



# From the Inkhorn

*Just as we need physical keys to unlock the door to get into our houses, cars or whatever is protected by a lock, so too spiritually we need keys of understanding to open the doors within our minds to matters of God.*

*In this issue we look at different keys that we believe God has made available to open our understanding of His Will of mankind.*

*The Bible is the foundation document and in it is the key to knowing God. God has given revelation throughout the ages which holds keys to a greater understanding of the Bible. Personal commitment holds the key to the Power promised from God to enable us to obey His Will. All these keys and more are discussed in this issue of Latter Rain.*

*We hope to take each reader on an historical journey showing the various stages of God's self revelation to mankind. The first stage is the Old Testament times with the many valuable lessons held within the texts of Scripture. The next stage of God's revelatory process was the gift to mankind of His only begotten son, Jesus, and the resurrection of Jesus which gave all mankind hope for eternal life through the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. As Christian Israelites the climax in God's revelatory timetable was the coming of the special messengers in the latter days with a specific message for God's chosen people. Christian Israelites will be those who are prepared to make a greater commitment of their lives to the Lord's service by keeping both the Law and Gospel. The founder of the Christian Israelite Church, John Wroe, was the first to teach the merging of the Law and Gospel into a lifestyle and understanding, based on the whole of the Scriptures. Adherents seek to attain to a higher standard as demonstrated by the reward given to Enoch and Elijah.*

*We hope, if nothing else, we have given you food for thought. Jesus said "Behold I have the keys of death and of hell" (Revelation 1:18). May this magazine help each one who reads it to find a key which will open the door of understanding a little further.*

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# Prepare ye the way of the Lord

To those who were following the Scriptures, the first coming of Jesus, although perhaps difficult to understand, was not unexpected - see for example Matthew 2:5, Luke 2:25-26, Acts 17:2-3. "*Ye, brethren, are not in darkness that that day should overtake you as a thief*", 1 Thessalonians 5:4.

## Greater Understanding

Jesus spoke on many occasions of a greater understanding that was to come. "*I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now*", John 16:12. "*Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God*", Luke 8:10. Paul said he once knew a man that "*heard unspeakable words, which it is not lawful for a man to utter*", in 2 Corinthians 12:4. He spoke of the time when our blindness would be removed, and we would see clearly (see 1 Corinthians 13:12).

John in the Book of Revelation also found that there were things still hidden from mans' understanding - see Revelation 10:4.

## Latter Day Revelations

When then were these things to be revealed? Jesus said, "*there is nothing covered that shall not be revealed; and hid, that shall not be known*", Matthew 10:26 "*For the vision is yet for an appointed time.....though it tarry, wait for it*", Habakkuk 2:2, "*in the latter days ye shall consider it perfectly*" Jeremiah 23:20. Daniel had been told of knowledge that was to be sealed up, "*even to the time of the end*" Daniel 12:4. The outpouring of the Holy Ghost

on the Day of Pentecost (Acts 2:1,4) was as but a fore-runner of God's power to be poured out in the latter days. See Joel 2:28 and 3:1,2.

## A Line of Messengers

How then is this knowledge to be given to mankind? Peter said that the Scripture is not subject to private (individual interpretation (2 Peter 1:20), but that it is expounded through the words of the prophets. Paul said "*how shall they hear without a preacher? And now shall they preach except they be sent?*" Romans 10:14,15.

We believe that God has commenced a "sifting out" work (Amos 9:9), and that He has revealed to man a certain understanding of His word through a line of Messengers in the nineteenth century. This work has not been "hidden", but, like a "*thief in the night*" (1 Thessalonians 5:2) the Messengers have come and gone with little notice being taken of the Spiritual knowledge that they were charged to expound.

## The Seven Lights

There are many "sevens" in the Bible and we believe that there were to be "seven lights", or seven Messengers to enlighten man of God's ways in the last times. The Messengers in the line unfolding God's revelation are as set out below. Each "added" to those who had been before, but yet each can be seen as having a distinct message. It is only through searching the Scriptures that the interpretation which each showed can be understood.

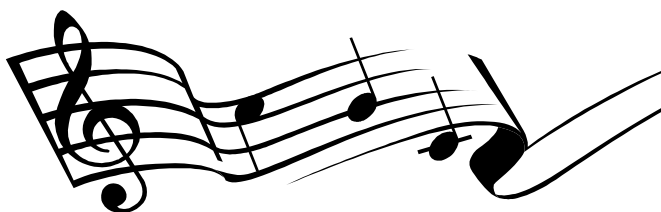
- 1 Richard Brothers:**  
Introduced the concept of a special message to the "lost tribes of Israel". He himself, we understand, was overcome by pride.
- 2 Joanna Southcott:**  
Sought for people to sign a "petition" for the overthrow of Satan, and to show the desire in their hearts for Christ's kingdom to come.
- 3 George Turner:**  
After Joanna's death, Turner was looked upon by many as the new leader. Unfortunately, it seems that he was quite a "charmer", and was carried away with worldly glory. For example, he proclaimed to his followers a date on which he believed the world would end, but it did not! He may, of course, have been alluding to some related spiritual happening but this was never understood.
- 4 William Shaw:**  
Received communications from about 1819 to 1822, but they have only existed in manuscript. Here, it seems, the appointed committee apparently sought to worship the man and his mission was quickly terminated.
- 5 John Wroe:**  
Was called without a knowledge of what had been before, and commanded to establish a separate organisation. Many saw in his teachings of obedience to the commandments the completed story of the Israel people, who would be Christians and who would seek for the redemption of their bodies. He constantly exhorted the people not to follow him, but the Spirit, and as a result of his physical appearance and poor manner of presentation, the committees were not overcome by his personal charisma to any large degree. Through John Wroe the last Covenant of God with man was established.
- 6 Christ:**  
John Wroe explained that if he were taken away there would be no more human prophets to proclaim Israel's Ingathering. The manner of the Covenant had been established and now the Spirit of God was to do the work. As Christians first, we are to look for salvation through the Spirit, Christ.
- 7 The Holy Ghost:**  
The power of the Spiritual Mother will finish the work of perfection in preparing a people for the Lord (John 14:16). This power from God is described in the Bible as "Jerusalem Above, the Mother of us all", Galatians 4:26, and is frequently referred to in the writings of John Wroe as 'Jerusalem Above'.

### A Personal Faith Required

Paul said, "Hast thou faith? Have it to thyself before God" Romans 14:22. John Wroe, laying his hand upon the Bible, said "Weigh what has been said this day with this book; if you do not find it weight and measure, trample it under your feet; but if it is weight and measure, the Lord will require

it of you and me". (Birmingham, 2nd February, 1840)

It is God alone who plants the seeds of faith in our hearts, which will grow to yield understanding and possible acceptance of these things (Jeremiah 10:23; Song of Solomon 1:4).



## From the Hymnal

### Hymn No. 33

(Daniel 12:1)

Six thousand years are nearly up,  
The eleventh hour appears,  
God's sword shall cause mankind to see  
Who are His lawful heirs.

Lo Michael now, Jehovah's Son,  
Upon this earth will stand;  
And sit upon His Father's throne,  
And reign o'er all the land.

He will establish God's own law,  
Through all the earth abroad;  
He has fulfill'd the gospel too,  
And all will know their God.

# The Trinity

The Lord our God is one Lord, a tri-unity, Three in One and One in Three. *"In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost"*, Matthew 28:19.

## 1. **Jehovah, the Father.**

*"Is not He thy Father that hath bought Thee? Hath He not made thee?"*  
Deuteronomy 32:6.

*"Have we not all one Father? Hath not one God created us?"* Malachi 2:10.

*"The Father of Spirits"*, Hebrews 12:9

*"Jesus.....said, Father, into Thy hands I commend My Spirit"*, Luke 23:46.

*"As the Father hath life in Himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself"*, John 5:26.

## 2. **Jerusalem Above, the Immortal Mother, the Bride, the Holy Ghost.**

Elohim(plural) said: *"Let Us make man in Our image, after Our likeness.....in the image of God created He him"*, Genesis 1:26-27.

*"The Grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God(the Father), and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all"*, 2 Corinthians 13:14.

*"This is the name wherewith She shall be called, the Lord our Righteousness"*, Jeremiah 33:16.

*"Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the Mother of us all"*, Galatians 4:26.

*"The Spirit and the Bride say, come"*, Revelation 22:17.

## 3. **Christ, the Son.**

*"I see four men loose"* (one in addition to Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-nego)  
*"walking in the midst of the fire, and they have no hurt; and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God"*, Daniel 3:25.

*"Declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the Spirit of holiness"*, Romans 1:4.

*"We have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world"*, 1 John 4:14.

*"No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him"*, John 1:18.

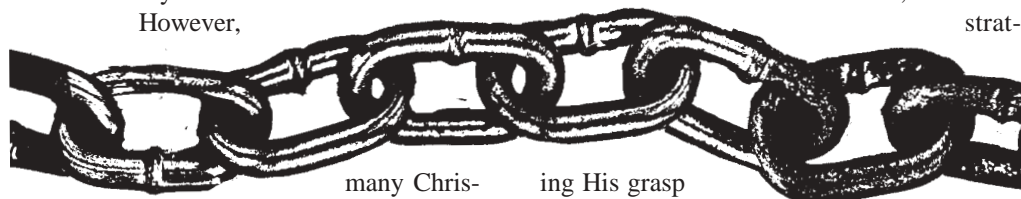
*"We have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the Righteous"*, 1 John 2:1.

*"Thou art Christ the Son of God"*, Luke 4:41.

# The Link from the

We accept that Jesus was the ultimate sacrifice and after Him there is no need to observe the sacrificial laws as laid down in the Old Testament (what greater Passover offering could be offered after Jesus). But Jesus came to show us how to follow God's law. He instilled love into the law that had been absent in Old Testament days and showed us, by demonstration, how to live by God's law not against it. He gave two new commandments to add to the old ones we already had, they being to love one another and to do unto others as you would have them do unto you.

However,



many Christians believe that the sacrifice of Jesus Christ took away the necessity of mankind - in particular Israel - to keep the law as given in the Old Testament. They maintain that Jesus was the 'fulfilment' of these 'old' laws and sacrifices.

The very people that laid the ground work for Christianity, ie. Jesus and His apostles, were strict adherents to the old law. They were all of Jewish origin and strict monotheists, eg. idolatry was one of the gravest of sins. The apostles knew the prophecies of the Old Testament and knew that Jesus was the fulfilment of these prophecies - the long awaited Messiah. They widely used and referred to the Old Testament in their teachings. They experienced firsthand the persecution of their Master and themselves, as well as the strict interpretations given by their religious leaders in the synagogues of the time. The spiritual leaders

of the time had become entrenched in traditionalism and lost sight of the true nature of God's law. Individual interpretation and over-judiciousness had led to a harshness in the law that followers were finding difficult and abhorrent. They did not understand that the greater authority was the very one they were condemning.

Jesus constantly referred to the Old Testament to reinforce His teachings but he rejected tradition not based directly on the laws (see Matthew chapter 15), and often times He made direct statements from the Old Testament, demonstrat-

ing His grasp of Old Testament understanding (see Matthew 5:17; John 10:35; Matthew 23:2-3; Mark 7:1-13; Mark 12:24). Thus we find that the very person that many claim came to do away with the Old Testament, or the Law, did not do away with it but showed us by His example how to follow this law to attain to a closer relationship with God.

The apostles quoted from and used the Old Testament widely in their mission work. They appealed directly to the letter of the Old Testament to give authority to their teaching. They firmly believed that the Christian faith was the fulfilment of these Old Testament Scriptures and that Jesus Christ was the promised Messiah, whose coming was predicted copiously in the Old Testament.

Jesus would not have broken any of the Mosaic law, eg. the eating of unclean meats, blasphemy, etc, and would have been a living

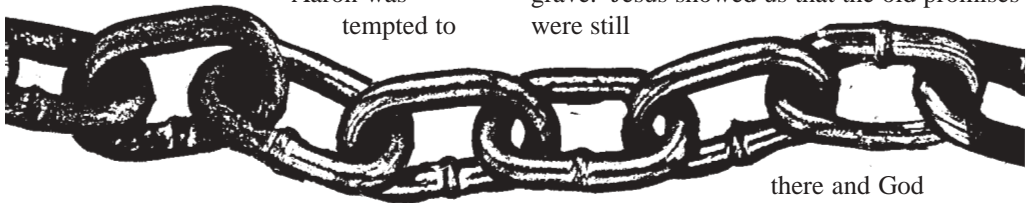


# to the New

example of how to live a perfect life as demonstrated and laid out in the laws given by God to Moses. His apostles would also have adhered to the letter of the law, but not the misinterpretation of the law. They had as they adviser the very maker of these laws, that is if one believes the Father and the Son different manifestations of the same tripartite being, the Creator God, but with separate spirits.

In the days of the Old Testament, the followers, more specifically the 10 tribes of Israel and the 2 tribes of Judah, according to the records, found it a law difficult to adhere to. Even at the time of Moses, with thousands of Israelites in the wilderness, only a handful of Israelites seemed to be able to remain faithful to God and His laws. Even

Aaron was tempted to



take the easy way, and relented and let the tribes build their idolatrous golden calf. Time after time the tribes would abandon God and His laws as too hard, wanting to be like the other nations with pagan gods and earthly kings. From the times of Adam to the days of the later prophets, Israel and Judah found these laws and 'demands' difficult to keep and thought it unreasonable to be expected to do so. They developed 'traditions' which helped them to cope and understand these laws. Traditions assumed as laws often stop love being fulfilled (see Romans 14:3,4). Love is the fulfilling of the law (Romans 13:10).

How then did Jesus change this? Any

parent will sympathise with the feelings associated with losing their own child. God, as our Father as well as Jesus' Father, gave us the greatest gift of all with the sacrifice of His son for the propitiation of our sins as foreshadowed in the Old Testament. Jesus placed love within the law, and placed the love in our hearts to have a desire to keep the law.

Jesus recognised that His message was not just to the lost ten tribes, but also to the Gentiles and those Jews who were not hindered by the letter of the law but inspired by Jesus' manifestation of the love of this law. He demonstrated to them that there is life after a death and a promise to those that believe that their spirit will return to God, while the soul waits for judgment in the grave. Jesus showed us that the old promises were still

there and God

would still keep them. With His advent to earth, dwelling with us as a human like us, Jesus showed us a human aspect of God that hadn't necessarily been demonstrated before.

The apostles, after the resurrection, spread the Word of the Christian message far and wide, gathering more believers to the Word and thus Christianity spread through much of the known world at the time. But even with a new message, and the lessons of the mis-interpretation of the Old fresh in minds with the death of Jesus, people would still twist the beliefs to suit their individual purposes and aims.

New traditions soon developed totally

enveloping the old, but with it came also a reinterpretation of Christianity that had not necessarily been at its foundation, and with none of the apostolic fathers to correct it, again it has suffered from over-interpretation and individual misrepresentation. As an example of this see the attachment after this article.

Just as some Christians find the law onerous, so different groups of Christians which have developed find the habits or traditions of others onerous as well.

When looking at the requirements of the law we need to consider what the law itself requires rather than at what tradition has painted as the requirement. If the law was unnecessary, why then did Jesus and his disciples adhere to it, and feel it was so important. If they had come to do away with the Old, they would have led by their own example, but following their example shows us that they had a healthy respect and acknowledgment of the authority of the Old Testament and the necessity of the laws for a closer liaison with our Creator, both now and in the future. We should model ourselves on the lives of these men and the record they have



left us in our Bible's. At no stage in the New Testament does it say that Jesus came to do away with the law, but it recognises the harsh over-interpretation the law had undergone to reach this stage, the danger that this law had on the followers of the time and the restrictive nature of this over-interpretation (Gentiles were only allowed in the outer areas of the temple, never the inner worship area, so there only chance of hearing anything about God was from the outer area of the Jewish

synagogues). Jesus, in no uncertain terms, let the authorities know that His message was available to, and for, everyone - completely non-discriminatory - allowing everyone to join the family of God.

When looking at the requirements of the law we need to consider what the law itself requires rather than at what tradition has painted as a requirement. If we remember that the Law was given as God's gift to his children, and acknowledge it for the gift of love that it is, not the harsh retributive sentence as portrayed in the Old Testament, and interpret with the love as demonstrated by Jesus Christ, then the law is no longer a burden, but a simple display of our love for our Creator and Father. The laws offer firstly freedom through service, secondly obedience through love and lastly true righteousness but traditions can promote a bondage to routine which is unnecessary, obedience through fear which is not what God wants and self-righteousness. A tradition is something *"we do because they have been done in the past"* Deuteronomy 19:14, a law is something *"we are instructed to do"*, Deuteronomy 5:1.

In short we find from the various lessons demonstrated that there is a fine line between tradition and truth but, once discerned, we find that tradition in the law develops self-righteousness, truth in the law develops true righteousness. Tradition also tells us that all must die - the word of God tells us, in fact promises us, that if we keep His law then we shall live.

There are various states of glory spoken of in the Scriptures, but one, the hope



of the life of the body, is a real and proven promise. Enoch and Elijah showed us that God can over-ride the natural elements, and take people without them experiencing physical death, to dwell with God with their spirit, soul and body intact.

Jesus showed us through His resurrection, that the hope of the life of the body was again a real and ever present hope for those who could keep the 'strict' requirements of the Old law.

## The "Thomas" Christians or "Syrians"

In the 1500's Pedro Alvares Cabral (the Portuguese explorer) discovered the existence of the 'Christians of St. Thomas' in the far south of India. He took one of these Christians back to Europe with him. Medieval travellers had referred to the existence of this Indian Church, they apparently numbered about 100,000 and had been so long established that they were regarded as in no ways foreign. They had little external contact with Church authorities and used the Syriac language in their liturgy. The followers were confident that they had loyally maintained the faith as it had come down to them from their founder the apostle Thomas. The records tell us that the Portuguese were charmed by the simple dignity of these Christians. The Portuguese called them the "Syrians". After a while though, theological difficulties started to arise between the Portuguese and the "Syrians". For example, the "Syrians" had never heard of the Pope, but the Portuguese, naturally, regarded it as inconceivable that any Christian could or should exist independent of the Bishop of Rome - the Pope was regarded as the sole

Vicar of Christ on earth. Through various political wrangling, these Thomas Christians eventually ended up with a Bishop assigned to them by the Pope. These original Bishops were sympathetic to their ways originally, until the appointment of a new Archbishop, Aleixo da Menezes, who decreed that all Christians in India must come under his jurisdiction, all must adopt the Roman orthodoxy of the sixteenth century as defined by the Council of Trent, and there must be no nonsense about any independence. The Synod of Diamper opened on 20th June, 1599, various decrees were put forward, in Portuguese which these Indians would not have understood, the decrees were signed and thus the total absorption of the Thomas "Syrians" into Roman Catholicism was complete. For the time being the Church of the Thomas Christians, as an independent part of the family of Christ, had simply ceased to be. Unfortunately with this conversion, Christianity lost a strain of pure religion, kept intact and untouched since the days of Thomas, and a last direct link to the apostolic fathers.

"A History of the Christian Missions", Stephen Neill, 1964, Penguin Books.

# From the Gospel of Thomas.



Preface, *“These are the secret sayings which the living Jesus spoke and which Didymus Judas Thomas wrote down. And he said, ‘Whoever finds the interpretation of these sayings will not experience death.’ Jesus said, ‘Let him who seeks continue seeking until he finds. When he finds, he will become troubled. When he becomes troubled, he will be astonished, and he will over the All.....”*

The disciples said to Jesus, *‘Tell us what the Kingdom of Heaven is like.’* He said unto them, *‘It is like a mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds. But when it falls on tilled soil it produces a great plant and becomes a shelter for the birds of the sky.’.....* Jesus said, *‘Blessed are the solitary and elect, for you will find the Kingdom. For you are far from it and to it you will return.’.....*

Jesus said, *‘A man received visitors. And when he had prepared the dinner, he sent his servant to invite the guests. He said, ‘I have claims against some merchants. They are coming to me this evening I must go and give them my orders. I ask to be excused from the dinner.’ He went to another and said to him, ‘My master invites you.’ He said to him, ‘I have just bought a farm, and I am on my way to collect the rent. I shall not be able to come. I ask to be excused.’ The servant returned and said to his master, ‘Those whom you invited to the dinner have asked to be excused.’ The master said to his servant, ‘Go outside to the streets and bring back those whom you happen to meet, so that they may dine. Businessmen and merchants will not enter the Places of my Father.’.....*

Jesus said, *‘Many are standing at the door, but the solitary are the ones who will enter the bridal chamber.’.....*

Jesus said, *‘He who will drink from my mouth will become like me, and the things that are hidden will be revealed to him.’*

**The Gospel of Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings, proverbs, prophecies and parables of Jesus. Discovery of a complete Coptic version in the setting of the Nag Hammadi library indicates its value to the Gnostics in the fourth century.**

*"And he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life", Genesis 3:24.*

The sword which kept the tree of life,  
Which was in Eden plac'd,  
Did fall on Adam and his wife,  
Who did the evil taste.

It fell on all their race the same  
Who evil works brought forth;  
A mighty flood of water came,  
And cover'd all the earth.

It after fell upon the Jews  
Although God's chosen race;  
Because they did His Son refuse,  
And treat him with disgrace.

It did on all the Prophets fall,  
And the Apostles too;  
Although they on his name did call,  
They felt the dreadful blow.

This sword also on Jesus fell,  
Although Jehovah's Son;  
Untainted by the pow'rs of hell,  
Israel's Holy One.

Then who and what is Lucifer,  
Who all these murders wrought?  
Shall he for ever miss the spear  
Which he himself has brought?

Say NO! and joyful echoes raise,  
The day is coming fast;  
When God, the King of ancient days,  
On him the sword will cast.

Yea, Satan too shall meet his doom,  
The root of evil roots;  
Then back shall Eden's glory come,  
With all its flowing fruits.

Extracts from an Abridgement of John Wroe's Life and Travels  
from 1822 - 1833, published 1837.

# John Wroe's Life

John Wroe was born September, 19th, 1782 at Bowling, Bradford, Yorkshire, England.

In the latter part of the year 1819, he became ill, and was told by the doctor that he would not recover. His wife sent for four Methodist preachers to come and pray with him. None came. She offered to send to Bradford for the parson, but he asked her to "read him a chapter or two", and he would see what he could do himself.

He wrestled with God in prayer, was struck dumb and blind, and began to have visions shown to him.

On August 14, 1822, he heard a voice commanding him, "Go! Go! Go to my people Israel, and speak the words that I command thee to deliver unto them."

In the latter part of 1822, he was given directions to go to the various bodies of believers in the visitations of Joanna Southcott and George Turner, to the Jews, and into all nations, and to preach the everlasting gospel. He was to begin his journey on Saturday, 14th of December, 1822.

**The first meeting** was at Bradford, England, on 14 December 1822 at 12am, that is at 12 midnight on 13 December.

He travelled to Colne in Lancashire, Liverpool, Ashton-under-Lyne, to Bury in Lancashire, Bolton, Manchester, Wakefield, Leeds, Idle, Huddersfield, Stockport, Macclesfield, Sheffield, Doncaster, Thorne, London (7 April 1823) then to Liverpool, and was told that he would be taken by ship from there.

Sunday, 25th April, 1823: **First**

**Mission** journey out of England was to Gibraltar. Robert Harling accompanied him, but desired to return home. Another person, William Cook, was brought to meet John Wroe and appointed to work for the Lord and for the spreading of His Message. John Wroe also travelled to Spain, then returned to England in July, 1823.

Sunday, 12th October, 1823: John Wroe and William Lees set out from Dover on his **Second Mission** journey out of England. They went to Calais in France, Strasburg, also in France, Vienna, Trieste, Venice, Milan, returning by way of Turin to Paris, and from Calais back to Dover on 17 December. They called at Chatham, Gravesend, London and then Ashton when back in England.

In July, 1827, John Wroe and William Tillotson travelled North to Sunderland, then into Scotland where they visited Edinburgh, Glasgow, Aberdeen and Inverness, returning in the latter part of August.

In June 1828, John Wroe visited Bristol, and from there he and William Matthews visited Swansea in South Wales, as well as Ilfracombe. In Swansea, there were audiences of 2,000 and 3,000 people.

In 1834 - the **Third Mission** journey out of England - John Wroe went to Ireland. He went back to Ireland again in 1836 and 1839.

In 1840 he made his first trip to **America**. He visited New York, then returned to England.

In 1844 he made his first trip to **Australia**. He went to Sydney and Penrith, then returned to England.

# and Travels

In 1850 he came to **Australia for the second time**, visiting Hobart Town, Little Scotland (Tasmania), Collingwood (Victoria) and Sydney. He returned to England in January, 1851.

In 1853 he made his **second visit to America** from whence he continued to make his third visit to Australia. He was in America approximately 3 months and in Australia about 6 months.

Over the next few years he concentrated on building "Melbourne House". Unfortunately his wife, Mary Wroe nee Appleby, passed away before it was completed. The opening "Convention" was at Whitsuntide 1857.

In May and June, 1859, he made his **fourth visit to Australia** meeting members in Victoria, Tasmania and New South Wales.

In August, 1862 he set out from England for his **fifth and final visit to Australia**. He suffered a fall on board ship and his collar-bone was broken. He arrived in November, was physically ill for several months and departed this life in January, 1863 at Melbourne, Victoria.

He had ministered for just over 40 years from the time of his first "setting forth" from Bradford.

He had sent out other men as Preachers - some had come to Australia in 1839, four years before his first arrival.

As directed in 1822, he always had a person travel with him who was required to be a witness to what John Wroe did, and to handle his finances as he was not to carry money himself. In due course, the written records of those who travelled with him,

were compiled, and put together in book form, each volume covering a period of 10 years.

The **1st Volume** gives an account of his early life, upbringing, and introduction into the Lord's service up to the year 1832.

The **2nd Volume** covers the period 1833 to 1842, and the **3rd Volume** 1843 to 1852.

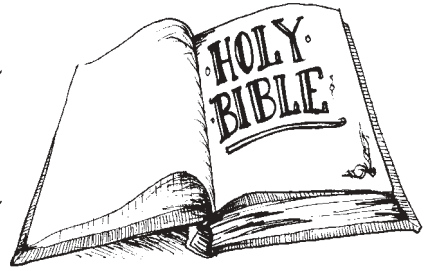
In between the time of his actual journeys, he was engaged/occupied in giving such information as the Lord made known to him, sometimes in the course of the Meetings with the Members (Friday night or Sunday morning), sometimes in the privacy of his own home - often during the early hours of the morning. He would also give "answers" to those members requiring explanation of certain Scripture passages, and these answers, published in the Volumes, would be for the benefit of all who read them.

Another aspect of his ministry was teaching and helping the members to understand certain points. He would call a member from the congregation to come forward, and he would put certain questions to that member. This method had great advantage, for if the person did not give the correct answer, John Wroe would then ask them other relevant questions, and ultimately both the person being asked the questions, as well as those who would later read the account of the discourse, could then understand the point more clearly.

These three volumes are available for all to purchase. Abridged booklets of 1853-54, and 1855 - 56 are also available.

# Expand Your Bible

## The Language Barrier ~ the Tower of Babel



We often say, “Wouldn’t it be great if all people spoke the same language. There would be no language barrier, we could communicate better and the world would be a much better place.”

But there was such a time when all did speak the same language and it would seem that mankind was no better than now - his thoughts and imaginings were still selfish and greedy.

After the flood, Noah and his family very soon ventured forth from Mount Ararat and their transitory home, the ark, to start building new homes and farms. They had been told to “go forth and multiply and replenish the earth.” The first baby to be born in the post flood period was Arphaxad, Shem’s first child, and he was born two years after the flood.

By the end of the first century after the flood Noah’s family had increased greatly in number and by now numbered hundreds of families. As they travelled eastward they came to a fertile plain in Shinar and settled there. Noah was still alive (he lived for 350 years after the flood) and, as the patriarch, we imagine would be holding the people together. The people did not, or did not want to, heed God’s command to spread over the face of the earth.

Then they began to doubt God’s promise that He would never again destroy the earth by water, even though they had the promise evidenced in the rainbow. In their egotism and pride they decided that they would make themselves a safe place - a place above the height of the flood waters - a place where they could go

“just in case of another flood”.

So, as recorded in Genesis chapter 11, “They said one to another, Go to, let us make brick, and burn them throughly. And they had brick for stone, and slime had they for mortar. (verse 3)

“And they said, Go to, let us build us a city and a tower, whose top may reach into heaven; and let us make us a name, lest we be scattered abroad upon the face of the whole earth”. (verse 4)

As the tower grew higher and higher the people felt very satisfied with themselves. Now, they thought, they would build a large city around the tower and have a safe place of refuge.

“And the Lord said, Behold the people is one, and they have all one language; and this they begin to do; and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do.” (verse 6)

If the whole human race remained united in the proud attempt to take its destiny into its own hands, there would be no limit in its unrestrained rebellion against God with the kingdom of man completely replacing the kingdom of God.

Despite its size and the apparent success in building the tower, it was a very paltry thing compared to the mighty mountains and other wonderful works of creation. Not only had the people ignored or forgotten God’s promise of no more floods to destroy the earth, but they had also ignored His instructions to spread and inhabit the earth. Instead here they were congregated in one

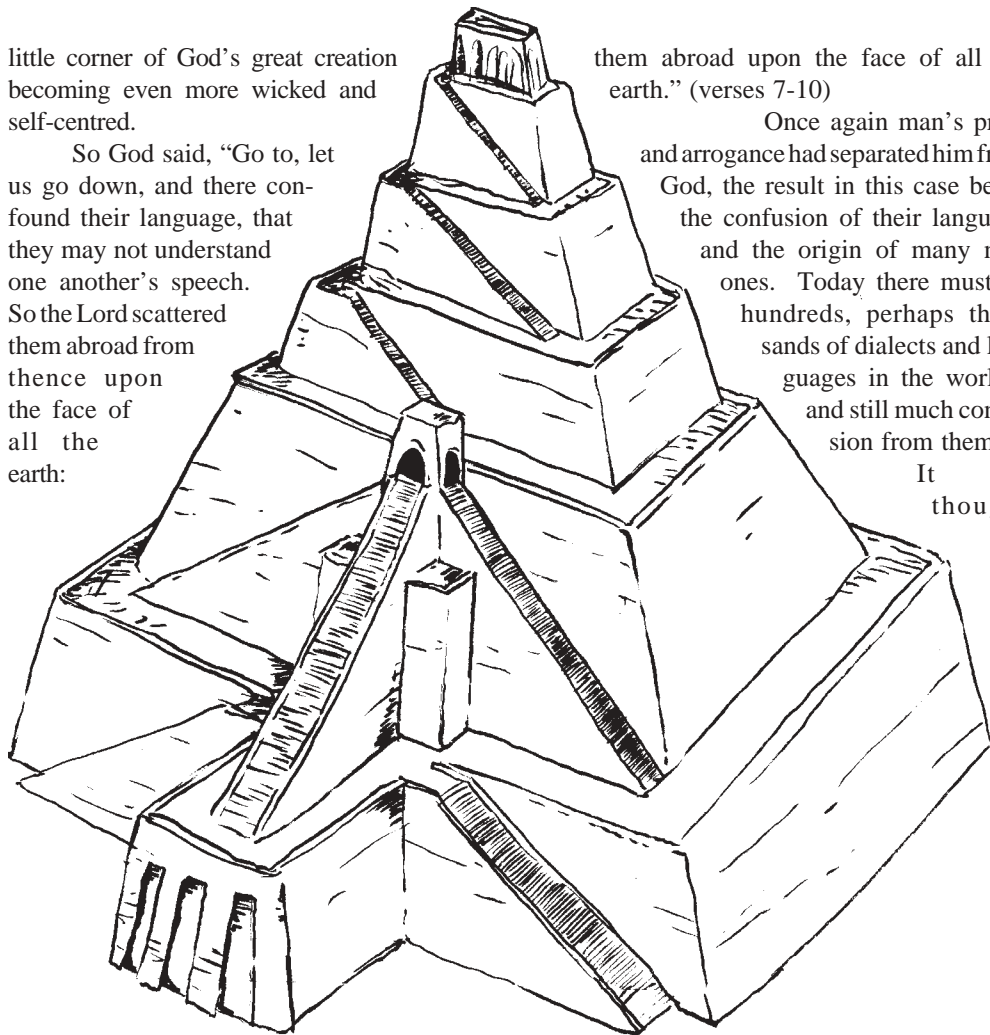
little corner of God's great creation becoming even more wicked and self-centred.

So God said, "Go to, let us go down, and there confound their language, that they may not understand one another's speech. So the Lord scattered them abroad from thence upon the face of all the earth:

them abroad upon the face of all the earth." (verses 7-10)

Once again man's pride and arrogance had separated him from God, the result in this case being the confusion of their language and the origin of many new ones. Today there must be hundreds, perhaps thousands of dialects and languages in the world - and still much confusion from them.

It is thought



and they left off to build the city. Therefore is the name of it called Babel (babble); because the Lord did there confound the language of all the earth: and from thence did the Lord scatter

that the site of the tower of Babel developed into the city of Babylon, synonymous in Biblical studies with confusion, evil and wickedness within the world.

Note 1 - **Tower** - The typical Mesopotamian temple tower known as a ziggurat, was square at the base and had sloping stepped sides that led upward to a small shrine at the top, where offerings were made to a deity. The ziggurat was meant to serve as a stairway from earth to heaven.

Note 2 - **Babel** - the word is of Akkadian origin and means "gateway to a god". The suffix "el" indicated "god".

**The Book of Jasher gives us still further insight to the Tower of Babel.....**

And king Nimrod reigned securely, and all the earth was under his control, and all the earth was of one tongue and words of union.

And all the princes of Nimrod and his great men took counsel together; Phut, Mizraim, Cush and Canaan with their families, and they said to each other, Come let us build ourselves a city and in it a strong tower, and its top reaching heaven, and we will make ourselves famed, so that we may reign upon the whole world, in order that the evil of our enemies may cease from us, that we may reign mightily over them, and that we may not become scattered over the earth on account of their wars.

And they all went before the king, and they told the king these words, and the king agreed with them in this affair, and he did so.

And all the families assembled consisting of about six hundred thousand men, and they went to seek an extensive piece of ground to build the city and the tower, and they sought in the whole earth and they found none like one valley at the east of the land of Shinar, about two days' walk, and they journeyed there and they dwelt there.

And they began to make bricks and burn fires to build the city and the tower that they had imagined to complete.

And the building of the tower was unto them a transgression and a sin, and they began to build it, and whilst they were building against the Lord God of heaven, they imagined in their hearts to war against him and to ascend into heaven.

And all these people and all the families divided themselves in three parts; the first said We will ascend into heaven and fight

against him; the second said, We will ascend to heaven and place our own gods there and serve them; and the third part said, We will ascend to heaven and smite him with bows and spears; and God knew all their works and all their evil thoughts, and he saw the city and the tower which they were building.

And when they were building they built themselves a great city and a very high and strong tower; and on account of its height the mortar and bricks did not reach the builders in their ascent to it, until those who went up had completed a full year, and after that, they reached to the builders and gave them the mortar and the bricks; thus was it done daily.

And behold these ascended and others descended the whole day; and if a brick should fall from their hands and get broken, they would all weep over it, and if a man fell and died, none of them would look at him.

And the Lord knew their thoughts, and it came to pass when they were building they cast the arrows toward the heavens, and all the arrows fell upon them filled with blood, and when they saw them they said to each other, Surely we have slain all those that are in heaven.

For this was from the Lord in order to cause them to err, and in order to destroy them from off the face of the ground.

And they built the tower and the city, and they did this thing daily until many days and years were elapsed.

And God said to the seventy angels who stood foremost before him, to those who were near to him, saying, Come let us descend and confuse their tongues, that one man shall not understand the language of his neighbour, and they did so unto them.

And from that day following, they forgot each man his neighbour's tongue, and they could not understand to speak in one tongue, and when the builder took from the hands of his neighbour lime or stone which he did not order, the builder would cast it away and throw it upon his neighbour, that he would die.

And they did so many days, and they killed many of them in this manner.

And the Lord smote the three divisions that were there, and he punished them according to their works and designs; those who said, We will ascend to heaven and serve our gods, became like apes and elephants; and those who said, We will smite the heaven with arrows, the Lord killed them, one man through the hand of his neighbour; and the third division of those who said, We will ascend to heaven and fight against him, the Lord scattered them throughout the earth.

And those who were left amongst them, when they knew and understood the evil which was coming upon them, they forsook the building, and they also became scattered upon the face of the whole earth.

And they ceased building the city and the tower; therefore he called that place Babel, for there the Lord confounded the language of the whole earth; behold it was at the east of the land of Shinar.

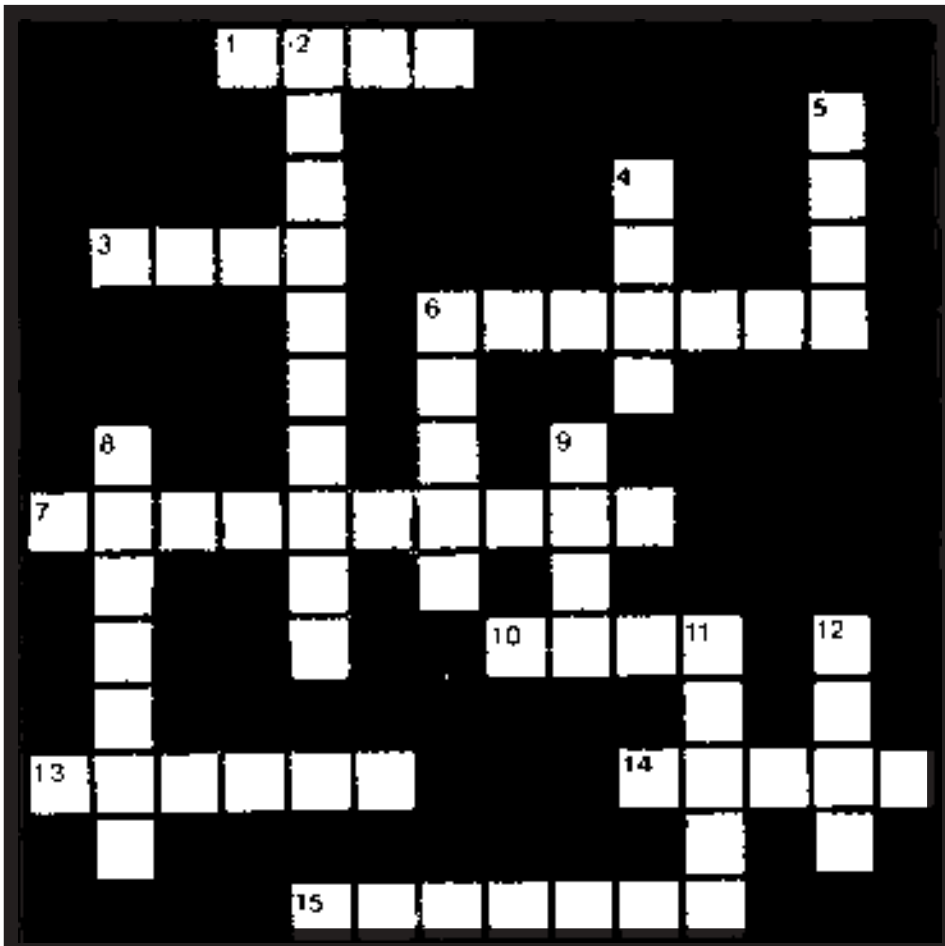
And as to the tower which the sons of men built, the earth opened its mouth and swallowed up one third part thereof, and a fire also descended from heaven and burned another third, and the other third is left to this day, and it is of that part which was aloft, and its circumference is three days' walk.

And many of the sons of men died in that tower, a people without number.



# A ~~CROSS~~ KIND WORD PUZZLE

This puzzle is filled with words that give you that 'warm, fuzzy' feeling. These words are found often in the Bible. Here, they are spelled in an unusual way. Figure out what is wrong with the spelling, and write the words correctly. Then fill them in this very 'kind-word' puzzle.



Down:

- 2. dnatsrednu \_\_\_\_\_
- 4. doog \_\_\_\_\_
- 5. dnik \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. sselb \_\_\_\_\_
- 8. trofmoc \_\_\_\_\_
- 9. evol \_\_\_\_\_
- 11. acaep \_\_\_\_\_
- 12. epoh \_\_\_\_\_

Across:

- 1. tsuj \_\_\_\_\_
- 3. erac \_\_\_\_\_
- 6. devoleb \_\_\_\_\_
- 7. noissapmoc \_\_\_\_\_
- 10. pleh \_\_\_\_\_
- 13. dneirf \_\_\_\_\_
- 14. yppah \_\_\_\_\_
- 15. evigrof \_\_\_\_\_

# Debunk Your Bible: Hubble Debuffed

Remember all those times when people wanted to argue with you that the Earth is 15 to 20 billion years old and told you that you were a fool to believe anything different? Well, fret no more, it seems science has the “female’s prerogative” to change it’s mind. In fact I don’t think you’ll be hassled by anyone quoting those figures any more ... and it’s all thanks to that wonder of science known as the Hubble Space Telescope.

On April 24, 1990 the Hubble Telescope was launched into space to begin a 15 year mission. Unfettered by the distortion of the Earth’s atmosphere, Hubble was to look out into space and unravel some of the mysteries of our universe - such as where we came from and the Age of our universe. Unfortunately Hubble didn’t get off to the best start. It’s ability to focus was reduced owing to a flaw in its main mirror, but this was fixed in the first servicing mission in 1993. Over the past 5 years, Hubble has made an incredible number of observations and scientific discoveries.

The first I heard about Hubbles’ new “Age of the Universe” discovery was on the late news one night back in October 1994. It’s taken until now to actually put fingers to keyboard and write about it. The news story was that the Hubble telescope had been able to do some accurate measurements on the Age of the Universe and found that the age is not the 15 to 20 billion years quoted in scientific texts, but more like half that - more like 8 to 10 billion years. It went on to say how scientists are flat-out re-writing the story of the evolution of the universe to try and fit it into the new time frame.

Being the curious little mite that I am, I thought I should delve a little deeper. Recently I got copies of some press releases from NASA on this discovery (the Internet is a wonderful thing). Hubble was able to accurately measure the distance to the remote galaxy M100, located in the Virgo cluster of galaxies. This is significant as it is used in determining the expansion rate of the Universe (assuming the Universe is expanding away from the point of a Big Bang) which is called the Hubble Constant. When the Hubble constant is used in conjunction with several other numbers, including the density of matter in the Universe, the Age of the Universe can be calculated. The bottom line is, owing to Hubble observations, the age of the universe is implied to be 8 billion years for a “low-density” universe to 12 billion years for a “high-density” universe.

The press release admitted this to be somewhat of a “dilemma”. These ages are shorter than the estimated ages for some of the stars in the Milky Way. It also completely upsets current theories about the formation and development of the universe. Theories that the Earth is 4.5 billion years old and the first elements were formed 10-12 billion years ago need to be completely re-evaluated.

I thought this was fascinating. All of these scientists who had been teaching, without question, that the age of the universe was 15 to 20 billion years, and treating people who thought any different like fools, were now having to eat humble pie and re-jig their theories. So what’s a couple of billion years between species? Quite a lot actually. You can’t just halve the age of the universe and expect nothing to change. All of a sudden time-scales are compressed. Probabilities suddenly have less time to come about. Everything is sped up. All of a sudden evolution doesn’t have as much time to occur. etc.

More than that it highlights, at least to me, that many theories we take as gospel can still have their foundations rocked, moved, or even destroyed. If all of the theories about the development of the Universe can be thrown into turmoil by one observation, then how do we know that there isn’t one more observation waiting to be made that will throw even more theories out the window.

This shows a number of “dangers”. Firstly, theories are just that - “theories”. They are based on the best evidence available at the time, and theories are still susceptible to new discoveries which can either support them or throw them into turmoil. Secondly, there is a danger in getting too wrapped up in “theories”. How do you think the person who argued that “the earth is 15 to 20 billion years old and your a fool not to believe it” feels when their argument falls flat on its face with the next scientific discovery.

Don’t get me wrong. I absolutely love the fact that we have scientific minds and that we search for meaning in our life and purpose in our universe. The Hubble telescope is a very exciting scientific tool for making new observations about the universe we live in. The whole business of drawing theories out of observations and then trying to prove or disprove them is an admirable and dare I say necessary process. However I’m not about to base my faith in science and theories which can and are drastically changed with the next discovery.

It’s nice to have an “unscientific faith” in God. It’s good that God isn’t “scientifically quantifiable” or “discovery susceptible”. It might be that faith in God is really the only solid foundation and the only real constant we have.

Primary Reference: NASA Press Release number: STScI-PR94-49 and 95-56

Secondary References: “Telling Lies for God”, “Collapse of Evolution”, “Velocity of Light and Age of the Universe”

# God's Revelation in

## **Backwards or Forwards?**

There is a commonly held belief that the human race is evolving or has evolved. This means that measured against some specified performance and observable criteria, people should be getting “better”. However, when we think about a number of issues relating to the behaviour of mankind we begin to question this assumption. Take for example the way we treat the environment in which we live. Does our treatment of the environment demonstrate an example of evolution - a process in which things are assessed to be getting better- or is it really devolution, a backwards evolution - a process in which things are getting worse! The same question can be applied to relationships between nations, groups and individuals as well as to the operation of international finances. Are we really going forwards or backwards?

There seems to be some support for the theory that rather than evolving, mankind is going through a process of devolution. The changes in technology in such fields as medicine, engineering and communications result in a potentially improved quality of life. This level of external change deceives us into thinking that the basic thrust of society is “improving” when in fact it is really only the content of living that is changing and not the process. It is easy to confuse the process with the content, and to be led into a feeling of false security. See for example the words of Isaiah in chapter 29, verses 10 to 16, and Paul when talking to the Thessalonians in 1 Thessalonians, chapter 5 verse 3.

## **A Path Leading Away From God**

We can apply a similar observation to

people’s relationship with God. When we look at the way in which the world is heading we think of the words of God at the time of Noah; “And 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”. Genesis 6:5. Surely this seems to be the way that the world is heading again, with a general disregard for God and a selfishness of purpose in most things which are done. Indeed Jesus said this would happen in Matthew chapter 24, verses 37-39. The relationship between the world and God seems also to be devolving rather than evolving.

At what point, then, might we expect that this move away from God to be arrested, or are there examples of exceptions to what seems to be this general trend?

## **A Changing Communication Link**

In the Garden of Eden, we are told, God spoke to Adam and Eve. There is no reason to believe that this was anything other than direct verbal dialogue. However, as time progressed, the relationship between God and people devolved and the use of physical dialogue declined. People’s communication with God became generally confined to use of the mind directed towards God - that is prayer. God’s response is evidenced through Him imparting understanding to the soul or mind of each individual, and His presence is confirmed to believers in His influence on the direction of outcomes in the world around us. Thus we are generally in the situation described by Paul when he said in Hebrews chapter 11 verse 6, quoting the Old Testament, “But without faith it is impossible to please

# the Old Testament

Him...”. So in process of time our relationship with God has devolved from one of straight dialogue to one of spiritual communication.

## Continuing Confirmation of God’s Presence

When Noah came out of the ark God established His Covenant with him. (see Genesis 9:12). As we move through the Scriptures we see that God reconfirms this covenant through a ‘chosen’ line. God said to Abraham in Genesis chapter 17, verse 7, “and I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee..”. Again, in verse 19, God affirms that He will establish His covenant with Isaac for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. The blessing was again confirmed to Jacob in Genesis 28:13-14.

Whilst initially God appears to have spoken directly to His special people, the communication link devolved to take the form of the intermediary, either of an angel, or an angel with the appearance of a person.

Reference on each of these occasions is made to a covenant. God speaks about His Covenant that He will make with His chosen people. There is not much detail given in

these early passages on the basis on which the covenant would be built. God did exhort Abraham to be perfect but little was recorded of what would constitute perfection.

## The Covenant With Israel

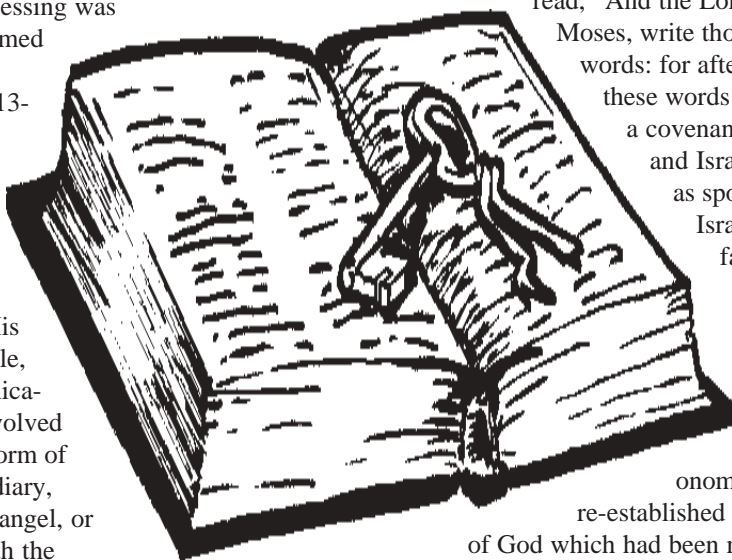
After the sojourn of the Israelites in Egypt, God reaffirmed His continuing promise to Israel. He confirmed to Moses the origin of the covenant with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, (see Exodus 6:3-4) and then went on to continue the line of His covenant through Israel. This was done at Sinai just after the miraculous delivery of The Israelites from Egypt.

In Exodus chapter 19 verses 5-8 we read of the establishment of the covenant with Is-rael. Again in Exodus 34:27 we read, “And the Lord said unto

Moses, write thou these words: for after the tenor of these words I have made a covenant with thee and Israel.” Moses, as spokesperson for Israel, did speak face to face with God, ‘whom the Lord knew face to face’.

Deuteronomy 34:10. This re-established The Presence of God which had been missing from within Israel for a long time.

In establishing the covenant with Israel, God set down rules for life and guidelines for living which He wished His people to follow. These laws formalised



many of the things which had been done earlier, and set a framework of behaviour within which the people would have done well to continue.

### **The Covenant With David**

The next time God reconfirmed His continuing Covenant was through David. In 2 Samuel, chapter 7 verses 10-17, (and also in 1 Chronicles 17:9-15), God spoke of the covenant with David and his seed after him. Again the Covenant was conditional on obedience. Israel became known as God's Covenant people. When Jesus came he was heralded by the angel as great David's greater son.

Throughout the remainder of the Old Testament God continued to re-affirm His Covenant with Israel. The Bible contains examples of the way in which the Prophets and leaders communicated with God - or didn't, as the case may be. Very little is passed down to us of how the laity felt about the way that the Church elders tried to manipulate and manoeuvre them into a particular ritual of worship.

### **Special Relationships**

Towards the end of the Old Testament era we see a decided change in the attitude of the relationship between individuals and God. God was starting to be seen as a personal God, more seeking of obedience rather than sacrifice. The rituals of the priestly officers were being challenged by those who saw the need for personal dedication to God. "Will the Lord be pleased with thousands of rams, or with ten thousands of rivers of oil?...He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the Lord require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to walk humbly with thy God." (Micah 6:7,8)

The words of the Psalmist in Psalm 139, verses 23 and 24 also come to mind; "Search me O God and know my heart; try me and know my thoughts: And see if these be any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

Such thoughts set the framework from which the Christian approach would surely develop, the need for any relationship with God to be personal and real.

### **The Covenant To Be Fulfilled**

It is interesting to note that in the latter chapters of Deuteronomy God told Moses what would happen if the people did or did not keep His commandments. However, in chapter 30 of Deuteronomy, we see that God speaks of a time after they had been scattered for their dis-obedience when they would be regathered because of their obedience. This cycle re-occurred many times throughout the Old Testament, but never yet have they returned to be kept by God in an eternal Covenant. This wonderful promise is yet to be fulfilled.

But the choice is ours, as recorded in Deuteronomy chapter 30, verse 19: "I call heaven and earth to record against you, that I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: therefore choose life, that both thou and thy seed may live." The blessing of life was offered as a response to obedience.

Truly these promises were contained within the pages of the Old Testament, but the power to attain to them was not. Whilst the general thrust of social direction seems to be and always has been away from God's laws and commandments, or we might say devolving, there has been at the same time a special path evolving which leads to life and immortality through combining the promises of the Old Testament with the Power promised from God in The Gospel.

# All Round Health

## Indigestion!!

Digestion! Unnoticed when it is good, but, oh so unsociable when it is bad. Burps, burning, barbarismus (there's one to look up) and blustery downdrafts that bring unwanted attention, are just some of the things that can go wrong. We will look at some of the worrying but less serious symptoms produced by availing gastro-intestinal systems.

The gastro-intestinal system spends its time extracting nutrients from the food we eat. Digestion starts in the mouth and continues in the stomach and duodenum. Absorption of nutrients takes place throughout the small and large intestines until the waste is expelled. Foods high in fibre and the intake of an adequate quantity of water help with the process of "peristalsis" (the movement of food through the intestines).

The diagram on the next page will help you to orientate yourself if you are not familiar with all the parts of the digestive system. There is a brief note with each part telling what it does.

Digestion, believe it or not, starts in the mouth. If you are having problems with burps or acid burning from indigestion it may simply be a matter of taking a little time to chew your food rather than gulping it down. The acid and enzymes, mainly pepsinogen, in the stomach work more quickly and efficiently on small pieces of food. The enzyme "ptyalin" contained in saliva begins to breakdown carbohydrates straight away. A quick chomp and gulp allows most of the carbohydrate to escape without coming in contact with ptyalin. The result - poorer digestion.

For those who have difficulty swallowing and want to drink lots with meals, you too might try chewing each mouthful for longer. Approximately ten times more water than saliva is required to lubricate the passage of food down the oesophagus to the stomach.

When you have indigestion after eating, the tissue salt "Nat Phos" or sodium phosphate can be particularly useful, but in many cases when the symptoms occur regularly after meals and with frequent burping, a better solution is to supplement the stomach's digestive process. Digestive enzymes and hydrochloric acid are useful for this. Digestive enzymes are often of animal origin but plant enzymes are also used. Apples, pineapples and paw paws are good sources of enzymes and the tissue salt "Kah Mur" (Potassium Chloride) is also useful to help stimulate acid production in the stomach.

Peppermint tea may be useful to help a stomach suffering from the perils of overeating while chamomile tea can be helpful in the case of colic pains. The tissue salt "Meg Phos" (Magnesium Phosphate) may also be beneficial for colic and cramping pains.

The stomach is protected from its own acid and enzymes by a layer of mucus secreted by cells in its lining. The protective action of this mucus is enhanced by calcium. The tissue salt "Calc Phos" (Calcium Phosphate) is therefore useful in a variety of gastric and digestive disturbances. Fresh cabbage juice, particularly from the tough green outer leaves, has been used extensively in the treatment of gastric and duodenal ulcers.

If you suffer from nervous indigestion with the feeling that your stomach is “Gone”, or you are still hungry after eating sufficient food or you suffer from stomach aches when you are frightened or excited, the tissue salt “Kali Phos” (Potassium Phosphate) may be beneficial.

Try some of these helpful hints next time you are suffering, you may be surprised at the results. Remember though that you should seek professional advice when symptoms persist.

Be kind to your stomach until next time.

### References:

1. Guyton, Arthur C., Physiology of the Human Body, 5th Edition, W B Saunders Co., Philadelphia, 1979
2. Hall, Dorothy, The Natural Health Book, Nelson, Melbourne, 1987
3. Lassell, Colin B., The Biochemic Handbook, Thorsons, Great Britain, 1984.

### **Stomach:**

Stores food for digestion and controlled release to the small intestine.

### **Pancreas:**

Part controls blood sugar level but another part makes sodium bicarbonate which neutralizes the acid in the digesting food coming from the stomach. The pancreas also makes digestive enzymes.

### **Liver:**

The liver is the chemical factory of the body. It also makes bile which is stored in the gall bladder and released as required.

### **Small Intestine:**

Made up of the ilium, jejunum and duodenum carries on the digestion and absorption processes.

### **Large Intestine:**

No digestion occurs here but water and electrolytes are reabsorbed from faecal material.



# Statement of Belief

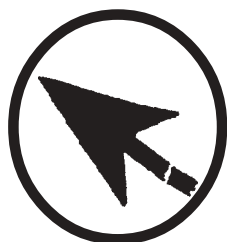
**The Christian Israelite Church beliefs can be fully supported by the Scriptures. Here is an outline:**

## **We Believe**

- \* In God Almighty creator of all things (Genesis 1:1).
- \* In the existence of Satan, the Devil, in whom God allowed iniquity to be placed (James 2:19; Ezekial 28:14,15).
- \* That God created a spirit-existence in which the devil manifested evil and caused some of the spirits to rebel against God (Isaiah 14:12-14; Jude 6)
- \* That God created our physical world, to which each person comes with a body and a soul made alive by a spirit from the spiritual creation (Luke 9:55; Genesis 2:7).
- \* That God gave His people instructions on the way they should live, which instructions were "for their good always" (Deuteronomy 6:24).
- \* That all have sinned and come "short of the glory of God" (Romans 3:23; 2 Corinthians 5:19).
- \* That God has reconciled the (whole) world to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus (John 3:16,17).
- \* That through belief in the sacrifice of Jesus believers are counted as righteous before God, and can be assured of the resurrection of their souls (a Spiritual body) at Jesus' return (1 Timothy 4:10; 1 Corinthians 15:44).
- \* That there will be a small number who will fully prove their faith by a work of true obedience to God's instructions and will thereby receive the prize of the highest calling of God, the redemption of spirit and soul and body - this living mortal Body made Immortal without seeing death (1 Thessalonians 5:23; Revelation 14:1-5; Hebrews 11:39,40).
- \* That Jesus Christ will return to this earth again, subdue the power of Satan and reign forever and ever (Revelation chapters 19 and 20)
- \* That the return of Jesus Christ is near and we are living in the period described in Scripture as the latter days (Matthew chapter 24; Mark chapter 13 and Luke chapter 21)
- \* That there are promises in the Scriptures especially to Israel - God's chosen people (1 Peter 2:9).
- \* That although Israel of old did not accept the challenge of spiritually being God's peculiar people, a remnant of their descendants will come forward in the latter days to fulfill the obligations and receive the promises (Revelation 7:1-8).
- \* That the Mission of the Christian Israelite Church is to awaken the lost ten tribes of Israel to this special inheritance to be the physical Immortal "Bride of the Lamb" and to be the vehicle for the task of bringing them all together at God's appointed time (Matthew 10:5,6; Revelation chapter 19).

**We believe that God is the absolute Judge and Arbiter and that we as His servants have an obligation to respond to what He puts in each heart, and that whilst we seek to proclaim and discuss our beliefs, that we have no right to contend with other people about them.**

# The Twelve Apostles



## Matthias: the Last of the Apostles

The last of the apostles to be covered in this 13 part series is Matthias. Next issue we will look at some of the disciples of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament and their origins.

Very little mention is made of Matthias in the New Testament. We are introduced to him in the Book of Acts. He may have been a co-worker with Joseph Barsabas, but he was definitely familiar with Jesus and would have witnessed firsthand the mission work of our Saviour. We first become acquainted with Matthias in the early chapters of the Book of Acts, when he was elected by lot as the successor to Judas Iscariot (see Acts 1:15-26). His name, as can be understood, was often confused with that of Matthew.

Because of this confusion many traditions have arisen around him, most popular of which is the concept that he met his death at Jerusalem, from where his relics were removed by St. Helena and are now venerated at St. Matthias' Abbey, Trier in Europe. He is usually depicted as an elderly man holding, or being pierced by, a lance or, more rarely, a sword.

Eusebius tells us in his "History of the Church" that Matthias, as well as his co-nominee, Joseph Barsabbas, had both been one of the seventy.

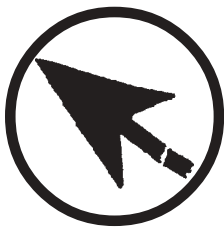
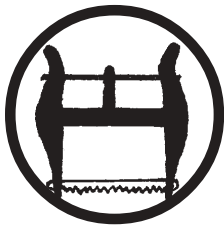
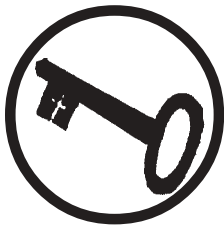
As usual with the apostles, there are apocryphal works attributed to Matthias, such as the Gospel of Matthias. Matthias taught that we must fight against the flesh and treat it with contempt, never yielding to it for pleasure's

sake, but must nourish the soul through faith and knowledge (Clement's *Miscellanies*, III. 4.25f.). Any writings of this apostle are no longer in existence, but Clement did quote from some existent manuscript because he quotes quite freely in his work from Matthias writings. The Lost Apocryphal works with which Matthias' is accorded authorship are:

1. The Gospel of Matthias, referred to by Eusebius in his "Ecclesiastical Annals".
2. The Traditions of Matthias, referred to by Clement
3. A Book under the name of Matthias referred to by Innocent I.

Like the rest of the apostles, Matthias was present for the first meeting of the apostles after the resurrection, and as with his co-workers, his mission work for Christianity would have been exemplary. We have no record of what country Matthias was sent to, or whom he worked with, but his Natal Day is in May, and as said earlier, he is represented normally with a sword, signifying perhaps, that he met his death/martyrdom through the sword.

I hope the readers have enjoyed this 13 part series on the life and mission work of the apostles of Jesus. Too often we read their names in the New Testament, and other than the Book of Acts, have very little information on their work in bring the message of Jesus to the known world. 2,000 years onwards, as Christians, we can not only appreciate the great foundation laid by these men, but also wonder and marvel at the dedication these men displayed. This small band of followers were sufficient enough to spread a message worldwide. Our next series will concentrate on disciples of Jesus mentioned in the New Testament such as Paul, Rufus Pudens, Timothy, etc.



## The Ten Commandments

1. *Thou shalt have no other gods before me.*
2. *Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of any thing that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the water under the earth: thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them: for I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and shewing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments.*
3. *Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain.*
4. *Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour, and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it.*
5. *Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee.*
6. *Thou shalt not kill.*
7. *Thou shalt not commit adultery.*
8. *Thou shalt not steal.*
9. *Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbour.*
10. *Thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's house, thou shalt not covet thy neighbour's wife, nor his manservant, nor his maidservant, nor his ox, nor his ass, nor any thing that is thy neighbour's (Exodus 20:3-17).*

# *Laws of Love.*

Do you play basketball or football? You know then that there are rules to each game - to every game - even hide-and-seek has certain rules. Yes, rules explain the way of playing, it is a kind of law which, if someone breaks it, it spoils the game doesn't it?

God gave laws explaining how He wants us to live. He gave these laws to Moses on top of a mountain called Mount Sinai. Moses listened as God told him all the laws and commands for His special people to live by. God talked to Moses as a friend. When God had finished telling Moses of the Law, He gave him two stone tablets, which had inscribed upon them the Ten Commandments.

The ten commandments tell us that we must not put anything before God - that we must not make images to worship them. God's name must be used reverently, and we are to keep a Sabbath day of rest unto the Lord. We are also told to honour or respect our fathers and mothers. We are told not to kill, steal or tell lies, so we can all live together in harmony. Husbands and wives must remain true to each other and we must not want what other people have, but be content with what the Lord has given us.

God gave many more laws to Moses, the keeping of which, the Lord considers, gives us the guidelines for a 'perfect' life in total accord with God's will.

Laws of any kind are important - you must obey the laws of the country you are in, otherwise you end up in jail. Your mother and father offer guidance and guidelines for your protection, through their love for you, and guided by their faith in God.

The Bible's laws are God's will concerning His people. Everyone of God's people is important to Him, and most especially those who try to adhere and follow the law as given through love by Him to us. His own Son, Jesus, kept all these laws to show us that they can be kept, they are not impossible, and through keeping them we gain the reward that Jesus Christ attained to. What a goal to aim for in your Christian endeavours - to be as Jesus was for He was Perfect!.