

THE BIBLE TEACHER

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The  
Bible  
Teacher

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## EDITORIAL



### "Train Up a Child"

One of the wonderful things that usually comes out of a good Christian marriage are children. They are blessings within themselves. They bring new life to their parents. They bring joy and happiness never before known. But they also bring responsibility, such responsibility as never experienced before.

When a couple have a child, they together with God, have brought a new person, a new personality, a new soul into the world. With a second or third child they soon find, whether boys or girls or both, that each one is different. They will have to learn how to deal with each one, how to train and discipline each one.

Parents are like the potter with clay. As he takes the clay and molds it and fashions it into a beautiful piece of pottery, so parents have within their hands the lives of their children to mold and fashion into the kind of men and women they want them to be. To do this, however, it will take the proper handling, care, discipline, teaching, and training.

It is so sad to see the way many parents handle, or rather mishandle, their children. They are brought into the world and allowed to grow up practically on their own. Some do not get much more attention than an animal. They are not cared for, trained, or taught anything in particular. They come and go at will. They do as they please. They soon become their own boss and the parents dare not interfere with their lives.

It is even more sad to see how some Christian parents deal with their children. They simply ignore them, not having time to be bothered with them. When it comes to discipline, they seem to have no idea whatsoever of what to do. It is pathetic to see little children kick and scream and act ugly while their parents look on with a sense of bewilderment not knowing how to cope with the problem. Then there is the other extreme of where they may beat their children unmercifully. Both are extremes and should be avoided. All those children need is just the proper kind of training and discipline and we will discuss this more fully as we go along.

The wise man said, "Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it." (Proverbs 22 : 6). That just simply means that if a child, or children as the case may be, are properly trained from infancy that they will always remember that training. It will go with them as long as they live. If given this training they will by far come nearer to living up to it, but even though they falter along the way they will still carry with them that training and it will live with them all the days of their lives. If any thing can ever bring them back to the true path it will be that training that they received earlier in life.

That training should begin when the child is young, as a matter of fact, at birth itself. Someone has said that it should begin even before birth in the sense that the father and mother should be making plans for their children, and as soon as they are born then they should begin to give them the training that they will need to take them through life. That training includes loving them, caring for them, providing for their needs

teaching them the things they need to know, forbidding them from doing those things that they should not do, correcting them, even punishing them when they do wrong, setting a good example before them, teaching them of God and his ways, taking them to worship, encouraging them to obey God, teaching them honesty, the importance of hard work, giving them an education, etc.

Some parents have decided to follow the modern philosophy in dealing with their children. That philosophy is that you should never correct your child but just allow him to go on and do as he pleases. If you correct him then that might warp his little personality and hinder his creative ability. But from what I see, there are a lot of little children that have warped personalities, not because they were disciplined, but because of a lack of it. Solomon said, "Withhold not correction from the child : for if thou beatest him with a rod, he shall not die. Thou shalt beat him with the rod, and shalt deliver his soul from hell." (Proverbs 23 : 13,14). It has been said, "Spare the rod and spoil the child." The principle here is that children need correction and discipline if they are to grow up into the kind of young men and women that they should be. If they are given this training and discipline from a very early age, then it will be much easier to deal with them and they will need less correction as they become older. The mistake that many make is that of not beginning early enough and therefore they grow up and they find that when they do want to correct them that it is too late. They end up in hollering and shouting at them even trying to punish them but this does not get the desired results. Neither do the children respect their parents but talk back to them and proceed to do what they want to do.

As stated, parents must begin to discipline their children from an early age. This may include paddling or spanking them, withholding something from them, not allowing them to do something they want to do, talking to them, and other things that would be within reason. The discipline or punishment of course will depend on the age of the children and the seriousness of their action. Such correction or punishment

will not hurt them. Rather they need it and they want it. Haven't you seen children that just kept on and on nagging and pesterning their father or mother about something or expressed in other ways that he or she wanted to be corrected. They want their parents to place limitations on them and if they do not then they are hurt. But once a child is properly disciplined then he or she becomes a well behaved child again with a sweet disposition. The discipline that was given makes all the difference. It shows that the father and mother care for their children, they love that son or daughter.

So let it be understood that when you properly discipline your children that you are not being cruel, mean, and ugly, but rather you are doing the right thing. You are helping those children to grow up to know right from wrong, what is good and what is bad, how to conduct themselves, how to live with others, and how to respect God and to obey his will. God uses this same principle in dealing with his children. The Hebrew writer says, "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children. My son, Despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him : For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. If ye endure chastening, God dealeth with you as with sons; for what son is he whom the father chasteneth not ? But if ye be without chastisement, whereof all are partakers, then are ye bastards, and not sons. Furthermore we have had fathers of our flesh which corrected us, and we gave them reverence : shall we not much rather be in subjection unto the Father of spirits, and live ? For they verily for a few days chastened us after their own pleasure ; but he for our profit, that we might be partakers of his holiness. Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous : nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby." (Hebrews 12:5-11). So from this we would draw these conclusions :

1. If we love our children, we will correct, discipline, and punish them when they do wrong.

2. To fail to discipline them is to treat them as though they are illegitimate.
3. Punishment at the time brings no pleasure to either the one administering it or the one receiving it.
4. It is for their welfare and it will bring the results desired when properly administered.
5. In the end our children will respect us for having corrected them.

It is true that some do not use good judgment in correcting their children. They are mean and ugly to them. They beat them and hurt them. Consequently their children are afraid of them, run from them, despise them and hate them. The Apostle Paul thus admonishes, "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord." (Ephesians 6:4). Such is to say that one can be too harsh in dealing with children and thus drive them away and make it impossible to have any influence on them for good. This would be a sad mistake.

In closing, I would suggest by way of summing up what we have said that we have great treasures in our children. God has given them to us and entrusted them to us. We should put forth our utmost effort to handle them wisely. They need our love, care, supervision and correction. We definitely need to use discipline and punishment at times but only when it is needed. Even then it should be administered with love to the end that it will get good results. We should never become mad or get angry and punish our children just to be mean and ugly. But we need to be Christian fathers and mothers in dealing with them and so train them and bring them up that they too will be Christians one day. We should bring them up in such a way that they will grow up to love us, respect us, and appreciate us for all that we have done for them. It is not an easy job by any means, and no doubt we all make mistakes, but at the same time it can be done, and by all means we should daily pray for wisdom, patience, and courage to be the fathers and mothers that we should be in rearing our children.

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**associate  
editorial**

## How to Identify the Church of Christ ?

In a world full of so many churches with different names and brands some times it becomes a real difficult task for one to locate a congregation of the Lord's church, Church of Christ, and especially is this true in the cities like Delhi, Bombay, etc. where there are so many churches around and some of them are even called after the name of Christ, such as, Prayer Centre Church of Christ, Church of Christ the Scientists, Christ's church, Church of Christ Mission, and even Church of Christ.

For a member of the church of Christ, however, who really knows what the Bible says about the church, it is not difficult for him to identify the real church of Christ from among various existing denominational churches even from among the one's called after the name of Christ.

In the first place, all congregations of the Lord's church, wherever they exist, put together are known as churches of Christ, (Romans 16 : 16), and singularly or individually they are called church of Christ. (Matthew 16 : 18 ; 1 Corinthians 12 : 27 ; Ephesians 1 : 22,23). The words Scientist or Mission, etc., either before or after are secterian. But even some Catholics today refer to their congregation as church of Christ, and another denomination call herself as "Christ's church." So we need to be very careful as to where we go for spiritual guidance or fellowship. For certainly, no denominational church can lead one to obey the truth because they themselves are in error otherwise they would not be a denomination (1 Corinthians 1 : 10-13), and we cannot acceptably worship the Lord in error. But if we know the truth, what the Bible teaches about the church then we can't be deceived. For instance, recently I was reading a religious paper brought out monthly by an organization which identify herself as Church of Christ, but it took me



less than two minutes to realize that this cannot be the church of Christ but it was more a Pentecostal church. Because this church, like Pentecostal church, believe that people can be healed today miraculously; and refer to their preachers as Pastors. No doubt, people were once healed miraculously by Christ and his Apostles and by those who possessed the gift of healing by the laying on of the hands of the Apostles. (Acts 2 ; 3 : 1-11 ; 5 : 12 and chapter 8). But such miraculous powers, once possessed by the disciples of the Lord, were to be done away in future, (1 Corinthians 13 : 8-12), when the perfect, which is the Bible in its present form, and was being written at that time, was to come. (James 1 : 25). Therefore, there is not a single person living today on the face of whole earth who can scripturally and satisfactorily heal a person miraculously as Christ and his disciples did in the beginning. True, there are claims being made here and there about such but they are either emotional or fake. But for certain, any church which believe today in miraculous healing, that is, they or any other can heal a person miraculously, or likewise in speaking in Unknown tongues, or in receiving the Holy Spirit baptism today cannot be the church of Christ, or the church of God, as they claim to be.

Likewise, a preacher in the church of Christ is never referred to as Pastor. The terms pastor, elder, or bishop are used interchangeably in the scriptures and they all refer to the same person and the same office. To understand duties and qualifications of an elder or pastor one must turn to 1 Timothy 3 : 1-7 ; Titus 1 : 5. An elder was not only matured physically but also spiritually, and he must have believing children. He was to feed the flock or lead the flock to pasture, therefore was called a pastor. Consequently, his work was of taking oversight of the church including preachers and deacons and all members, (1 Peter 5 : 1-2). Scripturally, a preacher can be called Minister, or Evangelist, but never a Pastor. So if you come across a church, even the one supposedly called church of Christ, in which a preacher is referred as pastor, or by any other unscriptural terms, such as Father, Padri, Reverend, Rt. Reverend, Doctor, etc., etc., then you should know that this

church is certainly not the church of Christ about which you read in your New Testament.

There are, however, some other remarkable facts of identifying the church of Christ. Such as, the Lord's church is made up of those who have believed in Christ, have repented of sin, have confessed Jesus the Son of God, and have been baptized in water for the forgiveness of sins. (Mark 16 : 16 ; Acts 2 : 38, 41, 47 ; Acts 8). The church of Christ meets on every first day of the week (Sunday) to worship the Lord. The Lord's Supper is observed on every first day of the week (Acts 20 : 7). Offerings are collected also on the first day of the week ( 1 Corinthians 16 : 1,2). The church of Christ, therefore, never raise money for work through sales and fetes, etc. Another distinguishing mark of identifying the church of Christ is that the Lord's church never use instrumental music with singing in worship. (Ephesians 5 : 19 ; Colossians 3 : 16 ; Hebrews 13 : 15). Also, the church of Christ never celebrates or hold special services on days such as Christmas-day, Easter sunday, or Good friday, simply because these days or festivals are man-made and are nowhere authorised or commanded in the scripture.

With these things in mind, you can now certainly identify a congregation whether she is the church of Christ or just another sect or denomination. But if you are living in a place where there is no church of Christ in existence, then if you will believe in Christ, and repent of your sins, and be baptized (Immersed) for the forgiveness of sins, then the Lord will save you and add you to His church, Church of Christ, and then as you will teach His Good News to others, and likewise when they will obey the truth, then the church of Christ will exist in that place.

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# Garner Ted Armstrong Versus The Bible

W. N. Jackson

Our Lord once asked Jewish leaders about John's baptism with this question: "Whence was it? From Heaven, or of men"? (Matt. 21:25) Jesus then provides us a pattern in looking at all religious matters, for they must be from God or from men. There is a standard, for the Word of God is truth (John 17:17), and will be the basis of eternal judgment (John 12:48). Using that Standard, we make an honest inquiry after truth in looking into the doctrines of "Armstrongism." This system, established by Herbert W. Armstrong, (is more widely promoted today by his son, Garner Ted Armstrong; hence, the title of this article.

## The Worldwide Church of God

Officially known as The Worldwide Church of God. Armstrongism is headquartered in Pasadena, California, U.S.A., and has a teaching, publishing and broadcasting outreach throughout the world. Through their radio and television programs heralding "The World Tomorrow," and their magazine, "The Plain Truth," they reach millions daily. Because of the massive coverage this system has, and the constant danger these doctrines present to the souls of men, we wish to look into the basics of the system. The foundation document for all their teaching is Herbert Armstrong's book, "The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy" (we will cite it as: USBC); we will look into this work, the 1967 edition, and various booklets that they distribute.

## Modern-day Judaizers

One of the problems Christians faced in the first century was that of "Judaizing" teachers—men who tried to bind part of the law of Moses upon those in Christ. We see references to this in Colossians (2:8-10, 16-23) Galatians (1:6-9, 5:1-4) and in the Book of Acts (15:1). Of particular importance is

Galatians 5:4, where Paul said that to apply part of the law of Moses was to **FALL FROM GRACE** ! The Armstrong system refuses to accept the fact that the Old Covenant has ended and that the New Covenant stands complete. Armstrong wheels and deals in Bible prophecy, relating it to the trends and circumstances of our time in politics, economics and social concerns. He states, "An exciting pulsating vital third of the Bible is devoted to prophecy! And approximately 90 per cent of all prophecy pertains to **OUR TIME**, now, in this latter half of the twentieth century!" (USBC, p.4).

Armstrong continues to point out that God's purposes in Israel were not completed, and thus opens the door for more studies in prophecy. He finally works it out that some of the "lost" House of Israel are identified by modern-day nations. He states, "... our white, English-speaking peoples today—Britain and America—are actually and truly the Birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh of the 'lost' House of Israel. . ." (USBC, p. 115). By this, he insures that a good portion of the world becomes his audience as he ties all Bible prophecy to the national life of these two nations ! All of this is Armstrong, not Bible ! All of it calculated to keep the prophecies in Moses' Law alive !

### **Armstrong, Today's "private Interpreter"**

Through Paul, God points out that while part of the redemptive plan was a "mystery" in times past, it was made known to the apostles. Paul, the apostle, writes that now, as he writes concerning these truths, men may understand the knowledge he himself has, (Ephesians 3:3-5). Further, the apostle Peter states that the Scripture is not of any private interpretation (2 Peter 1:20). Mr. Armstrong disagrees with both Paul and Peter, for he states that "The vital **KEY** necessary to unlock closed doors of Biblical prophecy had been lost" ! (USBC, p.3). Paul said that men, nearly 2,000 years ago, could understand, but Armstrong says they could not! What is the answer, Mr. Armstrong? He continues : "But the all-important **MASTER-KEY** has been found!.. The prophecies come alive once their doors are opened by this now-discovered **MASTER KEY** ! This book will open,

to open minds, this hitherto closed vital third of all the Bible.” (USBC, p.4) Thus his claim that one-third of the Bible was unknown, and could not be known, until he and his book revealed the truth to mankind! This claim alone should make men beware!

### **Armstrong, the Lord, and the Law**

In contrast to the claims of Armstrong, and that system labouring to insure that men still keep parts of the law, we hear the Christ stating that He came to fulfill that law—yea, to fill it full! (Matt. 5:17). The apostle Paul told the Galatians that the law was a guide to bring men to the Christ, and that now they were no longer under the law (Gal. 3:23-25). To the Romans, he said that Christ was the end of the law (Rom. 10:4). To the Colossians, he said that Christ blotted out the law, nailing it to his cross (Col. 2:14); to the Ephesians, the same truth was worded as the Lord abolishing the law in his flesh (Eph. 2:15). Men are not justified by the law of Moses, and the Armstrong system labours to turn men to parts of the law in a doctrine that is part Adventist and part Jehovah’s Witness.

### **The Armstrongs Saturday Worshippers**

The Bible tells us that the Lord was raised from the dead on the first day of the week (Matt. 28:1-2; Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1 and John 20:1), and the followers of Christ, now freed from the law, were commanded to meet and worship on the **FIRST DAY OF THE WEEK** (Acts 20:7; 1 Cor. 16:2). Never do we read of any Christians worshipping under the Sabbath system! Yet, that is the day of the Armstrong system. Here is the citation: “The resurrection of Christ actually occurred on the Sabbath, not on Sunday! And, further, nowhere in the Bible does God tell us to celebrate the day of Christ’s resurrection! That is a pagan custom of MEN, on apostate MAN’S authority alone—contrary to the commands of God!” (USBC, p. 158). Then this “The Sabbath Command is **ONLY** one of the ten which is a sign identifying **WHO** are the real and true Christians today! It is the real **TEST** Command!” (USBC, p. 160). But Armstrong goes even further in trying to bind the Sabbath upon men: “The Bible Says the apostle Paul kept the

seventh-day Sabbath as a Christian custom (Acts 17:2)" (Booklet : Read the Book, p. 8) Armstrong is in grave error here ; he overlooks the fact that Paul was the very one who said so much on the law having ended; more, Paul was the one who gave the command in 1 Cor. 16:2, and he was present and partook of the Lord's Supper with the church in Troas, Acts 20:7! Acts 17:2 tells us that Paul went into the synagogue and reasoned with the Jews from the Scriptures; we would do the same today if given the opportunity—but he did not observe the Sabbath day as his day of worship!

### **The Armstrongs are Premillennialists**

Jesus Christ identified the church as the kingdom (Matt. 16:18, 19) and said that the kingdom would come in the lifetime of his hearers (Mark 9:1). Peter tells us that the Lord, in being raised from the dead, was elevated at God's right hand (Acts 2:31-35), and Paul tells us that there he reigns until death is ended (1 Cor. 15:25-26). Paul and the Colossians were in the kingdom (Col 1:13), as were John and those who received his letter, The Revelation (Rev. 1:9), nearly 2,000 years ago. But what does Armstrong say ? "Some will say, however, that this throne is established today in Christ. But Christ has not yet taken over this throne!" (USBC, p. 69). Again, "He shall come, and soon now, to sit upon that throne as the King of kings and Lord of lords." (USBC, p. 71).

More directly on the church-kingdom issue, we have this : "As Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth in 1 Corinthians 15, flesh and blood—that is a mortal human—cannot enter in to the Kingdom of God. The Church, then, cannot be the Kingdom of God, for it is composed of flesh-and-blood mortals." (Booklet, What is the True Gospel ?, p.9). It is conveniently overlooked by Armstrong, in this same chapter, 1 Corinthians 15, that the Lord's return will be for the purpose of delivering THE KINGDOM up to the Father! (v. 24). It exists, else it could not be delivered up! Armstrong takes the use of "kingdom" in v. 50, where it clearly refers to Heaven and then forces this as the only meaning the word "kingdom" ever takes. We've seen otherwise in numerous verses above. Thus, Armstrongism teaches that the church is not the kingdom, that

the kingdom is not yet established and that it one day will be planted on this earth—all of this contrary to the Bible!

### **The Armstrongs are Materialists**

Armstrongism teaches "The Bible Says : The SOUL that sinneth, it shall Die! (Ezekiel 18:4, 20)" and "The Bible Nowhere Says : The soul is immortal—the words 'immortal soul' are not found in the Bible." (Booklet, Read the Book, pp. 8,9) Armstrong again chooses not to read the next verse of Ezekiel 18, v. 21, where we're told that if one repents and is obedient, "...he shall surely live, he shall not die." It should be clear to all that the prophet is not speaking of physical death, for that comes to all, whether sinful or not! He is speaking of that eternal death of the soul—that eternal separation from God! Here is, then Armstrong's use of Scripture in order to leave a false impression!

The Bible abounds with references to the fact that upon death, man has a part about him other than the body—a part that returns to God (Ecc. 12:7); the Lord spoke of man having a part about him other than body, a part he speaks of as the "soul" which men could not kill (Matt. 10:28); and James tells us that in one's conversion a soul is saved from death (James 5:20), yet we know that the body is not spared death in any case. These are but a few verses wherein the Bible contradicts Armstrong.

### **No Armstrong Heaven**

To further the claim of a life on this earth after the Lord's next coming, they state this :

"The Bible Nowhere Says : That heaven is the reward of the saved." (Booklet, Read the Book, p.9). Yet, Jesus spoke of the places in the Father's house (John 14:1-3) for the faithful. Paul said the righteous will meet the Lord in the air when he next appears, and "so shall we ever be with the Lord!" (1 Thess. 4:17); and Peter states that we have an incorruptible inheritance "reserved in Heaven for you." (1 Peter 1:4). We believe men should rely on the Bible, and not on Armstrong!

### **Conclusion**

We have merely scratched the surface regarding the Armstrong system, and yet we feel surely this is sufficient to let us know that Garner Ted and his system are contrary to the Bible in dozens of points! Let us be faithful to the Word, and let us do all we can to keep our own souls safe from this Armstrong error, and also to do what we can in warning others regarding it!

# Impossible to Keep the sabbath

Max. R. Miller

Sabbatarians continue to clamor and disturb over the matter of the sabbath. They believe and teach that the sabbath day, or Saturday, is the day so designated by God on which man will do no work and to worship God. The "mark of the beast," according to the Sabbatarians is to observe Sunday as the Lord's day and to worship and honor the Son of God on that day as did the Christians of New Testament times.

It is impossible to keep the sabbath ! This may seem to be a radical statement but it remains. It is impossible to keep the sabbath according to the commands contained in the Bible. Let us see why it is impossible to keep the sabbath.

For one to keep the sabbath one must refrain from certain physical activities ordinarily engaged in. One could do no work (Exodus 20 : 9, 10). God did permit certain human acts such as rescuing an ox which had fallen into a ditch but the sabbath keepers could not do his ordinary and usually necessary work on the sabbath day. He could build no fire for any purpose (Exodus 35 : 3). They were also forbidden to bake or boil any food on the sabbath (Exodus 16 : 23). The sabbath keeper was confined to his home, "abide ye every man in his place, let no man go out of his place on the seventh day" (Exodus 16 : 29). They could bear no burden on the sabbath day either in their house or from their houses (Jeremiah 17 : 21, 22). These were restrictions—Bible restrictions—which were binding on the sabbath keepers. To violate any one of them was to desecrate the sabbath and not keep it holy.

There were some positive Bible commands relative to keeping the sabbath. There was the command to keep the sabbath holy (Exodus 20 : 8), The Israelites (to whom the sabbath was given, Deuteronomy 5 : 1-5 ; Nehemiah 9 : 13-15) were to offer two lambs without spot and of the first year for a sabbath day offering unto God (Numbers 28 : 9, 10). Another of the positive commands was to kill those who violated the sabbath (Exodus 35 : 1, 2). Obedience to this law was carried out to the letter. On one occasion a man violated the sabbath



day by going out and gathering sticks. He was arrested; then brought before the people of Israel and stoned to death (Numbers 15 : 32-36).

It is readily admitted that one may keep part of the commands regarding sabbath but one cannot keep all the commands of God regarding the matter. If one fails to keep any one of the commands "he is guilty of all" (James 2 : 10). One may keep the commands to do no work, light no fires, stay in his place and carry no burdens but he cannot keep all the commands relative to the sabbath.

Sabbatarians cannot bring two lambs before the priests of Levi. The priesthood has been abolished (Hebrews 7 : 11-16). The Sabbatarian may take his spotless lambs and travel over the country but he can't find the right priest who is qualified to accept his offering. There is not a Jew living to-day who can trace his lineage back to the tribe of Levi and to Aaron. Here then is an impossibility. The Sabbatarians must acknowledge it so.

Who will kill those who violate the sabbath ? God's law clearly stated that those who violate His sabbath would be killed by stoning. If the sabbath is to be kept holy (Exodus 20 : 8) someone must kill all those who desecrate the sabbath. If not, why not ? Will the Sabbatarian assume the responsibility ? No. Would he have civil government to execute his fellows ? No. Are God's commands to be glossed over lightly ?

Now let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter. Sabbath keeping is not commanded of God's people today. Christ is our passover (I Cor. 5 : 7). We are no longer under the law ; the law having been made dead by the body (sacrifice) of Christ (Romans 7 : 1-6). The law of animal sacrifice ; burning of incense, sabbath keeping, et cetera, has been "blotted out." Christ "took it out of the way, nailing it to his cross (Col. 2 : 14).

Sabbatarians really don't try to keep the sabbath. They don't want to "stay in their place," i.e., stay at home. They want to go places—they do go places. They don't want to observe the commands "to build no fire." Most will fire-up

their autos with 90 octane and trapse all day trying to convince others that they are really keeping the sabbath just like Moses did. Sabbatarians don't want real "Bible Sabbath Days," they just want a "cheap sabbath." They can't possibly have any other kind.

## Is There Not Another Way ?

By Joe David Neely

"Are not Abana and Pharpar, rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel ? May I not wash in them and be clean ?" Naaman wanted to be cured of leprosy. He did not like God's way. In the above passage in 2 Kings 5 : 12, Naaman was asking in anger, "is there not another way" than the one God gave ? Men of today want to be cured of a much more terrible disease than leprosy. This is the disease of sin ! They too, are asking the question—"Is There Not Another Way ?" Sinners dislike the plan of the Gospel. It calls for great faith and self-abandonment, self-denial and humility. Our Lord said, "I am the Way, the Truth and the Life, no man cometh unto the Father but by me." John 14 : 6. There is only one way, it is the way God has given through Christ. "The way of the cross leads home." "Christ is the author of eternal salvation unto all them that obey Him." (Hebrews 5 : 9).

"For this people's heart is waxed gross, and their ears are dull of hearing, and their eyes they have closed ; lest at any time they should see with their eyes, and hear with their ears, and should understand with their heart, and should be converted and I should heal them." Matthew 13 : 15. Men are looking for another way. BUT THERE IS NOT ANOTHER WAY ! Christ has provided the terms of the Gospel for our salvation. We ask that you investigate that which is revealed in the Will of Christ. Don't turn away your ears from pure, unvarnished truth for it has the power to cleanse and make you free. The way God has given is the only way. "How shall we escape if we neglect so great salvation ?" (Hebrews 2 : 3).

Will you take your Bible and read the story of Naaman from 2 Kings 5 ? Take note that there was no other way for him But God's Way. Is this not a great lesson for us ? With complete trust in and obedience to God's Way we shall live eternally. Otherwise there is no hope at all. Revelation 22 : 14 Says "Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have the right to the tree of life and enter in through the gates into the city."

## God Supplied what Man Needed

By C. L. Powell

In Jeremiah 10 : 23, we read that the prophet said, "it is not in man that walketh to direct his own steps." Man could not find soul salvation with his own sacrifice. The Hebrew writer said, "For the law having a shadow of good things to come, and not the very image of the things, can never with those sacrifices which were offered year by year continually make the comers thereunto perfect."

So man is not capable of making a sacrifice big enough to take of his own soul. However, God did not leave him without hope for his soul. As we read from Eph. 2 : 13-15, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were afar off are made nigh by the blood of Christ. For he is our peace, who hath broken down the middle wall of partition between us ; Having abolished in his flesh the enmity, even the law of commandments contained in ordinances ; for to make in himself twain one new man, so making peace." So since man could not of himself reconcile himself to God, the Father made the remaining provisions through His Son Jesus Christ. In Romans 5 : 6, "For when we were without strength, in due time Christ died for the ungodly."

This Jesus Christ our saviour has been promised to man since the time that man proved he had a need for him. In Gen. 3 : 15 after Adam and Eve had sinned, God told the

serpent, "And I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed : it shall bruise thy head, and thou shalt bruise his head."

Man had proven his inability to cope with satan and sin himself. Now God almighty proposed a plan whereby he would intercede. This was by the seed of woman. Jesus was born not of normal conception between male and female, but by the Holy Spirit. Matt. 1:20 says, "for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost." So Jesus was born of woman without contact made by man thus fulfilled God's prophecy. The prophet Isaiah had said it like this "... Behold a virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." God called Abraham in Gen. 12:1-3 and singled him and his family out as the ones who would bring the blessing to the world that it would need. There are other Old Testament prophecies and statements to show us that God intended this and it became a reality. In Luke 2:11 he was presented as "a Saviour which is Christ the Lord." In Gal. 4:4-5, Paul said, "But when the fullness of time was come, God sent forth his Son, made of a woman, made under the law, to redeem them that were under the law, that he might receive the adoption of sons."

This day the number one need of this sin cursed world is Christ. Man is seeking his success through wealth, prestige and power as the rich man in Luke 12:13-20, yet he only finds this in Jesus Christ. In Ecc. 12:8, Solomon said, "Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, all is vanity," Are you looking for the real needed things of life ?

## Pornography

**Paul Sparks**

One of the major areas of influence upon our lives is the general communications media such as television, movies, newspapers and magazines. Unfortunately, it is through these media that Satan perpetuates one of his most cunning tricks ; namely, pornography.

There are those who tell us that pornography is harmless, but there is overwhelming evidence to the contrary. The following is just one case of the many thousands pointing up to the harmfulness and sinfulness of obscene literature and movies. "Obscene literature contributes to the delinquency of minors just as whiskey and narcotics," testified Lt. Weldon Davis, head of a police department youth bureau. Davis told of a 12 year old boy who was arrested after he attacked a girl. "He had one of the magazines in his room," Davis said. "He said he read the magazine and wanted to do something afterward."

During 1964 Frank O' Connor, Queens District Attorney in New York City, said: "Pornography affects people in a more subtle way than narcotics. While the spotlight is on narcotics addiction, there is no comparable interest in the problem of pornography. Those who claim there is no relationship between pornography and criminal behaviour have no experience with the immature mind."

Let's quit being bulldozed by the self-appointed sexologists who prey upon the minds of our youth at the expense of their souls. Let's blow the whistle on obscene literature and plays that would bring blushes to the most mature stag party. Let's not be awed by some movie character with barnyard morals even if some of them have been photographed climbing aboard a presidential yacht.

When General William F. Dean was released from a Communist prison camp, the Chinese psychologists who had been trying to break him said: "General, don't feel bad about leaving us. You know, we are going to soon be with you. We are going to destroy the moral character of a generation of your young people, and when we have finished you will have nothing with which to really defend yourselves against us."

Remember, dear reader that Jehovah said, "The wicked shall be turned into hell, and all the *nations* that forget God." (Psalms]9[: 17).

# Adultery

David Lipe

Adultery is the misuse of the sexual relationship that God intended for husband and wife. Technically, the word "adultery is unchastity between one or more married people ; however, in the scriptures the word "adultery" and the word "fornication" (improper sexual action between single persons) are used interchangeably.

Adultery is classed with the most grievous of sins. "Be not deceived : neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." (1 Corinthians 6 : 9, 10). Let us now consider how this sin can be committed.

First, this sin can be committed before marriage. The question is raised, "How can we know we are compatible without sexual relations before marriage ?" This is the very same method used by the devil with Adam and Eve. He raised a question and created doubt that brought about their sin. Forgiveness of the sin can be obtained but the scar will remain forever.

Second, adultery may be committed *during* marriage. In Genesis 39 the account is given of the attempts of Potiphar's wife to seduce Joseph. Joseph fled her attempts and gave two reasons for not committing adultery. He said it would be a sin against God and against his master, Potiphar.

Third, one may commit adultery by obtaining a divorce without scriptural grounds. One may comply with the civil laws and at the same time fail to meet God's law. When the mate dies, one is free to marry again. "If the husband be dead, she is at liberty to be married to whom she will, only in the Lord" (I Cor. 7 : 39). Jesus said "Whosoever shall put away his wife, except it be for fornication, and shall marry another, committeth adultery . . ." (Matt. 19 : 9).

Fourth, one may be guilty of adultery by looking on a woman to lust after her. "But I say unto you, that whosoever

looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committeth adultery with her already in his heart." (Matt. 5 : 28). The word "lust" suggests unlawful desire. When one is tempted and he refrains because it is inconvenient, he is guilty of adultery.

"They which do such things shall not inherit the kingdom of God." (Gal. 5 : 21).

## FACTS ABOUT THE CHURCH

1. The *Lord's church* belongs to the Lord—not to me or any other man.

2. The *Lord's church* is entered when responsible persons submit to Christ's plan of salvation as revealed in the New Testament. This plan involves *FAITH, REPENTANCE, and BAPTISM* (Mark 16 : 16 ; Acts 2 : 38). Those who are saved are *ADDED* to the church by the Lord (Acts 2 : 47). It is *NOT* possible for any man to know how many members are in the Lord's church.

3. The *Lord's church* will be governed by Christ who is the *HEAD* (Col. 1 : 18). The church will teach what is in the will of Christ : the church will worship as directed by Christ. There is no earthly (human) head.

4. The *Lord's church* was not given a specific and exclusive name. Several Biblical expressions may properly be used to refer to the church of the New Testament.

5. The *Lord's church* will be guided by the New Testament. No need exists for human creeds and legislative assemblies.

6. The *Lord's church* knows no social, racial, educational, or national boundaries. The Lord's gospel is *FOR ALL* (Mark 16 : 15).

7. The *Lord's church* exists today wherever honest persons have rendered obedience to the Saviour and have humbly submitted their wills to His will. Many have come *OUT OF* denominational churches to become *UNITED* in the "One body of Christ" (Eph. 4 : 4 ; 1 : 22, 23). Under the leadership of Christ, such faithful disciples are seeking to bring

about genuine UNITY of sincere believers everywhere. Such believers base their plea for UNITY upon the word of God, calling for men and women to become Christians, members of Christ's church—not some man-made denomination !

ARE YOU IN THE LORD'S CHURCH ?

## Joy in Heaven

By William P. Smotherman

I am sure that too often we preachers have omitted a most important fact in preaching on the necessity of repentance. How many times have we used our sternest, even harshest, voice as we called on people to repent. We have warned them that if they do not repent they will be lost. Of course, this is true. But the thing we neglect to say is written three times in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. Jesus ended the parable of the lost sheep with this sentence : "I say unto you, that likewise joy shall be in heaven over one sinner that repenteth, more than over ninety and nine just persons, which need no repentance." Then he closed the parable of the lost coin like this : "Rejoice with me ; for I have found the piece which I had lost. Likewise, I say unto you, there is joy in the presence of the angels of God over one sinner that repenteth."

The story of the prodigal son has written all over it the joy of the father because of the penitence and return of his younger son. "But the father said to his servants, Bring forth the best robe, and put it on him ; and put a ring on his hand, and shoes on his feet : And bring hither the fatted calf, and kill it ; and let us eat, and be merry : For this my son was dead, and is alive again ; he was lost, and is found. And they began to be merry." Now listen to the closing statement : "It was meet that we should make merry, and be glad : for this thy brother was dead, and is alive again ; and was lost, and is found."

The beautiful truth about repentance, which we so often do not mention, is the happiness and the joy in heaven that repentance brings. The story is told of an English home during World War I. A widowed mother whose only son had died on



Flanders field was bitter because her neighbour with five sons had been spared any loss, while she had lost both husband and son. She refused to be reconciled, continuously mourning the death of her son. One night she dreamed that an angel appeared and said to her, "You may have your son again for ten minutes. At what period of his life do you wish him to return to you ? As an infant in your arms, as a chubby fisted toddler about your feet, as a little starry-eyed boy starting to school, as a robust young man finishing high school, or as a young soldier in his new uniform with the shining brass buttons ?" The mother, meditated, then replied : "I want him back, but on none of these occasions. I think I would like best his return when once I denied his request and remained firm in spite of his insistence. He, in a fit of anger, cried out, "I hate you--I don't like you any more, and I won't stay with you," then rushed out into the yard. When his anger had abated, he came back to me, his grimy, wistful face stained with tears, and, holding out his little arms, with quivering lip he said : 'Muvver, I'm so sorry I was a naughty boy. I won't be bad any more ever. I love you and want you to hug me again.' Give him back to me and let me feel him clinging close to me while he sobs his little heart out in sorrow and love. That's when I loved him best."

Thus does the penitent sense the unfailing love and unending mercy of God. Many people are convinced they are sinners but this isn't repentance. It isn't enough to realize you have done wrong and need forgiveness. It isn't enough for you to believe that Jesus is God's Son and the Saviour of the world and do nothing about it. No one was ever saved by just being convicted of his sin. He has to DO something about it. He has to do what Jesus said the prodigal did. Arise and go to the father.

## ‘इस्त्राएल’

ले० जसवन्त गुड़िया

इधर हाल ही के तीन दशकों से इस्त्राएल संसार में चर्चा का एक अच्छा खासा विषय बना हुआ है। मसीही कहलाने वाले लोगों के मध्य तो यह अत्यंत ही महत्वपूर्ण मसला है। अरब-इस्त्राएल युद्ध वा विश्व भर के देशों का इस्त्राएल के प्रति जो रुख है, इस पर कुछ लोग बाइबल की भविष्यवाणियों से जोड़-तोड़ कर मसीही प्रचार को अलग ही रंग दे रहे हैं।

लेकिन आज के इस संदर्भ में बाइबल हमारे सामने कौन से तथ्य प्रगट करती है? क्या यह जानने का कभी आपने प्रयत्न किया है? बाइबल हमें यह दर्शाती है कि हम सत्य को जानें और उन बालकों की नाई न रह जायें जो मनुष्यों की ठगविद्या और चतुराई से उन के भ्रम की युक्तियों की, और उपदेश की हर एक बयार से उछाले और इधर-उधर घुमाए जाते हों। (इफिसियों ४ : १४; यूहन्ना ८ : ३२)। सो आईए हम यह जांच करें कि परमेश्वर का वचन इस्त्राएल के विषय में क्या बतलाता है।

**इस्त्राएल** :—परमेश्वर की चुनी हुई जाति और परमेश्वर का निज भाग थी (भजन० १३५ : ८)। इस्त्राएली यहूदी भी कहलाते थे।

प्राचीन काल में परमेश्वर ने इब्राहीम को इस्त्राएल का मूल पिता होने के लिए चुन लिया और उससे प्रतिज्ञा की कि उसकी संतान को बढ़ाएगा और उनको एक देश, जिसमें वह उस समय परदेशी था, निज भाग के रूप में देगा। (उत्पत्ति १२ : १-३; १५ : १३-१६; १७ : ४-८)। और उसने इस प्रतिज्ञा की बात को प्राप्त किया। (इब्रानीयों ६ : १५; यहोशू १; १२; १३)। लेकिन इसका क्या प्रयोजन था कि परमेश्वर ने इस्त्राएल को चुना अथवा इसके पीछे परमेश्वर की क्या मनसा थी?

(१) परमेश्वर ने इस्त्राएल को इस लिए चुना कि वे इस जगत में इस बात की साक्षी दें कि एक ही सर्वशक्तिमान परमेश्वर है। (व्यवस्था० ६ : ४; यशायह ४३ : १०-१२)।

(२) वे देश-देश के लोगों के बीच एक नमूना बनें कि जो लोग सच्चे परमेश्वर की सेवा करते हैं वास्तव में धन्य हैं। (व्यवस्था० ३३ : २६-२६; १ इतिहास १७ : २०-२१)।

(३) परमेश्वर ने उन्हें अपना वचन सौंपा ताकि वे उसका पालन करें और जगत में प्रचार करें। (व्यवस्था० ४ : ५-८; रोमियों ३ : १-२)।

(४) मसीह के लिए एक वंश ठहरें। (उत्पत्ति ३ : १५; रोमियों १ : ३)।

लेकिन इन बातों को इस्राएल भूल गया। अन्यजातियों की तरह मूर्ति-पूजक और व्यभिचारी हो गया। अपने परमेश्वर से बलवा कर बैठा। परमेश्वर ने उन्हें चेतावनी देने के लिए समय-समय पर उनकी ताड़ना की। समय-समय पर भविष्यद्वक्ताओं के द्वारा उन से बातें की लेकिन वे उनकी न मानें वरन उनको घात किया। तब फिर मूसा के वचन के अनुसार उन पर दण्ड पड़ गया, परमेश्वर का प्रकोप भड़क उठा। वे अन्यजातियों द्वारा पराजित होकर गुलाम बनाएँ गए और देश-देश में तित्तर-बित्तर कर दिए गए। (दानियेल ६ : ७; एस्तेर ३ : ८)। लेकिन अपने भले और महान् नाम के निमित्त परमेश्वर ने उन्हें नहीं तजा। जब वे बाबूल में बंधूँ थे तो परमेश्वर का वचन यहजेकल नबी द्वारा उनके पास पहुँचा। “इस्राएल का सारा घराना अपने देश में मेरे पवित्र पर्वत पर, इस्राएल के ऊँचे पर्वत पर, सब का सब मेरी उपासना करेगा.....जब मैं देश-देश के लोगों में से अलग करूँ और उन देशों से जिन में तुम तित्तर-बित्तर हुए हो, इकट्ठा करूँ और जब मैं तुम्हें इस्राएल के देश में पहुँचाऊँ, जिसके देने की शपथ मैंने तुम्हारे पूर्वजों से खाई थी तब तुम जान लोगे कि मैं यहीवा हूँ।” (यहेजकेल २० : ४०-४४)।

**इस्राएल का सारा घराना :**—यहाँ इस्राएल का सारा घराना से तात्पर्य है “इस्राएल के घराने की खोई हुई भेड़, “जिनको मसीह इकट्ठा करने इस पृथ्वी पर आया।” (मत्ती १० : ६; १५ : २४; यूहन्ना १ : ४७; १० : ७-१८)।

**पवित्र पर्वत**—इस्राएल का पवित्र पर्वत अर्थात् सिय्योन पर्वत, जिस पर उनका पवित्र मन्दिर स्थापित था अर्थात् यरुशलेम। (१ राजा ८ : १; जकर्याह ८ : ३)। यहूदी मत वा मूसा की व्यवस्था के अनुसार यह परमेश्वर की इच्छा थी की इस्राएल यरुशलेम में परमेश्वर की उपासना करे। (यूहन्ना ४ : २०; व्यवस्था० १२ : ५; १ राजा ६ : ३; भजन० १२२)। इसी निमित्त सारे जगत के यहूदी व यहूदी मत धारण करने वाले वर्ष में एक बार अर्थात् पितेकुस्त के दिन फसह की ईद मनाने यरुशलेम में इकट्ठे होते थे। (क्रिस्त० २ : ६-१०)। जैसा कि मसीह ने कहा था “मैं अपनी कलीसिया बनाऊँगा”

(मत्ती १६ : १८) पितेकुस्त के दिन ही यरुशलेम में मसीह ने अपनी कलीसिया स्थापित की। और देश-देश के इस्राएल के खोई हुई भेड़ों को इकट्ठा किया। (प्रेरित २ : ३६-४१)।

इस दिन की नबूवत यशायाह नबी ने की थी। उसने कहा था “अंत के दिनों में ऐसा होगा कि यहोवा का भवन का पर्वत सब पहाड़ों पर दृढ़ किया जाएगा.....तब वह हमको अपने मार्ग सिखाएगा और हम उसके पथों पर चलेंगे। क्योंकि यहोवा की व्यवस्था सिय्योन से और उसका वचन यरुशलेम से निकलेगा.....। (यशायाह २ : १-४)। यह वचन पितेकुस्त के दिन इस्राएल के बीच पूरा हुआ। (प्रेरित० २ अध्याय)। क्योंकि अंत का दिन (प्रेरित २ : १७) यहोवा का भवन, अर्थात् परमेश्वर की कलीसिया (१ तीमुथियुस ३ : १५)। इस प्रकार परमेश्वर ने इस्राएल की खोई हुई भेड़ों को एकत्रित किया और उनसे एक राज्य कायम किया। (१ पतरस १ : १, १६; प्रकाशितवाक्य ५ : ६, १०)।

मसीह के समय यहूदियों में यह धारणा आम तौर से प्रचलित थी कि मसीह के आने पर इस पृथ्वी पर इस्राएल का साम्राज्य स्थापित होगा और वे जाति-जाति पर प्रभुता करेंगे। और तब यरुशलेम जिस पर यहूदियों को घमंड था की महिमा बढ़ेगी जो कि उस समय अन्य जातियों द्वारा रौंदी जा रही थी। यही धारणा प्रभु के शिष्यों की भी थी। (प्रेरितों १ : ६; मत्ती २४ : १; लूका २१ : ५)। इसी कारण यहूदी ठोकर खाए और मसीह को निकम्मा जाने। लेकिन मसीह ने स्पष्ट शब्दों में कहा कि “मेरा राज्य इस जगत का नहीं” यूहन्ना (१८ : ३६)।

जब सामरी स्त्री ने मसीह से प्रश्न किया कि यहूदी क्योंकर कहते हैं कि यरुशलेम में ही परमेश्वर की उपासना करनी चाहिए तो उसने उत्तर दिया कि समय आता है कि सच्चे भक्त परमेश्वर की उपासना न तो यरुशलेम में करेंगे और न किसी पहाड़ पर बरन वे आत्मा और सच्चाई से परमेश्वर की उपासना करेंगे। (यूहन्ना ४ : १६-२४)। सो यह वचन कलीसिया की स्थापना होने पर पूरा होगा। इसी लिए मसीह की भविष्यद्वाणी के अनुसार जब यरुशलेम का नष्ट होना निकट आ गया तो परमेश्वर का वचन यरुशलेम की कलीसिया को दिया गया कि “तुम सिय्योन के पहाड़ के पास और जीवते परमेश्वर के नगर स्वर्गीय यरुशलेम के पास.....आए हो।” और “क्योंकि यहां हमारा कोई स्थिर रहने वाला नगर नहीं बरन हम एक आने वाले नगर (स्वर्गीय यरुशलेम) की खोज में हैं।” (इब्रानियों १२ : २२-२४; १३ : १४)।

**इस्त्राएल का देश :—**इसकी प्रतिज्ञा परमेश्वर ने इस्त्राएल के पूर्वजों से की थी । (यहेजकेल २० : ४२) । यहां कतई यह बात युक्तिसंगत नहीं है कि यह एक सांसारिक व भौगोलिक देश है । क्योंकि इस्त्राएल के पूर्वजों के विषय बाइबल बताती है कि “ये सब विश्वास की दशा में मरे; और उन्होंने प्रतिज्ञा की हुई वस्तुएं नहीं पाई; पर उन्होंने दूर से देख कर आनंदित हुए और मान लिया, कि हम पृथ्वी पर परदेशी और बाहरी हैं.....वे एक उत्तम अर्थात् स्वर्गीय देश के अभिलाषी हैं । (इब्रानियों ११ : १३-१६) । इसलिये, पतरस जो यहूदियों के लिए प्रेरित था, (गलतियों २ : ७), ने भी उनको जो तित्तर-बित्तर होकर रहते थे, लिखा कि वे अपने को परदेशी जानें और स्वर्गीय आशा से परिपूर्ण रहें जो कि मसीह आने पर उन्हें देगा । (१ पतरस १ : १, ५, १३ और १७) ।

**अन्यजातियां—**मूसा की व्यवस्थानुसार यहूदी अपने आप को अन्य-जातियों से पूरी तरह अलग रखते थे । मसीह चूंकि व्यवस्था को पूरा करने आया था इसलिए अपने आप को उन से परे रखा बरन अपने शिष्यों को भी यही शिक्षा दी । (मत्ती १० : ५; १५ : २४) । लेकिन जब मसीह ने क्रूस पर चढ़कर व्यवस्था को पूरा और अंत किया और नई वाचा वा मसीह की व्यवस्था को लागू किया, (इब्रानियों ९ : १६-१७), तब उस ने यह आज्ञा दी की सारे जगत के लोग सुसमाचार को मानें और उसके शिष्य बनें । (मत्ती २८ : १९) । सो अब अन्य जाति सुसमाचार के अनुसार इस्त्राएल की प्रजा और परमेश्वर के घराने के हो गये । यहूदी और अन्यजाति के बीच कोई भेद-भाव न रहा बरन वे मसीह में एक हो गए हैं । (इफिसियों २ : ११-२२; कुलुस्सियों ३ : १०, ११ प्रेरित० १५ : ८ : १०) ।

**इस्त्राएल का कठोर भाग—**मसीह अपने घर अर्थात् अपने घराने के मध्य या इस्त्राएल के बीच आया लेकिन अपनों ने उसे ग्रहण न किया (१:११) । इसलिए मसीह ने यहूदियों से कहा “बहुतेरे पूर्व और पश्चिम से (अर्थात् अन्य-जातियां) आकर इब्राहीम, इसहाक और याकूब के साथ स्वर्ग के राज्य में बैठेंगे परन्तु राज्य के संतान बाहर अधियारे में डाल दिये जाएंगे.....” (मत्ती ८ : १०-१२) ।

पौलुस ने, जो अन्य जातियों के लिए प्रेरित था (रोमियों ११ : १३), अन्य जातियों को लिखा, “इस्त्राएली जिस की खोज में है (उद्धार रूपी धन) वह उन्हें नहीं मिला परन्तु चुने हुएों को मिला और शेष लोग कठोर किये

मये । और, जब तक अन्यजातियां पूरी रीति से प्रवेश न कर लें तब तक इस्त्राएल का एक भाग ऐसा ही कठोर रहेगा और इस रीति से सारा इस्त्राएल उद्धार पाएगा, जैसा लिखा है छुड़ाने वाला सिंघों से आएगा और अभक्ति को याकूब से दूर करेगा ।” (रोमियों ११ : ७; २५; २६) ।

आरंभ में कलीसिया मसीह के ज्ञान में बालक थी । (१ कुरिन्थियों १३ : ११; इफिसियों ४ : १३-१४; इब्रानियों ५ : १२-१४) यहूदी उस समय व्यवस्था के प्रति रुढ़ीग्रस्त थे । यहां तक कि प्रेरितों के मनों में भी अन्य जातियों के प्रति कपट था । (गलतियों २ अध्याय) । उसी प्रकार अन्यजातियां भी मूर्तिपूजा और व्यभिचार में लिप्त थीं (प्रेरितों ० १५ : २०) । सो हम यह देखते हैं कि आरम्भ में कलीसिया अपने आप को वचन-रूपी-दपण में पूरी तरह नहीं देख पा रही थी । (१ कुरिन्थियों ३ : १२) । इसलिए उस वक्त इस्त्राएल का उद्धार और अन्यजातियों का पूरी तरह प्रवेश करना शेष था । लेकिन ज्यों-ज्यों समय बीता और पूरा हुआ तो मसीह का सारा ज्ञान प्रेरितों द्वारा कलीसिया को दिया गया कि अभक्ति और अज्ञानता दूर हो । (२ पतरस १ : ३) । और पीलुस की नबूवत पूरी हुई कि “जब सर्वसिद्ध आएगा तो अधूरा मिट जाएगा” (१ कुरिन्थियों १३ : १०) । सर्वसिद्ध, अर्थात् स्वतंत्रता की सिद्ध व्यवस्था, मसीह की व्यवस्था या नया नियम है । याकूब १ : १३-२५) इस प्रकार याकूब अर्थात् इस्त्राएल के घराने से अभक्ति दूर हुई और अन्य जातियां पूरी तरह मसीह में प्रवेश पाईं ।

मसीह की भविष्यद्वाणी के अनुसार, जब यरुशलेम सन् ७० में नष्ट किया गया तब इस्त्राएल के विषय में लिखी हुई सब बातें पूरी हो गईं । (लूका २१ : २२) । अर्थात् पुराने नियम की सभी भविष्यद्वाणियां पूरी हो चुकीं । लेकिन आज यह कितने आश्चर्य और दुःख का विषय है कि पुराने नियम की नबूवतों को आज इस सांसारिक और भौगोलिक इस्त्राएल से जोड़ा जा रहा है । मसीह ने कहा था “मेरा राज्य इस जगत का नहीं” लेकिन आज यह प्रचार किया जा रहा है कि मसीह आकर इस्त्राएल पर इस जगत में १००० वर्षों तक राज्य करेगा । बाइबल के अनुसार मसीह दुबारा न कि उद्धारकर्ता बरन न्यायकर्ता के रूप में आने वाला है । लेकिन आज डंके की चोट पर यह घोषणा की जा रही है कि मसीह इस्त्राएल का उद्धार करने आ रहा है । पतरस के अनुसार मसीह के आगमन पर आकाश वा पृथ्वी भस्म हो कर जाते रहेंगे (२ पतरस ३ : १०) । लेकिन लोग यह कहने में तनिक भी संकोच (शेष अंतिम पृष्ठ पर)

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