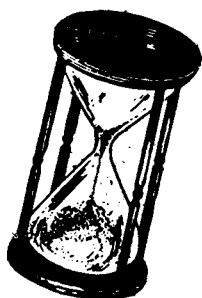


# **Countdown To Armageddon**



**The world of today contrasted  
with the world of tomorrow as  
foreshadowed in Bible  
prophecy.**

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## FOREWORD

*In this age of rising costs the cheapest commodity is human life itself.*

*This book is not written to frighten you, but to alert you to the problems that today face humanity because of the trends of modern society, and to point to the way of hope by which we can escape inevitable disaster.*

*We live too close to momentous changes in the world, and are too weighed down by events in our individual lives to realise the full significance of the changes the post-war world has brought to mankind. Our vision is out of focus. At times there is vague talk of bringing about a new order by political means, but few recognise that the world even now is actually in the death throes of an age, and in a state of transition to a new one. The present is in the process of disintegration. What the new era will reveal is not generally realised, but the blueprints of it are clearly outlined in the prophetic pages of the Bible. And confirmation of the truth of what the Bible predicts is clearly seen in events already taking place.*

*It is obvious that man has made staggering advances in Scientific knowledge. It is also clear that he has deteriorated in moral behaviour, and has not developed the spiritual qualities necessary to equip him to beneficially use the powers he has learned to unleash. He can put a man on the moon, but he cannot feed the starving 800 millions of earth's population. He can photograph the planets and perform many other wonderful works, but he cannot find employment for millions of young people throughout the world who are becoming more and more frustrated and angry. Consequently, his advance in technology could well prove his undoing. Thinking people,*

recognising the issues, are frankly worried and fearful of the future.

And well they might be. The permissiveness of modern society has resulted in the greatest licence in moral conduct, undermining healthy family life, and leading to the collapse of sound social behaviour. In spite of all the mechanical means to make life easy, dissatisfaction and unhappiness are more in evidence than ever before.

And, equally ominous, over this unhappy world of mad international hatreds hangs the dark cloud of the threat of nuclear war. Science has developed weapons of such destructive potentiality as to threaten to destroy civilisation itself.

"There is no defence in science against the weapons which now threaten to destroy civilisation," warned Albert Einstein the foremost scientist of modern times.

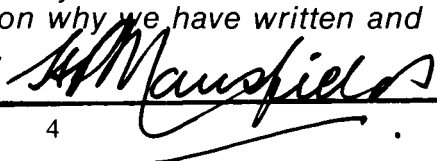
What is to be the outcome?

It is beyond human ability to solve the problems facing man; but the Bible has an answer of hope. And its record of fulfilled and fulfilling prophecy testifies to the veracity of that which is set forth.

If you long for a happier more satisfying life now; if you want peace of mind and a practical hope for the future; or if you are concerned about the welfare of your children in this age of growing frustration and wickedness, you should earnestly ponder the contents of this book, and, particularly, the quotations from the Bible that are cited therein.

Remember: the times are significant; the issues are vital; you owe it to yourself and your family to seek God's way.

That is the reason why we have written and published this book.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'H. Mansfield', is written over a horizontal line. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

# Countdown To Armageddon



## SECTION ONE: CRISIS OF SURVIVAL

We live in an age of disturbing and ominous trends. Not only has the pattern of civilisation changed, but it appears on the point of collapse. Indeed the crisis that overshadows all other global problems that mankind is facing is the crisis of survival. New standards have completely replaced those of the past. Permissiveness, nudity, violence have become so much engrained into modern civilisation as to be taken for granted as a way of life. The virtues of restraint, modesty and mutual consideration are at a discount. In the commercial field, conflict between Capital and Labour has undermined economic foundations, whilst the emergence of the welfare state has largely destroyed individual initiative and ambition. Politically, the governments of the West have become so unstable that people no longer manifest great confidence in their ability to rule, so that many take the law into their own hands. Consequently, the problems of the times are drifting out of control through want of sound, firm leadership.

In spite of prevailing affluence, dissatisfaction and discontent are rife, leading to hopelessness and aimlessness. As a result, many are becoming tired of life, and suicide has become common. Throughout the Western World, the deliberate termination of life has reached almost plague proportions. In US, a successful suicide occurs every few minutes. In Australia, it equals cancer as the second most common cause of death in the under 25 age group. According to B. Hetzel, Professor of Social and Preventative Medicine at Monash University, only road accidents kill more people in this age group. The suicide rate in Australia has doubled since 1945, due to the increased availability and use of drugs by young people.

These trends show how incurably sick is modern society. Youth seethes with unrest, dissatisfied with the world it has inherited, and manifests increasing impatience with any form of restraint. The incidence of violence increases year after year.

What is to be the outcome of today's sick, sorry, civilisation? What sort of a world is being moulded for you and your children? What can one do to escape the crisis that threatens to destroy civilisation, and perhaps life, upon the globe?

### A Solution

We, as Christadelphians, submit that the Bible alone has an adequate answer to the questions above. Its prophecies foretell the great events which lie ahead for the world. Its doctrines set forth the plan of personal salvation. Its general teaching reveals what one must do to escape the crisis and world-wide devastation of Armageddon. The Bible contains the history of the world particularly in relation to the nation of Israel leading to the destruction of the Jewish State in A.D. 70. The N.T. adds its important account of the birth, life, death,

**RESTORATION OF ISRAEL — a vindication of Bible Prophecy.** The following prediction based upon Ezekiel 37,38 was made by Christadelphian exponent of Bible prophecy, J. Thomas, in his book "Elpis Israel" published in 1848. It demonstrates that Bible prophecy foretells the future with unerring accuracy when correctly interpreted:

"There is, then, a partial and primary restoration of Jews before the manifestation of Christ, which is to serve as a nucleus, or basis, of future operations in the restoration of the rest of the tribes after he has appeared in the kingdom. The pre-adventual colonization of Palestine will be on purely political principles; and the Jewish colonists will return in unbelief of the Messiahship of Jesus, and of the truth as it is in him. They will emigrate thither as agriculturists and traders, in the hope of ultimately establishing their commonwealth, but more immediately of getting rich in silver and gold by commerce with India, and in cattle and goods by their industry at home under the efficient protection of the British power."

and resurrection of Jesus Christ at his first coming. The teachings of Christ and the apostles provide a system of truth that not only explains the past, and provides a prophetic panorama of events yet to come, but also the means of personal salvation.

Fundamental to its teaching is the revelation concerning the second coming of the Lord Jesus Christ. He is to return personally and visibly to reign on the earth from Jerusalem. Bible prophecy foretells the events leading to that great event, as well as disclosing the conditions that shall exist on earth when Christ does reign. An understanding of these things will enable the intelligent student of the Bible to so piece them together as to provide a clear, composite outline of what the future will reveal. He will discern that humanity is on the countdown to

Armageddon, and no time should be lost in making preparation for the future.

### **The Second Coming of Christ**

The second coming of Christ is the basic message of the Bible. The Apostles were told when they witnessed the Lord ascending into heaven:

**“Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven” (Acts 1:11).**

The obvious teaching of this declaration is that Christ is to return personally, and visibly to reign upon the earth. The *same* Jesus is to return with whom the Apostles conversed, ate and handled (1 John 1:1). And whom they then saw ascend into heaven.



**“In that day they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord” (Jeremiah 3:17). Jerusalem will be converted into a Temple City to form the Metropolis of Christ’s reign on earth. From Jerusalem “shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord” in the age to come (Isaiah 2:4), and to that centre shall a constant pilgrimage of people ascend for the worship of God in truth (Zechariah 14:16).**

This is clearly a far different doctrine than that generally taught in regard to the Second Coming of the Lord. Some teach that this doctrine relates to the indwelling of the Lord in the hearts of believers; others (such as the Seventh Day Adventists) claim that he will not return to the earth, but will remain on a sort of half-way era, a sea of glass to where believers will be taken. But in so teaching they challenge the clear statement of Zechariah 14:3: "His feet shall stand in that day upon the mount of Olives". A third class (the Jehovah's Witnesses) teaches that the Lord has already returned, but is invisible to the human eye. But that does not conform to the teaching of Zechariah 12:10 that the unbelieving Jews at the return of Christ shall look upon him whom they pierced, and shall mourn because of their past blindness.

These contradictory ideas concerning the second coming of the Lord show the importance of seeking the truth by a careful, personal, and independent examination of Scripture. It is plain that the above teaching does not conform to the clear statement cited from Acts 1:11 above.

The doctrine of the Kingdom that Christ will set up on earth is also clouded with confusion because of wrong ideas taught in relation to it. The following is a specimen of the clear, unambiguous language by which the Bible describes it.

**"The God of heaven (shall) set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).**

This teaches that the reign of Christ must be on earth, for existing forms of government are to be made subject to it. Moreover, it states that this will be done by force, for he shall "break in pieces" the present regimes. Yet it is asserted by some, that Christ will never reign on earth, and that the hope of salvation is by an entrance into heaven. Consider the following Scriptures:

**"The Lord shall be king over all the earth" (Zechariah 14:9).**

**"At that time they shall call Jerusalem the throne of the Lord; and all nations shall be gathered unto it, to the name of the Lord, to Jerusalem; neither shall they walk any more after the imagination of their evil heart" (Jeremiah 3:17).**

Again, the clear teaching of Scripture predicts tremendous and world-shaking changes in the earth. Jerusalem shall rise from the dust to the honoured status of the Metropolis of Christ's earthly reign; and people from all parts of the world



will submit to its divine king ruling therefrom. Isaiah predicts that these conditions will change the political, social and religious constitution of the earth, to usher in a Millennium of peace:

**“Out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:2-4).**

But though this is to be the ultimate outcome of God’s purpose and earth’s destiny, the way thereunto will be through judgment and destruction which man will bring upon himself.

The Bible is witness to that fact. It shows that the very trends and conditions manifested on earth at this time shall erupt into “a time of trouble” unprecedented in modern history, and from which humanity will be saved only by Divine intervention.

Predicting these times, the Bible declared:

**“And the nations were angry, and Thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest give reward unto Thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear Thy name, small and great; and shouldest destroy them which destroy the earth” (Revelation 11:18).**

That statement is very significant. It implies that at the coming of the Lord, the nations will be in an angry, warlike state, and that man will have it within his power to destroy the earth. It also states that only the intervention of Christ will prevent him doing so.

#### **GROWTH OF CRIME**

An increase in crime is predicted in the Bible as one of the trends of the “perilous times” of “the last days” (2 Timothy 3:1-5). The following frightful record of increasing crime in USA is reflected in other countries of the Western World.

<b>Crime Index Class</b>	<b>1959-61</b>	<b>1975-77</b>
Murder	8,670	20,510
Forcible Rape	15,860	56,090
Robbery	87,570	464,970
Aggravated Assaults	129,400	484,710
Burglary	789,300	3,232,100
Larceny over \$50	464,300	5,977,700
Motor Car Thefts	312,000	1,000,500
Total	1,807,100	11,256,600
The Solution: See Isaiah 2:2-4; Psalm 72.		



## SECTION TWO: PROBLEMS FACING HUMANITY

The world is on a collision course economically, socially, politically. In each of those realms it is facing problems that are beyond the ability of man to solve, and which must result in inevitable disaster. In that regard, it has almost reached the point of no return.

### **Can The World Survive A Nuclear War?**

The prediction cited from the Book of Revelation (Ch. 11:18) on p. 9, implies that at the coming of the Lord, man will possess the power to destroy the earth, and that only the intervention of Christ will prevent it happening. In view of that statement, is it not significant that with the splitting of the Atom, and the perfecting of weapons of destruction, man has the ability to render the earth uninhabitable and so destroy God's creation by the use of nuclear weapons?

Is it not the height of stupidity that the world's greatest resources are being placed into the manufacture of weapons of destruction, whilst about a third of its population go to bed hungry every night? At present world military expenditure is running at an annual rate of about \$410 thousand million, or nearly \$1 million per minute. This is an increase of about 50% over the past two decades.

Every nation is involved in this insane spending for destruction. The Bible predicted it; and the world reveals it. It speaks of a time just prior to the coming of the Lord when the weaker nations would boast of their strength. The prophet Joel predicted:

**“Proclaim ye this among the Gentiles: Prepare war, wake up the mighty men, let all the men of war draw near; let them come up: beat your plowshares into swords, and your pruning-hooks into spears; LET THE WEAK SAY, I AM STRONG” (Joel 3:9-10).**

The proclamation has gone forth to the nations, and they are responding. Nations that were militarily weak and socially backward before World War II are today arming to the teeth. Most of the wars which have taken place since then have been fought in the Third World, by weaker nations. Most of the weapons used in these wars have been acquired through the international arms trade. With ruthless disregard of human life the major powers have supplied some of their most sophisticat-

ed weapons to these smaller powers, in order to test out the effectiveness of them in action.

What must be the inevitable result of all this? Universal conflict, with the destruction of cities and widespread loss of life far exceeding anything known to history. It is not for nothing that the Bible warns that there will be "a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation" (Daniel 12:1); or that it should warn that the slain, in that time of trouble, will be "from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground" (Jeremiah 25:33).

What the Bible predicted 2500 years ago, the nations are today gearing up to fulfil. There are more employed in manufacturing weapons of destruction than in most other fields of endeavour. No less than 60,000,000 people throughout the world are involved in the manufacture of munitions of war and related industry, and more and more orders are pouring in. It is



Hiroshima devastated by the explosive force of the A-bomb. Death and destruction extended for an area of 3 sq. miles. Today nuclear weapons are far more destructive. The US has developed the MX Mark 12a missile fitted with ten warheads with a greater explosive potential than all the bombs dropped in World War II. One warhead alone has a destructive potenton of 290 sq. miles! Civilisation could not survive a nuclear war.

safe to say that the arms trade is virtually out of control. Currently, some 54 countries are producers of major weapons, and others are seeking to enter the field.

The warning of the Bible will have awful fulfilment in that day of trouble, because mankind turns from God and places confidence in the flesh. The nations have stock-piled so much explosive material as could wipe out every city upon the earth, and through radio-activity render it uninhabitable. Bitter wars are being fought even now, and devastation goes on apace. Whilst you are reading this book, in various parts of the world no less than a million men are engaged in open warfare or in guerilla activities in 23 centres. Each day 100 soldiers are killed in direct conflict and a further 100 civilians die as a result thereof. Mostly these battles are taking place in the regions of the Third World, but the danger is that a conventional war in some remote area could escalate into a nuclear world war of global proportions.

#### MAJOR EARTHQUAKES

Unusual upheavals of nature are predicted for the time of the end.

Date	Place	Deaths	Mag.
1920	China	100,000	8.6
1939	Turkey	30,000	7.9
1949	Equador	6,000	6.8
1950	India	1530	8.7
1962	N. W. Iran	12,230	7.1
1970	N. Peru	66,794	7.7
1976	Guatamala	22,778	7.5
1976	China/Tanshan	655,235	8.2
1976	Philippines	8,000	7.8

An increasing number of smaller earthquakes have been reported over this period of time.

Who will be safe or immune when war does break out? For that it will do so eventually is beyond all doubt. In Christ, alone, will be found a place of refuge. Thanks be to God, the Bible in predicting the state of things we see developing today, also provides the outcome: Christ will "destroy them that destroy the earth" and so relieve humanity of its burden of woe.

The greatest threat of war is in the Middle East. Because of its strategic position, because of the wealth of black gold beneath the sands of its deserts, and because of the predictions of the Bible that the M.E. will prove a bone of contention in the last days leading to Armageddon, its future is of the greatest significance. According to *The Stockholm International Peace Research Institution*: "In per capita terms, the Middle East

region is still the biggest spender in the Third World, spending roughly \$250 per capita in 1977 . . .” Since then it has increased considerably. This is crucial to the future, for the Bible clearly shows that Russia will ultimately invade the Middle East in its drive for world domination (Ezekiel 38).

### **Christ Warns of Trouble**

The troubled state of the world, the insoluble problems that distract it, are the subject of some prophetic words of Christ relating to the time of the end. He warned his disciples:

**“Upon the earth (there will be) distress of nations with perplexity . . . Men’s hearts failing them for fear, and for looking after those things which are coming on the earth . . . And then shall they see the Son of man coming in a cloud with power and great glory” (Luke 21:25-26).**

The word “perplexity” is from a Greek word denoting *without a way of escape, at one’s wit’s end*. That exactly describes the problems facing humanity today. There does not exist the man nor the combination of men with the wisdom and power to extricate the world from its predicament. Take the manufacture of arms as an example. If the nations were to abandon this industry, millions would be thrown out of work, and the economy of the world would collapse. If they do not do so, mankind faces annihilation through the use of frightening weapons of war.

Where is the solution?

Only in Christ!

It is significant, therefore, that in very context with the statement the Lord made concerning the nations being afflicted with problems of fearful import beyond their ability to solve, he should also speak comforting words of hope to his followers. To them he declared:

**“And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh” (Luke 21:28).**

Humanity terrified, fearful, and facing problems beyond the ability of its statesmen to solve; yet Christ’s followers calm, hopeful, confident in their redemption. Why? Because the latter look not to men but to God and Jesus Christ to draw the world out of the morass of trouble into which it has blundered.

### **The Future Foreshadowed By The Past**

In predicting the future to his disciples, the Lord Jesus Christ drew upon the examples and experiences of two men: Noah and Lot.

# German Inflation Statistics

Index Numbers (1913 = 1) of:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Currency Circulation</u>	<u>Reichsbank Notes</u>	<u>Reichsbank Private Credits</u>	<u>Treasury Bills Discounted (nearly Floating Debt)</u>	<u>Foreign Exchange Value of Gold Marks Expressed in Paper Marks</u>	<u>Wholesale Prices</u>	<u>Cost of Living</u>
(1,000,000,000 marks; end-of-month figures)							
1914 July	6.3	2.9	.....	0.3	1.00	1.00	1.00
1919 Jan.	34.5	23.6	16.4	58.6	2.03	2.62	.....*
1920 Jan.	51.0	37.3	25.1	88.3	15.40	12.06	.....
1921 Jan.	78.7	66.2	36.9	155.0	15.5	14.4	11.8
1922 Jan.	124	115	15.5	256	45.5	36.7	20.4
1922 July	208	190	33.6	308	118.0	100.6	58.9
1922 Sept.	332	317	86.2	451	350.0	287.0	133.2
1922 Dec.	1,295	1,280	675	1,495	1,810	1,475	685
1923 Jan.	2,000	1,985	1,173	2,082	4,300	2,875	1,720
1923 Feb.	3,536	3,513	2,564	3,588	6,700	5,585	2,643
1923 May	8,644	8,564	5,698	10,275	11,400	8,170	3,816
1923 June	17,393	17,291	9,970	22,020	26,200	19,385	7,650
1923 July	43,893	43,595	24,854	57,849	92,000	74,787	37,651
1923 Aug.	668,798	663,200	204,081	1,196,000	1,110,000	944,041	586,045
(1,000,000,000,000 marks)							
1923 Sept.	28,244	28,228	4,700	46,717	23,600,000	23,948,898	15,000,000
1923 Oct.	2,504,956	2,496,823	1,215,000	6,900,000	6,000,000,000	7,094,800,000	3,657,000,000
1923 Nov.	400,238,000	400,267,640	.....	191,610,000	530,000,000,000	725,700,000,000	657,000,000,000
1923 Dec.	496,585,346	496,507,425	.....	1,200,000	1,000,000,000,000	1,261,600,000,000	1,247,000,000,000

\* Figures for 1914-1919 are lacking

Inflation is a severe problem to the modern world, some nations exceeding 100% annually. The Bible refers to the possibility of one "earning wages to put it in a bag with holes" (Haggai 1:6). Describing events that type the time of the end, the prophet Zechariah predicted widespread unemployment, economic and civil disruptions. See Zechariah 8:10. The above runaway figures relate to

Germany before the advent of Hitler. The distress of the times paved the way for the uprise of Nazism and World War II. Present inflationary trends will lead to further problems to be solved by the perfect economic system to be established under Christ's rule. See Isaiah 23:18; 65:22-23.

Both lived in times of crisis which culminated in widespread disaster; but both escaped the destruction by means provided of God.

The words of the Lord are:

**“As it was in the days of Noah, so shall it be also in the days of the Son of man. They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage, until the day that Noah entered into the ark, and the flood came, and destroyed them all. Likewise also as it was in the days of Lot; they did eat, they drank, they bought, they sold, they planted, they builded; but the same day that Lot went out of Sodom it rained fire and brimstone from heaven, and destroyed them all. Even thus shall it be in the day when the Son of man is revealed” (Luke 17:26-30).**

It is significant that the Lord referred to the “days” (plural) of the Son of Man, rather than to the “day” (singular). That was for a very significant reason. It is obvious from the context of his words, that the very things he predicted and warned had an application to the frightful overthrow of Jerusalem in A.D. 70, which crisis and destruction foreshadow present trends and future developments. As the Jewish State was then overwhelmed, in a blood bath of frightful carnage, so Gentile society will be shortly (cp. Jeremiah 25:29).

The most meaningful feature of the Lord’s words, therefore, is that modern trends and conditions indicate that we are entering an epoch “like unto the days of Noah” and “of Lot.” There exists the same materialistic outlook; the same decline of homelife; the same upsurge of crime and violence; the same threat of widespread pollution, the same deterioration of morals, as preceded the flood of Noah’s day, or the fire that destroyed Sodom in the days of Lot.

The modern prevalence and legalising of homosexuality is a case in point. In the days of Lot, this perversion had become so common in Sodom as to be given the name of the city: Sodomy.

Does not its prevalence today illustrate the truth of the Lord’s words “As it was in the days of Lot . . .”? But the days of Noah and of Lot also were noted for divine intervention and judgment as the result of the unrepentant wickedness of the masses. They culminated in cataclysmic crises of judgment, which overwhelmed existing conditions, to make way for a new order.

The warning of Christ, therefore, signifies that we are approaching a crisis which shall overwhelm the world in judgment as it did in the past.

But do modern conditions compare with those of the days of Noah and of Lot?

The evidence shows that they do; but whereas, in the days of Noah, civilisation was destroyed by flood, today it will be overwhelmed by the fires of Armageddon.

### **An Age Of Easy Divorce**

*"They did eat, they drank, they married wives, they were given in marriage"* (Luke 17:27). These are the words of the Lord as he described the social conditions prior to the flood. They suggest a time of relaxed affluence, gross materialism, and easy divorce.

The record in Genesis states:

**"It came to pass that the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose"** (Genesis 6:1-2).

This describes a form of marriage between those who followed God (cp. 1 John 3:1), and those who did not, that is not according to the will of God. It was the act which brought the Lord's displeasure to the point where He decreed judgment, and set a time upon the days of opportunity for repentance.

#### **ABORTIONS & ILLEGAL BIRTHS (US)**

In 1975 there were 854,853 legal abortions; 272 for every 1000 live births. This had increased to 312 abortions per 1000 the following year. New York had the highest ratio: 624 to every 1000 live births.

Unmarried women had three out of four abortions. In 1975, there were 448,000 illegitimate births in US teenagers accounting for half the number. The proportion of illegitimate births were 14.3% in 1975 against 3.6% in 1940. The survey also showed that 41% of teenagers had pre-marital intercourse.

The above figures reveal the immoral trend in a society that has rejected the teaching of God.

It describes the very conditions that are obvious today.

Divorce is made easy, marriage is not the binding bond it was once; by an increasing number chastity and virginity are no longer treasured. In USA, over 1,000,000 divorces are granted every year; and a Government survey has estimated that more than one-third of all first-born children are conceived out of wed-lock.

In California the number of divorces equal the number of marriages.

But Australia is no better pro-rata of population. Here, in a population of 14,000,000 more than 16,000 divorces are granted each year!



A broken home has an inevitable psychological effect upon the family. It induces a feeling of insecurity, and breeds a spirit of unrest and revolt that in turn is transmitted to society. When the family unit disintegrates, juvenile delinquency increases. The Bible predicts this, and the conditions of society today reveal it. Paul declared:

**“This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents. . .” (2 Timothy 3:1-2).**

The present-day aimless, restless, wandering of young people as they roam the streets in search of excitement, the decline of home life, the disintegrating family units, the frustrating search for satisfaction, the violence and crime that accompanies such conditions, witness to the truth of the Bible predictions.

Certainly they witness that these days are comparable to those of Noah.

#### THE DAY OF CHRIST

*“God hath appointed a day in which he will judge the world in righteousness by that man whom he has ordained” (Acts 17:31).*

To this “day” all prophecy points. It is a day which would never come if left to itself. It is the day of Christ — a day that he will introduce by his own irresistible intervention in human affairs — giving us that one wise head and that one strong hand that will be equal to the stupendous task of seizing and transforming the entangled skein of human life — destroying much and reconstructing much, with the result of evolving a perfect system of human society, in which all the ideals of enlightened intelligence will be realised on the only possible foundation of human well-being — absolute submission to God in the enthusiasm of a loving worship through Christ.

What future is there to a nation whose young people despise authority, ridicule family loyalty and love, seek excitement in drug-taking, vicious muggings, moral licence, whilst repudiating every form of discipline or restraint? Only one of increasing violence, anarchy and evil, leading to complete disruption.

#### An Age of Violence and Crime

In the days of Noah, the earth was corrupt and “filled with violence” (Gen. 6:13). Widespread violence is a phenomena of modern life. Vicious murders, shootings and rape have increased out of all proportion. In 1959, USA recorded 1,592,289 crimes. Ten years later, this had increased to nearly 5,000,000.

Since 1960 it has revealed an increase in serious crimes of 148% while its population has increased by only 15%!

But other nations have kept pace with US in this terrible record. Consider the bombings, shootings, violence, and terrorism recorded throughout the world today, from Ireland to Israel; from Africa to Australia. It is an age of lawlessness, and its fruits are seen in every strata of society. It has even invaded the schools and colleges. Students have resorted to violence, have beaten up their instructors, held officials to ransom, given themselves over to rioting and wanton destruction. For example, in 1970 there were 2,972 recorded cases of wilful damage in South Australia, but the record of vandalism steadily advanced year by year to 6,863 cases in 1975 (*The Advertiser* 22/11/75)! Investigation revealed that typically, the vandal is an adolescent from 13-18, often operating in a small group.

#### FOOD SHORTAGE

In view of the population increase, by the end of this century, less than 20 years from now, world food supply must almost double! And this must occur on a food production base that in many areas is rapidly deteriorating. Already one billion humans are significantly or seriously malnourished. Food authorities estimate that half that number (500 million) are abjectly poverty-stricken. Yet thousands are leaving rural areas for an urban life. Christ's reign will correct this. Life will be based upon small settlements in rural areas (Micah 4:4); and, under his wise administration, productivity will be assured: "The plowman will overtake the reaper . . ." (Amos 9:13).

Perhaps these young people react to the environment of industrial unrest, ruthless demand, threats, violence, and strikes in which they live. Never before, in recorded history, has there been such shooting, bombing, and murdering of innocent people as today. Indeed, in an age of inflation and rapidly spiralling costs, human life remains the cheapest, most easily expendable commodity. The daily slaughter on the roads through irresponsible, selfish, or drunken driving witnesses to that fact.

The record of Scripture concerning the days of Noah states that:

**"God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually, and it grieved Him . . ." (Genesis 6:5).**

What must be the reaction of God now, as He views our world rejecting His mercy and truth, and reflecting this image of the past?

In Noah's day, He cleansed the earth by a flood of

unprecedented extent and violence; in the impending future, He will purge it with the fire of divine judgment, that He might reform it in righteousness under the control of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God has not abdicated His authority; He is not "dead," as some blasphemously allege, but will in His time, move against the godless society of today. Meanwhile, for right-minded people, this is a day of opportunity, similar to that which was given people in Noah's day before the flood. They were offered repentance. The record states: "Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord," for he "walked with God" (Genesis 6:8-9).

In an environment of gross evil, blasphemy and wickedness, Noah sought a higher way of life, and discovered a joy and satisfaction that eluded his contemporaries.

#### POPULATION EXPLOSION

Though the population explosion has been slowed considerably, it still constitutes a major threat to the world. A third of the world's population goes to bed hungry, and it is feared that as natural resources are used up, the nations may turn on each other to secure sufficient to retain life on the globe. In addition, millions are deserting rural districts for an urban life in the cities so increasing the problem.

In 28 years between 1950 and 1978 the population of US increased from 152,271,000 to 218,059,000. India, between 1971 and 1977 increased from 547,949,000 to 608,000,000. China in the last census (1953) had a population of 601,938,135; today it is assessed at 930,000,000.

The Solution: See Isaiah 65:19-25.

#### Pollution And Population

Again, the record states that "in the days of Noah," "God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was *corrupt*" (Genesis 6:12).

Man had polluted the earth as he is busily doing today. In this age, selfish greed has resulted in the pollution of land, sea and air alike. Man has created a problem of living that he cannot control. Cities are gradually becoming uninhabitable, land unproductive, water a cesspool of death.

The *National Centre for Air Pollution Control (USA)* claimed in 1965 that there were 129 million tons of air pollutants rising into the air, and that this is increasing each year. The result is a poisonous atmosphere. At present, in Tokyo, policemen must return to their stations from point-duty every few hours in order to breathe fresh air; on bad days, children in school are issued with gas-masks. A few years back, the village of Knapsack, in Europe, was officially declared unfit for human

habitation because of air pollution.

Indeed, every major city today has its dark cloud of poisonous smog to cope with, which every year becomes more heavy and menacing.

The ecology of creation is thrown out of balance. Whilst man has devised pesticides which have sharply improved farm crops, they have also caused spectacular kills of fish and wildlife, thus upsetting the balance of nature. Fish are dying as the result of pesticides being washed into streams and oceans. Complete species of wildlife are slowly being exterminated. The Sea of Galilee which once teemed with life, is rapidly becoming a sea of death; the Mediterranean, because of pollutants ruthlessly poured into its waters, is becoming sterile.

At the same time, man's ruthless exploitation of land is threatening production.

And side by side with this, there is the demand for more food because of the population explosion. The population of the world is increasing by some 70 million people annually, without adequate compensatory increase in food production. The consequence is that millions of people are on a starvation



**YOUTHS RIOTING IN LONDON.** Normally conservative law-abiding Britain recently erupted in an orgy of violence and vandalism. The Bible predicts that discontent and violence would be typical of the time of the end (See Genesis 6:11; Luke 17:26; 2 Timothy 3:1-5). Christ's reign on earth will change such a state — Isaiah 60:18.

diet. There is such a state of imbalance in the earth that it is estimated that 10,000 people starve to death every day in backward countries, whilst at the same time, in Western countries, millions of dollars are spent annually in advertising more varieties of pets' foods!

The population of India, already estimated at 650 million is increasing at the rate of 21 million every year (an Indian is born every 1½ seconds). Though starvation is rife, it is estimated that by the year 2000, the population will be one billion.

North of Australia, the islands of Indonesia are crowded with over 100 million people, whilst in Malaysia, and further north in China, are countless millions more. Yet the population of Australia is static and the continent largely empty. The ultimate outcome is not a matter of doubt; it is only a matter of time.

The population explosion, along with the rapid and increasing pollution of earth's resources, must ultimately erupt in war, with overburdened countries fighting for possession of existing, arable or vacant land.

**TELEVISION BRINGS THE WORLD INTO THE HOME** — boasts one maker. But it is a world of glamourised lust and violence which, fed into the mind, plays a compelling influence in undermining a Godly character. This is reflected in the gross immorality and violence which are features of the modern world. People who care have warned against the introduction of TV in the home.

Consider the polluting, corrupting, destroying influence of modern life. Take, as example, Los Angeles, with its 9 million people. It is computed that for 300 days a year, a pall of deadly smog hangs over the city, causing eyes to smart and water, and leaving in its train, a heritage of respiratory illnesses. One would imagine that people would leave such an environment; but no, the population increases instead of declining, with more people flooding the area.

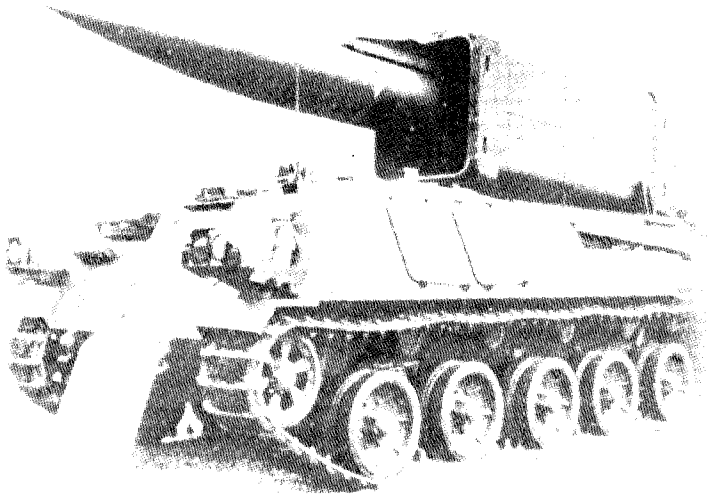
The example of Los Angeles is repeated throughout the world. Consider the manner in which people crowd the main cities of Australia, leaving the greater part of it empty. There is no future for such a civilisation; obviously it carries its own death warrant.

These are a few of the facts of the world situation. But the most significant feature is that the Bible predicted that such conditions would exist upon the earth prior to the coming of Christ, and that he, alone, would be competent to deal with it.

### Industry Of Death

Add to the problems above the threat that exists from the weapons of destruction man has developed; and the crisis becomes even more crucial. Nuclear devices with an explosive force equal to one million tons of TNT, or 60 times the force of the bomb dropped on Hiroshima, have been made and tested. For the first time in recorded history, man has the power to totally destroy life upon the earth. US has stockpiled more than 30,000 atomic devices with a total potential of 25,000 megaton; and Russia has more than 15,000 such devices. To recognise the destructive potential of this stockpile, bear in mind that it takes 50 Hiroshima-type atomic bombs to equal 1 megaton, the equivalent of 1 million tons of TNT. Other nations have stockpiled atomic devices as well, to add to the terror. Incendiary napalm has been perfected and widely used in war. The temperature of a napalm flame can approach 2060°C, inflicting burns that are deep and extensive, if they do not kill. Napalm has been used indiscriminately upon soldiers

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A tactical nuclear weapon, the French Pluton ground-to-air missile.

Billions of dollars of the world's wealth are spent in producing munitions designed only to kill and destroy. The Bible predicts a time when "they shall beat their swords into plowshares, their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isaiah 2:4). Christ's earthly reign will establish such conditions, and the energies of a contented and happy people will be devoted to the instruments of peace, productivity, and mutual assistance.

and civilians alike. Men, women and children have been cruelly and horribly burnt by this terrible weapon in the cause of civilisation. Meanwhile the arms race continues. In every field: land, sea and air, weapons are becoming more sophisticated, more destructive.

And as wars grow more frequent throughout the world, they become the testing ground of these arsenals of destruction.

Christ's coming alone will solve the problems of this polluted earth of destruction. Concerning his reign on earth, the Bible teaches:

**“He shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more” (Isaiah 2:4).**

### **Willingly Ignorant**

Referring again to conditions before the Flood, the Lord remarked of those so destroyed that they “*knew not* until the Flood came, and took them all away; so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be” (Matthew 24:39).

Though they “knew not,” they should have known, for the preaching of Noah should have made it evident. But they refused to hearken or to heed. Another Scripture declares that they “were willingly ignorant” (2 Peter 3:5). They deliberately set aside the counsel and appeal of God. Peter the Apostle, declares that “the longsuffering of God waited in the days of Noah” (1 Peter 3:20), but the people refused to heed. God, in His mercy, was willing to save that generation if only it had hearkened to His appeal. The very “delay” in the outpouring of judgment (a period of 120 years — see Genesis 6:3) was expressive of His grace should any desire to repent and seek the salvation He was willing to offer.

We have an exact repetition of this today. Despite the obvious signs in the earth of Christ's coming, people are unheeding of the message of God. To those few who are prepared to hear, Peter urges that any seeming delay in the consummation of the Divine program to send Jesus Christ should be recognised as a period of opportunity. “Account that the longsuffering of our Lord is salvation,” he wrote (2 Peter 3:15).

Do people heed today? Apart from a small minority, they do not. There is little general interest in the things of God, despite the very obvious evidence of the unfolding of His plan and purpose in the earth.

## Modern Sodom

In ancient Sodom, conditions deteriorated to such a vicious, immoral, and violent state, that when two visitors presented themselves to Lot, and indicated their intention of "abiding in the street all night," he was appalled (Genesis 19:2-3). He was familiar with the moral and physical dangers of two men spending the night in such a vicious city where violence and homosexuality were rife. And similar dangers exist in many modern cities.

He had found a sharp deterioration of conditions in Sodom since his arrival in that wicked, sinful city. We read that he was "vexed with the filthy conversation of the wicked" (2 Peter 2:7), "vexed by what he saw and heard."

Does not that describe conditions of today? Consider the suggestive obscenity of some forms of television entertainment; the nudity, violence and immorality that is dramatised by seductive movies that are flashed before the eyes of impressionable young people. How often has the sorry statement been made that a young person was incited to violence, or to lust, by "seeing and hearing" these things on television or movie screen!

Consider the "literature" handed to young children as part of their education. A few years ago, the publishers of some

LEGALISE  
POT



By encouraging the Chinese to smoke opium and by sponsoring its distribution among the populations of that country, the British so undermined the moral fibre of the people as to be able to dominate them to their own enrichment. The prevalence of drug-taking today among the countries of the West is similarly destroying the characters of people. It is claimed that over 15,000,000 people in US have developed the habit, and the need for money to purchase it has led many to crime. Unfortunately, and unhappily, the habit is often formed during schooling at colleges and universities. The Bible warns that among those who shall be rejected by Christ are "sorcerers" (Revelation 21:8). However, the word in the Greek is "pharmakeus" and relates to those who have recourse to drugs. But the "drugs" in question are those of the mind, constituting false doctrine. The serpent told Eve, "Thou shalt not surely die" (Genesis 3:4), and not only dulled her mind to the need of obeying God, but established the first lie which has been repeated many times since in various forms. The teaching of the alleged immortality of the soul is such a drug, and can dull the mind to the reality of death and the need to seek eternal life through Christ.



books would have been prosecuted for obscenity, and the books burned as pornographic. Today children are encouraged to read such works, and sometimes are taught the meaning of the obscene words which are found therein. A book was shown to the writer some time ago that is used by the schools, and which described in detail the sex act. No wonder moralists state that virginity among young unmarried women is becoming the exception rather than the rule. Young girls are encouraged by some teachers to use the pill, and to experiment with sex so as to prevent any inhibitions. Indeed, never before has sex been exploited as today; never before has so much been published and spoken concerning sex, child welfare, marital relations and similar subjects; and never before has the moral state of society been in such a condition of abject bankruptcy!

Human folly must be driven from the seat of authority; mankind must be violently brought into submission; right laws must be forced upon them with a rod of iron; and their administration must be placed in the hands of just and merciful rulers, who will govern for the glory of God, and the well-being of man; and who will not be liable to removal by death. But what possibility of such a remedy is there in the resources of man? None. This is what the purpose of God provides for. We have the earnest of its accomplishment in the resurrection of Christ. His co-rulers are in process of development.

There has been a sudden unparalleled growth of homosexuality in modern life. Why? Obviously as the result of people talking and thinking upon the subject, so that they finally decide to experiment. As a result, in many parts of the world, homosexuality is legalised — as it was in Sodom.

Lot's visitors soon had evidence of the vile criminality of the city. When the men of it learned of their presence there, they endeavoured to force their attention upon them in homosexual acts of violence (Genesis 19:4-5).

This sort of thing is becoming more and more common in modern society, and will continue to do so, until the Lord's return. For did he not declare: "As it was in the days of Lot...."?

So depraved has modern society become, that some time back, in Australia, a group of homosexuals were depicted on TV describing their experiences in the crudest language, including (according to report) their attempts to incite young men to similar acts with them. Lesbianism and homosexuality are today considered by movie makers as fit subjects for the screen.

Christ's warning words have had terrible, literal fulfilment.

But though, like Lot, we may be "vexed" by all we see and hear of these things, we can have the consolation of knowing that an end to them has been decreed. Christ's reign on earth will replace wickedness with righteousness.

### **The Basic Problem**

Sodom's sin was not merely immorality (that has always existed more or less), but the attitude of the people towards the grossest forms of it. It was committed without shame or any attempt to hide it. Indeed, rewards were given for those who were able to reveal new forms of perversion:

**"The shew of their countenance doth witness against them; and they declare their sin as Sodom, they hide it not. Woe unto them! for they have rewarded evil" (Isaiah 3:9).**

Perversion became the normal way of life in Sodom. The people openly supported the wicked and condemned such as Lot who raised a voice against the prevailing wickedness (Genesis 19:9). A philosophy was set for the teaching that discipline was dangerous as causing inhibitions. The consequence was that expression was given to every form of licence:

**"They commit adultery, and walk in lies: they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness" (Jeremiah 23:14).**

This pursuit of evil was made possible by the prevailing affluence. Working hours were reduced, food and money were plentiful, the people wanted for nothing, and saw no need of God.

They manifested "pride" induced by "fulness of bread and abundance of idleness" (Ezekiel 16:49).

Sodom foreshadowed the conditions of modern society. The welfare state has encouraged pride, self-indulgence, abundance of idleness. Consider the state of things in Australia. Young people "go on Government relief," and grouping resources, live together comfortably in a luxury flat, spurning parental discipline and authority, idling their lives away. Consider the frightening increase of broken marriages in modern society. Many young married couples show scant responsibility, respect or affection towards each other. The loyalties and love of marriage are discarded, and the marriage breaks up — the wife assured that she can obtain adequate support for herself and children from Government bounty. Many cases exist of "deserted" wives entering into a *de facto* "marriage" arrangement with another man, whilst continuing to draw the pension. There are societies and publications dedicated to the break-

down of every restraint whilst advocating in the most blatant terms every form of sexual licence.

The licence of Sodom, described in Genesis 19 and elsewhere, foreshadowed with frightful literalness, the conditions of wickedness manifested today.

Let us emphasis again; God will not forever tolerate these evil conditions.

Judgment came swift, decisive and unexpected on the wicked civilisation of Noah's day, and upon the abandoned city of Sodom, providing "an example" of divine judgment (Jude 7) such as will purge the current wicked and abandoned civilisation.

Today, as in the days of Noah, men close their eyes to facts, and refuse to heed the message and warning of God, but the time of national judgment is near at hand, and they are wise who heed the facts and seek refuge from the coming storm.

Peter taught that the world of Noah's day perished by water, but that "the heavens and earth which are now", will be judged by fire (2 Peter 3). These expressions are frequently used symbolically in Scripture to denote political order (Deuteronomy 32:1; Isaiah 1:2,10; 34:5). The heavens represent the rulers, and the earth the ruled.

It is obvious, by his reference to the world of Noah's day, that Peter was describing the political order of nations, and not the literal earth. The latter will never be destroyed (see Ecclesiastes 1:4; Psalm 148:6; Isaiah 45:18), but is destined, in the Divine providence of things, to ultimately reflect the glory of God, even to its inhabitants (Numbers 14:21; Isaiah 61:11).

Peter continued:

**"Seeing then that all these things shall be dissolved, what manner of persons ought ye to be in all holy living and godliness. Looking for and earnestly desiring the coming of the day of God, wherein the (political) heavens being on fire shall be dissolved, and the elements shall melt with fervent heat. Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness" (2 Peter 3:11-13).**

We are not left in doubt as to what constitutes the "new heavens and new earth". It will comprise the Kingdom of God again set up on earth, with Christ ruling from Jerusalem. All present forms of government will be swept away to be replaced by a divine, political kingdom that will embrace all nations and extend to the confines of the earth. Here are the explanatory words of Isaiah the prophet:

**"Behold, I (God) will create new heavens and a new earth;**

**and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for even in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy..." (Isaiah 65:17-18).**

The political, social and religious administration of today will be replaced by the theocracy to be established by Christ in the earth. The basis of this will be the restoration of the Kingdom of Israel, and the extension of it throughout the earth. The modern revival of Israel is a sure and certain sign of its approach. But as mankind will not submit to Christ willingly, the political world will be purged by the fires of Armageddon, as Peter warned in the reference above.

## **THE GULF WAR**

That Armageddon is looming is beyond all doubt. Our sketch-plan of this future world crisis, printed on p. 40, is based upon Ezekiel 38 and Daniel 11:40-45. Moreover, current events are shaping up for such a confrontation, and so confirm what the Bible teaches. The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, the fall of the Shah of Iran, and the Gulf War that threatens the economy of the West and to precipitate World War III.

The Russian Bear is on the warpath, and obviously will ultimately move into Iran (Persia) and Iraq. This is beyond doubt, because Persia is mentioned in Ezekiel 38:5 as being with Russia when it moves south into Israel (Ezekiel 38:14-16); and Iraq occupies the territory of ancient Babylon, the gold of the prophetic Image seen by Nebuchadnezzar (Daniel 2). The King was not only given an outline of world history in the various metals of that image, but was also told that it represented a confederacy of nations that "shall be in the latter days" (Dan. 2:28). In the present M.E. conflict, the gold (Babylon, Iraq) is weakening itself and its neighbours by waging war against Persia (Iran), the silver of the Image, whilst on the border, Russia (the clay of the Image) awaits to move into both areas. This it will do ultimately, and plunge the world into war by an invasion of the Middle East.

The world will only be relieved from war and the threat of war by the coming of Christ. The prophecy of Daniel 2 culminates in the declaration of God's purpose with humanity:

**"The God of heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed; and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).**

Christ will reign in conjunction with those who today seek redemption in him. Daniel declared:

**"And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him."**

The dominion over which they are to reign is "under heaven" — that is on earth. Christ taught: "Blessed are the meek for they shall inherit the earth" (Matt. 5:5). Belief of the Gospel, and baptism into the name of Christ Jesus are the first steps to salvation (Mark 16:15-16).



## SECTION THREE: GOD'S WITNESS TODAY

### Modern Revival Of Israel

Is there evidence that God is working among the nations today? Yes there is! It is seen in the modern revival of Israel.

This amazing political phenomenon of modern times directly and remarkably fulfils Bible prophecy. Israel came into existence on May 15, 1948, after two thousand years of dispersion. Prior to that date attempts had been made from the time of Hadrian in the year A.D. 135 to Hitler during 1933-1945 to annihilate the Jewish people. Hadrian banned them from the city of Jerusalem, and in AD 135 rebuilt it as a Roman Colony, giving it the new name of *Aelia Capitolina*. Hitler destroyed 6,000,000 Jews in the concentration camps of Germany.

Between Hadrian and Hitler numerous other tyrants attempted what they failed to do: Destroy the Jew.

But their attempts failed, because all such forms of anti-Semitism fight a losing battle with destiny.

God declared of the Jewish people:

**"For I am with thee, saith the Lord, to save thee, though I make a full end of all nations whither I have scattered thee, yet will I not make a full end of thee; but I will correct thee in measure, and will not leave thee altogether unpunished" (Jer. 30:11).**

Ezekiel prophesied:

**"Thus saith the Lord God; Behold, I will take the children of Israel from among the heathen (nations), whither they be gone, and will gather them on every side, and bring them into their own land; and I will make them one nation in the land upon the mountains of Israel . . ." (Ezekiel 37:21-22).**

Jesus Christ prophesied:

**"They (the Jews) shall fall by the edge of the sword, and shall be led away captive into all nations: and Jerusalem shall be trodden down of the Gentiles, until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).**

The word *until* marks off the epoch of downtreading, and sets the stage for the uprising of Israel. The restoration of the people and nation in our time are remarkable facts that defy adequate explanation apart from the record of Scripture and proclamation of prophecy. Why should the Jew retain his identity in spite of thousands of years of persecution and scattering? Why should Israel have come into existence when

other nations did not want it? What is the cause of the remarkable revival of a people that Gentilism condemned to extinction?

Bible prophecy alone has the answer.

The revival of Israel is the great sign of Christ's second coming.

The Bible declares:

**"When the Lord shall build up Zion, He shall appear in His glory" (Psalm 102:16).**

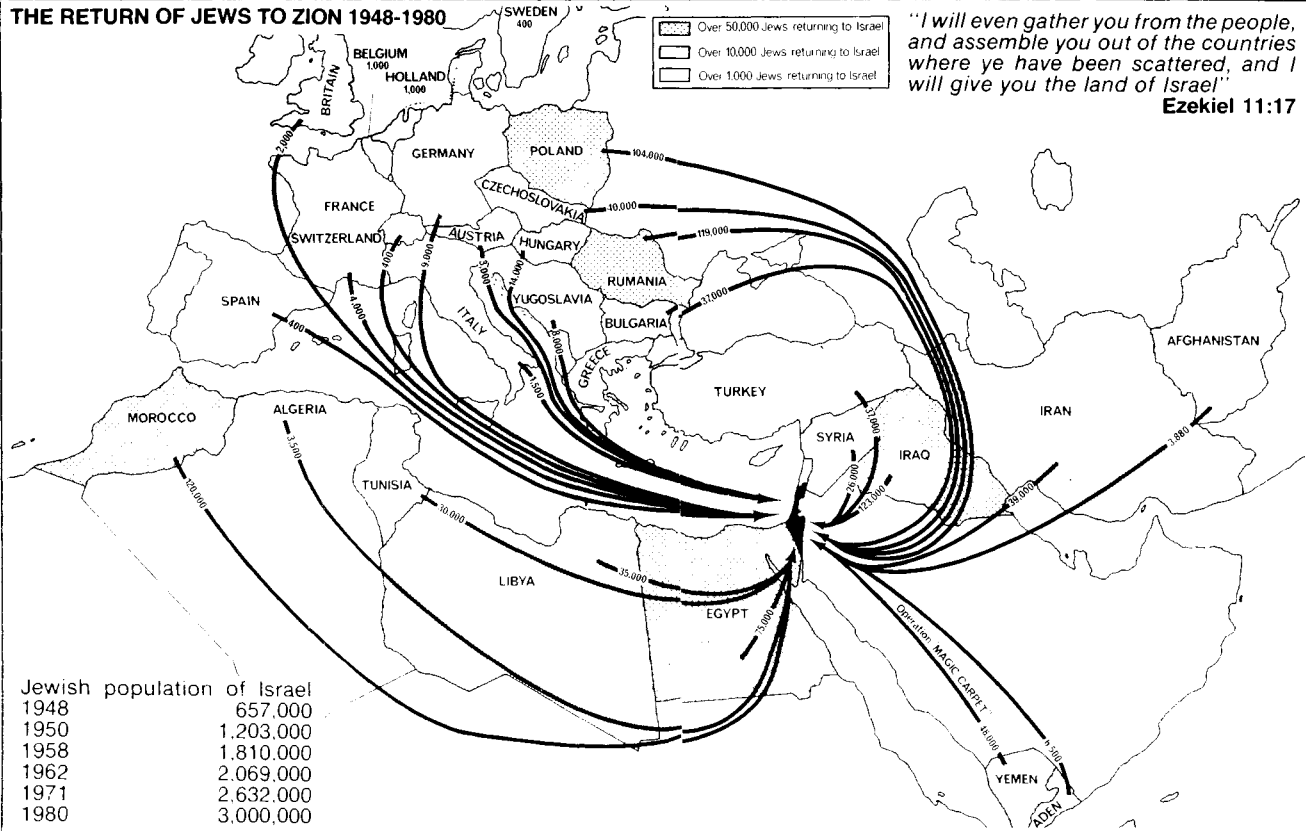
**"If the casting away of them (the Jews) be the reconciling of the world (in that salvation was offered to Gentiles), what shall the receiving of them be, but life from the dead" (a sign of coming resurrection — Romans 11:15).**

At Christ's return, the Jewish people will be humbled and disciplined. Ultimately, from the metropolis of Jerusalem, and



Jews from the Warsaw Ghetto being herded off to the German death camps during the Hitler regime. After the fall of Hitler the Jews were determined to establish their independence in Palestine, and so the State of Israel came into existence. Jeremiah predicted that "hunters" would hunt the Jews back to the land (Ch. 16:16). Hitler was one such.

# THE RETURN OF JEWS TO ZION 1948-1980



in the midst of a reformed nation, Christ's reign will extend over all the earth (Isaiah 2:2-4; Micah 4:7-8).

Christ's return is considered an impossibility by man in this materialistic age, but the existence of the nation of Israel in the earth again, is a stubborn fact of history, which compels one to acknowledge the hand of God in world events.

When the facts are examined they proclaim in clarion tones that God is guiding the destiny of nations. Indeed, the eminent archaeologist and professor of Semitic Languages, Dr. W. F. Albright in his work *From The Stone Age To Christianity* states:

**“That the prophets were not only dedicated men, but also predictors of the future, is fully recognised in Biblical tradition but has been under-emphasised by modern Bible scholars . .**

In other words, those who refuse to acknowledge the hand of God in world events are either ignorant, or they deliberately close their eyes to the evidence.

In the opinion of this eminent archaeologist the evidence of this science not only confirms Israel's history but also the validity of their prophecies.

God has brought the fact of Israel's revival prominently before the notice of all mankind. Every part of the world is cognisant of something stirring in the Middle East, though they may not recognise its significance. In that way, Arab terrorism has performed a valuable service to humanity by bringing the political revival of Israel prominently before all.

And this, in itself, fulfills a detail of Bible prophecy.

God declared through Jeremiah the prophet:

**“I will bring again the captivity of Jacob . . . in the latter days ye shall consider it” (Jeremiah 30:18-24).**

And in these “latter days” the whole world has been forced to consider it, even though it does not recognise its significance. The very price that motorists pay for petrol, witnesses to the fact of Israel, for its existence is the cause of the inflationary prices asked by Arab petroleum-barons.

In Jeremiah 31:10 we read these words:

**“Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off, and say, He that scattered Israel will gather him, and keep him, as a shepherd doth his flock.”**

God calls upon all mankind to heed this great latter-day sign, and the Arab-Jewish crisis has brought it prominently before all. But most are blind to its significance, because they fail to heed the message of the Bible.

The Lord Jesus plainly pronounced that Jerusalem is to be





**unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice IN THE EARTH. In his days, Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely; and this is his name whereby he shall be called, The Lord our Righteousness".**

The peace-making laws of the Lord Jesus will go forth from the "house of God" established in Jerusalem (Micah 4:1-4), causing submission to his rule (Isaiah 23:18; 45:14) effectively uniting humanity in a universal worship in truth (Isaiah 60:3; Zechariah 14:16-17). Thus Jerusalem is destined to rise to a greatness and glory that shall last throughout the ages, such as she never had in the past (see Isaiah 33:20; Micah 4:7).

### **Jerusalem's Elevation Connected With Christ's Coming**

Notice how these changed conditions on earth are linked with the restoration of Israel. Prior to the birth of the Lord Jesus Christ, his mother was told:

**"Thou shalt call his name, Jesus. He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest; and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his father David; and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-33).**

Those words are simple, direct, clear, easily understood. David ruled in Jerusalem, and Jesus described that city as "the city of the great king" (Matthew 5:35). He declared that it would be "trodden down of the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke 21:24).

When his disciples enquired as to what their reward should be, he drew their attention to those facts of prophecy:

**"In the regeneration, when the son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory, ye also shall sit upon twelve thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel. And every one that hath forsaken (anything) for my name's sake, shall receive an hundredfold (more than he gave up), and shall inherit everlasting life" (Matthew 19:28-29).**

This teaching of the New Testament demands the restoration of the Jewish people, the revival of their nation, the deliverance of the city from the hands of the Gentiles, the return of Christ, the resurrection and elevation of his faithful followers, the granting to them of life eternal, and their co-operation with him in the Reign of righteousness, he will establish upon the earth.

What do we see today? We observe the shadowing forth of these requirements. In 1917, with the proclamation of the Balfour Declaration inviting the Jewish people to return to their

ancient homeland, the process began. Jews commenced to return to the land of their forefathers, the persecution of Hitler driving them to do so, fulfilling Jeremiah 16:16. In 1947 with the Declaration of the UNO supporting the application of the Jewish people for national independence it was further advanced. In 1948 Israel became a nation and successfully resisted the overwhelming might of the Arab world with all its resources of wealth and munitions to destroy it. After 2000 years of dispersion Israel again was a political fact in the earth. In 1967 after an amazing victory accomplished in six days, Jerusalem was freed from anti-semitic domination, and for the first time in two millenniums Israel again controlled its ancient capital.

Is there no significance in these events? Of course there is! They witness to the fulfilling of Bible prophecy. They demonstrate that we rest upon a sure foundation of fact, when we



# Tribune

EUROPEAN  
EDITION

DAY, MAY 15, 1948

THE NEW YORK HERALD  
(ESTABLISHED IN EUROPE 1867)

**Militiamen  
Called in  
Meat Strike**

**Strike Mob Seizes  
Cudahy Hostages**

**Mechanized Units Sent  
To Minnesota Towns  
As Violence Grows**

Special to the European Edition.  
NEWPORT, Minn., May 14.—  
Violence in the packing-house workers' strike, which reached a peak last night when 200 strikers forced their way into the Cudahy plant here and seized thirty maintenance men as hostages, brought out the National Guard today on Governor Luther Youngdahl's orders that must be restored.

Adults (10c) El-

## Jewish Palestine State Is Recognized by U.S.; Jerusalem Battle Starts

**Bagpipes Skirl, Snipers Duel  
As Britain's Mandate Ends**

**Cunningham Leaves in Bullet-Proof Car Without  
Farewell From Either Side; Red Cross Flag  
Replaces Union Jack on King David Hotel**

An editorial on the Palestine  
problem appears on Page 2.

greeted the High Commissioner as he stepped into his bullet-proof Daimler for a final journey through Jerusalem.

Troops guard

**Government Called  
De Facto Authority**

**White House Secretary  
Says U.S. Still Desires  
A Truce in Palestine**

Proclamation yesterday  
new State of Israel in R  
had been ignored  
m

Establishment of Israel as a nation. Act 2. Ezekiel 37:22a partially fulfilled.

base our hope upon its teaching. They constitute God's witness to humanity that what he offers in the way of salvation is true and concrete. To the Jewish people, He declares:

**"I do not do this for your sakes, O house of Israel, but for Mine Holy name's sake, which ye have profaned among the heathen, whither ye went . . . For I will take you from among the heathen, and gather you out of all countries, and will bring you into your own land" (Ezekiel 36:22-24).**

God does it "for His holy name's sake", because of the word He gave to Abraham the forefather of the Jewish people that He would make of him "a great nation" (Genesis 12:1-2).

The fact that God vindicates His promise to Abraham in spite of the rebelliousness and disobedience of the Jewish people witnesses to the fact that we can place every confidence in His word. It shall not fail, even though we might do so. God will remain true, though every man may prove to be false (Romans 3:4). Both the redemption of the world, and personal salvation, are linked with the restoration of Israel. The Apostles taught:

**"Repent ye therefore, and be converted, that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord; and He shall send Jesus Christ, which before was preached unto you: whom the heaven must receive until the times of restitution (or restoration, i.e. of Israel) of all things, which God hath spoken by the mouth of all His holy prophets since the world began" (Acts 3:19-21).**

In this statement, the Apostles linked the facts of personal salvation, and the vast changes Christ will make throughout the earth (the "times of refreshing"), with the restoration of Israel and the return of Christ.

In the light of that statement, events in the Middle East are of the greatest significance.

The disciples recognised that personal salvation is bound up in the restoration and revival of Israel. After the resurrection of the Lord, at the conclusion of long discussions with him as to the purpose of God, they clearly saw this as basic to the purpose of God. They therefore enquired of him:

**"Lord, wilt thou at this time restore the Kingdom to Israel?"**

In reply, the Lord did not upbraid them with failing to understand his teaching. Instead, he endorsed the doctrine that in due time the kingdom would be restored to Israel; but he added: "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in His own power" (Acts 1:6-7). In

other words, the Kingdom will be restored to Israel, but in God's own time. Shortly afterwards, he ascended into heaven, and the Apostles received the message from the angels that "this same Jesus, which is taken from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

### What Kingdom Will Be Restored?

The "Kingdom" to be restored to Israel is the Kingdom of God. That, indeed, was its ancient title. Solomon, the son of David, is described as "sitting upon the throne of the kingdom

11 JUNE 1967

THE SUNDAY TIMES

# Troops weep at Wailing Wall: 'We've waited a thousand years'

the man had died. And then a man behind me was killed by a sniper firing from a wall about five feet high. The men were trying to fire back, but they didn't know where to aim. Then they put the last dead man on a stretcher and ran off with him. He had a handkerchief over his face to show he was dead.

All through this I could hear the sounds of a tank battle going on outside the city. The Jordanians when they were in took their



Jerusalem occupied by Israelis in 1967. Luke 21:24 partially fulfilled.

he went up the Damascus road, the American flag was flying on

of the Lord over Israel" (1 Chronicles 28:5; 29:23). God was the real King (see Judges 8:23). He gave Israel its laws, its constitution and its form of worship. He appointed its kings and their form of rule. But the people despised their precious heritage, and turned from God. Hence he took the Kingdom from them. Jesus warned its leaders: "I say unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof" (Matthew 21:43). So when Jewry rejected its Messiah the kingdom was taken from them, from Israel, until the time appointed of God when it shall be restored.

Since that time, the Gospel has been preached to Gentiles, and opportunity has been given to people everywhere to identify themselves with Christ, and so live in hope of the restoration of the Kingdom he will set up on earth. That kingdom is the Kingdom of God, and therefore associated with Israel under a divine administration. Accordingly, those who accept Christ in the way appointed are described as being "brought nigh" to "the commonwealth of Israel" (Ephesians 2:12-13). They are invited to become the associates of the Lord Jesus Christ when he will reign upon the earth. The declaration of Scripture is "they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years" (Revelation 20:4).

### **The Spiritual Revival of Israel**

The nation of Israel will form an important element of the Kingdom Christ will set up. The Jewish people will be humbled and educated in principles of righteousness, to form "the first dominion" in Christ's universal empire (Micah 4:8). They, together with Gentiles who similarly will be humbled and educated (Isaiah 25:7-8), will form the mortal peoples over whom Christ and his immortalised followers will rule (Revelation 5:9-10).

Paul taught "that blindness in part is happened to Israel, until the fulness of the Gentiles be come in" (Romans 11:25). When that event takes place, and Christ returns, the Jewish people will be humbled by reverses and will submit to the Lord Jesus:

**"There shall come out of Zion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob; for this is My covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Romans 11:26-27).**

It is an amazing fact of fulfilled Bible prophecy that the Jewish people remain in ignorance of the truth in Christ Jesus to this day. It is in accordance with the declaration of Scripture in



Romans 11 and elsewhere. It is staggering that a people in whose experiences prophecy is so clearly fulfilled, who live in the land where the Lord ministered, and have before their very eyes the archaeological and historical evidence of the truth of God's word in both the Old and New Testaments, should fail completely to accept Christ as their Saviour. *Yet Bible prophecy demands it, and so the facts reveal it.* So opportunity is for Gentiles to embrace the Truth and inherit the privileges of Israel (see Acts 28:20). Paul wrote:

**"As concerning the Gospel, they are enemies for your sakes; but as touching the election, they are beloved for the fathers' sakes" (Romans 11:28).**

They oppose the Gospel, but they are preserved because of the promise God gave to Abraham, the father of the Jewish people; promises which provide the foundation of the whole purpose of God with Christ and humanity (see Genesis 12:1-3; Galatians 3:8). The Bible teaches that Christ came "to confirm the promises made unto the fathers" (Romans 15:8).

Then will be fulfilled the words of Isaiah 65:17:

**"For, behold, I create new heavens and a new earth; and the former shall not be remembered, nor come into mind. But be ye glad and rejoice for ever in that which I create: for, behold, I create Jerusalem a rejoicing, and her people a joy."**

A new political order will be set up on earth with Jerusalem as its metropolis. The prophet Daniel taught:

**"The god of heaven shall set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed. . . ." (Daniel 2:44).**

The Lord Jesus was born "King of the Jews" and died with that caption over his cross (Matthew 2:2; 27:37). But never has he exercised that authority. The Jewish people reject his claim to such a position to this day. But shortly a crisis will involve the Middle East, and Israel in particular that will so humble them that they will cry unto God for help. A deliverer will save them; and to their amazement when they view the "wounds in his hands" (Zechariah 13:6), and look upon him whom their forefathers pierced (Zechariah 12:10; Revelation 1:7), they will mourn with deep contrition, and with humbleness of mind turn to him whom they rejected 1900 years ago, and repudiated ever since. They will become submissive to him, accepting him as their Messiah and King in truth. Christ will reign from Jerusalem, first over Israel, but ultimately over the whole world.





## SECTION FOUR: THE CRISIS THAT WILL INTRODUCE CHRIST TO THE WORLD

### **Christ's First Work: Resurrection And Judgment**

The first work of Christ at his return will be to raise the dead and give eternal life to all who have lived in accordance with his teaching (see 1 Peter 4:17). The Lord, himself, declared: "Behold I come quickly, and my reward is with me to give to every man according as his work shall be" (Revelation 22:12).

He did not teach that we go to heaven for our reward, but that he will bring it with him at his second coming. Nowhere does the Bible teach that man possesses an immortal soul that will find its eternal dwelling place in heaven or in hell, but it does teach that "the meek shall inherit the earth" (Matthew 5:5). That certainly is not the case today; but it will be when Christ reigns from Jerusalem. He will grant eternal life and an everlasting inheritance on earth, to those who obey him; whilst eternal death will be the lot of the disobedient.

Nor does the Bible teach that all will be raised; in fact, just the contrary. It teaches that man who "understandeth not, is like the beasts that perish" (Psalm 49:2); for "God remembers them no more" (Psalm 88:5; Isaiah 26:14). They die "having no hope, and without God in the world" (Ephesians 2:12).

On the other hand, a person understanding the truth of God's revelation, will be resurrected for judgment, whether he obeys it or not. If any reject the appeal of the Word, warned Christ, "it shall judge him in the last day" (John 12:48).

To the obedient, the Lord returns with salvation; to the disobedient, with condemnation. The Bible teaches:

**"Unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" (Hebrews 9:28).**

**"He will render to every man according to his deeds; to them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honour and immortality (he will grant) eternal life; but unto them that are contentious, and do not obey the truth, but obey unrighteousness, indignation and wrath" (terminating in eternal death — Romans 2:5-12).**

The resurrection will take place unknown to the world at large. Together with living believers those raised will be gathered to the Lord for judgment (2 Thessalonians 2:1; Psalm 50:5). His followers do not comprise the whole of Christendom, but

only those who have come to a knowledge of his truth. Unfortunately, comparatively few comprise such a class. Christ taught that they who worship God acceptably "must worship Him in spirit and *in truth*" (John 4:24). The basic doctrines of Christendom do not accord with Bible truth, so that, unfortunately, few comprehend the saving teaching of the Bible so necessary for eternal life (see John 17:3). The minds of most are clouded by wrong ideas relating to the supposed immortality of the soul, the doctrine of the Trinity, and wrong ideas relating to the return of Christ. The Gospel comprises saving truth (see Romans 1:16), and it is founded on the promises made to Abraham (Galatians 3:8).

### **Coming Crisis in The Middle East**

Meanwhile, the world will be plunged into war. The countdown to Armageddon will reach zero point with the invasion of the Middle East by a confederated Eurasian army under the direction of Russia. In Scripture this introduces the great national judgment described as Armageddon. The details are given in numerous places in the Bible, but three in particular have specific reference to it: Ezekiel 38; Daniel 11:40-45 and Joel 3.

The whole world is conscious of the threat to world peace that the Middle East presents. It is obvious that one day the present confrontation between the major powers of the East and West, between the Soviet and the English-speaking world will erupt into actual conflict; and that the Middle East will be the major bone of contention.

But what the world does not realise is that the current antagonism and future conflict are clearly predicted in the Bible.

And that the major contestants are actually named therein as Russia on the one hand, and the English speaking world on the other.

Ezekiel 38 predicts an invasion of the Middle East "in the latter days" that shall involve all the world in war (Ezekiel 38:16). It is directed by one described as "Gog of the land of Magog, the chief prince of Meshech and Tubal" (v. 2). These names will not be found on a modern atlas, but they were well known to those of Ezekiel's day.

Ezekiel's description of Gog as "chief prince" is better rendered, as it is in the Revised Version of the Bible as "Prince of *Ros*, Meshech and Tubal". *Ros* is the most ancient form of Russia, whilst "Meshech and Tubal" can be identified with

In addition, Gog (the name means *One at the top*, a Dictator) is named in conjunction with Magog. Magog is identified with the ancient Scythians, and concerning them *The Penguin Atlas Of World History*, vol. 1 declares: "the Scythians advanced along the lower Danube into the Balkans . . ." and "reached Eastern Germany". They were noted for their cavalry, and their ability to wage war. The "land of Magog" or of the Scythians, therefore, can be identified with the Balkans and Eastern Germany, areas which Russia has dominated since the conclusion of the War. The line of Russian influence

**Prix: Paris et France, 15c; Etranger, 25c.**

marked by the "iron curtain" in Europe, answers exactly the requirements of the prophecy before us.

Moreover, it fulfils what Bible commentators have expected for some time. In 1848, Christadelphian commentator, John Thomas, in his book *Elpis Israel* wrote as follows:

**"From these premises, then, I think, there cannot be the shadow of a doubt that the Autocrat of Russia, when he shall have attained to the plenitude of his power and dominion, is the subject of the prophecy contained in the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth of Ezekiel. This personage at present is only 'Autocrat of All the Russias', that is, of Ros, Mosc and Tobl; while the Emperor of Austria holds the position of Gogue and Magogue. But, as we have seen elsewhere, the Austrian and German empire is doomed to extinction by fire and sword; so that when this is broken up the Gogueship will be assumed by the Autocrat, or 'prince of Ros, Mosc, and Tobl'."**

### **A Confederated Force**

Other nations are represented as being with Russia in its attack upon the Middle East, and when these are interpreted, the prophecy reveals that the forces under Gog will comprise a confederacy of nations of Europe and Asia. This, too, is in process of development. In spite of the Nato organisation, the nations of Europe are turning more towards the Soviet than to America, recognising that the opportunities of trade and of power lie with the East rather than with the West.

Among the nations aligned with Russia are "Persia, Libya and Ethiopia" (v. 5). These three powers are significant in that they each received their independence following the conclusion of World War II; and did so mainly at the instigation of Britain and America. At the time, pacts were signed with each of them tying them very closely to the West. But Ezekiel's prophecy required that they should be with Russia at the time of the end; and it is significant that today that is the case. Russian forces have invaded Ethiopia; Libya is closely allied with the Soviet; and Persia (modern Iran) no longer acknowledges any alliance with the West. In fact, weakened by bloodshed within, and war without, Iran could easily fall to Russia at any time the Soviet believes is opportune.

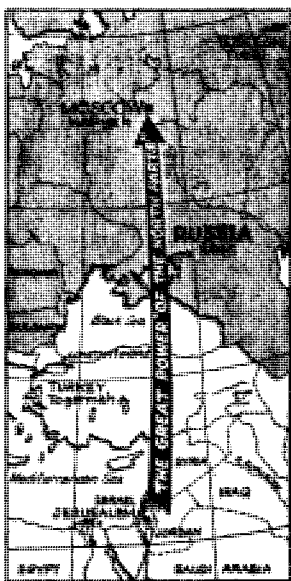
The identity of Russia is further established by the statement of v. 15:

**"Thou shalt come from thy place out of the UTTERMOST PARTS OF THE NORTH (RV) . . . and thou shalt come up against My people of Israel, as a cloud to cover the land; it shall be in the latter days".**

If a line is drawn from Israel to the "uttermost parts of the north" it would point to the heart of Russia. The identification of Ros, Meshech and Tubal is established beyond doubt.

The invasion is said to take place "in the latter days", at a time when Israel is again a nation in the earth, as it is today. Moreover, it describes the condition of Israel at the time of fulfilment:

**"Thou shalt say, I will go up to the land of unwallled villages. I will go to them that are at rest, that dwell safely . . . to take a prey; to turn thine hand upon the desolate places that are now inhabited, and upon the people that are gathered out of the nations, which have gotten cattle and goods, that dwell in the midst of the land . . . My people of Israel" (vv. 11-12,16).**



The prophecy speaks of the dispersed people of Israel returning to their ancient but desolate land, and labouring to bring fertility to it.

That describes precisely the modern-day restoration of the people and nation of Israel.

For 2500 years, Ezekiel's prophecy of the Bible has clearly identified conditions as they would exist in the Middle East in the "latter days", and the national hatreds that would lead to an invasion of the land by Russia.

It describes the Russian commander as being irresistibly drawn down into the area like a huge fish in the sea of nations. God is represented as saying: "I will put hooks into thy jaws, and I will bring thee forth . . ." (v. 4).

The bait of the Middle East is well calculated to draw Gog and his forces into that area. There is the lure of oil which is a key element in the modern world. At present, Russia has ample oil, and supplies much of Europe's requirement, particularly those nations behind the Iron Curtain; but it is assessed, that by 1985, Soviet Russia will have to import oil to maintain this trade. And the rich oil deposits of the M.E. will comprise most attractive "bait" to the Russian dictator.

A further "bait" is the strategic position of the M.E. It is

the bridgehead of three main continents: Europe, Asia and Africa; and therefore a most important acquisition to a nation bent on world domination.

A third attractive "bait" is the fact that Jerusalem is a holy city to the three great religions of the world: Catholicism, Judaism and Mohammedism; and the recent closer alignments between Catholicism and Communism on the one hand, and Russia and the Moslems on the other, could make that a consideration of prime importance to an invading force that desires to unite the world under Communist rule.

### **Opposition to Russian Plans**

The prophecy speaks of protests that will be issued against the Russian invasion:

**"Sheba, Dedan and the merchants of Tarshish with all the young lions thereof, shall say unto thee, Art thou come to take a spoil, hast thou gathered thy company to take a prey? . . . to take a great spoil?" (Ezekiel 38:13).**

Sheba and Dedan are the ancient names for Arab countries that today remain sympathetic to the West, and are opposed to Russia. Tarshish can be identified with Great Britain, whilst "the young lions" are familiar symbols identifying independent English-speaking nations.

The description implies that the English speaking world, together with some Arab powers will oppose the Russian invasion. But the protest would seem to be ineffectual, for the Russian forces are represented as irresistibly driving their forces south to occupy the land.

An even more detailed account of this is given in the prophecy of Daniel 11:40-45. There Russia is identified as "the king of the north". It describes how that "at the time of the end" this power will make a lightning attack upon the Middle East by land, sea and air. It is represented as entering "the glorious land" (the Land of Promise), and driving rapidly south to Egypt, so that "the land of Egypt shall not escape" (Daniel 11:42).

How remarkably these prophecies are taking shape today? Consider the relationship between Israel and Egypt as a case in point. In this prophecy they are seen as allied against Russia, and that, indeed, would be the case today, for those two powers, after four bitterly contested wars, have buried their differences, and are striving for peace. In addition, Egypt, which under Nasser had very close ties with Soviet Russia, today, under Sadat, has completely reversed its policy, and has

established close links with the West. So much so, that US has agreed to fortify Egypt, and send a "peace-keeping Force" to the area.

Bible prophecy infallibly pointed the way these nations would turn, and today they conform to what is required.

The prophecy shows how that Russia, having taken Egypt, will turn north to lay claim to Jerusalem. So also will those nations antagonistic to Russia, so that the prophecy will be fulfilled that declares: "I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle" (Zechariah 14:2). The city will fall to the might of the Russian forces, and it will appear as though the whole of the Middle East is about to fall under the domination of the Soviet.

### Christ Intervenes

At that point, a new power will manifest itself in the political arena. Christ will intervene in the affairs of nations. The prophet declares: "Then shall the Lord go forth and fight against those nations" (v. 3). He describes how Christ's feet shall "stand upon the mount of Olives", and the awful cataclysmic upheavals of nature that will follow. A terrible earthquake will shake the M.E. Fear shall seize the confederated forces of Gog, and they shall turn their weapons one upon another (Ezekiel 38:18-21). And with Christ at that moment of victory will be his followers to whom he shall have given life eternal; for the prophet speaks of "all the saints" being with the Lord at that time (Zechariah 14:5).

Daniel the prophet likewise predicted the intervention of Christ at that point of time. Having stated that the king of the north "will come to his end and none shall help him" (that is, he will come to his end through divine intervention), he continues:

**"And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people, and there shall be a time of trouble, such as never was since there was a nation even to that same time; and at that time thy people shall be delivered, every one that shall be found written in the book. And many (not all!) of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Daniel 12:1-2).**

"Michael" is another title for Christ. The prophecies show that when Russia attacks Israel and Egypt, Christ *already will have returned to raise from the dead and judge his followers*. Now granted eternal life, some of them will be with him at this moment of triumph when by control of the elements (including a tremendous earthquake), and by the exercise of God's

almighty power, the warring nations at Jerusalem shall be overthrown. The judgment of Armageddon will see Israel delivered, Russia overthrown and defeated, and Christ triumphant.

Then will follow the subjugation of all other nations to the rule of Christ, and complete restoration of Israel to its former glory, and the establishment of the Kingdom of God throughout the world. Christ, together with his immortalised followers, will reign over a rejuvenated earth, over a world at last delivered from the frightful, soul-destroying problems of today:

**“And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the Kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting Kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him” (Daniel 7:27).**

With Christ triumphant in the earth, those redeemed through his blood will be able to sing as represented in Revelation 5:9-10:

**“Thou was slain, and hast redeemed us to God by thy blood out of every kindred, and tongue, and people, and nation, and hast made us unto our God kings and priests and we shall reign on the earth.”**

Christ's reign on earth will introduce sweeping reforms and widespread changes. He will not tolerate the abuses, immorality and wickedness that disgrace modern civilisation. He will destroy the drug traffic, discipline humanity, suppress violence, and outlaw war (see Psalm 72 for a description of conditions he will establish). The strong, infallible hands of the Son of God and his immortalised followers shall take control in the name of God. All misrule and oppression will be put down; every false creed and contrary political philosophy will be swept aside; and mankind will be united in truth. He will cheer and enlighten those who survive the holocaust of Armageddon and its aftermath; and in the perfect administration he will establish, the words of the angels will be realised: “Glory to God in the highest; on earth peace and goodwill towards men”. In view of that divine purpose, Christ recommended his followers to pray: “Thy kingdom come; that Thy will may be done in earth as it is in heaven.”

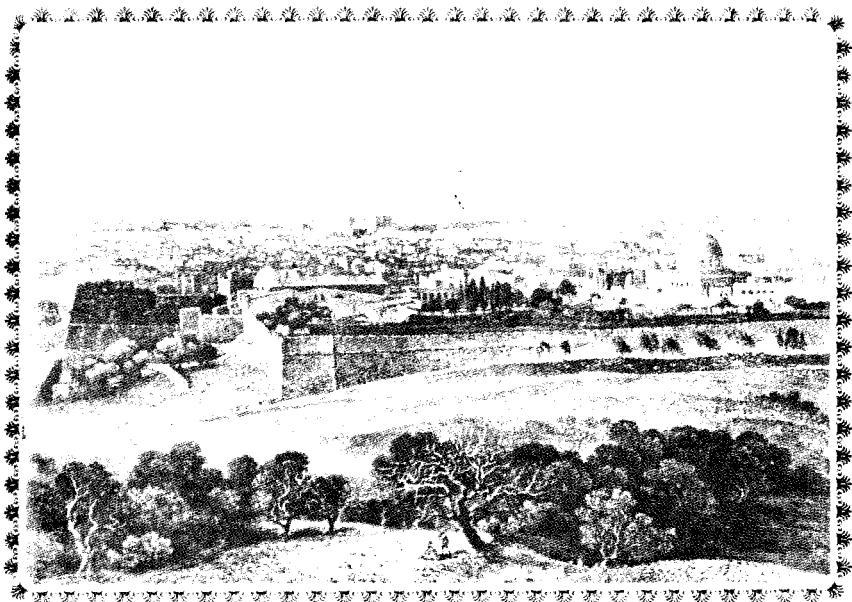
These are the glorious facts of the divine purpose as outlined in the Bible. The Christadelphians ask all sincere, Bible loving people to open their eyes to the great difference that exists between the religion of the Bible and prevailing theology. The former is practical and substantial, and adapted in



all respects of the needs of this troubled world, whilst the latter is visionary and inconsistent. What does the world want? We know what it now has: toil, suffering, frustration, increasing evils, death. These woes are not for ever to press upon the earth's inhabitants. The signs that show the consummation of God's purpose is near at hand are numerous and distinct. The Gentile times have run their course, and Christ's return is near.

Unfortunately, the religious world knows little or nothing of these matters. Most people are pre-occupied with fabled notions of a shadowy hereafter, which offer no satisfaction to the thoughtful mind, and no solution of the apparently aimless and perpetual drifting of this sorrowing, sinning world.

Christ's return; his earthly reign; and the reward of eternal life such as the Bible teaches provide one with a substantial hope. Nobody wants to die; but all would be pleased to see this world delivered from its burden of wickedness and woe, and to enjoy unending life in such circumstances. The Bible promises such a future.



Jerusalem today is a centre of tension, but it is destined to become the Metropolis of Christ's reign on earth. "In that day it shall be called the throne of the Lord" (Jeremiah 3:17). It will be rebuilt as a Temple-city: a House of Prayer for all nations (Isaiah 65:7), and pilgrimage will be made to it that people might worship before the Lord. See Isaiah 2:2-4; Zechariah 14:16; 8:20-23. From that centre mankind will be united under one king (Zechariah 14:9), one empire (Psalm 72), and one religion (Micah

## SECTION FIVE: YOUR PERSONAL INVOLVEMENT IN GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION

### What Does This Mean To You?

It is very comforting to know that God has such a purpose with this earth, and that it is not forever to remain the arena of violence, wickedness and evil, as at present.

But what is the value of such knowledge, unless it means something to us personally.

If we desire eternal life and an inheritance upon this earth at Christ's coming, it is necessary for us to do something about it.

Christ will only reward those who have identified themselves with him now, when most people turn from his teaching and blaspheme his name with impunity.

He will be a refuge for all who seek him in Truth from the storm that shall surely and soon break over this earth.

The Scriptures declare: "The name of Yahweh is a strong tower, the righteous runneth into it and is safe". Yahweh is the covenant name of God, given to Israel through Moses, and in its significance, guaranteeing the fulfilment of His purpose with that nation.

The preaching of the Gospel has relation to that Name. The purpose of God in sending forth His Apostles to proclaim it is expressed in the following statement: "God did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people *for His name*" (Acts 15:14), that is, to manifest His characteristics and way of life.

How can one be identified with the Name of God, a Name that guarantees eternity to those who bear it faithfully?

The answer is, by baptism into Christ. He commissioned his Apostles:

**"Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptised shall be saved" (Mark 16:15-16).**

A sound knowledge of the saving Gospel makes baptism valid. It is not valid without such an understanding. The attitude of the Apostles to those seeking baptism was: "If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest" (Acts 8:17).

The Gospel comprises an understanding of the promises made of God unto the fathers of Israel, and which Christ came to confirm (Romans 15:8). There are three such covenants of promise: the Edenic; the Abrahamic; and the Davidic. The first

promises LIFE — something Adam and Eve lost through sin; the second promises AN INHERITANCE — that which Abraham gave up when he obeyed the command to separate from his hometown and enter the land God showed unto him (Genesis 12:1-3); and the third promises EVERLASTING GLORY AND POWER, something David earnestly desired but which in his state of mortality cannot be attained.

With the simple key that an understanding of these three covenants of promise provides, you can become your own interpreter of God's wonderful Book, and so read yourself rich in the things of God.

By an understanding of saving truth, by baptism into the name of Christ, and by an attempt to live in conformity with his rules of conduct, you can assure yourself of receiving life eternal, and a place in the Kingdom he will set up.

### **The Final Stage Is Set**

The world today is like a stage being set for a great drama. The major actors are ready to take their place, awaiting the time when it is opportune for them to appear. The final act is about to begin.

The Middle East today dominates the attention of the world leaders. The world is sharply divided into two camps as required by Bible prophecy; and domination of the ancient lands of the Bible, which today are springing into life, continues to be the focal point of international relationships.

All the necessary historical developments have already taken place. Israel is again a nation in the earth. Powers such as Libya, Ethiopia, Iran, Egypt are assuming the positions that Bible prophecy demands. The attitude of Russia and her anti-Semitic policies are exactly what is required. Each nation is preparing to play out its role in the final moments of world history, before Christ intervenes.

Our present world is well prepared for the prophetic drama leading to Armageddon. The countdown has already commenced. If ever there was a time when men should consider their personal relationships with these events, and with God and Jesus Christ, now is the time. Christ declared of these days:

**“Behold, I come as a thief. Blessed is he that watcheth, and keepeth his garments, lest he walk naked, and they see his shame. And he gathered them (the warlike nations of v. 14) together unto a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon . . . .” (Revelation 16:15-16).**

When that moment comes, and the world is preparing for it

now, it will be too late for personal salvation. Today is the day of opportunity, the day of salvation. By seeking Christ in the way appointed we will discover a way of life "that has promise of the life that now is, and that which is to come" (1 Timothy 4:8). The way in Christ leads to a happier and more meaningful life now, as well as life eternal in the future. It frees one from the worrying problems of the present, lifts him above the evils that surround him, and provides him with objectivity in life. "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you," is the assurance of Christ (Matthew 6:33).

The time is rapidly approaching when the world will no longer be able to ignore the claims of God and the Bible. A crisis is developing that will force every person to make a decision. How important to make it now, and to make it wisely; and so "lay hold of eternal life". Your personal salvation is bound up with Christ's second coming. The fulfilment of Bible prophecy in our day shows that his coming is near at hand. This then can be your day of opportunity. Use it wisely.

Finally, we suggest that you send for the book advertised on the inside back cover of this publication. It will provide you with the key that can open the Bible to your understanding, so that you can become your own interpreter of its glorious message. This will lead you to the salvation unto eternal life to be revealed in the coming of the Lord.

### CURRENT BELIEFS:

- ★ Man is conscious in death and spends eternity either in heaven or tormented in hell. (False—See Eccles. 3:16-21, 9:5, Ezek. 18:4, Ps. 6:5, 146:3-4).
- ★ The Devil is a powerful superhuman being bringing weak mortal man into captivity to sin. (False—See Heb. 2:14 with 1 Cor. 15:56).
- ★ Sincerity is a substitute for knowledge of God's purpose and obedience of his Will. (False—See Rom. 10:2, Eph. 4:18).

## FALSE!

- ★ The Earth will be destroyed. (False—See Eccles. 1:4).
- ★ Jesus Christ will not reign on earth. (False—See Isa. 24:23, Jer. 3:17).
- ★ The Kingdom of God will not be established on earth. (False—See Dan. 2:44, Zech. 14:9, Psalm 72).
- ★ Belief and baptism are not essential to salvation. (False—See Mark 16:16, Gal. 3:26-29).

### BIBLE TEACHING:

- ★ Jesus Christ will return visibly and personally to the earth. (True—See Acts 1:11, 3:20-21; Rev. 1:7).
- ★ He will raise from the dead and reward his followers with eternal life. (True—See Acts 23:6; 1 Cor. 15:21-23, 51-57; 2 Tim. 4:1-8).
- ★ He will set up His power on earth and reign over mankind from Jerusalem. (True—See Jer. 3:17, Isa. 2:2-4, Rev. 11:13, Luke 1:32-33).

## TRUE!

- ★ He will bring the blessing of peace and goodwill to all mankind. (True—See Luke 2:14, 1 Cor. 15:25, Hag. 2:7-9, Ps. 72:17).
- ★ He invites you to a participation in His Kingdom. (True—See Matt. 19:27-30, Rev. 5:9-10, Heb. 9:28; Acts 2:38-40).
- ★ A knowledge of these truths is essential to salvation. (True—See Rom. 1:16, John 17:3, John 4:23, 1 Cor. 15:2; Contrast Eph. 4:18, 2 Tim. 2:15-18).

# A Summary of the "One Faith" taught by the Apostles

*"There is one body, and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; one Lord, ONE FAITH, one baptism, one God and Father of all, Who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Ephesians 4:4-6).*



## THE BIBLE

**OLD AND NEW TESTAMENTS** are both God's revelation to man, and are both equally authoritative. They are wholly inspired and infallible. The New Testament supplements the Old, its teaching being based exclusively upon it (Luke 24:27; 1 Thess. 2:13; 2 Tim. 3:16; 2 Pet. 1:19-21).

## THE GODHEAD

**GOD** is one, not three. He has revealed Himself as the Father of the Lord Jesus Christ and of all who are related to Him in faith (Deut. 6:4; Mark 12:29-32; 1 Cor. 8:5-6; Eph. 4:6; 1 Tim. 1:17; 2:5).

**THE SPIRIT** is the power of God by which He created all things, and by which they subsist (Gen. 1:1-2; Psalm 104:30; Acts 17:25-28). It is also used to describe the power of Divine truth upon the mind of a believer, for the revelation of such came by inspiration of the Holy Spirit upon those selected to reveal it (Heb. 1:1; John 6:63; Eph. 6:17; 1 John 5:6). Thus believers are exhorted "to be led of the Spirit" or the power and influence of the truth believed (Gal. 5:16-18).

**THE HOLY SPIRIT** though sometimes personified (as are many inanimate things such as wealth, wisdom, sin, etc.) is not a person, but the "one spirit" of God used for special purposes, such as the performance of "miracles, signs and wonders" (Acts 1:8; 2:1-4; 2:22; 10:38).

**THE GIFTS OF THE SPIRIT** were bestowed on believers for a testimony to the Truth, by the laying on of the hands, of the Apostles (Acts 8:18). With the death of the Apostles, the power of transmitting these gifts no longer remained, and the gifts ceased (1 Cor. 13:8).

## JESUS CHRIST

**JESUS CHRIST** is not God the Son, but is the Son of God, begotten of the virgin Mary by the Holy Spirit (Matt. 2:18-25; Luke 1:31-35; Gal. 4:4). He was a man of our race, identical in nature with all mankind (1 Tim. 2:5; Heb. 2:14-17).

**HE IS THE CENTRAL FIGURE IN GOD'S PLAN OF REDEMPTION**, being the Son promised in Eden (Gen. 3:15; Gal. 4:4), to Abraham, David and others, through whom the promises are to be realised, and the inhabitants of the earth blessed (cp.

Gen. 22:17-18 with Gal. 3:8, 16; Psalm 89:34-37 with Acts 13:22-23. See also Gal. 3:14, 19, 26-28; Acts 4:12; Rom. 15:8).

**JESUS CHRIST IS TO RETURN** personally and visibly to the earth, at the end of Gentile times (Acts 1:11; 3:20-21; 2 Tim. 4:1; Rev. 1:7). He will set up the Kingdom of God (1 Cor. 15:25; Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14; Rev. 11:15).

**JESUS CHRIST WILL BE KING OF KINGS** for he will have as his associate kings and priests, those who have been faithful in all preceding ages, and who will be clothed upon with immortality (Rev. 19:16; 5:9; 1 Tim. 2:12; Rev. 20:4; Psalm 149:5-9).

### THE NATURE OF MAN

**MAN IS A CREATURE OF THE DUST**, energised by the breath of life (Gen. 2:7; 3:19; 7:21-22; 18:27; Ps. 103:14). Apart from the resurrection he is without hope (1 Cor. 15:17-18; Eph. 2:12).

**THE SOUL**, in its primary meaning stands for the creature. It is rendered variously "life," "living," "man," "persons," "self," "body," and "beast." It can eat, live, die, corrupt and perish, and it can be slain, strangled and destroyed. (Gen. 2:7; Josh. 10:28; Job. 7:15; Psalm 56:13; 78:50; 89:48; 116:8; Isaiah 29:8; 53:12; Ezek. 18:4, 20; Acts 3:23).

**IN THE DEATH STATE** man is entirely unconscious and (apart from a resurrection) must inevitably perish (Eccles. 3:16-21; 9:5, 19; Isaiah 38:18; Psalm 6:5; 49:12, 14, 19-20; 146:3-4; 1 Cor. 15:13-18).

**"HELL" IS THE PLACE OF DEATH** and the word is the equivalent of the Hebrew word "Sheol," and the Greek word "Hades." Both words signify "a hidden place," and are mostly rendered "grave" or "pit." The Revised Version Bible and marginal references show "grave" and "hell" as the translation of "sheol" and "hades." Both words should be consistently rendered as "grave." (Compare Psalm 9:17 with 31:17; Psalm 30:3; Acts 2:27, 30-32).

**"GEHENNA"** is the name of a place outside Jerusalem where a fire was kept burning to consume the offal from the city. The term symbolises the everlasting destruction (i.e. perishing in death) of the wicked (Mark 9:47-48).

### THE CAUSE OF SIN

**"DEVIL"** comes from the Greek word "Diabolos," signifying "false accuser" or "slanderer." It is translated "slanderer" in 1 Tim. 3:11, and "false accusers" in 2 Tim. 3:3, Titus 2:3. Its general meaning is sin or lawlessness, whether manifested individually or politically. It is also applied to the unlawful lusts and tendencies of human nature which invariably lead to sin. It is not a supernatural being (Compare 1 John 3:8 with James 4:1. Also Heb. 2:14 with 1 Cor. 15:56. See Rom. 5:12, 21; 6:23).

**"SATAN"** is a Hebrew word signifying "adversary," "enemy," or "accuser." It is sometimes applied to a good adversary (Compare 1 Chron. 21:1 with 2 Sam. 24:1). It is used of an angel

(Num. 22:22, 32, where the word is rendered "adversary" and "withstand"). The Apostle Peter was a "satan" on a certain occasion when he opposed his Master (Matt. 16:23). Kings and powers have been adversaries, or "satans" (See 1 Sam. 29:4; 2 Sam. 19:22; 1 Kings 11:14, 23, 25, where the word "adversary" is "satan" in Hebrew. 1 Tim. 1:20).

### THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION

A **LAW** was given to the first man (Adam) whom God had created "very good," and continuance of life was dependant upon obedience to it (Gen. 2:17; 3:1-3).

**DEATH** became the inheritance of mankind due to the transgression of God's law by Adam and Eve, so that man is now inherently mortal (Gen. 3:17-19; Rom. 5:12, 18; 1 Cor. 15:21-22; Psalm 89:48; Job 4:17; Eccles. 3:19-20; 9:5-6; Job 3:15-19; Isa. 38:18-19; Ps. 6:5; Acts 13:36; 2:29).

**RECONCILIATION AND REDEMPTION** were ordained by God in His mercy, to be manifested through a promised Son who would bruise the "serpent" (figurative of sin and death) in the head. Christ was therefore manifested to effect the abolition of sin and death (Gen. 3:14-16; Rom. 7:24; Heb. 2:14; Rom. 8:1-4; 1 Pet. 1:19-20; 1 John 3:5).

**ABRAHAM AND DAVID** were promised that this Seed would be among their descendants, and were given "great and precious promises" which constitute the plan of God for the redemption of man. It is necessary to become related to them, otherwise we are without hope (2 Pet. 1:4; Gen. 12:3; 2 Sam. 7:12-16; Rom. 4:13; Eph. 2:11-13; 4:18; Heb. 11:10-13, 39-40).

### PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

**BELIEF** is a first essential to salvation, for to become related to the promises of God we must understand them, and their relation to the Lord Jesus Christ (Rom. 1:16; 1 Cor. 15:1-3; Acts 8:12).

**BAPTISM** must follow a knowledge of God's will and purpose. It is burial or immersion in water after believing the Gospel, and is necessary for the remission of sins, and relationship to Christ (Mark 16:15-16; Acts 2:38; 8:12, 36, 37; 10:6, 47; 22:16; Rom. 6:3-5; Col. 2:12).

**OBEDIENCE** to the commandments of our Lord must follow baptism (Luke 19:13; John 14:15, 23; Rom. 2:6-7; Phil. 2:12; 2 Pet. 1:3-11).

**THE RESURRECTION** of those who are responsible to God (and a knowledge of His will brings responsibility — John 12:48) will take place at the return of Christ (Dan. 12:2; John 5:28-29; Acts 24:15. Contrast Ps. 49:19-20; Isa. 26:14; Jer. 51:39, 57 — which teach that many will not rise from the grave). Those found approved will experience a change from mortality to immortality (John 6:39; 1 Cor. 15:50-53; Phil. 3:21; 2 Cor. 5:10; 2 Tim. 4:8; Matt. 5:5; 25:31-34).

## THE KINGDOM OF GOD

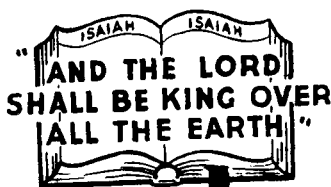
**THE GOSPEL** consists of the things concerning the Kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ (Luke 9:2, 6; Acts 8:12; 19:8), and was preached to Abraham in the promises given him (Gal. 3:8).

**THE KINGDOM OF GOD** will be a Kingdom established on earth. It will overthrow all existing kingdoms, supersede them, and last forever (Dan. 2:44; 7:13-14, 27; Rev. 11:15; Psalm 72; Micah 4; Isaiah 11).

**THE RESTORATION OF THE THRONE OF DAVID** is an element of this kingdom, and involves the complete restoration of Israel in the Land of Promise. Jerusalem will be the capital city of the world, and from it the laws will issue to govern all mankind (Isa. 2:2-4; 11:12; 24:23; 51:3; Jer. 3:17; 31:10; Ezek. 37:21-22; 39:25-29; Joel 3:17; Amos 9:11-15; Micah 4:6-8; Matt. 5:35; Luke 1:32-33).

**THE MILLENIUM** relates to the thousand years reign of peace that will follow the return of the Lord Jesus and the setting up of his kingdom (Rev. 20:6). The mission of Christ will be to subdue all enemies, the last being death. At the conclusion of the 1000 years reign, there will be a further resurrection of those who have died during that period, and those worthy will be given eternal life, whilst those unworthy will be consigned to "the second death." Death itself will thus be eliminated, and the Kingdom will then be delivered to the Father Who Will then become "all and in all" (Isa. 25:6-8; 1 Cor. 15:24-28; Rev. 20:7, 11-14).

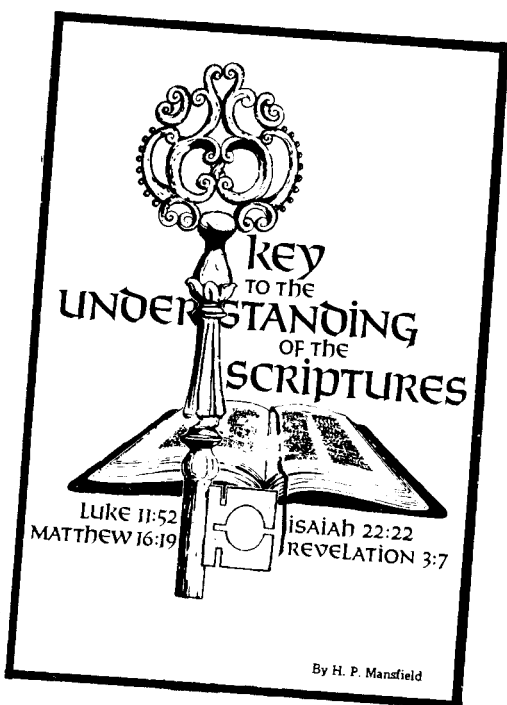
*Thus the plan of God that commences with the statement, "In the beginning, God . . ." (Gen. 1:1), ends with the final picture of glory: "God all and in all" (1 Cor. 15:28).*





# A Book For Everyone ... interested in the Bible's Message

Here is a comprehensive, informative book, that sets out, in clear, unambiguous language, the plan and purpose of the Bible. Containing 148 pages, and a number of diagrams, the book offers the reader the means to become his own interpreter of the Scriptures. He will find that the Bible sets forth a hope that is practical, desirable and well adapted to the needs of humanity. It enables the reader to look beyond present troubles to a future of hope for the world and mankind upon it. Sections in the book outline: "The Bible: What it is and What it teaches"; "Redemption in Christ Jesus"; "Bible History"; "Misunderstood Doctrines"; "Notes on Prophecy"; and a Summary of the One Faith of the Bible.



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## THE WORLD'S NEED

*What is wanted is a Wise Dictator, who, putting all parties aside, shall give to the world the right thing, and be able to compel its universal adoption. Such a man is an impossibility in the human era, and if he were found, the world would kill him, sooner than surrender its liberty of ruling itself. But God has provided such a man — the man Christ Jesus — and although, for the time being, he is at his Father's right hand, he is coming for that purpose (Acts 17:31; Luke 1:32; Daniel 7:14). Moreover, the day for Christ's reappearing is fast approaching. The signs which show it are numerous and distinct. The Gentile nations have run their course, and the world is on the eve of mighty changes. The government of the nations is about to pass into the hands of the strong, infallible Son of God. Christ will put down all misrule, destroy the oppressor, sweep away every false creed, and abolish war and every curse. He will cheer, enlighten and give unending life to those among mankind who seek him in truth and righteousness. These are the plain, soul-satisfying promises which the Bible holds out. The religious world knows little or nothing of them. Most people are pre-occupied with the fabled notions of a shadowy hereafter, which offer no satisfaction to the thoughtful mind, and no solution of the apparently aimless and perpetual drifting of this sorrowing, sinning world. The arena of God's purpose is with this earth and provides for vast changes under the administration of the Lord Jesus Christ. These are summed up in the statement of God Himself: "As truly as I live, all the earth shall be filled with the glory of the Lord" (Numbers 14:21); by the declaration of the angels: "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men" (Luke 2:14); and the prayer of the Lord Jesus: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matthew 6:10). Despite the frustrations and grim problems of modern life, this condition will ultimately be realised on earth in the establishment thereon of the Kingdom of God.*