

"The Ensign of Israel"



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THE REMNANT OF ISRAEL

"Entered as second class matter February 2, 1923, at Oklahoma City, Okla., under the Act of March 3, 1879."

"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. 11

OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLA., JULY, 1930

No. 4

Can We Understand the 25th Chapter of Jeremiah?

By John S. Stanford

Yes, Sir! Indeed! we can. Come, let us consider what the Lord says (in that chapter) and the Lord will give us the understanding. (2 Tim. 2:7.) For, you and I know—That all these things were written for our admonition. (1 Cor. 10:11). They were spoken by Jeremiah (and others at that time) for those living at that time, but the writing of them was done for us... "Upon whom the ends of the world are come." (1 Cor. 10:11). So let us get busy and go ahead and understand them. No longer sit around and stay in the dark. It is for us, so what is the matter with being informed and intelligent on the things of God? Nothing. Not for me.

First it says, (1st verse) it is concerning ALL the people of Judah. That means not only all living and hearing Jeremiah speak but their children born the next day or even after Jeremiah was dead, and all true Christians down to now.

For the real "people of Judah" are the people who serve (or even profess to serve) God (as far as these warnings and instructions are concerned), then and NOW and ALWAYS.

So when (in the 1st verse) it says this Word is concerning "All the people of Judah," that is plain and positive information and it means US, (as well as them). So come on, and let us listen to God.

Now the Lord tells us that He has been speaking these things to us a long time and we have "not hearkened." He says He has not only sent Jeremiah but ALL His servants, the Prophets." (4th Verse). And that is a fact. From Moses, David, every one, on down thru to Malachi, the whole list have all talked and taught the same things.

And God's conditions are now (and always have been) that His people should NOT go after OTHER GODS," but should TURN from their evil ways, (5th and 6th verses).

But professed Christendom (today) is strikingly guilty along these very lines. Greek Catholicism, Roman Catholicism, and especially Protestantism are

(while zealous, and loudly professing, and earnestly active), deeply guilty in the matter of "going after other gods." And to serve them and to worship them too.

Things that are not in the Bible, at all, to do, but are teachings and customs that have been let in (and kept up), from the heathen nations.

So that is how it is that these awful warnings from God are fittingly applicable to all Christendom of today—Europe, (Continental) England and her empire, and the Americas. And especially the United States of America, the home of Protestantism.

Protestantism is especially guilty. For after having seen the very evils and had a Reformation, then to turn back again to those very things, (which the United States of America are plainly, year after year doing) is much more outrageous (even) than those professed groups that admitted no Reformation.

So we, here, (in this United States of America especially) are being talked to in this 25th Chapter of Jeremiah.

Now, because of all this, here is the Lord's serious warning. (And I for one am going to heed it. And drop and have nothing to do with the many non-Bible customs and practices that protestantism raised me in and taught me in their Sunday schools and (so-called) Bible classes, and pulpit teachings. And instead I am going to "Turn from those evil days." And as I do, I have the Blessed Assurance that I will "Dwell in the Land that the Lord hath given me and to the (real) Fathers" in Israel; and dwell there forever too. (5th verse.)

The warning is, God says in the 8th and 9th verses that He will take all the families of the north, and Nebuchadnezzar and bring them against the United States of America. Bring them against Europe, England, against all Christendom. That is what that does say. Because this Live, Living Word of God means us. Means the United States of America. Means Europe, England and Christendom wherever it is to be found.

Now as it means us (of today) The "families of the North" and "Nebuchadnezzar," simply, means those nations that are in those places today. What else CAN it mean? Nothing. But it does mean that. Means those eastern powers of today. "The Kings of the East," (Rev. 16:12) of today. Japan, China, Ko-

rea, India, Siam, Persia, Afghanistan, Turkey, all those Eastern nations represented and symbolized by the word "Nebuchadnezzar." Just as Nebuchadnezzar was from the East (as he came upon Jerusalem), so scattered Christendom of today (the object of God's Wrath and punishment) is to have the powers of the East come upon them. And in addition to this "The families of the North" are to come. This means Russia. Means "Gog in the land of Magog." (Ezk 38:2.) Russia has been held back (by the Lord.) Ezk. 38:4.) but God is also going to lead him forth (Ezk. 38:4). The "Families of the North," means Russia and all allied and affiliated powers and nations. (Ezk. 38:4-6.) Russia is north of Palestine (where those prophets noted directions from.) Russia is Oriental in understanding and sympathy. Russia is to be a "Guard" (captain) (Ezk. 38:7) over these attacking forces on Christendom. (The land forces). The naval attacks will be from the naval nations. (Japan and world.)

But we can see that the North and Eastern world is to attack the western world. And it is all because (as the 6th, 7th and 8th verses say) (Because the professing Christian world "has not heard God's Words, but have "gone after other gods." And have worshipped them. What is it to be *lied* to the custom of having to make a "Christmas" present, (or else give offense,) but worshipping a god that came (back there) from a custom of the "heathen nations?"

The Bible does not teach us to do it. But Christendom does do it. And all the authority they have for it is the Church that fell away from the Apostolic church and became the Papal Church. And all the authority for it the Papal church has was heathen converts wanted it recognized and they were sinful enough to recognize it.

This is only one of more that the United States, (as well as all Christendom), is guilty of, blindly and openly guilty of. A thing which is not at all in any Bible instruction and is simply "Going after other gods." And God is a "Jealous God" (Ex. 20:5). And is calling upon men to quit it. And is *demanding* that men do quit it. And will punish all that do not quit it. So come and let us quit it. I have been given to do so. Years ago.

"Behold I will, take all the families of the north," (Russia and them) and "Nebuchadnezzar King of Babylon," (The Nations of the East), and will bring them against this land." (The United States of America)" and against all these nations round about," (Other Christendom nations of the Americas as well as Europe.) "And will UTTERLY DESTROY them." Utterly destroy the United States of America, as a nation (and the others). And make them an ASTONISHMENT."

And it will be "An Astonishment," to see the nationality, the government, the independence, the beauty, the prosperity, the conveniences, comforts, and all civilization of the now proud and well-to-do and great and powerful United States of America, laid in the dust that way! But it is going to be done, (9th verse). I have the Word of God for it. (Jeremiah the 25th Chapter and many, many more.) *And so have you.* The question is are we going to heed it? And turn away from following other gods, besides GOD? The God of Heaven and earth who created all things and has given us His Word to go by, THE BIBLE?

If so we have got to get at it and begin. No

wonder men turn away from the Bible! (Those who love the world and do not want to love and fear and serve God.) For these are certainly disturbing things (to cases of that kind.) But those who love God (or are willing to love God), and who are "listening to The Voice of His Word" are not to be involved in this awful time of trouble (Dan. 12:1.) but will not only "BE DELIVERED," but comforted and Lovingly taken care of. (Is. 40:1-2.)

But the land of the United States and all Christendom and "the inhabitants thereof" are to be made an astonishment and a hissing and perpetual desolation. (9th verse last lines.) Their mirth, their gladness, their brides, bridegrooms, their "millstones," (factories and business), and "the light of the candle," (comforts and conveniences), will all be taken away. Boston, Chicago, San Francisco, and other big disasters from fires, earthquakes and wrecks have built up and forgotten it all. This (and bear in mind it is to come in this generation too, because we have only 69 years left before the end of the 6,000 years from creation when Jesus comes the "Second Time" for His people,) is to never be built up again by the sinful world. This is to be "PERPETUAL Desolations." (9th verse.)

Awful talk! But it *is so*. Because God says so.

Now we come to the 11th and 12th verses. What have they to do with us?

It is this way. As before noticed "The King of Babylon," (to Jeremiah) is to us "The Kings of the East" (Rev. 16:12.) Christendom nations. The "Yellow Peril," against the white races. The Orient against the Occident. They have the numbers. (Two and more to one.) They have the nerve, the stamina. They are getting the drill and the experience. They are developing their resources. In short the heathen are "WAKING UP." (Joel 3:12.) Just as The Lord is commanding and causing them to do to become "His Overflowing Scourge" (Is. 28:18), "to recompense" (these Christendom nations) "according to their deeds and according to the works of their own hands," (14th verse.)

They also have the grievances. The Christendom nations for years and years have exploited them. Have dominated them. Their hearts and readiness will be in their action when the time comes that The Lord sends them on their way.

The western powers, (Christendom nations), will be speechless. Will have nothing to say (as to the justice of it all) when it comes. They have sent so-called Christian missionaries to them and have lived the life of the devil among them. Their mouths will be closed and their morale will be flat. God says, "I, The Lord have drawn forth my Sword," "And every heart shall melt." All hands shall be feeble, every spirit shall faint, and all knees shall be weak as water. (Ezk. 21:7).

Those are the facts before us today. The facts before Jeremiah (as he wrote) were that they (at that time) had the power east of them to deal with. This is prophetic and is a type of exactly what the world of today has got to meet and deal with. Namely, the power of the east. (Or as they, themselves, have coined the word), "THE YELLOW PERIL."

Now (in the 11th verse), what does this expression mean? "These nations shall serve the King of Babylon seventy years."

It simply means this: That the (Christendom) nations, shall serve the eastern nations, 70 years.

Service begins when exploiting or domineering ends. "Service" does not mean subserviency or servility. Both these latter terms indicate bondage. Service is a nobler term. "He that is great among you let him be your servant," Jesus said. (Mat. 20:27). We are subservient when overpowered. We are servile when ashamed or guilty. We serve when we love, or acknowledge. And cease to exploit or domineer.

This last condition between the Orient and the Occident, has now (for some years,) been reached. The Western nations have ceased to exploit the east. Ceased to domineer. A generation or so ago, the United States of America opened the closed ports of Japan with naval guns. England forced opium on China. That is domineering.

Unequal treaties have been made. That is to exploit. But the days of exploiting are over. The eastern nations are saying No, to it, (in their hearts and determination), and the western powers (while still making some pretense and putting up some bluff) have begun to realize and acknowledge that they can no longer with impunity infringe and intrude on the east. One of the eastern nations (Japan) is already (long ago too) recognized and treated as an equal. That is one of the Great Powers, and others are in line for it too and coming rapidly along.

So the days of exploiting are beginning to be over and the days of service have begun. Begun in the sense that they are beginning to be treated with the respect due them and serve them with the courtesy and deference that they always have each other.

One of the definitions given in Websters unabridged dictionary is this: "To treat; to behave oneself to; to act toward." In that sense the days of serving the eastern nations have been begun by the western nations. They are ready now to treat with them. To serve them aright. And no longer to attempt to domineer nor exploit them. I will admit that they are not so minded because of righteousness. But because they no longer dare do otherwise. But however that may be, the fact remains that the days of brow-beating and playing them for what they can get out of them are over. The day of serving them with dirty tricks is gone and the serving them right has begun.

The heathen nations know this too and are beginning to make demands. And while they may have to fight a lot to get those demands recognized, they *will* fight and the demands *will be conceded*. And the nations of the west (so long dictators) will be dictated to.

The nations of the East are not christians, God does not claim nor teach that they are. They are not His children. But they are to be used as His servants to serve His purpose to punish the rebellious house of Israel. Those who profess and claim to be His children while they really serve the devil, as all these (otherwise) enlightened nations of Europe and America are doing "going after other gods."

So as Israel of old was compelled to serve Babylon seventy years, so the United States of America, Europe and all Christendom nations are to be compelled to serve this modern Babylon seventy years.

That means that from the time that they first began to quit serving them (in the shameful way of past days) to the time when God's word and threatenings are all carried out and the nations of Europe United States of America and all the nations of

Christendom are humbled in the dust, and entirely ruined and desolated to never more be built up, *will be "seventy years."*

World-wide respect and a measure of deference began to be shown to Japan at her victory over Russia. And that was years ago. China's ability is being seen and respect for her enhanced.

The "seventy years" of this prophecy (which applies to the guilty nations of today) have already begun. And in the fraction of the 70 years now left all these terrible things are to take place, namely: The ENTIRE BREAKING DOWN of (what men call and think so much of) CIVILIZATION.

And we are not belittling the term nor the thing itself. God has given civilization as a mercy and a blessing, and it has been a blessing, indeed. And it will be awful to see it go. To see it torn apart and chaos reign. And the Lord asks "If ye have run with-foot men and they have wearied thee what will those do in the swelling of Jordan? (Jer. 12:15). Yes, indeed. If crime waves, world wars and all have seemed fierce, with order saved and recuperation and reconstruction possible. Oh! what will it be with *all* gone and *all possibilities* gone?

What a precious, valuable thing it will be (at that time) to be a real child of God! And it is just as precious and valuable NOW. It gives the Peace, the hope, the joy. Knowing that "The Pillar of cloud by day and the shining of a fire by night, A protection and a covert from the storm," (Is. 4ff5-63), will be lovingly over them.

Yes, that is what the type of the 70 years captivity in Babylon means to us. Do not believe it? Can't help it. God says it. I (for one) believe it. And my heart is the Lord's. And I am ready for it and will be "kept" "By the Power of God", Thru Faith unto Salvation." Come and go too.

Now (in the 15th verse and onward.) The Lord begins to tell us more of the *seriousness*, and the *surety* of all this. He says this is "The Wine Cup of His FURY." He says (in Rev. 14:10) it is the Wine "Cup of His INDIGNATION."

God has always been indignant and furious against men's sins and especially against people that profess Him "going after other gods," but as He is "Long suffering," (able to control himself and wait till a proper time, for the sake of giving men a chance to repent), he has not vented that "Fury" and "Indignation," so far. But He has promised it and warned concerning it and man will simply be "without excuse" when it does come. Pity that men will ignore a SERIOUS thing. But God is entirely without blame for He says (in Jer. 26:13) "Amend your ways and obey the voice of the Lord your God and the Lord will repent Him of the evil that He hath pronounced against you."

But He says (16th verse) "THEY SHALL drink." (All that do not repent.) And He goes on, (in the 18th to the 26th verse) to mention all the nations. (The names given are the names of that writer's day but the last expression (in verse 26) identifies us, clearly and positively, namely, "All the Kingdoms of the world, which are upon the face of the earth.") And being, (as we have seen) that this is a "Last Days" prophecy we cannot get out of the conclusion that the United States of America, England, Europe and all nations upon the face of the earth that profess christianity and do not live christianity but go after other gods." will be made to "Drink of this

The Remnant of Israel

Published Bimonthly by

Union Publishing Company

P. O. Box 215 112 West Seventh St.
OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA

G. G. RUPERT - - - - - Founder
LUCILE RUPERT SMITH - - - Managing Editor
I. C. SULTZ - - - - - Contributing Editor
JOHN S. STANFORD - - - Contributing Editor

Subscription Price, per year - - - - - \$1.00

Vol. 11 JULY, 1930 No. 4

cup of God's "Fury," "Indignation." Namely to be ruined entirely. Laid in the dust. And I do not have to get it. Neither do you. God is just as Loving and merciful and kind as He ever was. But He cannot and will not stand for Brazenfaced sin. And as He has set a time for the matter to be settled take your chances, (if you want to), but you had a good deal better look out.

And God plainly says "If you refuse to drink," "Ye shall CERTAINLY drink." (28th verse.) "The Lord shall ROAR from on High." "A NOISE shall come to the ends of the earth." "He will plead with the wicked) to the Sword." (34th to 36th verses). And "the Shepherds, the principal of the flock." (34th to 36th verses). ("The flock" means the congregation, the membership). The shepherds" mean the preachers. The pastors. The ones that have taught, permitted and encouraged the people to go after these other gods.

It is a conspicuous sin, and a shame how preachers, pastors, Sunday school teachers, elders, and fathers and mothers have, (for generations now) taught and influenced good-hearted, well meaning people to follow customs and practices that have taken their time, mind and heart caused them to expend hard-earned money, for things to "serve and worship other gods." And which has stolen their hearts away from and caused them to forget the God of Heaven and earth.

I have been a teacher and a pastor myself and have been guilty of influencing others in those wrong directions. And if I had not repented of it all and "turned from my evil ways," I would see justice in what God threatens against that sort of thing, and I see it as it is. And I am doing my best to warn others. But it is up to you. You know. Your blood will not be required of me.

The Lord, (not I) will have "spoiled your PASTURE." "Because of His FIERCE ANGER" (36th to 38th verses).

Kindly Bro. John.
Aug. 4, 1928.

CHRONOLOGY
By Mrs. J. C. Sultz,
Maybel, Colo.

(This article was published in Mrs. Sultz's home

town paper. She sent it to my sister-in-law and asked that we go over it and see if we thought it correct. Bro. and Sister Sultz, and their company in Maybell have spent a great deal of time on chronology. So I will let all my readers study with me, and decide—is she correct?

Never accept anything in this magazine, or any other, without giving it study and thought.)—Editress.

From the letters published in The Empire-Courier in reference to the Bible and churches it is evident that there is a feeling of something wrong.

"Who is to blame?" was asked in a recent issue. It seems to me this question is answered by Jeremiah under very similar conditions without placing the blame on any one individual in particular.

Verses 30 and 31 of the fifth chapter says, "A wonderful and horrible thing is committed in the land. The prophets prophesy falsely, and the priests bear rule by their means; and my people love to have it so."

Miss Heath was very candid in expressing her views and I believe expressed the views of many adults as well as young people, not only of Craig but throughout the entire world.

God says, "My people perish for lack of knowledge."

Paul says, "They are ever learning and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth." He then gives this reason, "They withstand the truth." Truth is our guide or light, but, if neglected becomes darkness. If light be turned into darkness; How great that darkness."

I believe these scriptures place the blame on each of us and gives a lack of knowledge as the cause of this condition and also states the fact that it is impossible to gain knowledge and withstand the truth. Then it is up to the adults to study God's word and walk in the light if they would have the young people have faith in the Bible, realizing that we teach far more by example than by precept.

I believe one very serious mistake in teaching the Bible is made by not beginning at the beginning. In order to thoroughly enjoy any story we must get the setting of the story. Then why not try this on the Bible as it contains the grandest story that ever was told.

Now, says the prophet, "Be thou a guard unto them," The German translation gives it, "Be thou a captain unto them." Thus far the prophecy is plain and unmistakable that the country now called Russia is to be a leader to this vast army in the last days. The Lord does not leave us at this point, but proceeds to tell us who the people are that this army will come against, and also describes the land wherein they dwell:

"After many days thou shalt be visited; in the latter years thou shalt come into the land that is brought back from the sword, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste; but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them.

If each and everyone who reads the Bible could only see that it is one story, about one people, with one God, with the law, who gave one promise, with one definite purpose in view, viz, to restore the earth to its Edenic state, to be peopled by this one people to whom this one promise was given, they would have a real live interest in studying the plan or principles set forth in this story.

But says one, we are living in a scientific age

when statements must be proven before we are willing to accept them as facts.

The chronology of the Bible is sufficient within itself when rightly understood to prove the authenticity of the Bible beyond a doubt to any one who will be interested enough to make a study of it.

The chronology is an exact science not founded upon hypothesis and conjecture but rests ultimately upon evidence or testimony.

The chronology of the Bible is of an exceptional sort; as it shows no regard for chronology in general, but for one particular line in which it manifests the utmost care.

I will here give a short sketch of chronology which I have worked out and which has given me a better insight into the scriptures than anything that I have studied. This chronology spans, the time from creation to Christ's ministry here on earth.

"In the fifth, sixth and eleventh chapters of Gen. we find a sort of family register though unconcerned about the children save one only in each generation, and covering the period between Adam and the birth of Abraham.

The table is as follows:

Adam to Seth	130 years
Seth to Enos	105 years
Enos to Cainan	90 years
Cainan to Mahalaleel	70 years
Mahalaleel to Jared	65 years
Jared to Enoch	162 years
Enoch to Methuselah	65 years
Methuselah to Lamech	187 years
Lamech to Noah	182 years
Noah to the Flood	600 years
Flood to Arphaxad	2 years
Arphaxad to Salah	35 years
Salah to Eber	30 years
Eber to Peleg	34 years
Peleg to Heu	30 years
Reu to Serug	32 years
Serug to Nahor	30 years
Nahor to Terrah	29 years
Terah to Abraham	130 years

Total number of years from Adam to birth of Abraham 2008 years

It is stated in Gen. 12:4 that Abraham left his fathers house at the age of 75 years.

Exodus of 12:40, 41 says the sojourning of the children of Israel was 430 years.

In numbers 12:26-34 is told that on account of the murmuring of the Israelites they had to wander in wilderness 40 years.

From Joshua 14:7-10 we learn there were six years to the division of the land."

1. Kings 6:1 says in the four hundred and eighteenth year after the children of Israel were come out of the land of Egypt, in the fourth year of Solomon's reign in the month Zif, he began to build the house of the Lord, 480 years.

1. K. 11:42 states the reign of Sol. to be forty years, 40 minus the four years at beginning of his reign leaves 36 years.

The total number of years from Adam to the death of Solomon is therefore 3075 years.

The death of Solomon brings us to the divisions of Israel into two houses. The House of Israel and The House of Judah.

We are here brought to a portion of scripture where difficulties abound and where the utmost care,

patience, and penetration are required. But I have endeavored to make the task easier by arranging a table of the Kings of Israel also of the Kings of Judah, placing them side by side in order that they may be compared and I believe any fair minded person who will study this table carefully will be convinced that the facts and events, the dates and periods here given are as accurate and reliable as those other statements upon which we base our confidence in the goodness of God and rest in hope of eternal salvation.

KINGS OF ISRAEL AND JPDAAH

House of Israel

House of Judah

Jeroboam, 22 yrs.	Reign began at death of Sol. 1, K. 12	Rheoboam 17 yrs.
	Reign began 18th yr. Jeroboam 1, K. 15:1	Abijam 3 yrs.
	Reign began 20th yr. Jeroboam, 1, K. 15:9	Asa 41 yrs.
Nadab 1 yr.	Reign began 2 yrs. Asa 1, K. 15:25	
Baasha 24 yrs.	Reign began 3 yrs. Asa. 1, K. 15:28.	
Elah 1 yr.	Reign began 26 yrs. Asa. 1, K. 16:8.	
Zimri 7 days	Reign began 27 yrs. Asa. 1, K. 15:16	
Disruption 4 yrs.	Shown by 1, K. 16:21 and 22	
Omri 6 yrs.	Reign began 31 years Asa. 1, K. 16:23	
Ahab 22 yrs.	Reign began 38 yrs. Asa. 1, K. 16:29	
	Reign began 4 yrs. Ahab. 1, K. 22:41	Jehosaphat 25 yrs.
Ahaziah 1 yr.	Reign began 17 yr. Jehosaphat. 1, K. 22:51	
Jehoram 12 yrs.	Reign began 18 yrs. Jehosaphat 2, K. 3:1	
	Reign began 5 yrs. Jehoram, 2, K. 8:16	Jehoram 5 yrs.
	Reign began 12 r. Jehoram. 2, 8:25	Ahazia h1 yr.
Jehu 28 yrs.	Reign began 1 yr. Jehu 2, K. 11:3	Athaliah 6 yrs.
	Reign began 7 yr. Jehu 2, K. 12:1	Jehoash 40 yrs.
Jehoahaz 17 yrs.	Reign began 23 yr. Joash 2, K. 13:1	
Jehoash 16 yrs.	Reign began 37 yr. Joash. 2, K. 13:10	
	Reign began 2 yr. Joash 2, K. 14:1	Amaziah 29 yrs.
Jeroboam 41 yrs.	Reign began 15 r. Amaziah 2, K. 14:23	
	Shown by 2, K. 15:17, 21, 23 and 15:1, 1	Interregnum 11 yrs.
	Reign began 27 yr. Jeroboam 2, K. 15:1	Azariah 5 yrs.
Interregnum 22 yrs.	Shown by 2, K. 15:29 and 15:8	
Zachariah 6 mo.	Reign began 38 yr. Azariah 2, 15:8	
Shallum 1 mo.	Reign began 39 yr. Adariah 2 K. 15:13	
Menahem 10 yrs.	Reign began 39 yr. Azariah 2, K. 15:17	
Pekahiah 2 yrs.	Reign began 50 yr. Azariah 2, K. 15:23	
Pekah 20 yrs.	Reign began 52 yr. Azariah 2, K. 15:27	
	Reign began 2 yr. Pekah 2, K. 15:32	Jotham 16 yrs.
	Reign began 17 yr. Pekah 2, K. 16:1	Ahaz 16 yrs.
Interregnum 8 yrs.	Shown by 2, K. 15:27-30. 16: and 17:1	
Hoshea 9 yrs.	Reign began 12 yr. Ahaz. 2, K. 17:1	
	Reign began 3 yr. Hoshea, 2, K. 18:1	Hezekiah 29 yrs.
	2, K. 21:1	Manassah 55 yrs.
	2, K. 21:19	Amon 2 yrs.
	2, K. 22:1	Josiah 31 yrs.
	2, K. 23-31	Jehoahaz 3 mo.
	2, K. 23-36	Jehoiakim 11 yrs.
	2, K. 24:8	Jehoiachin 3 mo.
	2, K. 24:18	Zedekiah 11 yrs.

Total 286 Yrs.

Total 401½ Yrs.

The reign of the Kings of Judah through which the chronology is traced we find to be 401½ years. This added to our last total gives 3476½ years, and brings to the final captivity. This captivity according to 2 Chron. 36:21 was seventy years, 70 plus 3476½ years gives 3546½ years. This takes us down to the decree issued by Cyrus. The angel Gabriel informs Daniel (Dan. 9:25) that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and rebuild Jerusalem unto Messiah the Prince should be seven three score and two weeks. Following the rule for computing prophetic time (Num. 14:34; Eze. 4:6) we here have the equivalent to 483 years. This added to 3546½ brings to the baptism of Christ. Properly speaking this brings us to A. D. 29½ when Mark says He began to be about 30 years of age. Luke 3:23.

I will say in conclusion that I believe anyone who will make a close study of the Bible will be deeply impressed by the accurate and connected line of dates from the creation to the resurrection of Christ.

It is a remarkable fact that there is one and only

one continuous line of dated events in the Bible.

As we follow this line through successive eras it brings us into close connection with all the leading personages, leading events and leading doctrines of the Holy Scriptures. Truly then the chronology of the Bible must be reckoned among its greater wonders.

MRS. I. C. SULTZ.

PARAGRAPH FROM "YELLOW PERIL"
CHAPTER VIII
RULES GOVERNING THE STUDY OF
PROPHECY

The Bible uses many symbols, representing certain truths. These symbols, bear in mind, are both instructive and profitable, and all the student needs in the study of the Bible, in order that it may all appear plain and literal, is to understand the rules of interpretation of these symbols as given in the Scripture itself. For instance, when a symbol is used, the Bible being its own interpreter, somewhere in the Scripture that symbol is interpreted into literal language. Thus God is His own interpreter, and not man, and when once interpreted, all becomes literal in the fullest sense. To illustrate: In the seventh chapter of Daniel, the prophet saw in vision four beasts coming out of the sea. The interpretation is given in the same chapter: "These great beasts, which are four, are four kings, which shall arise out of the earth." Verse 17. Verse 23 carries this interpretation still further: "Thus he said, The fourth beast shall be the fourth kingdom upon earth, which shall be diverse from all kingdoms, and shall devour the whole earth, and shall tread it down, and break it in pieces."

The "sea," from which these beasts came up, is also explained: "And he saith unto me, The waters which thou sawest, where the whore sitteth, are peoples, and multitudes, and nations, and tongues." Rev. 17:15.

Thus these governments were established, not in a new territory, uninhabited, but in a country already populated. "The four winds strove upon the great sea." Wind is a symbol of war, but the primary interpretation is the judgments of God as they are fulfilled or pronounced in the law of cursings: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, Behold, evil shall go forth from nation to nation, and a great whirlwind shall be raised up from the coasts of the earth. And the slain of the Lord shall be at that day from one end of the earth even unto the other end of the earth; they shall not be lamented, neither gathered, nor buried; they shall be dung upon the ground." Jer. 25:32, 33.

The words "rivers," "waters," and "floods" are frequently mentioned in the Old Testament prophecies as representing the people who are involved in the prophecy, as in Rev. 16:12, there applying to the Turkish power. Wind, as connected with war, is also frequently mentioned, sometimes giving the direction from whence it comes, as the east wind. "In measure, when it shooteth forth. Thou wilt debate with it; He stayeth His rough wind in the day of the east wind." Isa. 27:8. To stay the rough wind from the east is the same as holding the four winds of Revelation 7.

PHOPHETIC PERIODS

There are a number of these in prophecy. A day of twenty-four hours, when used in prophecy, symbolizes one year, as shown by the Lord's interpreta-

tion: "Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it; according to the number of days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days; so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days; I have appointed thee each day for a year." Eze. 4:4-6. "After the number of the days in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years; and ye shall know My breach of promise." Num. 4:34.

Prophetic periods are a very important study, as given in the Bible, as they set forth even the day when certain things will transpire in the world's history.

A tree or trees are frequently used to symbolize men, and sometimes rulers. This is shown in the fourth chapter of Daniel, there representing Nebuchadnezzar, and in the ninth chapter of Judges, Abimelech, as one of the judges of Israel.

These are all principles involved in the clear understanding of prophecy. Then nations in the last age of the world are frequently represented by names of ancient nations which bore the same characteristics as those in latter times; for instance, as shown elsewhere in this book, France at a time in her history is given the names of Sodom and Egypt. The prophet, speaking of France from 1793 to 1796, as shown in the chapter of this book on "The Seven Trumpets," uses this language, "And their dead bodies shall lie in the street of the great city, which spiritually is called Sodom and Egypt, where also our Lord was crucified." Rev. 11:8.

During the French Revolution, and the time that nation made war against the Bible, she bore both the characteristics of Sodom and Egypt. This is a point that should be well understood; for judgments are pronounced against nations bearing the names of ancient nations, but these judgments apply to the last days. This is shown by the prophet Isaiah, in the thirty-fourth chapter of his prophecies: "Come near, ye nations, to hear; and harken, ye people; let the earth hear, and all that is therein; the world, and all things that come forth of it. For the indignation of the Lord is upon all nations, and His fury upon all their armies; He hath utterly destroyed them, He hath delivered them to the slaughter. Their slain also shall be cast out, and their stink shall come up out of their carcasses, and the mountains shall be melted with their blood. And all the host of heaven shall be dissolved, and the heavens shall be rolled together as a scroll; and all their host shall fall down, as the leaf falleth off from the vine, and as a falling fig from the fig tree." Isa. 34:1-4.

No one can fail to see that the prophet is here speaking of the coming of the Lord and the end of all things. But verse 5 speaks thus, "For My sword shall be bathed in heaven; behold, it shall come down upon Idumea, and upon the people of My curse, to judgment." Then in verses 8 and 9 we read: "For it is the day of the Lord's vengeance, and the year of recompenses for the controversy of Zion. And the streams thereof shall be turned into pitch, and the dust thereof into brimstone, and the land thereof shall become burning pitch."

Now why is Idumea spoken of in this connection?—Because the ancient land Idumea suffered in like manner in the days of Sodom and Gomorrha. "Even as Sodom and Gomorrha, and the cities about them, in like manner giving themselves over to fornication, and going after strange flesh, are set forth for an example, suffering the vengeance of eternal fire." Jude 7.

Leaving this, we now turn to ancient Babylon, as used by the prophet Jeremiah. The prophet speaks thus: "And this whole land shall be a desolation, and an astonishment; and these nations shall serve the king of Babylon seventy years. And it shall come to pass, when seventy years are accomplished, that I will punish the king of Babylon, and that nation, saith the Lord, for their iniquity, and the land of the Chaldeans, and will make it perpetual desolations." Jer. 25-11, 12. The prophet then turns from this land to all the nations, as shown in the rest of the chapter: "And I will bring upon that land all My words which I have pronounced against it, even all that is written in this book, which Jeremiah hath prophesied against all the nations." Jer. 25:13.

This chapter, as elsewhere referred to, is clearly shown to apply to the last days, when "the slain of the Lord shall be from one end of heaven to the other." Thus the change is made from ancient Babylon to the closing events of the world's history, and, as elsewhere shown, modern, spiritual Babylon derived its name from ancient Babel, which signifies confusion.

In reading the prophecies of the Old Testament the student will need to carefully note these changes. Otherwise his mind will continually make the application to something in the past, when in reality the Lord is speaking of the future. We may be tempted to say. Why did not the Lord make these things plainer? We answer, They are as plain as language can make them. Desiring to impress the lesson upon the mind of the student, the Lord calls his attention not only to things of the future, but to things more forcible or plain. Now there is no country more frequently spoken of in the Old Testament than the country of Egypt, and we should bear in mind the experiences of the Lord's people in that land, their deliverance from it, their journey to the promised land, etc. Now the Lord, in carrying our minds from those events, presents the gathering of Israel in the last days as a work similar to that done for ancient Israel: "And there shall be an highway for the remnant of His people, which shall be left, from Assyria; like as it was to Israel in the day that he came up out of the land of Egypt." Isa. 11:16.

In the carrying out of this work, as Israel is gathered out, the whole world, and possibly a specific country, is mentioned as spiritual Egypt. They are also delivered from spiritual bondage, as Israel was delivered from literal bondage in the time of Moses. This is shown very clearly in the seventeenth and nineteenth chapters of Isaiah. The eighteenth chapter, as shown in this book under the chapter "The Location and Rise of the Message," refers to North America. The nineteenth chapter opens with a statement of the burden of Egypt. If not applying to the same territory as chapter 18, it certainly has reference to the modern nations of the world. Read carefully the comments on the chapter above referred to.

Isaiah 13 is introduced under the title "The Bur-

den of Babylon." But any one can see things in that chapter applying to the last days, as well as Jeremiah 25. Isaiah 17 is introduced by the title "The Burden of Damascus," but this chapter also applies to the last days. Chapter 21 bears the title "The Burden of the Desert," but this chapter has its application in the last days. Chapter 22 bears the title "The Burden of Vision," but it likewise carries the mind forward to the future. Ezekiel, in the thirty-second chapter of his prophecy, sums up a large list of the names of these ancient nations as they will engage in the great slaughter and perish in the day of the Lord. Modern nations are simply the descendants of ancient nations, and, while their names are modern, their characteristics and experiences, as compared with the former dealings with God, are similar.

There is still one more thought we would call attention to, and that is modern Israel as compared with ancient Israel. As elsewhere stated, Israel derived its name from Jacob and his experience with the angel. This name was handed down to his children, and afterwards applied to the twelve tribes. It had a two-fold significance: First, as to true Israel, that is, individuals that were overcomers; second, to the national or literal descendants. When the theocracy was broken up, and the people of God were scattered abroad, and the Jews rejected Christ, and the way opened for the Gentiles to come in, this did not affect the name; hence the word "Israel", since the days of Christ, has its application, first, to the true overcomer, to the "Israelite indeed;" second, to all that profess to be Christians, and are connected in anywise and belonging to what we might call Christian nations, in contrast with pagan nations. This is shown in Ezekiel 13:4 as to apostate Israel, where the prophet speaks of Gentile teachers in the last days, hence Christendom, or Christian powers, in contrast with pagan powers, are called Israel in the Scriptures. Let these points be well remembered, for in the closing events of the world all these questions are involved, and all have their place and bearing in the study of the Bible.

Now, in concluding this chapter, let us say that, like as a child studies the rules governing the book he is to master, we will study the rules thus laid down in the study of God's prophetic Word, and by so doing it will be transformed from the symbolic to the literal, and from the ancient day to our own day. The geography of the countries in the Bible, with the chronology of different ages of the world, should be well fixed in the mind of the reader, as this will also aid much in a clear understanding of the truth.

CHAPTER IX RUSSIA, THE LEADER OF ASIA AND AFRICA AGAINST THE POWERS OF THE WEST

We have in the thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth chapters of Ezekiel one of the most, if not the most, interesting prophecies in all the Bible. The country therein mentioned leads the greatest force of men to battle of any country in the world's history. It is designated as a power located in the north. Palestine being the home of the prophet, the expression "north" could only apply to a country north of Palestine. That the prophecy applies to the last days there is no question, for it is so stated in plain language in verses 8 and 16 of chapter 38. It is also shown in verse 20 that the movement is one that will be in progress when the Lord appears: "For in

My jealousy and in the fire of My wrath have I spoken, Surely in that day there shall be a great shaking in the land of Israel; so that the fishes of the sea, and the fowls of the heaven, and the beasts of the field, and all creeping things that creep upon the earth, and all the men that are upon the face of the earth, shall shake at My presence, and the mountains shall be thrown down, and the steep places shall fall, and every wall shall fall to the ground. And I will call for a sword against him throughout all My mountains, saith the Lord God; every man's sword shall be against his brothers. And I will plead against him with pestilence and with blood; and I will rain upon him, and upon his bands, and upon the many people that are with him, an overflowing rain, and great hailstones, fire and brimstone. Thus will I magnify Myself, and sanctify Myself; and I will be known in the eyes of many nations, and they will know that I am the Lord." Eze. 38:19-23.

This is further proven in chapter 30, from verses 17 to 20: "And, thou son of man, thus saith the Lord God; Speak unto every feathered fowl, and to every beast of the field, Assemble yourselves, and come; gather yourselves on every side to My sacrifice that I do sacrifice for you, even a great sacrifice upon the mountains of Israel, that ye may eat flesh, and drink blood. Ye shall eat the flesh of the mighty, and drink the blood of the princes of the earth, of rams, of lambs, and of goats, of bullocks, all of them fatlings of Bashan. And ye shall eat fat till ye be full, and drink blood till ye be drunken, of My sacrifice which I have sacrificed for you. Thus ye shall be filled at My table with horses and chariots, with mighty men, and with all men of war, saith the Lord God."

This scripture refers to the same event as described in Rev. 19:15-19: "And out of His mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it He should smite the nations; and He shall rule them with a rod of iron; and He treadeth the wine-press of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God. And He hath on His vesture and on His thigh a name written, KING OF KINGS, AND LORD OF LORDS. And I saw an angel standing in the sun; and he cried with a loud voice, saying to all the fowls that fly in the midst of heaven, Come and gather yourselves together unto the supper of the great God; that ye may eat the flesh of kings, and the flesh of captains, and the flesh of mighty men, and the flesh of horses, and of them that sit on them, and the flesh of all men, both free and bond, both small and great. And I saw the beast, and the kings of the earth, and their armies, gathered together to make war against Him that sat on the horse, and against His army."

Putting this scripture with Jeremiah 25, where the coming of the Lord is brought to view, and the great whirlwind is raised up from the coasts of the earth, and the slain of the Lord are said to be from one end of the earth to the other, we have the story complete.

(To be continued)

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