

From: Church of God (7th Day)

G. G. Rupert: Preacher of All the Laws of God

BY RICHARD C. NICKELS

THE effect of powerful Sabbath preachers often goes far beyond their own time. One such well-known minister is G. G. Rupert (1847-1922), who even today brings exciting discussion among several Sabbathkeeping groups.

Rupert was a Seventh-day Adventist minister for 30 years and knew Ellen G. White personally. About the year 1902 he left the Adventists, disagreeing primarily over prophecy. In 1915 Rupert founded a paper, *The Remnant of Israel*. His movement continued after his death and is still active today.

Leading a vigorous nationwide preaching and publishing effort, Rupert wrote numerous books and religious tracts, some of which are currently being reprinted. A distinguishing feature of his beliefs was that the United States is Israel. Last-day prophecies relating to Israel are seen as pertaining to America.

But most significant of all are the beliefs of G. G. Rupert about the Sabbath.

What is the most convincing, logical, and consistent way to present the Sabbath truth? For Rupert the best way to convince Sundaykeepers of the Sabbath is to "show the people there was no change when Christ was here in any way in the whole law written in the 'Book of the Law' . . . [and] they will soon give up the case."

Again, Rupert wrote, "The facts are there is not a single text in the

New Testament that teaches that any law that God ever gave was abolished and nailed to the cross."

Rupert thus taught that the Sabbath, holy days, and other statutes and laws of the Old Testament, are binding today. Only the ceremonial and sacrificial laws ceased with the perfect sacrifice of the Savior, he maintained. The laws of God, as magnified by Christ, stand immutable and unchangeable. They are one, with the Sabbath having a key place in our relationship with the Almighty.

These concepts have not been lost in dusty archives of unread, yellowed paper. They live on in a host of Sabbathkeepers today.

Several of Rupert's articles, including the one on the Law of God, appeared in the *Bible Advocate*, chief paper of the Church of God, (Seventh Day). Rupert, however, remained independent of this organization. But his views were very influential among the Church of God (Seventh Day), including its long-time leader, A. N. Dugger.

Recently, a number of writers have noticed the remarkable similarity of beliefs between G. G. Rupert and Herbert W. Armstrong of the Worldwide Church of God.

Truly, the teachings of the laws of God by Sabbath preacher G. G. Rupert live on.

For more information, and a 31-page booklet on G. G. Rupert (\$1.00 postpaid), write to Giving & Sharing, 7105 NE 107th Ave., Vancouver, Wash. 98662.