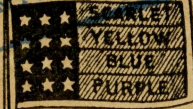


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The Ensign of Israel



THE LAW AND
THE PROPHETS



THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL

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"All ye inhabitants of the world and dwellers on the earth, see ye; when he lifteth up an ensign on the mountain and when he bloweth a trumpet, hear ye."—Isaiah, 18:3.

Vol. 10

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No. 10

"As At the First"---Jer. 33:7

By JOHN S. STANFORD

When the Kingdom of God is set up on the earth, (Dan. 2:44).

"In the days of these kings shall the God of Heaven set up a kingdom which shall never be destroyed."

It is going to be set up like it was set up the first time. "As at the First." (Jer. 33:7).

"The First" (here referred to) means when God after having delivered His people from bondage.

is "The First" time that the Lord had His nation. An organized kingdom of His

From the conversion of Adam and Eve, on down to the Egyptian exodus, the Lord had had a people (who repented, listened to and served Him). It was "The First" "setting up" of a kingdom did not take place till after the leading out in the time of Moses.

This was "THE FIRST" (used as the heading of this article). The first organized and going kingdom of God.

The one, Dan. 2:44, brings forward is the "SECOND" one. Or (to word it as the Lord does) the "second time". (Is. 11:11). For it is the same kingdom. The first attempt having been broken up by the disobedience and scattering of the people that composed that kingdom.

The one taught and predicted in Dan. 2:44 is to be truly literal, same as that one, that came thru the Red Sea. Also just as literal as the "Kings" referred to in Dan. 2:44. Also this "second time" Kingdom of God is to be right here on this present old and sin-cursed earth. Same as "these kings" of Dan. 2:44, were here on this earth. For this setting up of the kingdom of God, takes place "in THE DAYS OF" those kings. (Dan. 2:44). Showing that

those kings are still here at the time that this "second-time" Kingdom of God is "Set up."

There are many scriptures (aside from Dan. 2:44) to show that this literal Kingdom of God will actually be set up, but the burden of this article is not to dwell on that, but to show that when it is "set up" it will be "AS AT THE FIRST." Namely as to leadership, time, service, ritual and all that pertained to it back there. So the reader is invited to study (write the writer) and see how the Bible shows it.

First the Lord plainly tells us that, He "will cause the captivity of" His people to return and will build them, "AS AT THE FIRST." That means that all His scattered people (all over the earth) who now are controlled by worldly people and nations (in captivity) are to return from that captivity and be gathered out by themselves so they can serve Him with all their hearts, and in very deed and in very truth. And when He does this it is to be done like it was done the first time. ((AS AT THE FIRST.))

That is in the 7th verse of Jer. 33. The 11th verse says the same thing. "I will cause to return the captivity of the land." (AS AT THE FIRST.)

The people of God are in captivity. And the land also is in captivity. Both are controlled and exploited by those that do not serve God and who are not His people.

So the people and the land, both, are to be brought back from their captivity. That means that God's people are going to be separated from worldly people and the land is going to be taken away from the worldly people and given into the possession of God's people.

And that is exactly at it was "at the first."

God brought His people out away from the worldly people (of that day) and took away land from worldly people (of that day) and (little by

little) gave it into the possession of His people. And if they had stuck to it, been believing and obedient, little by little they would have gradually extended themselves, spread out and come into possession of the whole earth. Which was God's desire. For it is written that He gain the whole earth. (The world, Rom. 4:13) to Abraham.

Now another scripture. In Is. 1:18-28, we have these (coming) facts stated. "Come now, and let us reason together, saith the Lord." "If ye be willing and obedient ye shall eat the good of the land." "And I will turn my hand upon thee and purge away thy dross, and I will restore thy judges." (AS AT THE FIRST).

That means that every soul that proves to be "willing and obedient" will have all his dross purged away, (sins all forgiven) and be "accounted worthy" (Lu. 20:35) and will eat the good of that Restored Land (that built up Zion) without having to be subservient to worldly people or to worldly nations. And all it will ever cost him will be to love and serve God. And those whose hearts are given to Him will gladly do this which means that it will not cost them anything. No subservience about it.

Another plain and positive and interesting scripture (Jer. 31:1-5), "I will be the God of all the families of Israel, and they shall be my people." "Again I will build thee and thou shalt be built." (4th verse) "Thou shalt plant and shall eat. (5th verse).

All that is just like it was "AT THE FIRST" (before God's people got scattered.) The expression "Again" (I will build thee) is not the same wording as the expression "as at the first" but it means the same thing, for the word "again" means that there has been a first time.

So we can see from these verses that "the virgin of Israel" (the truly converted, "born again" people of God) are going to be "built." That means that the Lord is going to get them all together, make a regular nation and kingdom of them, and establish and build them up into a permanent and thoroughly organized and going concern. In full possession of the Lord forever. And the usurper and the usurping wicked (of the earth) cast down and out.

The Lord, himself, is to do this (mind you). Not God's people rising up in a physical revolution. No. Since Jesus first came and taught, God's true people have "put up their sword. (Mat. 26:52) and have kept it put up, leaving their condition to the Lord.

But this is the Lord's doing, and tho "marvelous in our eyes" nevertheless it is to be done.

Now another prophetic utterance showing a literal life by a literal people in this literal earth as truly and as real as it was back there "AT THE FIRST." (Jer. 32:37-44) says "I will gather them out of all countries", "And I will bring them again" (Showing He has done so before). "And I will cause them to DWELL" (Permanent thing you see). ("An everlasting covenant" this time, verse 40). "And I will PLANT them" (which means they will stay and grow.) "Fields shall be BOUGHT." "For I will cause their captivity to return saith the Lord."

A literal life, a literal people, a literal, national existence with literal, honorable business dealings same as the Lord had instituted and carried out back there "AT THE FIRST."

Let us remember that this article is studying how that this (soon coming) movement of God's people

is to be like the movement back there from the original Egyptian bondage. So, here (in Is. 11:16) is a pretty plain statement that it is so to be. Speaking of "The Remnant" of His people (that means us, of today) the Lord tells us that there shall be "an highway" for us, "LIKE IT WAS to Israel IN THE DAY HE CAME UP OUT OF THE LAND OF EGYPT."

Yes, that is the way things are to be. "LIKE" they were back there. The word "highway" means a movement. (For that is what highways are for). So that verse tells us that the movement of God's people (today) is to be "Like" the movement back there. (To put it in other words). This (soon-coming) movement (the gathering and building up of the Remnant people of God) is the Antitype of the Type back there.

This is the teaching of the Scriptures from end to end. It says (in I Cor. 10:11) that all the things that happened to them happened to them as a sample of what is going to happen with us. ("type" (the margin says) of what we are going to experience. So this (soon coming) experience of ours will be the ANTITYPE. Or as the heading of this article expresses it, "AS AT THE FIRST."

Another of the many Bible verses that show this, is Ezk. 20:35, 36. "I will bring you into the wilderness of the people, and there will I plead with you, LIKE as I pleaded with your fathers in the wilderness of the Land of Egypt." To "plead with them is to deal with them. And as the Lord dealt with them (back there) so will He deal with us here (When the movement is made).

Accept us or reject us, care for, lead and guide as He did in that first movement." It took 40 years (back there) to purge out the rebels, and purify those people then, to fit them to enter that typical promised land.

Now look at Hosea 2:14, 15. The Lord says (speaking of His people) that He will "bring us into the wilderness" (out and away, and set up in the world). "And speak comfortably unto them." He says we shall sing like singing was in the youth of His people. That it shall be "as when they came up out of the land of Egypt." (This means "AS AT THE FIRST", you see). Oh! Yes. What is ahead is going to be "as at the first", only this time an unfailling success.

Now consider Amos 9:11-15. We are told there that "the Tabernacle of David," (although fallen) is to be raised up. (That means that the kingdom of God, with Jesus as David's successor, is to be "set up.") (Dan. 2:44). The Lord plainly tells us (11th verse) that it is to be "BUILT," "AS IN THE DAYS OF OLD". (11th verse). Oh! what need have we of further testimony? No need to prove our case. But let us pile up the testimony that it may make an impression. That it may be written on our hearts.

Yes! Indeed! God's people are going to do, and comfortably, and safely, and unbrokenly, and authoratively what they started in (back there) to do, have their captivity brought back and build and inhabit and plant and make gardens and eat and drink, healthfully and joyfully (in THEIR OWN LAND, too, mind you) even as, and better than, they once started out to do. (14th and 15th verses of same Chap. Amos 9).

(To Be Continued)

Yellow Dragon To Turn New Page of History

A brother in California has sent me an article on China from "The Los Angeles Times" of March 27, 1927. The article follows:

"YELLOW DRAGON TO TURN NEW PAGE OF HISTORY

By Harry Carr

The old dragon stirs and wakes.

The old swordsman draws his rusted blade.

After sitting—an amused and faintly interested spectator—for all these weary centuries; China has stepped into the arena.

The last ten years have been years of terrific world dramas; we have seen empires go toppling over like worm eaten houses. We have seen the most powerful nations of the civilized world tearing and clawing and devouring one another's vitals like ferocious jungle beasts.

But everything we have seen and witnessed has been a tame preliminary compared with the drama for which the curtain is rising.

The sudden plunge of China out of the misty past into the middle of the twentieth century is the most dramatic and significant event in the world since the fall of imperial Rome.

In one way, it is the end of a story; in another way, it is only the prologue of what inevitably will be a great saga.

Our children's grandchildren will recognize this year of 1927 as the opening of an era.

It is very clear what it will mean to China; but what will it mean to the world? More perhaps than any human imagination can foreshadow.

With incredible folly the European powers—prattling about the "dominant white races," have trodded and jabbed the old yellow dragon. And now they've got him up on his feet; and now they are sorry. They have discovered, to their pain, they can't get him to lie down again by saying, "So bossy, so bossy."

We have despised China as the weakest of all nations; we are startled to learn, when he throws off his sleeping robe and bares his arm that he may be the strongest of all nations.

The cold facts are not comforting.

In the first place, very few people realize the size of China. In area, it is about 40 per cent greater than the United States. Harbin is farther north than Montreal. Shanghai, in the central part of the country, is a little north of New Orleans. Canton is in the tropics, farther south than Havana. And China extends for some distance south of Canton.

The population is always given as 400,000,000. No one knows why somebody picked out this figure. As a matter of fact, the actual population of China is undoubtedly greater than this—far greater. In the old days of the empire, the various mandarins were required to return taxes to the Federal government according to the number of people in their provinces. It was naturally to their interest to return as low a figure as they could get away with. One Russian writer estimates the population as 1,000,000,000. This is pretty tall talk; but there are plenty of Chinamen however you figure it. The population is so enor-

mous that military experts have expressed the belief that China could undertake war as a permanent form of industry. More young men come of military age every year than could be killed off.

The character of this population is very high in type. China assays high-grade ore when it comes to brains. As a general thing, the Chinese we find in this country are low-caste coolies; but I have never known a Chinaman who did not radiate intelligence. In the American universities, they frequently find among the Chinese students young men of illuminated and passionate genius.

The Chinese were an educated and civilized people when our ancestors were savages. In "This Believing World," the author, Lewis Browne, says: In an age when Athens was still a village and Rome was not yet built, when Britain was still outside the world, and Gaul was but a wilderness roamed by savages, China was already a civilized land where people rode about in carriages, lived in well-built houses, dressed in silk, wore leather shoes, sat on chairs, ate food from plates, measured time by a sun dial, and carried umbrellas."

We always think of China as a country miserably impoverished; but China, in fundamentals, is very rich. Her mineral wealth is almost untouched. In agriculture, in fisheries, her potentialities are unmeasured. Her career as a manufacturer has not yet begun; but with her countless hordes of cheap skilled laborers, her river traffic ways, and her strategic position, standing at the turnstiles of the world, she can have as much of a future as she likes.

As a trader, the Chinaman stands almost alone. So great is his business sagacity that the business men of no other nation seem able to stand against him in an open field.

How does it come that a people, so blessed with natural resources, so gifted with brains and high ability, should have come to be one of the most backward of all nations; so backward that for a century China has lain there like an old sea elephant—cuffed and kicked—inert, nonresisting—only spared from the devouring western nations because the western nations could not agree as to whose plate the meal should be served on?

Is there in China some quality that makes her unequal to the struggle of modern civilization—some defect that will render the awakening of the old dragon useless and futile?

An examination of the facts would seem to show that the Chinese have no such defects. The so-called backwardness of China seems to have been a matter of deliberate choice—a philosophy and a religion.

That amazing century—the sixth before Christ—brought Maharvia and Buddha to India; Zoroaster to Persia; Jeremiah, Ezekiel and the second Isaiah to Israel. It brought Confucius, whose Chinese name was Kung-fu-tze, to China.

From that day to this—until yesterday—his philosophy dominated the thought and life of China. Confucius was an antiquarian. He loved the ancients and devoted himself to the study of their ideas and their ways. As someone has said: "He deployed the forces of his reason only into the decayed and rotted moors of the past."

The Remnant of Israel

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He taught his people that all change was injurious and salvation could be obtained only if none tried to disturb the religious, social and political order that already was established. Propriety, regularity, exact and punctilious observance of the "300 points of ceremony and 3000 points of behavior"—these were the ultimate ends and aims of life.

To say the least, this did not operate for progression.

Next to Confucius in influencing the thought and lives of the Chinese people was Lao-Tze—creator of the religion that we call Taoism. His philosophy was still less progressive. He taught that there are three jewels of human character; and the chief among them is "Wu Wei"—inactivity. He scoffed at all fussy meddling with the world, all breathless striving—all of what the western world calls "pep." He rejected all learning and all attempts at learning. Even to defend himself from injury was too much of a bother.

These two philosophers have been like an anaesthetic for the Chinese people. They did not progress; did not keep up with the procession because they neither believed in the procession, nor thought it worth while.

In some ways, their plan of life seems to have justified itself. The passive nonresistance of China has been unconquerable. Every invader of China has been swallowed up and absorbed. Ghengis Khan swept down from the high plateaus of Mongolia to conquer the world. He turned India into a slaughter house; made a shambles of ancient Bagdad. On his way, he conquered China and set up the Mongols as rulers of the land. And just where are the Mongols now? Swallowed up somewhere in the past of China. Just so with the conquering Manchurians.

The Chinese believe it will be so if Japan or any western nation ever tries to invade and conquer China.

"STRENGTH OF CALM SEA"

An old Chinese scholar once spoke to me of this philosophy.

"The mountain stream," he said, "comes tearing down through the hills. It rips out boulders; flings huge trees down; ravishes mountainsides. It goes screaming down the canyons, yelling in self-

confident glee. 'See how strong and mighty I am.' And finally it flows into the calm and placid ocean—and that is the last ever heard of the mountain torrent. The strength of China is the strength of the calm sea."

He did not add—as he might have—that the sea occasionally gets its dander up—just as China's dander has lately risen.

And how has this come about?

The missionaries? Alas, the Christian missionaries, although they have done good work, haven't even made a dent or a nick in the thought and customs of China.

It was American universities that awakened China. And it came about in this way:

After the Chinese-Japanese War of 1904, Japan was about to help herself to the treasures of the old empire; when the great powers of Europe burst into the scene like ravenous wolves. They grabbed everything that wasn't nailed down—and much that was. The only reason they did not rip China into pieces and divide the loot among themselves was America. John Hay's policy of the "open door" came like a cry of "stop thief" to startle these highbinders of diplomacy.

THE BOXER REBELLION

Later came another event—the Boxer Rebellion. Without getting into the causes, it brought on another proposal to scrap China and whack a new loot. Troops of nearly all nations were sent to pacify the Chinese; and, incidentally, to rob the temples and palaces. I do not know how much of China's abandonment of her policy of nonresistance happened right then—stirred by the indecent orgy during which presumably civilized armies joined in the systematic robbery of churches and palaces.

Anyhow, the nations all put in claims for enormous indemnity on account of the damages sustained during the Boxer outrages. The only nation that refrained this graft was America. We promptly returned the indemnity money to China. Instead of putting it back into the treasury, China invested the sum and used the interest for a special purpose—for sending young Chinese scholars to America to be educated in western ways. And so they came to Yale, to Harvard, to West Point and Annapolis. And then they went back to China.

These are the boys who are dragging China up into the twentieth century—the China which will have to be reckoned with.

They are proceeding at a terrific rate. China is fairly leaping out of the past—shall I say into the future instead of the present.

It may seem as though China, in this mix-up were headed for destruction instead of progress; but this is not so.

One of the chief difficulties in China has been lack of communication. One part didn't know another part. There are so many dialects in China that there are some twenty-eight different languages in the Province of Canton. The country people and the city folk have great difficulty in understanding each other.

For a people of their training and philosophy there is no way to bring neighbors together except through civil war. You can get acquainted with your neighbor by paying him a formal call in your best clothes; but you can also get to know him—and

the size of his fist—by throwing a dead cat at him and tearing the washing off the line. China has adopted the latter method. It is painful while it lasts; but in the end it will bring about an amalgamation of the Chinese people—an understanding that they would never have had otherwise.

The mills of the gods grind slowly; but they grind exceedingly fine; and also in some very uncomfortable ways.

What will be the end?

EUROPE SHOT OUT

Two or three years ago, in Washington, I interviewed a great German diplomat. He wouldn't let me publish what he said; but he talked to me very frankly in private. I had asked him if Germany, with her careful, methodical ways, has not attempted to outline the history of the world for the next 100 years. I had a feeling that they would do this. He admitted that such was the case.

He said that, if Germany won the war (which he admitted was doubtful) that country might dominate the world for a time.

"But", he said sadly, "it will not be for long. Europe is shot out—through. It is an ash heap. It is so impregnated with hatred and suspicion that it will never recover.

Before long, the Cossack will come bursting across the Russian border and will stamp over Europe in bloody boots. Russia has never been really a conquerer—from the West.

"But, in the day of her power, she will be attacked from her weak point—the East. She will be driven on into Western Europe by pressure from behind. There will then begin—from the Far East—a series of tribal migrations—like the Goths and Visigoths. This pressure will come from China. There will come a day when China will rule the world as it was ruled by imperial Rome and this domination will last a long, long time. It will change the thought and philosophy of the world."

If what that diplomat said is true, the white man's sun is slowly setting. Compared in numbers with the dark and yellow races of the world we are a single tree in an illimitable forest.

And yet, who can say?

There is a strange mystic consideration which enters into this question of race domination. I have written of it before but will mention it here again.

Somewhere back in the lost mists of time—before there was written history—the Aryan races were born on the high plains of mid-Asia. In a series of restless racial migrations they pressed on, always toward the setting sun. Whenever they deviated from a westward trail, they withered and died. They were a grazing people and followed the grass—the temperate zones. They founded Greece; created Rome and so on. But ever they pressed westward.

The last of these migrations was the march of the covered wagons across the American prairies. The amazing growth of Los Angeles is the rush of waters into that stream-way gouged out by the feet of the ox teams.

It was the destiny of this Aryan people to push on westward, then their destiny—with the settlement of the Pacific Coast—has been completed. They have circled the earth. The long chapter of the cen-

tures has been written. The tale has been told. The task is finished.

Perhaps it is for some other hand to take up the torch.

Will it be a Chinese hand?

The Book of the Law

Having no reference to the death of Christ which took place at a certain time. Now turn and read again the scripture cited in the Ephesian letter as given above and all is plain that "middle wall that separated the true child of God from the heathen was broken down, when the Ephesian brethren were converted and they came into the household of God. Paul says the same thing in the Gallatian letter, that "where they know not God they did service to those who were no Gods, but now after ye have known God or rather are known of him, how turn ye again to the weak and beggarly elements whereunto ye desire again to be in bondage. Ye observe days, and months, and times, and years. I am afraid of you lest I have bestowed upon you labor in vain." Again we say, is it possible that men who claim to be teachers will teach the people that these scriptures abolish the law of Moses? Are they so blind as to lead the people of our day into this idolatrous teaching?" We would be very harsh if it were not for the fact that we once were just as blind as they, and taught for years just as they teach about the law of Moses, with this exception, I did hold to the ten commandments, but applied all these scriptures to the law of Moses and taught the people it was all done away and abolished. I can not say the Lord forgive my ignorance for as Paul said, I did it ignorantly. I will, however, try from this on both with pen and voice, to teach the people the perfection of all the Bible and that it is unalterable, that God never put one thing in the sacred book to be changed.

THE HIGH PRIEST AND HIS SACRIFICES, WHEN DID THEY END? WERE THEY ABOLISHED AT THE CROSS?

The above question should be well understood if we see the truth as to what change, if any, the death of Christ caused.

Let us get to the facts when sacrifices ceased to be no longer acceptable to God.

First, as before stated, no one was ever permitted to offer a sacrifice but the high priest. Second, that was to be done at the temple. Third, all the teaching of the people by the Levites and prophets and scribes was done from the written record, as it is now done from the printed page. These points are essential to remember. Then we ask when did the high priest cease to offer sacrifices under the Theocracy or old Covenant?

We reply at the Babylonish captivity 588 B. C. It was said at that time "take off the diadem and remove the crown and it shall be no more till he comes whose right it is and I will give it him." From that time no theocracy or government ruled directly by God has existed nor will it be so till Christ comes to rule on the throne of David. Eze. 21:25-27. Concerning the high priest and his service I read, "For the children of Israel shall abide many days without

a king, and without a prince, and without a sacrifice, and without an image, and without an ephod, and without teraphim. Afterward shall the children of Israel return and seek the Lord and David their King and his goodness in the latter days." Hosea 3:4-5. We ask when the ephod, the garment of the high priest which was emblematic of his authority not to be worn by anyone till his death and when the Urim and Thumim was removed, what power had he to offer a sacrifice as high priest? We reply, none. And so it says they should be without a sacrifice. But as the old covenant was to wax old and decay (slow process), as expressed by Paul in Hebrews eight, to a certain degree the services were kept up but the ark, the sacrifice, the Ephod, and all were removed, belonging to the work of the atonement, and the priesthood was gone. Finally when the temple was destroyed in A. D. 70, by the Romans, then the Jews ceased to keep up the services any longer. So don't think that the scriptures will teach that sacrifices ended at the crucifixion for they did not. With this thought we will be better prepared to study further.

CHAPTER VII—THE BOOK OF HEBREWS

This book has been used much to establish the antitypes shadowed in the tabernacle services as taught in the days of Moses. It has been read with the thought in mind, according to the popular teaching, that when Christ died then the antitype was met and the service of Christ then began in the heavenly sanctuary. That at that time Christ became the antitype of the Aaronic priesthood and then became a priest like the Melchisedec priesthood. And some have very strongly believed that when the veil of the temple was rent in twain at the crucifixion, that signified that all sacrifices then ceased.

All of the above was mere supposition. The rending of the veil undoubtedly did signify that the last vestige of the Theocracy was then completed and the house was left desolate so far as God's presence was concerned. In looking over the book of Hebrews I find nothing that speaks of any change to take place at the crucifixion. Paul in his letter has much to say about the tabernacle built by Moses to which tabernacle the Jews had their minds fixed. In the ninth chapter Paul states plainly it was the one built in the wilderness which had the ark, the tables of the law and so on, none of which the temple of Jerusalem possessed. He says that was a figure for the time present. He has nothing to say about the temple of Jerusalem at all. Verse 19 says, "for when Moses had spoken every precept according to the law that Christ did enter heaven to appear in the presence of God for us is plainly stated in v. 24. But shall we conclude by this that he had never been there before? No, for it is plainly stated in chapter 7:24-25, it is sure that He ever liveth and has an unchangeable priesthood. Does that mean that since he was crucified? We say no; for he was a priest after the order of Melchisedec. It further says he was like unto the Son of God. Now the facts are that Christ has been our Priest King since the foundation of the world. The time for His crucifixion was never set till after the theocracy was broken up. Dan. 9: Had the government never been broken up, Jerusalem, says the prophet, would have stood for ever. Jer. 17. That being the case, Christ would not have died till the end of the world. Hence, there was nothing at the time of His death to cause any change in any way. He did make an atonement through

the Passover lamb as the antitype of that lamb as taught by Moses, for the sins of the whole world but the time and the lesson taught by the Passover is still to be observed. We are to still eat his flesh and drink his blood. Simply a change of emblems from a type to a memorial, but it is the same ordinance still. Christ nor the Apostles made any change in the set feasts for I read in Acts 17:18, that Paul says, "I must by all means keep this feast that cometh in Jerusalem." In Acts 20:16, he says, "He hastened that if it were possible for him to be at Jerusalem at the Pentecost." This shows that Paul still observed the feasts. Years after the crucifixion. He also observed the law of Moses according to certain vows which required the head to be shaven. Acts 18:18. Then he joined with others who were to observe the law of Moses by being purified on the seventh day as required by the law of Moses. Acts 21:26. With these plain facts who will deny that the Apostle still observed the law of Moses? Suppose there was a text that said that Paul desired above all things that he be at Jerusalem to keep the first day of the week or the seventh day of the week would not every minister on either side of the Sabbath question grab at such a text?

Shame on all such who will not let the Bible mean what it says and teach it accordingly. Regarding to Hebrews, we note another point: It says the priesthood being changed there is made necessary a change also of the law. For he of these things are spoken belongeth to another of whom no man gave attendance at the altar." Heb. 7:12-13. Says one, that is, when Christ came, the priesthood was changed from the Aaronic to the Melchisedec. No just reverse that position and you will have the truth. The change was made before, when the Aaronic priesthood was instituted and the law governing that priesthood was written prior to that. Tithes were paid to Melchisedec. Gen. 14:18-20. Then when the law was written at Sinai it was changed to be paid to the Aaronic priesthood, having no reference to the death of Christ and that age at all.

"And verily they that are of the sons of Levi who receive the office of the priesthood, have a commandment to take tithes of the people according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham.

"But he whose descent is not counted from them received tithes of Abraham, and blessed him that had the promises.

"And without all contradiction the less is blessed of the better.

"And here men that die receive tithes, but there he receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth.

"And as I may so say, Levi also, who receiveth tithes, paid tithes in Abraham.

"For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him.

"If therefore perfection were by the Levitical priesthood, (for under it the people received the law,) what further need was there that another priest should rise after the order of Melchisedec, and not be called after the order of Aaron." Heb. 7:5-11.

Thus again we see how the scriptures can be misused and taught.

(To Be Continued)

The Desert Shall Blossom

In fact, "All nations shall call us blessed for we shall be a delightsome land, saith the Lord of Hosts." (Mal. 3:12). Yet we "shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord our God. And we (His people) shall NEVER be ashamed." And we will "Know that God is in the midst of us. And that He is the Lord our God and none else" and we (His people) "shall NEVER, NEVER "be ashamed." Now we are ashamed (for our sins, and also put to shame many times by the wicked around us (Joel 2:26-27).

But then "In Mount Zion (the place of gathering) and in Jerusalem (the people themselves) SHALL BE DELIVERANCE." (Joel 2:32). Deliverance, forever more, from anything and every thing the world has ever done or can do to us or with us. Praise the Lord!

While all this will be "in the wilderness", it will not be unknown to the world. To the people of the world. To the nations round about. In these days of world-wide and instantaneous knowledge that would be impossible. Neither is it desired nor intended by the Lord. On the other hand, it is intended and desired by the Lord that we shall be apprised of all the world. He wants us to be known of and known by the nations round about. That is how "All nations shall call us blessed (Mal. 3:12). That is how we are known to "Be a DELIGHTSOME LAND." (Mal. 3:13). The ideal land right within the knowledge of all nations, after all their life-long searching for Utopia. God wants His people's deliverance TO BE KNOWN. He wants the Nations to KNOW that he is GOD. (Ezk. 29:21, 34:22-31 and 38:23 and 39:1-7. Read these scriptures). And it is going to be done just that way, "In THE SIGHT of all the heathen" (Ezk. 28:25-26). All this does not apply to the New Earth. No. By no means. There will be no heathen nations in the New Earth. It applies NOW. To the present existing earth. When there are nations and people among whom they (his people) have been scattered and from whom they have been gathered (Ezk. 28: 25-26). There isn't the least bit of use in the world of being in confusion in this matter, and new denominations being made over it. Some saying "Yes, God's people are going to be gathered, but that means that there is to be a thousand years of temporal reign of Christ on the earth before His second coming." Another class saying, "No, Christ is going to come first—and get His people and then the thousand years is going to be spent in Heaven with the earth desolate, and so the Israel of God are not going to be gathered here (only as at His second coming, Jesus sends forth His angels and "gathers together His elect.") (Mat. 24:31). Both are right and both are wrong. How can that be? It is this way.

Before Jesus comes "the second time without sin unto Salvation (Heb. 9:28), God's people "The Remnant of Israel" are to be gathered, and for 40 years restored as a nation "IN THE SIGHT OF THE NATIONS." Then when Jesus does come (the "second time") they are "caught up", away, entirely, away from this earth and go with Jesus up to "before

the Throne of God" and stand on the Sea of Glass. (Rev. 15:2). And spend 1000 years in Heaven while the earth is made and lies desolate during that time. So that class is right to say that the earth is desolate and wrong to say there is no temporal gathering here. (For there is a temporal gathering which lasts 40 years.)

And on the other hand the other class are right when they say there is a temporal gathering and wrong when they teach that this temporal gathering lasts 1000 years and the earth is not desolate. (For it is desolated, made entirely empty and turned upside down and made waste. (Is. 24:1).

Oh! Why not entertain the Good Spirit of God as well as sound reasoning and think alike.

It is perfectly possible and dead easy. And all of God's true people will so see it, too.

"Then shall the lame man leap". Yes, cripples will be restored to activity. Our bodies will not be made into "the Likeness of His Glorious Body (Phil. 3:21) at that time. Will not be raised or changed into a spiritual body at that time. That will be done at the second coming of Jesus (1 Cor. 15:52) and the general resurrection. But physical defects will be repaired. "Then shall the lame man leap as an hart."

That is some leaping. (Is. 35:5) shows full restoration from his crippled condition. It will be perfectly consistent and proper for Jesus (then) to exercise His healing powers, same as He did when here on earth. That is why Satan works all he can, now, to make us think that full healing is for us, now, to keep us from looking forward to this blessed time coming during this 40 years in the wilderness. He doesn't want us to know of nor see anything in these Scriptures.

But God doesn't say NOW "shall the lame man leap." No, He says "THEN shall the lame man leap as an hart." "THEN, the tongue of the dumb shall sing." "THEN shall the eyes of the blind be opened." "THEN shall the ears of the deaf be unstopped." When is this time to which this word "then" applies? Answer: To the time of this WILDERNESS EXPERIENCE. (Is. 35th Chap.)

What does it mean (in Eph. 5:17) where it says "WITHOUT spot or wrinkle or ANY SUCH THING?" It means what it says. IN FULL. Jesus (when here) healed body and sins. "The Power of God was present TO HEAL. So it will be "then". Cleansing from sin and healing of body. "He restoreth my soul." (Whole being.) "The Power of God WILL BE PRESENT to heal." (Ps. 23:4). No matter if of life-long experience. Even if so "from his mother's womb." Even if "above 40 years old." (Acts 4:22). Whether born into him, bred into him or by accident, all will be cleansed and healed. There was no difference in the work of eJesus (while here) between forgiving sins and healing bodies. (Mat. 9:5, 6) There will be none there. Why should there be? The presence of Jesus in life. "I am the Resurrection and Life." In the 40 years wilderness (back there) were not sick. Neither will they be here.

Yes, the lame man will be able to walk. The tongue of the dumb will be able to speak. They will be able to sing and will rejoice. The eyes of the blind will be able to see the heavens. The deaf will be able to hear the voice of the Lord.

to the singing. (For the same singing will be in their own hearts).

Even if the desert, itself, does not sing the birds will and the people will. For it is written, "The desert shall rejoice even with joy and singing, for in the wilderness shall water break out and streams in the desert." (Is. 35. "And a highway shall be there." The "wilderness", the "desert", the "parched ground," place that God gathers His people into, is a desert part, which is claimed, and well known of by the people. For it says, "I will bring you into the wilderness OF THE PEOPLE." (Ezk. 20:35).

(To Be Continued)

I wish to mention once more Bro. Jobe's book, "The Gospel of Health." Here is what one sister says of it:

"I must write and tell you about your wonderful book, the Gospel of Health. I have already been greatly benefited by its instructions. I think it should be in the hands of every family. I would not sell the book for any amount if I could not get another." Mrs. M. Gray, Gardnerville, Nev.

Address Bro. J. J. Jobe at 207 South Harvey St., Oklahoma City, Okla.

Here are a few paragraphs quoted from Arthur Brisbane in his daily newspaper column, called "Today":

Rome announces construction of a "pontifical railroad train" of five cars to be built for the pope. One car will contain a pontifical throne and dining room, a second a chapel and a bed room, a third quarters for the papal court.

There will be space for servants, and two locomotives are assigned by the Italian minister of public works to pull the train.

This indicates the pope's intention to travel extensively, now that limited restoration of temporal power has put an end to confinement within the Vatican.

Russians have been busy in India, making a back door attack on Britain that drove Russian business out of London.

Intense excitement in Bombay, British police and military guards stationed at strategic points, marked the arrest of Hindu communists and seizure of their literature.

Other arrests were made yesterday in Calcutta and Poona.

Rome announces a treaty with the Russian Soviet Republic, giving the Catholic church liberty of action throughout Russia.

The pope (restored to temporal power, will recognize the Soviet government, and embark on an extensive religious campaign in Russia, with the consent of Russia's government.

The Bolsheviks are expected to send an ambassador to the pope.

The pope, an openly atheistic, believes that religion is a "hoax," invented by the "priests" to satisfy the "superstitious" of other

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