are dominate world players. The Warsaw Pact and its partner Soviet Union is no more; NATO and the United States are hardly blips on the world's political radar despite what is currently occurring between the United States and the Islamic nations. Who could have foreseen the demise of these two? Who, but the student of God's Word?

When the Soviet Union collapsed, it left the nations of eastern Europe to their own devices. Some of these nations used their situation to their great advantage. Who could have imagined the marriage of nations who were so diversely opposed to one another such as the union between the former East and West Germanys to become possibly the greatest European influence. The Balkan states, once the buffer pawns of the Warsaw Pact, now favor the political might of western Europe. All European nations, regardless of their vast differences, have been instrumental in uniting and reviving the old Roman Empire.

Prophetically speaking, we are

currently living in the most exciting times. We are witnessing the genesis of the fulfillment of the prophesies of the prophets of old. All European nations involved in this prophesy are clamoring to board the political and economic European bandwagon.

Presently, twelve European nations are now married to the Euro. This does not contradict the prophetic ten nations of the Revived Roman Empire represented by the "ten horns" recorded numerous times in the prophesies of the Biblical books of Daniel and Revelation. Students of Biblical eschatology will not be surprised when separate and distinct European nations melt into one another to become one in the similar fashion the two Germanys did. Ultimately, the prophesy of the combined "ten horns" will make up the Revived Roman Empire.

Possibly the greatest Old Testament prophesy regarding this event is Daniel's prophetic interpretation of a dream of Babylon's greatest king, King Nebuchadnezzar. This dream and its interpretation is recorded in Daniel, chapter two. Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of an image of excellent brightness and terrible form. **"This image's head was of fine gold, his breast and his arms of silver, his belly and his thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay"** (Dan. 2:32-33).

Daniel's interpretation of this dream is: Nebuchadnezzar was the "head of gold"; "his breast and his arms of silver" became the Medo-Persian kingdom; "his belly and his thighs of brass" became the nation of Greece; "his legs of iron" became the kingdom of Rome, later to be divided in the year 395 A.D., typified by the two legs. These kingdoms have come and gone and can be read about exhaustively in the annals of the historians.

But there is still another worldly kingdom, certainly not the least, which is symbolized in this dreamy image: that kingdom represented by the "feet part of iron and part of clay." This is the kingdom that modern theologians and those fascinated with end-time eschatology

are currently interested in. It is the revived Roman Empire which is also labeled with other monikers such as the European Common Market, United States of Europe, and the European Union, to name a few. But, by whatever name it finally and officially adopts, it will be a world power unsurpassed by any other of the world's kingdoms for it and its leader will rule the world.

This final world kingdom will possess all the qualities of the former kingdoms as represented by the image's combined metallurgic makeup for it is an intrinsic part of the image's whole. Its strength is typified by the "iron." There is possibly no other influence that binds, unifies, and strengthens all the concerns of man together more than monetary economics. While some small pockets of Europe's economic communities may grudgingly balk at wholeheartedly accepting the Euro, they will soon comply for the necessity of survival.

On the grand scale, the Euro, Europe's new spending standard, has been ushered upon the European populace with hardly a whimper from its detractors. The fact is, complaints of accepting the Euro are hard to find in the media. A recent *Time Magazine* article reported only glowing reports of Euro acceptance as Europe's populace went out of their way to exchange their old currencies for the new Euro. The report states that in Belgium, "ATMS recorded about 600 cash withdrawals a minute in the first two hours of the new year," and, "In France, many motorways backed up as drivers eager to break francs into Euro change skipped the credit card and electronic E-Z pass lanes and jammed tollbooths."²

This acceptance means that in the not too distant future, those nations whose economy is backed by the Euro will be as strong as "iron." The strength of the Euro seems to be in its unifying effect of binding individual European nations into one common market. The *Time Magazine* article referred to states that the Europeans welcomed the Euro with "good humor and even civic-mindedness." A new currency seems to have instantly unified Europe when politics, religions, and ethnic cleansing attempts have failed miserably for centuries. This unity effects 300 million of Europe's diverse population. Possibly the greatest example, as the article states, is Kosovo where the Euro "has given the war weary populace a larger sense of belonging."

But, for all its power and influence, the Revived Roman Empire will not

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be without its flaws and weaknesses for it is made prophetically of “**iron and clay.**” Clay cannot fuse with iron, and if the two are mixed, the iron is weakened. The weakness of this revived empire is fundamental for it has forsaken God for the temporal strength of money. “**They shall not cleave one to another, even as iron is not mixed with clay**” (Dan. 2:43b).

This international European union will be one of the most evil, if not arguably THE most evil, of all nations ever to be established on the face of God’s created planet earth. Money twists the motives of its lovers and is the basest drive of the ungodly. The more parties involved in evil money ventures the merrier. God’s Word confirms this with this Proverb:

“My son, if sinners entice thee, consent thou not. If they say, Come with us, let us lay wait for blood, let us lurk privily for the innocent without cause: Let us swallow them up alive as the grave; and whole, as those that go down into the pit: We shall find all precious substance, we shall fill our houses with spoil: Cast in thy lot among us; let us all have one purse: My son, walk not thou in the way with them; refrain thy foot from their path: For their feet run to evil, and make haste to shed blood” (Prov. 1:10-16).

Although this Proverb is stated by the father to his impressionable son, it is also applied to the masses on the international level, for this evil knows no boundaries, “**For the love of money is the root of all evil**” (I Tim. 6:10). And, this revived Roman Empire will “**make haste to shed blood.**” In Revelation 20:4, The Apostle John reveals just a small glimpse of the earthly end of those who refuse the mark representing the end-time world-wide currency: “**I saw the souls of them that were beheaded for the witness of Jesus, and for the word of God, and which had not worshipped the beast, neither his image, neither had received his mark upon their foreheads, or in their hands.**”

The Revived Roman Empire is the necessary prophetic predecessor to the final and everlasting righteous kingdom of the “God of Heaven.” The God of Heaven will allow the evil time and economy of the Gentiles to run its full, yet very short course, then bring it to its howling ruin. To the praise of God’s elect, God will establish His final and everlasting kingdom:

“And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven 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 these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever.

“Forasmuch as thou sawest that the stone was cut out of the mountain without hands, and that it brake in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold; the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain, and the interpretation thereof sure” (Dan. 2:44, 45).

Chapter eighteen of Revelation describes, in no uncertain terms, the result of Christ’s breaking “in pieces the iron, the brass, the clay, the silver, and the gold.” Space will not be allotted here to record the entire eighteenth chapter of Revelation, but one can read of the certainly of John’s prophesy of the dreadful demise of these wicked kingdom.

(Footnotes)

¹ The Associated Press; Dateline: Paris; “It’s Pocket Change – New year brings in the euro as 12 nations give up old money”; Winston-Salem Journal; Winston-Salem, NC; Wednesday, January 2, 2002; Page A2, Column 2

² Regnier, Pat; “Follow the money – A 12-nation currency switchover creates a continent of 300 million tourists”; Time Magazine; January 14, 2002; Page 8, Column 1

"Dinks" Have Double

Continued from page 301

United States and Britain, turning into Third World countries because of runaway immigration.

President Bush seemed to say as much in his inaugural address, “And sometimes our differences run so deep, it seems we share a continent, but not a country.” The President should think about that instead of being so buddy-buddy with his pal, Mexican President Vicente Fox, about amnesty for three million Mexican illegals now in the United States.

On the other hand, there was President Clinton in 1998, telling cheering students at Portland State University that “diversity” will make a better America when we all are minorities, i.e., a conglomeration of people with *nothing in common*, but history, language, culture or ancestors, drifting to world government and dilution of our sovereignty.

WHAT’S HAPPENING?

In 1969, 94 percent of Americans could trace their ancestors to Europe. Today, it is only 72 percent and, unchecked, will be 50 percent by the

year 2050. Then, we will be the first nation in history to turn its majority indigenous population into a minority.

California, our largest state, is already 52 percent Third World, and Texas, our second largest, is now almost 50 percent Third World, and increasing rapidly. Moreover, on March 1st, Texas became the first state to hold a gubernatorial debate in Spanish—“evidence of growing political clout,” boasted the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials.

Are our leaders concerned about this alarming influx? Hardly. Politicians want more immigration for more votes for their side. Industry wants it for cheap labor. Labor unions want it for more members, more dues, more political clout. Educators want it for more student grants and diversity. None care about diluting the American heritage into a Third World culture. This is greed on all sides.

In London, England, ethnic minorities are 40 percent of the population, and will be 50- percent in the year 2010 at the present rate. British birth rates are dropping three percent per year, the lowest since records began in 1924. To maintain a population, a birth rate of 2.1 per woman is required.

Populations are shrinking in 17 European countries, including Italy, Germany, Spain, Russia and Portugal. As for Germany, feared for its roles in two world wars, the population will be halved by the year 2100 at the present rate, and its war-making potential drastically reduced.

WHY SO MANY DINKS?

Mr. Buchanan lists six factors that contribute to the DINKS life style and why today’s culture mocks “the old idea that the good life for a woman means a husband and a houseful of kids.” He says that powerful collateral forces are “pulling American women away from the maternity ward forever.” Here are the six factors:

1. *The New Economy.* Professor James Kurth of Swarthmore calls the move of men from the farm to the factory the greatest movement of the second half of the 19th century—and the greatest in the 20th century was the movement of women from the home to the office.

Industry offers pay and benefits to lure talented women who compete with men in the market place. Many choose careers or one-time motherhood and love the work challenge. They stay.

With women working, poor families get richer and begin to downsize, and as nations get richer, history shows, they begin to die. Meanwhile, poor families are

growing. Jesus said: “**Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth**” (Matt. 5:5).

2. *End of the “Family Wage.”* Before the sweeping Civil Rights Act of 1964, brainchild of President Lyndon B. Johnson, employers paid fathers a “family wage” so wives and children wouldn’t have to work, a matter of “simple justice.”

The feminists had “sex” added to the protections under this Act and the rights of individuals took precedence over family requirements. As women’s pay soared, men’s dropped, and marriage and family size suffered. Young men earned too little for marriage and a family. Young women found independence and delayed marriage, or just didn’t marry at all. Some settled for the DINKS role—and the end of the “family wage” was a factor.

3. *The “Population Bomb” Hysteria.* Dire predictions by environmentalists in the 1960s and 1970s of coming world starvation because of population growth and inadequate food production caused wide-spread hysteria and brought on population control programs—promoted by First World elitists and mostly ignored by the Third World poor who continued turning out big families.

Heading up another of his Chicken Little operations was former U. S. Secretary of Defense Robert Strange McNamara, the man who micromanaged the Vietnam War into disaster. This time, he was warning that the population growth would cause poverty, crowding and frustration that would threaten social, economic and military stability. And this time, he was wrong again, as the poor continued to multiply.

4. *Feminism.* “Women’s liberation” has become the rage. It would free women of their role of wife, mother and homemaker. Margaret Sanger of Planned Parenthood fame declared, “The most merciful thing a large family can do to an infant member is to kill it.”

But, earlier feminists Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony opposed abortion as disgusting and degrading—a burden to a woman’s conscience in life and to her soul in death.

Modern feminists would like to abolish marriage altogether. Here are a few of them: Gloria Steinmen, Andra Dworkin, Robin Morgan, Valerie Solanis, Nancy Lehmann, Helen Sullinger, Vivian Gornick, Christina Sommers and Catherine MacKinnon. MacKinnon says, “Feminism stresses the indistinguishability of prostitution, marriage and sexual harassment.”

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"Dinks" Have Double

Continued from page 308

Adds Sheila Cronin, "Freedom for women cannot be won without the abolition of marriage."

Feminists have had successes: A 10-fold increase in unmarried couples living together since 1970. Husband-wife families are now only one in four. Singles living alone are now 26 percent.

In her book *Empty Hearts and Empty Homes*, British author Katarina Runskel addressed the feminists' antimarriage rhetoric as a "Darwinism blind alley," warning, "(A)n immediate consequence of feminism is . . . an irreversible decline in the birth rate. Nations pursue feminist policies at their own peril."

5. *The Popular Culture* "puts the joys of sex far above the happiness of motherhood." Indeed, sex, career, and the single woman dominate in

advertisement and entertainment. Marriage and family are down-played and the DINKS are helping.

Anthropologist Julian D. Unwin says society can choose either *great energy* or *sexual freedom*, but "it cannot do both for more than one generation." Tom Brokaw's so-called Greatest Generation chose energy for the Depression and World War II—and gave us an American of "unrivaled preeminence." Baby boomers chose "sexual freedom." In due time, we shall see who is right!

Columnist Jenkin Lloyd Jones wrote, "Great civilizations and animal standards of behavior coexist only for short periods."

6. *The Collapse of the Moral Order*. In the 1950s, divorce, "shacking up" and abortion were scandals. Today, "shacking up" is just a "relationship," half of all marriages end in divorce and abortion is a "fallback" position, and women and daughters will vote against any politician or party that

threatens to take it away.

Belgian author Ron Lesthaeghe has noted the West's shift away from Christian values toward a militant "secular individualism" focused on self.

Pope John Paul VI's 1968 encyclical against contraception brought on four consequences of man's use of contraceptives, all predicted by the Pope: (1) Widespread infidelity and lowered morals. (2) Less respect for women. (3) Misuse by public authorities in ignoring moral exigencies. (4) Dehumanization of the race by treating people as objects, and unborn children as a disease to prevent.

These predictions came true, with the explosions of pornography, promiscuity and divorce—not unlike pagan Rome when unwanted babies were simply tossed on the dung-heap. In this case, the feminists got more than they bargained for: They got selfish men who benefited from

contraceptives and abortion; they used women and then, tossed them aside.

BUCHANAN FOR PRESIDENT!

Pat Buchanan has written a powerful book, full of unshakeable documentation, historic backup and well-chosen anecdotes. Critics have called him "alarmist," probably without considering the whole book, but any thoughtful reader, within a few pages, will see that Pat gets to the heart of an extremely serious crisis that is closing in on our nation while our leaders are fiddling.

Pat ran for President twice. He would have made a great President, but will never be elected. Modern voters want peace, prosperity, fat pocketbooks and promises of goodies galore rather than character, smartness and dedication. They proved that in 1996 with Bill Clinton.

Our Founding Fathers gave us a Christian nation. George Washington told us from the beginning, "(R)eligion and morality are indispensable supports." John Adams agreed, "Our Constitution is made only for a moral and religious people."

Pat Buchanan reminds us that Western Man is casting off Christianity and now believes he can go-it-alone, since he knows virtually everything there is to know. For example, Western Man knows how to prevent life, how to prolong life, how to create life and how to clone life. He knows how to win wars without losing a single soldier. He knows how to prevent depressions and how to guarantee prosperity through free markets and free trade. He knows how to create peace and world government. Western Man, therefore, knows it all and no longer needs God.

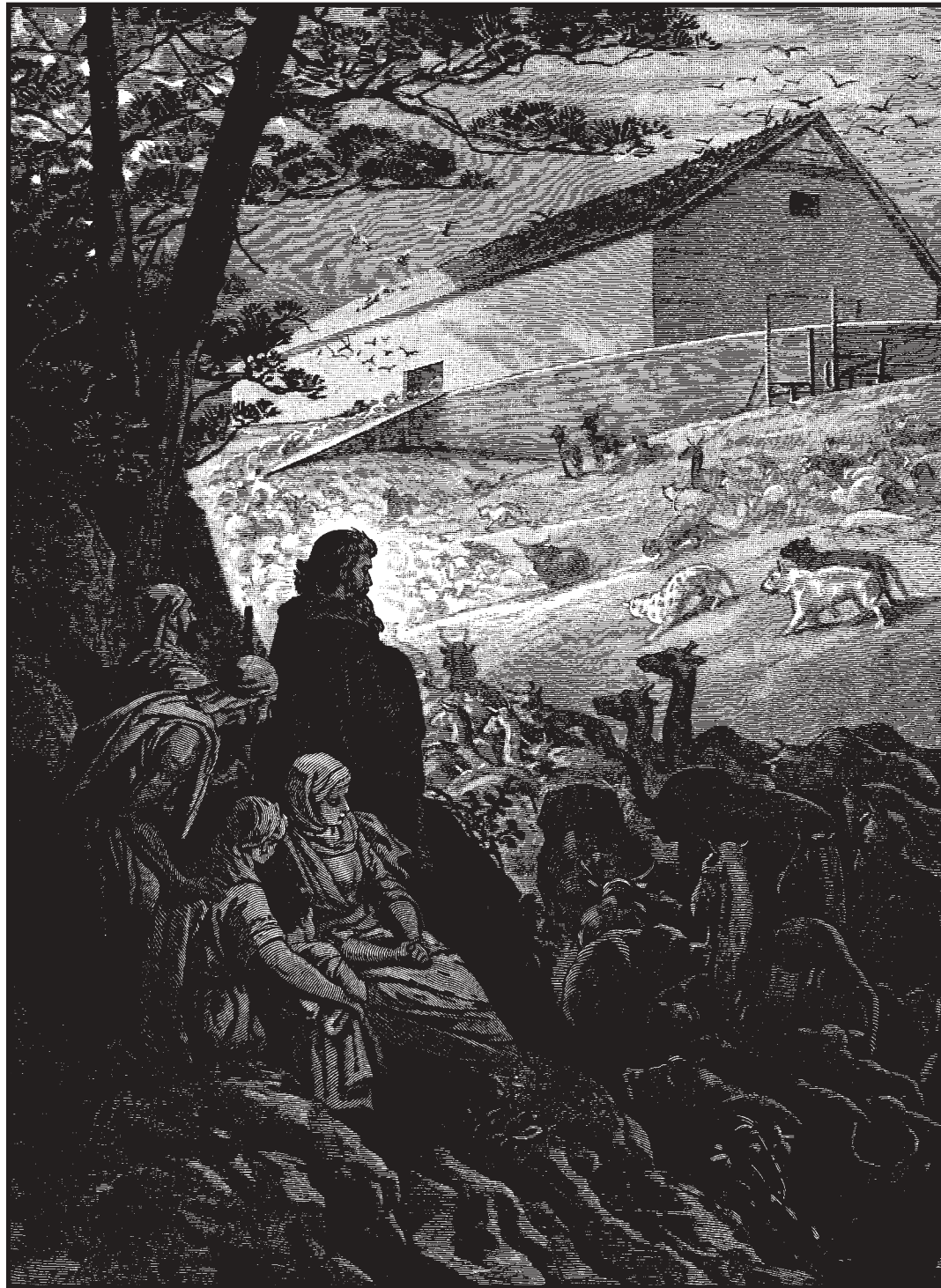
IT IS NOT TOO LATE

Whitaker Chambers in his famous book *Witness* wrote, "History is cluttered with the wreckage of nations that became indifferent to God, and died." and Jim Nelson Black, "Civilization arises from religion, and when the traditional religious beliefs of a nation are eroded, the nation dies."

Pat Buchanan has underscored our weaknesses. America today has leaders who can use this road map and lead us back. Analyst William Rusher thinks the loss of religious faith can be reversed when science acknowledges, as it is now doing, that science is incapable of answering the truly ultimate questions about the nature and origins of the universe. Mr. Rusher is talking about the God of Creation.

A powerful surging revival of religious faith and morality can give us the kind of America our Founding

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NOAH'S ARK

Everything I need to know about life, I learned from Noah's Ark. . . **One:** Don't miss the boat. **Two:** Remember that we are all in the same boat. **Three:** Plan ahead. It wasn't raining when Noah built the Ark. **Four:** Stay fit. When you're 600 years old, someone may ask you to do something really big. **Five:** Don't listen to critics; just get on with the job that needs to be done. **Six:** Build your future on high ground. **Seven:** For safety's sake, travel in pairs. **Eight:** Speed isn't always an advantage. The snails were on board with the cheetahs. **Nine:** When you're stressed, float a while. **Ten:** Remember, the Ark was built by amateurs; the Titanic by professionals. **Eleven:** No matter the storm, when you are with God, there's always a rainbow waiting. NOW, wasn't that nice? Pass it along and make someone else smile, too.

The Berea Baptist Banner Forum

Submit questions on any Bible topic

The Berea Baptist Banner

PO Box 39


Mantachie, Mississippi 38855

Should we encourage black people to come to our churches? Or, would this be wrong or unchristian? --- Louisiana




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“Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost” (Matt. 28:19).

The divine commission was given to the church. In this commission, we are told to go to all nations, make disciples; and to baptize these disciples. When one is baptized, they are baptized into a church. **“For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body, whether we be Jews or Gentiles, whether we be bond or free; and have been all made to drink into one Spirit”** (I Cor. 12:13).

Heaven will be made up of people from all nations (Rev. 5:9). Baptist churches have sent missionaries to many countries that are predominately black. There can be no doubt that God has an elect people in these countries, for many have been saved and baptized into one of the Lord's churches. The Ethiopian in Acts 8:27 was a black man. (Jer. 13:23).

I would think that it would be wrong not to encourage black people to come to church. There is no difference between a lost black man and a lost white man. Both need to be saved. **“For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God”** (Rom. 3:23). If we are to preach the gospel to them knowing that some will be saved, we should have no problem fellowshipping with them in the church. **“We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death”** (I John 3:14).

DAVID O'NEAL

I certainly do not believe it is unchristian to invite or have black people attend or even unite with a white church.

I do not believe we should ever let race itself be a determining factor in church membership.

We are commissioned by the Lord as New Testament Churches to make disciples of all nations and baptize those disciples and teach those disciples to observe all the Lord has commanded (Matt. 28:18-20). How can this be possible if we separate or discriminate against any race?

We must encourage all disciples to seek the Lord's will in finding a true scriptural Baptist church and unite with the one the Lord leads them to become a member of.

I do not mean to say that race would never play a part in which church one should attend, because it may be that one would be more comfortable in a true church of the same race if indeed it be a true church.

I believe the Bible teaches that the Holy Spirit is the deciding factor in what church one should belong to and attend (I Cor. 12:13). In Acts 2:1-21, 37-47 we find fifteen or more different nationalities that were led by the Holy Spirit to be baptized into the first Baptist church, and the Lord showed His approval by baptizing them in the Holy Spirit.

Race has nothing to do with biblical salvation and church membership. Race is a personal matter and must be dealt with individually as prescribed by the Scriptures (Matt. 7:12; Luke 6:31).

GARNER SMITH

“Then Peter opened his mouth, and said, Of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons: But in every nation he that feareth him, and worketh righteousness, is accepted with him” (Acts 10:34-35).


No one, black or white, who has a sincere desire to worship God **“in spirit and in truth”** should be turned away by a true Baptist church. I have worshipped in Baptist churches in Puerto Rico and across the United States where blacks and whites worshipped together according to truth, and no spirit of animosity was evidenced. The truth bonds people of all races together in Christian love.

I remember when I conducted a meeting several years ago in the State of Alabama. A black preacher who loved the doctrines of grace drove several miles to hear me preach in all of the services. There was no indication that any member of that congregation acted in an unchristian way toward him. The love of Christ and His truth truly makes a difference.

However, it should be pointed out that no one, black or white, should be encouraged to attend when they have some unscriptural religious or political agenda to peddle. If a person of any race tries to push himself upon any congregation for the purpose of disrupting the service or causing trouble in any way, that person should be required to leave.

It should also be noted that black churches and white churches, due to cultural differences, often conduct their services differently. A black person attending a white church should not expect the congregation to change their practices just to accommodate them. The same would be true when a white person attends a black church.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS



Gone Fishing
?????

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"Dinks" Have Double

Continued from page 309

Fathers constructed. It is not too late—even with the handwriting on the wall and with the lessons of history in our faces. It can be done, of course—with continuing great resolve and tireless dedication. The events of September 11th gave us a start—and a resolve that has to continue, we pray without more catastrophes. What can happen!

Meanwhile, the Scripture that may fit best is the admonition given to King Solomon by the Lord one night in the 5th century B. C. when the people of Judah needed Divine guidance. It is the famous and well-known verse 14 of Chapter 7 of Second Chronicles: **“If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways, then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.”**

(Captain Evans lives in Norfolk, Va. His columns are distributed by the Americanism Educational League, Buena Park, California.)

BEREA BAPTIST BROADCAST Financial Report 1-31-2002 to 2-28-2002

Beginning Balance \$1,268.63

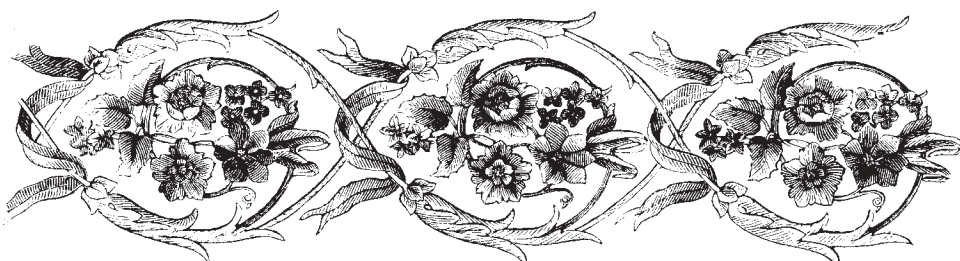
RECEIPTS	
Grace B. C., Corbin, KY	100.00
Berea B. C., Westpoint, TN	132.00
Berea B. C., Mantachie, MS	400.00
Nancy Elmore, Trussville, AL	500.00
Ruth B. Davis, Eugene, OR	15.00
Anonymous	360.00
Dividing checks	12.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS	1,519.00
TOTAL	2,787.63

EXPENDITURES:	
Radio Time	1022.00
Postage	51.30
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	1,073.30
.....	1,714.33
Bank Charge	-10.00
BALANCE	\$1,704.33

CORBIN, KENTUCKY REPORT

Beginning Balance \$1,893.32
RECEIPTS
Total 1,893.32

EXPENDITURES:	
WCTT	200.00
Total Expenditures	200.00
ENDING BALANCE	\$1,693.32



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Who are the "lost tribes" of Israel? Why do we call them "lost tribes?" -- Maine



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The so-called ten lost tribes resulted from Solomon's son, Rehoboam's acceptance of unwise and egotistical counsel. This resulted in ten tribes refusing to take part in the coronation of Rehoboam and followed Jeroboam in the forming of the Northern Kingdom, called Israel and sometimes Ephraim.

The followers of Rehoboam were basically the tribe of Judah augmented by some of the Benjaminites. They were known as the Southern Kingdom or tribe of Judah. Jeroboam led Israel (*the ten lost tribes*) into total idolatrous worship of the golden calves at Bethel and Dan.

In II Kings 13-17 we see the fall of Israel which really brought about the idea of the ten tribes losing their identity.

Assyria launched a siege upon Samaria, the capital of Israel, for about three years and Samaria fell about 722 B.C. This was the end of the ten tribes as a kingdom and resulted in their dispersion into many parts of the world.

My personal opinion is that they were never really lost in the sense of ceasing to exist, but only in the minds of those who deny the restoration of Israel as prophesied in Ezekiel 37 and other related prophesies in the Old Testament.

There have been those who claimed to be a part of those ten tribes, but they had no credible evidence to prove it. Herbert W. Armstrong claimed that the British descended from these tribes and the throne of England was the throne of David, which is in direct conflict with the Scriptures.

The Bible is very plain that the throne of David is the throne that Christ will reign from (Luke 1:1-32), and Christ descended from the tribe of Judah, not the other ten tribes. When Christ sits on His throne He will rule over all twelve tribes and the rest of the world.

GARNER SMITH

When considering this question we know that two things are certain: (1) None of the twelve tribes of Israel are lost to God. The fact of God's omniscience assures us in this. (2) James, when writing the book which carries his name, knew the twelve tribes were still existing. The Holy Spirit guided him in writing a letter to the twelve tribes which were scattered abroad.

Various theories are held concerning the "lost tribes" of Israel. Some say that all those known as Jews today are from the two tribes of Judah and Benjamin. Personally, I would not limit those known as Jews to only two tribes.

Many believe that all of the tribes were united into one nation during the time of the Babylonian captivity. We do know that ten tribes were first carried away to Babylon, and the other two at a later date.

Since the Jews were scattered abroad I doubt that any of us living today could identify the tribe where all the Jewish people would find their identity. Some say the "lost tribes" reside in countries near what was known in ancient times as Babylon. Others teach that the ten tribes migrated westward and that the British today are the descendants of the ten tribes. The late H. W. Armstrong did a lot of teaching endorsing a version of this view among others. The idea of a migration of the ten tribes westward to Britain has spawned the theory of British-Israelism. I do not hold to this theory in any shape, form or fashion.

I suspect that we would be nearer the truth to say that some from each tribe would be living in Israel today and that the rest are still scattered abroad. We may not, in our lifetime, know where all of the members of each tribe can be found, but we can be assured of the fact that when our Lord comes the second time all these different tribes will again be known.

JIMMIE B. DAVIS


The kingdom of Israel achieved its greatest glory under the reign of Solomon. In the beginning of his reign, Solomon sought guidance and wisdom from God; and God gave him great wisdom and understanding. In the latter years of his kingdom, Solomon became self-indulgent and continually increased the number of his wives. As he grew old, his wives turned his heart away from God to other gods. **"Wherefore the LORD said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast not kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend the kingdom from thee, and will give it to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father's sake: but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away all the kingdom; but will give one tribe to thy son for David my servant's sake, and for Jerusalem's sake which I have chosen"** (I Kings 11:11-13).

In I Kings chapter 12, we are told just how God brought this about. The Kingdom of Israel was divided into two kingdoms. The tribes of Judah and Benjamin followed Rehoboam and the son of Solomon, and the remaining ten tribes followed Jeroboam. Jeroboam caused Israel to sin a great sin. He made two calves of gold, ordained priests for the high places and for the devils, and caused Israel to worship the two calves that he had made. The kingdom of the ten tribes lasted two hundred and fifty years, and not one of their nineteen kings was a godly man. **"For the children of Israel walked in all the sins of Jeroboam, which he did; they departed not from them; Until the LORD removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day"**

(II Kings 17:22-23). With the fall of Samaria, the capital of Israel, the captive Israelites were taken to different parts of the Assyrian Empire.

The ten tribes are often called the "lost tribes" because there is no record as to what became of them. The Jews represent the tribes of Judah and Benjamin, but we have no way of knowing what became of the ten tribes. We do know that, in His time, God will bring these two kingdoms together and make them one (Ezek. 37:15-25).

DAVID O'NEAL



Still Gone Fishing

?????

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Grace Bible Baptist Church, 26080 Wax Road, Denham Springs, La., and Pastor Jerry Dodson will have a Bible Conference June 7-9. Various speakers are on the program. For more information called (225) 664-3223 or email jdodsonsr@aol.com.

The New Hope Baptist Church, 1661 Griggstown Rd., Calvert City, Ky., and Pastor Lee Paschall will have a Missions Conference April 28-May 3. For more information called (270) 527-3864 or email edgarleepachall@juno.com.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church, Northport, Ala., and Pastor Todd Bryant will have special services May 31-June 2. Services will be Friday (7:00 p.m.) Saturday (10:30 a.m. and 7:00 p.m.), and Sunday (10:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m.). The speaker will be Elder Tom Ross, South Point, Ohio. For more information call (205) 333-8449 or email toddbr Bryant@juno.com.

The editor wants to thank those who have invited him to Bible conferences or meetings this spring, but due to an upcoming eye operation, I have been unable to accept any for certain. It will probably be later in the summer before I will know if I can travel much.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Is It Scriptural for

Continued from page 301

before mixed audiences of men and women.

W. M. U. secretaries in some states, like Florida for instance, fill the pulpits of churches whenever and wherever there is opportunity.

The women folk have charge of church prayer meetings in many Baptist churches—making talks, leading in prayer, etc.

I often see notice in the papers that Baptist churches here in Tampa have women to speak (preach) at the regular preaching services.

In some conservative quarters women have not been accustomed to exercise such a ministry as is indicated above. Attempt is being made to cast aside the standards of the past and to induct women into these public ministries such as I have just referred to.

WHAT ABOUT ALL THIS?

Plainly it is a reversal of the practice of Baptists and Baptist churches for nearly twenty centuries!

It is a repudiation of the interpretation of the Scriptures offered by the greatest Baptist scholars and exegetes who have lived, and it is a repudiation of the interpretation of the Scriptures offered by the greatest scholars of all denomination of all time.

Or else it is a declaration that it isn't a scriptural matter—that it doesn't matter a rap what the Scriptures may say—that the Scriptures are not to be considered the authority, but rather the customs of the times and the standards of this world.

Are Baptists prepared to assume this position? Many have assumed it, or so it would seem.

To those who do not believe the Bible and who consequently do not care what it says this article will make no appeal. I am writing mainly for those who have thoughtlessly drifted into the present way of carrying on church life and who have made no real study of the Scriptures concerning the place and ministry of women in the churches. Among these are most preachers and pastors, for it is true that the ministry of our day is more occupied with "Manuals," and "Seals," and the organized activities of the "Auxiliaries" than with the study of the Word of God.

Now if women ought to preach, deliver addresses before mixed audiences of men and women, lead in public prayer, etc., it is evident that Baptists have misunderstood the Scriptures for the past twenty centuries and that they have grievously wronged millions of

women who have lived in the past and who have been denied these privileges. Certainly there are few persons who would charge that our Baptist forefathers deliberately sought to wrong their women folk by withholding from them the right to exercise their Scriptural privileges.

WON'T DISCUSS IT—GET MAD

It seems to me that in view of the Baptist claim that they make the New Testament their rule of faith and practice; in view of the fact of the attitude our Baptist forefathers took; in view of the teachings of our Baptist scholars from time immemorial, it is an exceedingly questionable thing to make changes as Baptists have been making in recent years on the "woman question," without a careful restudy of the Scriptures. And yet it is the rarest thing to find a preacher or anybody else who advocates a public speaking ministry for women, who is willing to sit down with you and make a careful examination of the Scriptures that bear on the subject. The usual attitude on the part of such is one of impatience, ridicule, jest coupled with entire unwillingness to discuss the question from a Scriptural standpoint.

I want to lay down some self evident propositions:

1—If the Scriptures teach that women should preach, lead in public prayer in mixed assemblies, teach men, etc., then they certainly ought to be encouraged to do it and the more the better.

2—If the Bible prohibits such, then those who encourage women to violate the Scriptures are doing the women folk a great wrong.

3—If the Bible prohibits such and Baptist preachers and churches willfully go contrary to the Word of God, then they had as well surrender their claim that they made the New Testament their rule of faith and practice. Then they have no right to raise their voice against modernists for they are themselves "whittlers of the Word," just as much as those who whittle out Genesis or any other portions of the Bible.

4—If the Bible prohibits such and Baptists willfully violate the Scriptures, then they may expect the chastening hand of God upon them and they need not look for His blessings until they forsake their attitude of rebellion and come back to the place where they honor His Word.

5—There is no essential difference between a woman getting up before a mixed audience and delivering a speech, and in preaching what is declared to be a "sermon."

WOMEN PREACHERS PROHIBITED!

I desire to state that if the Scriptures teach anything, they most certainly teach that a woman should not preach, lead in public prayer before mixed audiences, teach men, or take the place in church leadership that the Scriptures assign to men. Anybody who is so devoid of the power to understand the plain simple language of the Bible on these matters is not capable of dealing with the Scriptures.

How am I so absolutely certain that a woman should not preach, or exercise a public ministry as indicated above? I answer just as briefly and to the point as possible.

1—*Because Jesus included no women among the preachers that He chose to follow Him, or among the twelve or the seventy whom He sent out.*

2—*Because there is no record of a woman preacher in all the New Testament.* Personal, private witnessing is all that can be made out of the testimony of the women concerning Christ's resurrection, Philip's daughters, etc. No inconsistency in a single case.

3—*Because the qualifications laid down in the Scriptures for bishops (or preachers) certainly preclude the female of the species.* I Timothy 3:2 says that a preacher is to be "**husband of one wife.**" Until women can measure up to that qualification they are debarred!

4—*Because I Timothy 2:8 plainly forbids women leading in public prayer in mixed assemblies.* The Greek says, "**I will that THE MEN pray everywhere.**" That is, men as distinguished from women. (That of course has no bearing on women praying privately or in the presence of a group of women).

5—*Because the word of God says plainly that women are not to teach men or to usurp authority over them.* I Timothy 2:11-12, "**Let the women learn in silence with all subjection. But I suffer not a woman to teach, nor to usurp authority over the man, but to be in silence. For Adam was first formed, then Eve. And Adam was not deceived, but the woman being deceived was in the transgression.**"

It takes a moron to be unable to understand such language as this. What does this Scripture teach?

POSITIVELY: (1) She is to be silent. (As regards a public, speaking, teaching, praying ministry, for that is what is under consideration).

(2) She is to "**be in subjection,**" or in other words to accept man's leadership.

NEGATIVELY: (1) She is not to teach men. (That's what it says).—(2) She is not to usurp man's authority. (By taking religious leadership out of his hands).

REASONS FOR THIS: (1) Man's priority in creation (v. 13).

(2) Women's priority and deception in the temptation and sin that ruined the race (v. 14).

6—*Because the word of God says plainly that it is not permitted unto women to speak, (in the sense that we are discussing) In the church.* I Corinthians 14:34, "**Let your women keep silence in the churches: for it is not permitted unto them to speak.**"

This 14th chapter of I Corinthians is perfectly clear. Note the following things:

(1) A mixed public assembly is referred to for verse 23 says, "**If therefore the whole church be come together into one place.**"

(2) The kind of "silence" that is enjoined is made clear, for Paul is discussing *prophesying*, (v. 29) *exposition of doctrine* (v. 26) *interpretation* (v. 26) etc.

(3) That Paul is not merely meeting a "local" situation, but is laying down a teaching that applies to all churches is made clear for in verse 34 he says, "**churches.**" In verse 33 he speaks of "**all the churches.**"

(4) That Paul is not speaking as a "crabbed old bachelor" (as some charge) but as the inspired spokesman of God, is made clear, for in verse 37 he says, "**The things that I write unto you are the commandments of the Lord.**"

(5) I have said that it takes a moron to misunderstand these Scriptures. Paul puts it in about the same way for in verse 38 he virtually calls the person who won't be instructed along this line "*ignorant.*"

7—*A seventh reason why a woman should not exercise such a public ministry as mentioned above is the fact that the one instance in which a woman is described as teaching a church is an instance that is condemned by the Word of God.* Revelation 2:20 says: ". . . **I have a few things against thee, because thou sufferest that woman Jezebel, which calleth herself a prophetess, to teach and to seduce my servants—**"

What does this say:

(1) It says that the church at Thyatira had a woman in it that "**called herself**" a prophetess. (God's Word does not recognize her as such).

(2) It says that she taught the people of that church and led them astray.

(3) It says that the Lord Jesus held it against that church for permitting such a thing.

I could give plenty more reasons for my position on this question if space were available, but until some one is able to show that these Scriptures quoted mean something else than they say so plainly, there will be no need of going any further.

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Is It Scriptural for

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Ere I close I want to say this: I have a church in which the women folk seek to obey the Scriptures along these lines mentioned. We never have any quarrels or dissensions on this matter for our women want to be obedient to the Bible. As a rule when women disobey the Bible along this line they are urged into doing so by the men, and usually by a pastor who is not willing to take God's Word at face value.

I cannot but feel that God is displeased at the way in which His Word is ignored or else treated with contempt on this question that I have been dealing with. Perhaps the distressing straits in which we find ourselves as a denomination is a mark of God's chastening for the bold defiance of His Word in this matter. Certainly it is worth thinking about.

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nation; the churches have in them people from many nations. Second, Israel as a nation could inflict the death penalty. The church has no such power. Third, the officers of Israel were civil as well as religious. The church is separate from the state (Matt. 22:21). Fourth, Israel was instructed to kill their enemies (Deut. 7:1-2), but the church is to love and bless her enemies (Matt. 5:44; Rom. 12:19-21). Fifth, in Israel only the men were priests unto God. In the church, men, women, and children are all priests unto God. Sixth, Israel was the unfaithful wife of Jehovah (Isa. 54:5; Hos. 2). The New Testament church is the virgin bride of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 11:2). Seventh, the worshippers in Israel could only bring their offering to the door of the tabernacle or temple (Lev. 17:8-9; Num. 3:10; Luke 1:10). The members of New Testament churches can "**enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus**" (Heb. 10:19-20). Eighth, Israel was the house of Moses, while the New Testament church is the house of Christ (Heb. 3:1-6).

While there are distinctions between Israel and the church, there are many ways they were alike. In this message I want to show how Israel was a type of the gospel church.

ITS ORIGIN

The Israelites were in Egypt and slaves to Pharaoh (Ex. 1). The members of the church are in the world. Jesus Christ said of them: "**But these are in the world**" (John 17:11). This is why Christ also said: "**I have**

chosen you out of the world" (John 15:19). The members of the church were at one time slaves of Satan (II Tim. 2:26), but by grace they have been taken "**from the power of Satan unto God**" (Acts 26:18), and now they stand in the liberty of Christ (I Cor. 7:22; Gal. 5:1).

Both Israel and the church are the objects of God's sovereign election. Israel was chosen of God: "**The LORD thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth**" (Deut. 7:6). He separated Israel from all other nations: "**. . . that ye may know how that the LORD doth put a difference between the Egyptians and Israel**" (Ex. 11:7). The members of the church are also objects of God's elective purpose: "**According as he hath chosen us in him before the foundation of the world. . .**" (Eph. 1:4). The church is to be a separate people. Paul told the church at Corinth: "**Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord. . .**" (II Cor. 6:17).

The nation of Israel was redeemed by the blood of the Passover lamb (Ex. 12). The members of the New Testament church are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ: "**In whom we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of sins, according to the riches of his grace**" (Eph. 1:7).

The nation of Israel was of God's making. Jehovah told Abraham: "**I will make of thee a great nation**" (Gen. 12:2). The church is "**an holy nation**" (I Pet. 2:9) of divine making. Paul told the Corinthian church: "**Ye are God's building**" (I Cor. 3:9). In order to establish the nation of Israel God used a divinely appointed person, Moses (Ex. 18:13-26; Heb. 3:2-3, 5). In order to establish the church God used a divinely appointed person, Jesus Christ (Heb. 3:1-6). This is why Jesus said: "**I will build my church**" (Matt. 16:18).

ITS NATURE

The nation of Israel was real and visible. In my text Stephen speaks of the gathering of Israel before Mount Sinai for the purpose of receiving the law from God. The Greek word (*ekklesia*) translated "church" has the common meaning of "assembly" or "congregation." This is the same Greek word in the Septuagint version which is translated the "congregation" of Israel (I Chron. 13:2). The basic idea is that Israel was a congregation with rituals and laws.

The Greek word *ekklesia* is the word translated over 100 times in our New Testament "church." As the congregation of Israel was a real

gathering of people with rituals and laws, even so the New Testament church is a real gathering of people with rituals and laws. Since the Holy Spirit used the same word (*ekklesia*) to describe both the congregation of Israel and the church, then they both must be visible assemblies. Both have rituals and laws, although those of the church differ from those of Israel.

ITS POSITION

For some 40 years Israel was in the wilderness. This is why she was called "**the church in the wilderness**" in my text. Moses said that Israel traveled in "**great and terrible wilderness**" (Deut. 1:19). A wilderness is a waste, wild, and barren place. Even after they reached Canaan, they still lived in a world that Satan made "**a wilderness**" (Isa. 14:17).

The New Testament church is in the wilderness of this world, but she is not a part of it. Jesus said: "**If the world hate you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you**" (John 15:18-19). "**. . . the world hath hated them, because they are not of the world, even as I am not of the world**" (John 17:14).

The wilderness was unknown to the Israelites, and they needed a guide to direct them toward Canaan. To remedy this situation the Lord gave them the pillar of cloud and fire: "**And the LORD went before them by day in a pillar of a cloud, to lead them the way; and by night in a pillar of fire, to give them light; to go by day and night: He took not away the pillar of the cloud by day, nor the pillar of fire by night, from before the people**" (Ex. 13:21-22). The church is in a world barren of grace and holiness. In this wilderness the church might lose her way. To remedy this, the Lord has given her a Guide, the Holy Spirit. This Holy Spirit is to abide with her "**for ever**" (John 14:16).

Israel had to remain in the wilderness until God brought her into Canaan. The church must remain in the wilderness of this world until the Bridegroom returns and takes her up to Heaven (John 14:1-3). Well did Solomon ask of the church: "**Who is this that cometh up from the wilderness, leaning upon her beloved?**" (S. of S. 8:5).

ITS PRIVILEGES

First, the nation of Israel had the divine presence: "**When thou passest through the waters, I will be with thee; and through the rivers, they shall not overflow**

thee: when thou walkest through the fire, thou shalt not be burned: neither shall the flame kindle upon thee" (Isa. 43:2). The Angel of the Lord (Jehovah-Jesus) was with them (text).

Even so, the New Testament church has the divine presence. Jesus said: "**For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them**" (Matt. 18:20). To the church He again said: "**Lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world**" (Matt. 28:20).

Second, the people of the old covenant had a divinely qualified teacher. On Mount Sinai Moses had a divine Teacher: God (Ex. 19:3-6; 20-21). What God taught Moses he was to communicate unto the Israelites: "**And the LORD spake unto Moses, saying, Speak unto the children of Israel, and say unto them. . .**" (Num. 15:1-2).

The church has many divine teachers. Her first and greatest was Jesus Christ Himself, the Head and Founder of the church. "**God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, Hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son. . .**" (Heb. 1:1-2). After our Lord ascended up to Heaven he sent the Holy Spirit to continue this teaching ministry: "**Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth. . .**" (John 16:13; cf. I John 2:20, 27). In addition to the Holy Spirit Christ has given evangelists (missionaries) and pastor-teachers (Eph. 4:11). While these are not divine teachers, they are divinely called men (Acts 26:16).

Third, Israel had the divine oracles. In my text these are called "**the lively oracles**." Moses asked: "**And what nation is there so great, that hath statutes and judgments so righteous as all this law, which I set before you this day?**" (Deut. 4:8). The Israelites had a code and revelation from God about what He wanted men and women to know about Himself and what He expected of them. They were the custodians of the communication of Heaven. Psalm 147:19-20 says: "**He sheweth his word unto Jacob, his statutes and his judgments unto Israel. He hath not dealt so with any nation: and as for his judgments, they have not known them.**"

The New Testament churches are the custodians of the communication of Heaven. To the church Jesus said: "**For I have given unto them the words which thou gavest me; and they have received them. . .**" (John 17:8). "**I have given them thy word**"

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(John 17:14). These churches have **"the oracles of God"** (Heb. 5:12). This is why Peter said: **"If any man speak, let him speak as the oracles of God. . ."** (I Pet. 4:11). The saints in New Testament churches have the true system of faith which was once for all time delivered (Jude 3; Eph. 4:5). This is why Paul told Timothy about **"the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth"** (I Tim. 3:15). The church is the only institution on earth with a divine commission to preach the gospel and to teach all things which Christ commanded (Matt. 28:19-20). The church is even a lesson book to the angels: **"To the intent that now unto the principalities and powers in heavenly places might be known by the church the manifold wisdom of God"** (Eph. 3:10).

Fourth, the divine ordinances were entrusted to the nation of Israel during the old dispensation. After instituting the Passover Supper, the Lord told them: **"And ye shall observe this thing for an ordinance to thee and to thy sons for ever"** (Ex. 12:24). II Chronicles 33:8 mentions how they received **"the ordinances by the hand of Moses"** (cf. Neh. 10:32). Ezekiel 12:20 tells how they were to keep these ordinances.

In this dispensation the church has the ordinances. Baptism and the Lord's Supper are church ordinances to be observed until Jesus returns. Just as the Israelites were **"all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea"** (I Cor. 10:2), all the members of the church are baptized in water unto Jesus Christ. In I Corinthians 12:13 it is written: **"For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body. . ."** **"For as many of you as have been baptized into Christ have put on Christ"** (Gal. 3:27).

ITS BUSINESS

First, the Israelites were the witnesses for Jehovah in the Old dispensation: **"Ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, and my servant whom I have chosen. . . therefore ye are my witnesses, saith the LORD, that I am God"** (Isa. 43:10, 12). In the New Testament dispensation the churches are the Lord's witnesses. **"And that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in his name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things"** (Luke 24:47-48). **"But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all**

Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth" (Acts 1:8). Peter and John, two members of the Jerusalem church, and speaking of the death, burial, and resurrection of Christ, said: **"And we are witnesses of these things"** (Acts 5:32).

Second, the Israelites had to overcome many adversaries on the way to Canaan. The Lord promised them: **"But if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries"** (Ex. 23:22). Like Israel of old, the churches have **"many adversaries"** (I Cor. 16:9; cf. 6:10-17). To the Phillippian church Paul said: **"And in nothing (be) terrified by our adversaries. . ."** (Phil. 1:28). On the way to Heaven a member of the church must fight **"The good fight of faith"** (I Tim. 6:12) and **"endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ"** (II Tim. 2:3).

ITS IMPERFECTION AND ITS DISCIPLINE

Israel was imperfect in its obedience to God. They were guilty of many sins—disobedient to their leaders, hankering after Egypt, immoralities, and apostasy from Jehovah. For these many imperfections they were chastened by God. In doing this He had kept His promise. In Leviticus 26:27-28 He warned: **"And if ye will not for all this hearken unto me, but walk contrary unto me; Then I will walk contrary unto you also in fury; and I, even I, will chastise you seven times for your sins."** This chastisement resulted in the seventy years of Babylonian Captivity. **"And Nebuchadnezzar king of Babylon came against the city, and his servants did besiege it. . . And he carried away all Jerusalem, and all the princes, and all the mighty men of valour, even ten thousand captives, and all the craftsmen and smiths: none remained, save the poorest sort of the people of the land"** (II Kings 24:10, 14).

The members of the New Testament church are imperfect and guilty of many sins—disobedience to its leaders, hankering after the world, immoralities, and apostasy from God and His truth. For all of these things the churches are **"chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world"** (I Cor. 11:32). Today churches are departing, more and more, from the faith (I Tim. 4:1; II Tim. 4:3). Most Baptist churches in this generation are in a state of apostasy. They have traded faith for finance, fun, and foolishness! More and more, they are becoming

like ecclesiastical and commercial Babylon (Rev. 18:4).

ITS GOALS

Israel journeyed through the wilderness to the land of Canaan. Moses told Hobab: **"We are journeying unto the place of which the LORD said, I will give it you: come thou with us, and we will do thee good: for the LORD hath spoken good concerning Israel"** (Num. 10:29). Many of these strangers and pilgrims of Israel eventually reached the land of Canaan.

The members of the church on earth are **"strangers and pilgrims"** (I Pet. 2:11). Our citizenship is in Heaven (Phil. 3:20) and our treasures are there (Matt. 6:20). Heaven is the place of our inheritance (I Pet. 1:3-4). **"We look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ"** (Phil. 3:20). When He comes again He will take us to the Father's house in Heaven (John 14:1-3).

CONCLUSION

1. In the Old Testament the people in covenant relation to God were Israelites. **"At the same time, saith**

the LORD, will I be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people" (Jer. 31:1). In the New Testament the people in covenant relation with God are the church. Listen to the words of God applied by Paul to the Corinthian church: **"And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters, saith the Lord Almighty"** (II Cor. 6:18).

2. Is the church better than Israel? Some with great haste would answer in the affirmative, but I would answer in the negative. In Romans 11 Paul compares Israel to an olive tree. Then he tells how the Gentiles were grafted into this olive tree. He then says: **"For if God spared not the natural branches, take heed lest he also spare not thee"** (Rom. 11:21).

3. The New Testament church is the greatest institution on earth. Have you been baptized into the Lord's body? unto Jesus Christ? Or, could it be you know not Christ as your Savior? If you have not trusted Him, I urge you to do so.



Readers of the BBB are urged to submit religious news items which they may read in their local paper or some other publication. In sending these please give the name of the publication as well as the date it was printed. We will not be able to print all which are submitted, but we welcome any item you may feel we should read. Send them to The Berea Baptist Banner, PO Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855-0039.

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BORN-AGAIN CHRISTIANS, BLACKS HAVE DIFFERENT VIEWS OF BUSH

WASHINGTON, D.C. (E)—Born-again Christians and African Americans have sharply different views of President George W. Bush, according to a new survey released by the Barna Research Group. While born-again Christians are deeply supportive of the President, African-Americans are least likely to approve of his performance.

The study examined 18 measures related to the President and his performance in the White House and found that the groups consistently giving him low evaluations were blacks, atheists, liberals and Democrats. His biggest enthusiasts were people 55 or older, whites, born-again Christians, conservatives and Republicans.

Overall, four out of five adults (79 percent) currently approve of the way Bush is handling his job. Overall, half of all adults said they approve strongly and three out of 10 approve somewhat.

The highest approval ratings came from people 55 or older (85 percent),

whites (84 percent), born-again Christians (86 percent), and Republicans (96 percent). Other groups were less likely to approve of Bush, but the President still enjoys a majority of approval among blacks (59 percent), atheists (66 percent), and Democrats (70 percent). Amazingly, a majority of the adults within 60 different population segments analyzed indicated their approval of Bush's performance to date.

Survey respondents were also asked to rate the President's handling of the terrorist attacks and subsequent war against terrorism. Again, four out of five adults (82 percent) said he is doing either an "excellent" or "good" job. The people most likely to give such positive feedback included people 55 or older (88 percent), whites (87 percent), born-again Christians (88 percent), and Republicans (95 percent). The least favorable reactions again were from blacks (59 percent), atheists (67 percent) and Democrats (75 percent). Once again, a majority of every subgroup gave the President above-average evaluations.

Three out of four adults (75 percent)

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have a favorable opinion of George W. Bush as a person. The same pattern emerged: Older adults, whites, born again Christians and Republicans were most enthusiastic about the President as a person, while blacks, atheists and Democrats were least approving of him.

“But with me it is a very small thing that I should be judged of you, or of man’s judgment. . .” (I Cor. 4:3).

ROBERTSON SAYS ISLAM NOT A RELIGION OF PEACE

VIRGINIA BEACH, VA. (EP)—Islam is “a violent religion bent on world domination,” Christian broadcaster Pat Robertson said on the Feb. 21 installment of CBN’s “700 Club.” Robertson told viewers Islam “is not a peaceful religion that wants to coexist” with other faiths, but one in which its adherents are called upon to “coexist until they can control, dominate and then if need be destroy.”

Robertson said that he disagreed with President Bush’s description of Islam as a peaceful religion, saying, “It’s just not. And the Koran makes it very clear, if you see an infidel, you are to kill him.”

In a response to an article in the *Washington Post* about his comments, CBN issued a statement saying that Robertson’s comments were directly related to a CBN news report about how Muslims viewed the Sept. 11 attacks, U. S. foreign policy, and the nature of their religion. The network said it had sent a reporter who is fluent in Arabic to an American-Muslim convention near Washington D.C. and to a large Arab neighborhood in New York City.

According to CBN, the reporter recorded a variety of anti-American comments, such as this one from a Muslim-American attending the conference: “I don’t consider Hamas and Hizbollah terrorists. Those ‘people’ have a cause. I am with them 100 percent in whatever they do, including the killing of innocents.”

Another Islamic, an Algerian Muslim, reportedly said, “America has a lot of enemies, anyone will wish this blow to this country, because it is not fair in its foreign policy.”

CBN spokeswoman Angell Watts said, “The *Washington Post* has not given a full picture of the 700 Club program which featured Robertson’s remarks.” Watts added that the *Post* “has chosen not to report the bulk of Muslim-American opinion that supports terrorist actions as an expression of their faith. Robertson was only responding to what some American Muslims are saying themselves.” She said that “Robertson is bringing to the American people the truth that we must all be aware of—that militant Islam is dedicated to the destruction of

America and the killing of the Jews and Christians around the world. To deny that the Koran promotes violence to many followers would be to deny the truth.”

“But speaking the truth in love. . .” (Eph. 4:15).

AFRICAN CHRISTIANS ENDURE TORTURE, HARSH CONDITIONS IN SAUDI PRISON

JEDDAH, Saudi Arabia (EP)—Three Ethiopian Christians allegedly arrested in Saudi Arabia for practicing Christianity were beaten and tortured on Jan. 28.

According to International Christian Concern (ICC), a Christian rights group based in Washington, D. C., Baharu Mengistu, Tinsae Gezachew, and Ggebeyehu Tefera were kicked and beaten with metal cables and other objects by guards at the Bremen Deportation Prison in Jeddah in front of over 1,000 other prisoners. ICC claims the men were beaten in retaliation for a petition sent to the Ethiopian consulate in Jeddah protesting their situation.

V : The Ethiopians were arrested in July 2001 along with 11 other foreign Christians living in Saudi Arabia. Of the 14, six have been released but the remaining eight prisoners are still enduring horrific treatment, said ICC.

On Jan. 24, an ICC representative telephoned the Saudi Embassy in the U. S. to discuss the situation with the Saudi ambassador. An official who took the call denied any knowledge of the prisoners, and then allegedly said, “If you release our prisoners [in the U.S.], we’ll release your prisoners there!”

ICC President Steve Snyder was outraged by the incident and the fact that the condition of the remaining detained Christians has been virtually ignored by the American media and the U. S. government. These Christians are not at all terrorists, unless you believe that simply being a Christian and praying in your own home is terrorism! Saudi Arabia continues to demonstrate total intolerance toward anyone or any activity that is non-Islamic. Again, the U. S. remains silent, said Snyder.

ICC recently contacted the Ethiopian consulate in Jeddah and asked officials there to act on behalf of the tortured Christians.

“If ye were of the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are not of the world, but I have chosen you out of the world, therefore the world hateth you” (John 15:19).

MORMON CHURCH NOW ONE OF FIVE LARGEST IN U.S.

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP)—For the first time, the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (Mormon) is one of the five largest religious groups in the U.S., according to the National Council of Churches’ 2002 *Yearbook of American and*

Canadian Churches, released in mid-February.

“This ranking represents a very brisk increase in membership for a church with a relatively brief history,” said Eileen W. Lindner, *Yearbook* editor and NCC deputy general secretary for research and planning. The Mormon church (also known as LDS) was organized April 6, 1830.

“The distinctive theological position of the LDS and the history of its persecution make such rapid growth all the more remarkable; however, the church’s strong emphasis on outreach through both mission personnel and electronic and print advertising makes it unique among contemporary North American churches,” she wrote.

The Mormon church is a cult based on the teachings of Joseph Smith, who claimed to have received a divine revelation. The church’s unorthodox teachings and embrace of plural marriage caused it to experience persecution in its early years.

The Mormon church’s advance to fifth place on the list of largest religious groups displaced the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, which fell to sixth.

According to the *Yearbook*, the largest denomination in the U.S. according to membership figures for the year 2000 are:

* Roman Catholic Church (63,683,030 members, up from 62,391,484)

* Southern Baptist Convention (15,960,308 members, up from 15,851,756)

* United Methodist Church (8,340,954 members, down from 8,377,662)

* Church of God in Christ (5,499,875, same as previous year)

* Mormon (5,208,827 members, up from 5,113,409)

* Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (5,125,919, down from 5,149,668)

The top five churches on the list account for nearly two-thirds of inclusive membership reported to the *Yearbook* by 66 U. S. denominations.

The *Yearbook* also reported that local congregations collected and disbursed substantial monies, totaling nearly \$30 billion (\$29,464,889,024) in 2000, with 65 churches reporting. Total dollars contributed per capita inclusive members jumped by \$50.97, from \$548.77 in 1999 to \$599.14 in 2000.

“Beware of false prophets. . .” (Matt. 7:15).

GLEANINGS HERE AND THERE

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (EP)—Roy Moore, chief justice of the Alabama Supreme Court, awarded custody of three teens to their father rather than their mother, ruling that homosexuality is “an inherent evil.” Writing a unanimous decision for the court, Moore said the mother’s lesbianism makes her an unfit parent and called homosexuality, “abhorrent, immoral, detestable, a crime against nature, and a violation of the laws

of nature.” Moore is best-known for his successful battle to keep a plaque bearing the 10 Commandments in his courtroom when he was a district judge.

BOSTON, Mass. (EP)—The Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts upheld two anti-sodomy laws Feb. 21, but limited their enforcement to cases involving public or non-consensual sex acts. Homosexual activists welcomed the ruling for clarifying that anti-sodomy laws in the state do not apply to private, consensual acts. “It really takes all the string out of these laws,” said Jennifer Levi, an attorney for Gay and Lesbian Advocates and Defenders. Anti-sodomy laws are rarely enforced, but remain on the books in 13 states.

IRVINE, Calif. (EP)—Ministries associated with evangelist Roberts Liardon are falling apart following his admission of a “moral failure” involving a homosexual affair with his church’s youth minister. About a quarter of the members of Embassy Christian Center in Irvine, Calif., have left, as have 50 of 180 students at Spirit Life Bible College and at least four missionaries with Roberts Liardon Ministries. Liardon, 34, is taking at least three months off to seek counseling and recover from health problems.

LONG ISLAND, N.Y. (EP)—A woman broke her arm after being “slain in the spirit” during a charismatic worship service won \$80,000 from the Long Island church where she was injured. Sophia Reitan sued Upper Room Tabernacle Ministries for \$4 million. Reitan said she had a “religious-bodily experience” during a women’s service in September 1997, after the minister placed his hand on her forehead, causing her to fall backwards. She argued that the church should have had somebody in place to catch her.

ASTANA, Kazakhstan (EP)—A law that could severely restrict Christian religious activity in Kazakhstan is close to being ratified. According to Keston News Service, a draft law approved by the Kazakh parliament Jan. 17 requires only the signature of President Nursultan Nazarbayev to become law. The law requires all religious groups to be registered with the government, gives the government authority to ban unregistered groups and requires that all religious associations have at least 50 members. The also requires that all missionaries register with the government. Dairabai Ryskayev, a leader in the Muslims Spiritual Administration in Kazakhstan told Keston he was in favor of the law and the fact that it awards fitting status to Kazakhstans traditional religions Islam and Orthodoxy. Ryskayev said that

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branches of Islam that deviated from the Sunni branch were evil and would not be allowed to spread in an independent Kazakhstan. Roman Dudnik, president of the Christian Society for Evangelization and Charity compared the new law to the totalitarian rules of Afghanistan's former Taliban regime. The draft law is full of hidden ways to persecute believers. Dudnik told Keston. The state will virtually give part of its functions to a few chosen religious associations. We are going back to the European Middle Ages.

SALT LAKE CITY, Utah (EP)—A new national study found that antidepressant drugs are prescribed in Utah at a rate nearly twice the national average—more than any other state. Dr. Curtis Canning, president of the Utah Psychiatric Association, says the study's findings are puzzling, but suggests that the strong Mormon influence in the state may be a factor. "In Mormondom, there is a social expectation—particularly among the females—to put on a mask, say 'Yes' to everything that comes at her and hide the misery and pain," he says. "There is the expectation that you should be happy, and if you're not happy, you're failing."

HONG KONG, China (EP)—The release of a convicted Bible smuggler during the second week of February was a welcome event, but observers say it was probably motivated solely by political concerns. Li Guangqiang was arrested in January with two other Chinese men after they were caught smuggling over 16,000 Bibles into the country to a group the communist government labeled an "evil cult." The businessman was charged with disrupting Chinese society, a crime punishable by death.

DENVER, Colo. (EP)—One of the worst massacres in American history happened in 1857, when 120 men, women and children in a wagon train traveling from Arkansas to California were killed. Mormon historians have long debated exactly what happened in the Mountain Meadows Massacre. Some say Indians did the killing, while others suspect Mormon leadership. A new National Park Service discovery may shed some light on this mystery—and implicate Mormon leader Brigham Young. A Park Service volunteer discovered a soft lead sheet under several inches of dirt and rat droppings. The sheep contained writing, supposedly etched by John D. Lee, who was the only man tried and executed in connection with the attack. Filled with misspelled words, the letter says in part, "I do not fear authority for the time is closing and am willing to tak the blame. I trust in God—I have no fear—Death hold

no terror—Lord hav merci on this resless soul." The key line may be one that says the attack was "on order from Pres Young." Lee, who was Young's adopted son, was blamed for the massacre 20 years later when Mormon leaders came under pressure from the federal government to solve the case. The rolled lead sheet was found while cleaning the floor of Lee's Fort on the Colorado River. Mormon leaders say the plate may be a hoax. Utah historian Will Bagley says it was unusual but no unknown for people of Lee's time to use lead for a record they wanted to preserve. The Park Service is running tests to determine the plate's authenticity.

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP)—The nation's largest teacher's union is encouraging school districts to adopt policies providing special protections for homosexual students and staff. Under a plan adopted Feb. 8 by the National Education Association's board of directors, schools also will be encouraged to develop materials for classrooms discussions on homosexuality. NEA President Bob Chase said gay and lesbian teachers in some states face losing their jobs because of their sexual orientation. "It is clear that, in too many places, students and education employees who are gay, lesbian, bisexual or transgendered face a hostile environment," Chase said.

Last year Congress enacted a record of \$18.5 billion in pork-barrel spending! One of every ten Americans (26 million) is now receiving food stamps (*Straight Talk*, 2-21-02).

An estimated 500,000 illegal immigrants from Communist China have come to America during the past 20 years.

Former President Clinton gave the United Nations a ton of United States plutonium. Once a month it is inspected by a UN team headed by a Russian and a Vietnamese (*Straight Talk*, 2-28-02).

The Supreme Court refused on Feb. 25 for the second time in nine months to block an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer's crusade to rid Indiana public places of the Ten Commandments (*The Washington Times*, March 4-10, 2002).

Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia, a devout Roman Catholic, said Feb. 4 that judges who follow Catholic teaching against the death penalty should resign. Speaking at Georgetown University, Scalia said he disagrees with the church's anti-death penalty teaching and argued that the church historically has supported capital punishment. "No authority I know of denies the 2,000-year-old tradition of the church approving capital punishment," he said. Asked to reconcile his Catholic faith with his support of the death penalty, Scalia said a Catholic judge

with concerns about the death penalty should resign because he or she would not be upholding the laws judges must swear to protect (*Western Recorder*, 2-19-02).

A federal judge has ruled that a 51-year tradition of teaching Bible classes in the country where the famous Scopes trial was held must end. U. S. District Judge Allan Edgar in Chattanooga, Tenn., ruled Feb. 8 that classes in Rhea County violate the First Amendment's clause separating church and state (*ibid*).

The federal government spends \$13 a year on AIDS-related programs, far more than it spends on other disease from which more people suffer. In 1996, the National Institute of Health spent an average of \$1,160 for every heart disease death, \$4,700 for every cancer death, but an incredible \$43,000 for every AIDS death, according to the National Institute of Medicine (Cal Thomas in *Northeast Mississippi Daily Journal*, 3-1-02).

What is it about President Bush that most impresses Sen. Robert C. Byrd, West Virginia Democrat? His knees. "When it is all said and done, I have to remember that here is a man who preaches and practices, as far as I have seen, his faith," says Mr. Byrd. "It is unfortunate, but these are times when few men and women, relatively speaking it seems to me, recognize God in their lives and in the life of the nation. So I respect President Bush for his humility, for his willingness to call upon God, to express a faith, to express a strength that can only come from calling upon the Creator of us all. It just touches my heart and makes me feel good that the chief magistrate of our country talks about getting on his knees" (*The Washington Times*, Feb. 23-March 3, 2002).

Several newly published social studies textbooks that include the September 11 terrorist attacks do not identify Osama bin Laden as the mastermind behind the deadly assaults. Instead, the new chapters describe bin Laden as a leader of the al Qaeda terrorist group that the U. S. government considers to be a "prime suspect" in the attacks, despite President Bush's repeated assertions that the ex-Saudi fugitive is behind the assaults and a videotape in which bin Laden details the attacks.

The books have been printed in time to arrive in social studies or history classrooms nationwide this fall. The books are published by Pearson/Prentice Hall and McDougal Littell, a division of Houghton Mifflin. The books are among several under review by the state education board in Tennessee, where students will be among the first in the country to use textbooks that detail the events of September 11.

On February 21, President Bush spoke to the students at Tsinghua University in Beijing. The speech was televised live by China Central Television, but at 10:15 a.m., a time when most Chinese are at work. Part of the address—describing American freedom and praising the potential for religious freedom in China—appeared to be an indirect rebuke to Chinese President Jiang Zemin. The Chinese government's New China News Agency edited these words out when it later published the speech.

The day before, in a joint press conference with Bush, Jiang had volunteered that he had no religious faith. He denied that he had the power to effect verdicts or sentences by Chinese courts. He claimed there was religious freedom in a China that systematically oppresses Buddhists, Protestants and Catholics who refuse to join state-controlled churches. And he denied that a group of imprisoned Catholic bishops had been imprisoned for their beliefs.

Here are some of Bush's censored words:

"We're a nation of laws. Our courts are honest and they are independent. The President, me, I can't tell the courts how to rule. And neither can any other member of the executive or legislative branch of government. . . .

"America is a nation guided by faith. Someone once called us a nation with the soul of a church. This may interest you: 95 % of Americans say they believe in God. And I'm one of them. When I met President Jiang Zemin in Shanghai a few months ago, I had the honor of sharing with him how faith changed my life and how faith contributes to the life of my country. Faith points to a moral law beyond man's law and calls us to duties higher than material gain. Freedom of religion is not something to be feared, it's to be welcomed. Because faith gives us a moral core and teaches us to hold ourselves to high standards, to love and to serve others, and to live responsible lives.

"If you travel across America—and I hope you do someday, if you haven't been there—you will find people of many different ethnic backgrounds and many different faiths. . . .Tens of millions of Chinese today are relearning Buddhist, Taoist and local religious traditions or practicing Christianity, Islam and other faiths. Regardless of where or how these believers worship, they are no threat to public order. In fact, they make good citizens. For centuries this country has had a tradition of religious tolerance. My prayer is that all persecution will end so that all in China are free to gather and worship as they wish. All these changes will lead to a stronger, more confident China, a China that can astonish and enrich the world, a China that your generation will help create." (*Human*

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The Bible & Newspaper

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Events, 3-4-02).

Osama bin Laden-brand heroin has arrived in America. At least it has arrived in New York. . . . Stamped in brilliant red letters across each envelope were the words "BIN LADEN." That was not all. The envelopes were adorned on the other side with a drawing of a jet bound for the World Trade Center towers, also in bright red (*The Washington Times*, Feb. 18-24, 2002).

Q. How many American children are raised without their fathers in the house?

A. Some 34 percent of American children, about 24 million, live in homes without their biological fathers, according to the National Fatherhood Initiative. The group reports that, on average, such children are at least two to three times more likely to be poor; use illegal drugs; experience emotional, behavioral, health, and educational problems; become victims of child abuse and take part in criminal activity than children living with their married parents, either biological or adoptive (*The New American*, 2-25-02).

Q. How much does the International Monetary Fund cost the U. S. while it interferes in other economies, such as Argentina's?

M. B., Silisbury, N.C.

A. The International Monetary Fund gets about \$37 billion from U. S. taxpayers annually, and hopes to push that up to \$50 billion by next year, according to Representative Ron Paul (R.-Texas). Although its problems have become recent front-page news, Argentina's economy has been in trouble for years. Yet, as Paul has said, "IMF loans with an incredibly low interest rate of 2.6 percent kept pouring into the country" (*ibid.*).

Q. What exactly is "ecstasy," and what are its medical consequences?

W. B., Beech Grove, Ind.

A. Ecstasy is an illegal drug that has become associated with "raves," or all-night parties, because it can overpower the need to eat, drink, or sleep—thereby, enabling the user to party for extended periods of time. It affects a brain chemical called serotonin, which regulates sleep, appetite, mood, memory, and sexual behavior. Ecstasy, sometimes called XTC or E, reportedly induces euphoria and sexual arousal. The scientific name of the drug is methylenedioxymethamphetamine, or MDMA. The evidence indicates that heavy use of the drug can cause kidney and heart failure, and sometimes death. According to a study published in the British medical journal *The Lancet*, the drug may cause significantly more brain damage to women than to men (*ibid.*, 1-14-02).

Mini Edition

By Joseph Harris
Chairman of Biblical Studies
Southeastern Baptist College, Laurel, Mississippi



SCHOOL VOUCHERS?

School vouchers is currently one of the hottest items in the news. Emotions run high on both sides of the issue. As I understand it, the voucher system would give parents education tax money to pay tuition for their kids in private schools. Supposedly, this is money already paid in to the system by the parents, for education.

Now here is my opinion, which is what Mini Edition is all about anyway. For the following statements, I am now ready to be offered on the opinion altar of sacrifice. I am also fully prepared to be boiled in oil, flayed alive, drawn and quartered, buried, have my bones dug up and crushed, for the following statements (Keep those cards and letters coming). Here Goes. "Education should not be a public, government endeavor." Government, whether state or federal, shouldn't have its nose and fingers in a lot of the current government programs it sponsors. *So the real issue goes beyond education and questions whether government should be sponsoring all the programs it sponsors.*

I realize this statement is alien to most because it's hard to get beyond a lifetime of a government dependent mentality. Not one person reading this has even lived in a time when government sponsored public education did not exist. So the thought has never occurred to most. The private sector out-performs government programs and agencies almost every time. One of the best examples government can offer is the United States Postal Service, and private delivery business are more efficient than the USPS most of the time. And there is always a hint of a postage hike around the corner.

When it comes to education, parents are the primary responsible parties for their children's education. There are, however, many parent and church sponsored schools that do an excellent job. And now home education is growing by leaps and bounds. Parents have discovered they like having a voice and a choice in matters. Plus, Christian and home education affords the control to offer an education that has a God centered world view philosophy, rather than a secular, humanistic, evolutionary, Dewey would view philosophy.

Here is my idealistic proposal: just

as houses of worship are owned, sponsored and funded privately, education could be also. It could be done in the home or through churches or groups of families. And forget the vouchers. I don't want them. Instead of giving money back to parents to pay for education, the government could just stop taking it to begin with. You know, cut out the middle man. We know of course, it ain't gonna happen. The infrastructure is set and entrenched. It's like abolishing or restructuring the IRS (Flat tax, yeah, riiiiight! That would be too simple and fair, plus IRS employees, tax attorneys and accountants would be out of work).

I don't believe government, through its provision, can better educate (Public School System), offer a better retirement program (Social Security) or provide better social or benevolent services (Welfare and Medicaid) more *efficiently* (Key word) than I or groups of individuals or churches or private businesses can provide. But hey, that's just me. One lone voice crying in the internet wilderness. It is, however, my opinion.

THE AXIS OF EVIL EMPIRES

Thank you President Bush for speaking the truth with clarity and boldness, in a Reagan-like way. When the President called Iraq, Iran, and North Korea the "Axis of Evil" he was thoroughly criticized by the soft speaking liberal left. It's ironic how soft spoken the left can be, until it comes to denouncing sound, conservative policy and conservative Christians. Liberals like to compare conservative Christians with murdering terrorists, yet are squeamish about categorizing murdering terrorists correctly. The regimes in the states mentioned above sponsor, support, and promote terrorism, and have for many years. They are the main sources of terrorism in the world today, hence the "Evil Axis" label.

Speaking of telling the truth, liberals, and some conservatives are squeamish about speaking the truth when it comes to Islam, that great repressive, intolerant religion and spiritual home for terrorists, that is now receiving accolades. Pat

Robertson and Franklin Graham have jumped into the frying pan with their opinions recently. The Jehovah of Judaism and Christianity and the Allah of Islam are not one and the same, any more than the Great White Spirit of the Native American Indians is the same as the God of the Bible. Jehovah is loving, merciful, and compassionate (Compare the number of Islam hospitals to Christian hospitals) and expects the same of his followers. Allah is warlike, impersonal and intolerant of the infidels and requires their extermination. It is true that Jehovah in the Old Testament required his people to kill reprobate Canaanites in their conquest of the promised land, because there was no possibility of their conversion and great possibility of them contaminating the Israelites with their pagan gods. But that's the exception and not the rule, whereas Islam leaves a consistent, historical trail of blood, beginning with Mohammed and continuing to the present.

And why won't Muslims talk about or at least acknowledge the utter intolerance of other religions found in Islam dominated countries? The rule of thumb for Jews and Christians has been persecution and death, and where they have been allowed to remain, they have been relegated to the position of second and third class citizens, not enjoying the privileges Muslims enjoy (Read *From Time Immemorial* by Joan Peters for a real eye opener (worldnetdaily.com bookstore). American the Great, because of her early Christian foundation and influence, practices REAL religious tolerance and freedom for her citizens, sometimes to her own detriment. Could it be that Islam is a lamb only when in the minority and becomes a roaring lion when in the majority? All evidence points to it.

Keep telling the truth, President Bush. Truth is such a rare commodity, some do not recognize it when they hear it. And they usually can't handle it. I pray our political and religious leaders would seek, speak, and live the truth.

DAY CARE VERSUS FAMILY. . . AGAIN

Have you heard about the latest slap in the face against the family? Research by the University of Washington has revealed startling new information. : "Children kept in day cares are better off than those cared for by extended family, friends and

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neighbors." I think I will include this new "truth" in my collection of MILS (Mythological Insane Ludicrous Statements), some of which are: (1) The separation of church and state (2) Homosexuality is determined before birth (3) Big business wants to ruin the environment (4) Consenting children and teenagers should have sex (5) The Dems are for the little guy, the GOP wants to poison air and water. . . .to name a few.

This reminds me of the very first Mini Edition I wrote (April 24, 2001) concerning a statement from a study which said children kept in day cares become more aggressive and hostile. Common sense and history will tell you that parents and family take better care of children than anyone else. The reason, they say, for the difference is because of qualifications. The experts say that kids kept by those who "do not have the specific training" (did you get that?) do not get the same developmental, educational stimulation they would otherwise receive from professional. In other words, it's the same old party line. State or state approved agencies with "qualified, certified, credentialed workers" can do a better job taking care of your children than family or close friends. I'll take grandma's lack of formal childcare education replaced by her wisdom and true love for my children any day, over a paid worker. Children need love and security as much as they need physical nourishment. Now if we were talking about medical care, the situation would be different.

In John chapter 10, Jesus described the difference between a shepherd and a hireling. The difference was love. I know Jesus was not speaking of day cares in the passage, but the common sense principle is the same. The hireling runs when predators come to steal and kill the sheep, because the only interest he has is his paycheck. The shepherd, however, will give his own life saving the sheep, because he owns them and loves them. Though I'm sure there are some good day care workers out there, I'm also certain that few, if any volunteer their time at their facility (excluding the miniscule number of volunteer retirees). They have to be paid.

The study also stated that the more educated the parent, the more likely they were to leave their child with a licensed stranger than with a relative, thereby proving formal care is the smartest choice. Well, there is always another side to every statistic. It says to me, the educated parents aren't that

smart. Education in itself does not guarantee wisdom, discernment, and common sense. My question is this: how many of *those* parents were partially reared in a day care?

God's way is always best. Sometimes, a single parent with no family support may have to temporarily choose an alternative like day care. But you just can't improve on God's plan for the family, beginning with a married heterosexual couple who fears God and commits to rear their children in the fear, nurture, and admonition of God, guided by the scriptures, with a parent or family tending to the children.



COULD JESUS HAVE SINNED?

This question is hotly debated by some of our brethren today. What did the old Baptists say on this subject? Please consider these men on this subject.

John Broadus (1827-1895):

"How could Jesus be tempted? Was it possible for him to sin? If this was in no sense possible, then he was not really tempted, certainly not 'like as we are.' (Heb. 4:15). But how can it have been possible for him to sin? If we think of his human nature in itself, apart from the co-linked divinity, and apart from the Holy Spirit that filled and led him, then we must say that, like Adam in his state of purity, like the angels and every other moral creature, his humanity was certainly in itself capable of sinning, and thus the temptation was real, and was felt as such, and as such overcome; while yet in virtue of the union with the divine nature, and of the power of the Holy Spirit that filled him, it was morally impossible that he should sin.—A substantially similar view is well stated by Edersheim" (*Commentary on Matthew*, p. 61, 1886 edition).

William L. Pettingill (1880-1950):

"The question is often raised as to whether there was any possibility of Jesus falling before the tempter's power. I answer, No. He was God in the flesh, and God cannot be tempted with evil. He was ever holy, harmless,

undefiled and separate from sinners. If someone objects that in that case there was no temptation, I answer that though there was no desire on Jesus' part to yield to the devil's allurings, yet there was a real temptation, in the sense of testing, and this is the meaning of Hebrews 4:15, which being literally translated reads: "**For we have not a High Priest who cannot sympathize with our infirmities, but Who has in all points been tempted like as we are, apart from sin.**" That is, He did not have the inward craving for evil things, as you and I have, for that would be indwelling sin, and there was no sin in Him. He is nevertheless quite able to sympathize with us, for He made us and knows us altogether.

If Jesus had failed under the test, His failure would have proved, not that God could sin, but that Jesus was not God. For in this sense, "**God cannot be tempted with evil**" (Jas. 1:13). (*The Gospel of the Kingdom*, p. 51).

Clarence Larkin (1850-1924):

"There are those who claim that Jesus could not have been tempted in all points like as we are if it were not possible for Him to sin. Others claim that while it was possible for Jesus to sin there was no *probability* that He would, and therefore there was no risk incurred in His Temptation. Those who claim that it was *possible* for Jesus to sin compare Him with Satan and Adam, who, though created pure and sinless, had in them the *possibility* of sinning as is evidenced by their fall. But Satan and Adam were created beings, while Jesus was the Only Begotten SON OF GOD, born of the "Virgin Mary," and it was said of the body of Jesus that it was "THAT HOLY THING." Therefore the *humanity* of Jesus was SINLESS, and when joined to the *Eternally Holy Personality of the SON*, there could have been no possibility of Jesus sinning.

"If Jesus could have sinned then the whole scheme of Salvation *hung in the balance* until after the Wilderness Temptation. Such a thought is not only unthinkable but unscriptural. Jesus was the Lamb—"foreordained before the foundation of the world" (I Pet. 1:18-20), and a lamb accepted for sacrifice must be "**without spot or blemish.**" The Scriptures declare that "**Whosoever is born of God CANNOT SIN**" (I John 3:9). Therefore Jesus could not sin. If He could have sinned at the Temptation, since there has been no change in His nature since then, for He took His humanity back with Him to Heaven, what is there to prevent His yielding to Temptation in the future? What guarantee have we that the whole plan of Salvation shall not yet be upset? The thought is contrary

to the whole trend of the Scripture.

"What then was the purpose of the Temptation if it were not possible for Jesus to have fallen? The purpose was simply to show that Jesus was a PERFECT SAVIOUR, and that there was NO SIN IN HIM, nor possibility of failure. He was thus set before us, not as an example to be followed when we are tempted, but as an object of Faith to whom we can look as our DELIVERER when we are tempted. A simple illustration will make this plain. We will suppose that a double track "Suspension Bridge" has been built over a deep canyon connecting two mountain ranges. To the people in the valley the Bridge seems to be but an "airy nothing" hardly capable of carrying its own weight and they are afraid to trust themselves to it, but one day to their amazement two long trains of freight cars loaded with pig-iron approach from opposite directions, and when both have reached the center of the Bridge they stop. At once they expect the Bridge to collapse. But no, it remains intact. And when, after remaining 24 hours on the Bridge, the trains continue on their way, they no longer lack faith in the safety of the Bridge. So with the Temptation of Jesus. It was the rest of His Sonship and of His power to overcome and destroy the works of the Devil, and we need no longer fear but that He is a Perfect and All-Powerful Saviour." (*Rightly Dividing the Word*), pp. 172-174, 1958 edition).

SEE IF YOU CAN. . .

To follow are some quotes from various writers. I want you to read these over and see if you can determine what they looked for. Was it the coming of Jesus Christ? the abomination of desolation? the Antichrist? Or, did they believe that Christ came in A. D. 70, fulfilling all prophecies about His second coming? Instead of taking my word or the word of some other person, why not check for yourself?

Here is a quote from the Didache, or the Teaching of the Apostles. It is assigned by some to a date earlier than A. D. 100. Section 10 ends with "Maranatha. Amen." Section 16 starts: "Be watchful for your life; let your lamps not be quenched and your loins not ungirded, but be ye ready; for ye know not the hour in which our Lord cometh."¹

Clement I of Rome (A. D. 30-100) wrote: "Of a truth quickly and suddenly shall His will be accomplished, the scriptures also bearing witness to it, saying; He shall come quickly and shall not tarry; and the Lord shall come suddenly into His

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NOTE

Many of the books we have in this list are out-of-print from the publishers. Others we will not restock due to large orders required by publishers. We have only 1 copy of some of these. We plan to stock less books in the near future, but keep a better supply of what we offer. These are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis. If books are all sold, we will refund your money. On orders of \$20.00 or more you may take a 20% discount except those for those marked no discount.

NEW TESTAMENT COMMENTARIES

(*) This mark denotes a very good commentary.

*Gospel of Matthew	
J. C. Ryles	9.99
Gospel of Matthew	
H. A. Ironside	17.99
Gospel of Matthew	
G. Campbell Morgan	18.99
*What the Bible Teaches: Matt. & Mark	
J. Heading & H. Paisley	24.99
*The Gospel of the Kingdom	
C. H. Spurgeon	12.00
*Matthew	
John F. Walvoord	12.99
Matthew	
William Hendriksen	29.99
Matthew Majestic Gospel	
Ivor Powell	18.99
Christ the King	
W. Lee Rector	3.95
Exploring the Gospel of Matthew	
John Phillips	29.99
*Matthew	
John Broadus	26.99
Matthew & Mark	
J. Heading and Mark H. Paisley	24.99
Exploring Mark	
John Phillips	21.99
Mark	
J. C. Ryles	9.99
Mark's Superb Gospel	
Ivor Powell	17.99
Commentary on Mark	
H. B. Swete	24.99
*Commentary on Mark	
J. A. Alexander	17.99
Commentary on Mark	
J. D. Jones	24.99
Mark	
William B. Hendriksen	29.99
*Luke (Vol. I)	
J. C. Ryles	9.99
*Luke (Vol. II)	
J. C. Ryles	9.99
Outline Studies in Luke	
W. H. Griffith Thomas	16.99
Luke's Thrilling Gospel	
Ivor Powell	23.99
The Gospel of Luke	
William H. Hendriksen	29.99
The Gospel of Luke	
William Kelly	18.50
*What the Bible Teaches: Luke	
N. Crawford	24.99
*John (Vol. I)	
J. C. Ryles	9.99
*John (Vol. II)	
J. C. Ryles	9.99
The Gospel of John	
William Hendriksen	34.99
*What the Bible Teaches: John	
J. Heading	24.95

John's Wonderful Gospel	
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Ivor Powell	16.99
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*Commentary on Acts (paperback)	
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J. A. Alexander	34.99
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Thomas Walker	28.99
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The Acts of the Apostles	
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G. Campbell Morgan	21.99
Studies in Acts	
William Arnot	12.95
*Commentary on Romans	
Robert Haldane	30.99
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Historical Commentary on I Cor.	
William M. Ramsey	10.99

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Robert Lee	6.99
Galatians	
Martin Luther	15.99
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Lewis Sperry Chafer	10.99
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Charles Hodge	21.99
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John Phillips	18.99
*The Book of Ephesians	
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Gleanings

Continued from page 318

temple, even the Holy One, whom ye expect"²

Again he wrote: "It is therefore needful that we should be zealous unto well doing, for of Him are all things: since He forwarneth us saying, Behold, the Lord cometh, and His reward is before His face, to render to every man according to His work."³

Still again: "Let us therefore earnestly strive to be found in the number of those that wait for Him, in order that we may share in His promised gifts."⁴

Hear him once more: "Weigh carefully the times. Look for Him who is above all time, eternal and invisible, yet who became visible for our sakes."⁵

The Shepherd of Hermas contains some interesting material. This book is believed to have been written in the late first century or early second century of the Christian Era. In his fourth vision he sees a beast. A virgin then appears to him and says: "Thou hast escaped from great tribulation on account of your faith, and because you did not doubt in the presence of such a beast. Go, therefore, and tell the elect of the Lord His mighty deeds, and say to them that this beast is a type of the great tribulation that is coming. If then ye prepare yourselves, and repent with all your heart, and turn to the Lord, it will be possible for you to escape it, if your heart is pure and spotless, and ye spend the rest of the days of your life in serving the Lord blamelessly."⁶

George Park Fisher of Yale University tells us concerning the Montanists: "One of their tenets was a belief in the speedy second coming of Christ."⁷

William M. Blackburn informs of them: "The utterances of these fanatics related to supposed reforms in the Church, to more rigid discipline, to fasting and ascetic practices, to the speedy coming of the Lord, and to the awful judgments about to fall from heaven."⁸

Professor Kurtz relates of these people: "From the Apostles' time the expectation of the early return of the Lord stood in the foreground of Christian faith, hope and yearning, and this expectation continued still to be heartily entertained."⁹

George Henry Trabert has this to say: "The Montanists believed in the speedy return of Christ to earth and looked with contempt on the present order of things."¹⁰

Philip Schaff says of these people: "Another of the essential and prominent traits of Montanism was a

visionary MILLENNARIANISM, founded indeed upon the Apocalypse and on the apostolic expectation of the speedy return of Christ, but giving it extravagant weight and a materialistic coloring. The Montanists were the warmest millenarians in the ancient church, and held fast to the speedy return of Christ in glory. . ."¹¹

(Footnotes)

¹ Lightfoot, J. B., *The Apostolic Fathers* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Baker Book, 1970), pp. 127, 129.

² *op. cit.*, p. 24

³ Cited by Jesse Forest Silver in *the Lord's Return* (New York, N.Y.: Fleming H. Revell Company, 1914), p. 59.

⁴ *Ante-Nicene Fathers*, (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Pub. Co., 1997), Vol. I, p. 14.

⁵ *op. cit.*, p. 94

⁶ *op. cit.*, p. 18

⁷ Fisher, George Park, *History of the Christian Church* (New York, N. Y.: Charles Scribner's Sons, 1924), p. 59.

⁸ Blackburn, W. M., *History of the Christian Church* (New York, N.Y.: Walden and Stowe, 1879), p. 45.

⁹ Johann H. Kurtz, *Church History* (New York, N.Y.: Funk & Wagnalls Company, 1888), Vol. I, p. 230.

¹⁰ Trabert, George Henry, *Church History* (Reading, Pa.: Pilger Publishing House, 1897), p. 65.

¹¹ Schaff, Philip, *History of the Christian Church* (Grand Rapids, Mich.: Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co. 1994), Vol. II, p. 424.

BEREA BAPTIST BANNER Financial Report 1-31-2002 to 2-28-2002

Beginning Balance \$1,733.41

RECEIPTS:

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Coming in the next issue . . .

The Conflict of Power Part 3 by G. Wilbur Smith
What Christians Are by Milburn Cockrell
The Fear of God by Milburn Cockrell

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Mini Edition	p. 317
The Church in the Wilderness by Milburn Cockrell	p. 301
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.....	2,052.17
Bank charge	-19.10
ENDING BALANCE	\$2,033.07

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Bethel Bible Baptist Church, Mansfield, La., and Pastor Keith Kennison will have a revival and Bible Conference April 19-20. The special guest speaker is Elder Al Horn, Wake Village, Texas. There will be services on Friday night (6:30 p.m.) with sermons by Elders Leroy Pack, Doyle Thomas, Al Horn, and Homer Laurence. On Saturday morning (9:30 a.m.) there will be sermons by Elders Larry Wilson, Jerry Dodson, William Peacock, Al Horn, and G. L.

Burr. On Saturday evening (1:30 p.m.) there will be sermons by Elders Leroy Pack, Al Horn, and Richard Doiron. On Sunday morning (10:00 a.m.) there will be sermons by Elders Ray Dardon and Al Horn and then evening (1:30 p.m.) by Elders Leroy Pack and Al Horn. For more information email susiek12@juno.com.

The Berea Baptist Church, Mantachie, Miss., and Pastor Milburn Cockrell will have special services Saturday, April 13. Services will begin at 10:00 a.m. with sermons by Elders Steve Martin and Eldon Joslin. Lunch will be served at the church. At 1:15 p.m. there will be a sermon by Elder Todd Bryant. For more information call (662) 282-7794 or email bereabaptistchurch.org.

The Home Baptist Church, G-8475 N. Saginaw St., Mt. Morris, Mich., and Pastor Don Titus will have a Bible Conference April 16-18. The meeting starts on Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. Noon and evening meals will be served by the church. Speakers on the program are Elders Roger Jones, Clyde Hancock, Garner Smith, Jerry Asberry, and others. For more information contact Pastor Titus (313) 686-6005.

The Sovereign Grace Baptist Church of Caldwell, Kansas is in need of a pastor. Interested Sovereign Grace Baptist pastors should contact Darin Wiley at (620) 863-2431 or dcwiley@kanokla.net. The address for the church is 400 N. Main, Caldwell, Kansas 67022.

Prepublication Special

The editor's new book is at the printer. It will be the first with a full-color cover. It retails for \$7.95. If you want one copy at a prepublication special it will be \$5.50 including postage. If you will pick one up in the store (and we don't have to ship it), you can have one copy for \$4. If you want 5 or more, you can have them for \$4 plus postage. The book contains 120 pages. Chapter titles are as follows: *The Trichotomy of Man, The Blessings of a Short Life, The Setting Sun, A Time to Die, The Death of the Righteous, Life After Life, Recognition in the Spiritland, The Enjoyments of Souls in Paradise, The Employment of Paradise, Springtime in Glory, and Utopia, or the Eternal State*. The book is expected to be ready about the last of April. Order from Berea Baptist Church, P. O. Box 39, Mantachie, MS 38855.

