

Latter Rain

Magazine of the Christian Israelite Church - Autumn/Winter 1994



The Veil is Removed...

Why "Latter Rain"?

"One shall say I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel." Isaiah 44:5

Christians (those who say I am the Lord's) believe in Jesus as their saviour and are looking for life after death. They believe it is no longer necessary to keep all the Old Testament laws given by God. The Jews (those who go by the name of Jacob) do not accept Jesus as their saviour. They have only the law and the justification that it brings for a life after death.

Christian Israelites (those who subscribe with their hand unto the Lord and surname themselves by the name of Israel) try to combine the two. Jesus, our example, lived by the Old Testament laws but he tempered them with love. He showed us a new way to live them.

With the help of the latter rain, that is Christ and the Holy Ghost, we can achieve life without death.

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God; for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23

The moderate early rain came in autumn. It was needed to prepare the ground for ploughing and planting the crops. It is symbolic of the first gift of the Holy Ghost, needed for the preparation and establishment of the early church. The heavier latter rain came in spring to help the crops mature for the harvest. We, like the plants, must grow spiritually before we have the strength to receive our latter rain. This second gift of the God's Spirits will prepare us for maturation in preparation for our harvest at Jesus' return.

This new production "Latter Rain" has evolved from what many readers have come to know as "Notes From Our Church Organ". The "Church Organ" will still exist but its function will be that of an internal newsletter for members and friends. It will come out more often than the quarterly "Latter Rain".

"Latter Rain" is the outreach magazine of the Christian Israelite Church, published quarterly.

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Further information: If you desire further information on any of the topics dealt with in this publication please write to The Editor c/- P.O. Box 127, Singleton, NSW, 2330. Australia.

Articles contained in this magazine are not all doctrinal but rather seek to include thoughts and interesting facts which may assist in bringing the reader to a greater understanding of God.

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To become a regular recipient of "Latter Rain", or place a friend on our mailing list, please contact our distribution centre.

All quotations are taken from the King James version of the Bible unless otherwise stated.

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From the Inkhorn



This issue of "Latter Rain" is billed as the Autumn issue. In Australia we have almost finished Winter so we are making this a combined Autumn/Winter edition. In the new kingdom we are told that there will be no night and day, and presumably no seasons, by which to make our magazine late. We apologise if this lateness has caused our readers any inconvenience.

This issue brings to us discussion on topics which are always current. What will the new world (Kingdom) be like!

The theme of the magazine is about the kingdom to come; but which one? The Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God spoken of in the Bible may sound like the same place to a lot of people, but as the articles herein show, there is really quite a difference. As Christian Israelites we seek to be citizens of the Kingdom of God, but also accept that to enter the Kingdom of Heaven would be a marvellous gift from God.

We commend to you the supporting articles and trust you receive a blessing from the Almighty as you read them.

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Thy Kingdom Come

Is there a difference -

At first glance most people gain the impression that the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God are one and the same. Through undertaking a more detailed study of the Bible references to the topic it can be seen that they are not the same, and that they represent two different facets of God's great plan for the restoration of all people from the power of sin and death.

This study is presented in two parts, the first on the Kingdom of Heaven and the second on the Kingdom of God. However, because of the relationship between them, each part contains reference to the other, and it is suggested that they both should be studied to obtain a broader understanding of each and the relationship between them.

Jesus spoke to people in parables, using things round about them to explain things afar off. As an introduction, to and by way of explanation of the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven, we would like to draw an analogy with an earthly example.

When we think of God's Kingdoms we think of Power, we think of "the rushing mighty wind", "calming the sea" and of the "still small voice" within us, directing our thoughts and actions. We think of an ability to influence... something that can change the way we think, then the way we act, and then ultimately become part of our lives. John spoke of these three stages of "influence" in 1 John 2:27 - 3:2. Firstly, John speaks of the anointing, or receiving power through influence, secondly the abiding Presence when people physically dwell within the spiritual Presence of God, and

finally when people are born of God, to become His sons and daughters with the Presence of God - not just the Power dwelling within them.

An everyday example of these stages is illustrated in the effect of magnetism with metal. In the first stage metal can be influenced by the presence of a magnet. The "power" of the magnet influences the metal even though it is not physically in contact with it. If the magnet is withdrawn the power of the magnet ceases to influence the metal. Whilst influencing the metal, the metal demonstrates all the characteristics of the magnet, but at a "low level". This is like us, whilst we still have the evil within our physical bodies. We can be influenced by the Power of God, but in fact we still are subject to "sin in the flesh" even though the Power of God can work mighty works and miracles through people in such a state.

When a piece of metal actually touches a magnet, it becomes part of the magnet and exhibits to a much greater level the power and influence of the magnet. But unless the metal is of the right kind it will not attach to the magnet. So too, until we have arrived at an appropriate level of "sanctification" we are not able to join to the Spirit of God.

Spiritual or Physical

God can influence our lives, but we cannot dwell physically within His Power. This is not just a "being good" level of commitment, but it is arriving at the state that Jesus showed during His ministry, after being baptised with the Power from the Father (Christ) and the Holy Ghost (the Spiritual Mother) at the River Jordan. However, in this state if the metal is removed from the magnet, although it retains some residual power from the magnet, in time it can

disappear and the metal loses the influence of the magnet.

The final stage is when the metal becomes magnetised, and has the power of the magnet within itself. In this state it needs no outside influence to show the magnetic properties. Jesus used another example of those who received the Spirit of God to dwell within them, when He said it was

like having a well within them; they needed no external provisioning, for the source of life would be within.

As Christian Israelites we believe that we are still at the beginning of this process, and each of us receives the influence of God's Power as we seek to serve Him.

At this stage the Power comes and goes. The hope of the abiding Presence for us to

dwell within and the final rebirth physically to become children of God, not only in mind and deed but in spirit and soul and body is something to be fulfilled in association with Jesus Christ's return. It is something far more glorious than and way beyond anything our present imagination can conjure up.

The studies on the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God will endeavour to explain these levels of relationship with God in more detail. □

The Kingdom of God

The Kingdom of God will be a physical kingdom (terrestrial) set up here on this planet. It will also be a condition within the people (Luke 17:20-21). Those that partake of this Kingdom will show God's power in overcoming Satan and Death (1 Corinthians 15:54-57) and thus will allow God to finish His creation, that it be not just "very good" but perfect. Satan will be chained during the first 1,000 years of this Kingdom (Revelations 20:2) so there will be no wrong doings, or pests in the earth, but all the planet will give its increase, and there will be no death.

An Overall Plan

It is interesting to note that the terms "Kingdom of God" and "Kingdom of Heaven" are only mentioned in the New Testament, as it was only by the sacrifice of Jesus Christ that these Kingdoms could be set up. Note, however, in that setting up Israel as a theocracy God was showing a type of the Kingdom to come. The Kingdom of Heaven has been discussed in another article in this issue, so we will now discuss the Kingdom of God.

For nearly 6,000 years mankind has been born into life on this planet and has died at the end of his appointed time. God has allowed for this right from His original creation. He made mankind very good - not perfect, for that was for a time to come when His Kingdom will be established - and gave us a free choice of what we do in this life.

Created To Live

The Kingdom of God is all about living and not dying. This planet was designed and created by God Almighty for mankind to sort out his destiny. The way we live and act, the amount of devotion we give to God, etc. is all

recorded and each will be rewarded accordingly (Malachi 3:16; Revelations 22:12). We are told Adam was made in the image of God (Genesis 1:26-27). Only an image, very good, not perfect, as we would think of God being.

Because of the "fall" from a state of good to a state of evil by our first parents through transgression in the Garden of Eden, evil entered into God's creation, into both the planet and mankind. That inherent evil now in mankind, we believe, is in the blood, the life of the flesh (Leviticus 17:11) and is passed on to successive generations via the soul and to seek to get rid of, or overcome, this evil is what the Christian Israelite Church teaches. Man, left to his own will, will naturally do evil things. This is shown by the need of the flood not a long time after the creation. Genesis 6: 5 says "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".

We believe God knew, and planned, even at that early time, that there would be a people saved alive in the last days for why did He say in Joel

3:21 "For I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed"?

The Right Way To Live

To show how man should live, God put into action a plan which we believe will soon be fulfilled. He started with Abraham, giving him a promise - "I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great and thou shall be a blessing" (Genesis 12:2). God later showed "that great nation" how to live by giving them the Laws on Mt. Sinai (Deuteronomy 5:1-5). They had the sacrifice of an animal for atonement of sin, that bringing salvation to them. For nearly 2,000 years God struggled with this small group of people, His "peculiar treasure" (Exodus 19:5) exhorting them to live the right way so they would enjoy the blessings that went with it.

God in His plan and wisdom knew that something more than the sacrifice of animals was needed to help mankind, He provided His only begotten son, Jesus Christ, to be the one and only sacrifice for all mankind. Refer to Hebrews chapter 9, verses 6-12.

The Beginning of Redemption

The sacrifice and resurrection of Jesus was an essential part of God's plan. Now there was hope, and a vision of better things. Now mankind could be "saved". But there are two types of being "saved" (1 Corinthians 15:51-53). One is being saved after death (Kingdom of Heaven) and the other is being saved, whole, without seeing physical death (Kingdom of God) 1 Thessalonians 5:23, or in Paul's words the incorruptible and the immortal.

If we look at the overall plan of God, we can ask some questions like, why are we told that Jesus Christ will return (Acts 1:11)? What did the

disciples mean when they said "tell us when shall these things be? and what shall be the sign of thy coming, and the end of the world?" Matthew 24:3; Acts 1:6.

What need is there for the return of Jesus? Most would agree that if people were left to go the way they are going today, we would destroy the planet and all human life along with it. Even Jesus knew this when He said "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be, and except those days should be shortened; there should no flesh be saved: but for the elect's sake, those days shall be shortened" Matthew 24:21,22.

Here we have the key, flesh is going to be saved. Up till now all who have died have lost their flesh or bodies in the grave (see 1 Corinthians 5:5; 15:35,49). They have, as it were, "gone to Heaven" and are awaiting the Judgment Day when they will enter the Kingdom of Heaven. If death was the be all and end of all, why must the days be shortened before Jesus returns? Would not all the world be saved anyway?

No, there is more to it than that. God is not going to let mankind destroy what He has created and worked with for thousands of years. He has a greater plan, being for Jesus Christ to return, to set up a physical kingdom here on this planet, which will be the perfect place to live, this being the Kingdom of God.

God's Kingdom

A remnant of that "peculiar treasure" of the people God first chose, will be called to come out from the evil ways of this world, have their blood cleansed (Joel 3:21) be changed (1 Corinthians 15:51) and will live with the glorified Jesus Christ and be His Bride.

We are told that there will be people made in the image of the Son, and be brethren whom Jesus Christ will dwell among (Romans 8:29). Again, in Revelations 21:3-4 it says "Behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and He will dwell with them; and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them and be their God. And God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes: there shall be no more death, neither sorrow nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away". Revelations 7:4 and 14:1 give a number of one hundred and forty four thousand. These are they that wish "to follow the Lamb whithersoever he goeth.... - for they are without fault before the throne of God" Revelations 14:4-5.

Many Called but Few Chosen - For the Kingdom of God

The gifts and mercy of God are such that the souls of all who have died will enter the Kingdom of Heaven, the repentant at the first resurrection, and all the others at the second resurrection. But not all will enter the Kingdom of God.

To those that desire and work for it, the Kingdom of God will not be a gift, but a debt owing (Romans 4:4) and promise fulfilled. Those that enter will have heard the call as God gathers His people from the four corners of the earth in these last days. See Jeremiah 31:10; Ezekiel 11:17; Isaiah 11:11-12; Jeremiah 23:7-8; Micah 2:12, 5:7-8; Matthew 3:11-12, etc. They must see that God is working "for where there is no vision the people perish" (John 3:3, Proverbs 29:18). They must pray for help, for we of ourselves cannot overcome the influence of Satan, but we are told spiritual help is available now. Jesus

Christ himself promised it when He said "I will pray the Father and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you forever" John 14:15-18 and in John 14:26 "But the Comforter which is the Holy Ghost, whom the Father will send in my name, he shall teach you all things...."

At Pentecost the disciples received an outpouring of that Spirit - the Comforter, (a type of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth) but it did not last forever. Today, that extra spiritual help, the Holy Ghost, combined with the Power of Christ, will overcome the evil In Israel, cleanse their blood, keep God's laws in them, and cause them to live the way God wants us to live. But to receive all this we have to ask through prayer for it.

No one knows who are Israel and who are not, for it says in Matthew 20:16 "many are called but few are chosen". Only God knows the heart and desire of each person, but we can be assured that He has ordained that flesh will be saved (Matthew 24:22; Psalm 102:18-20).

The Ultimate Criterion

Do you feel a calling to be one of Israel? God is looking for a willing people to show His power of good over evil, so that a people can be preserved whole without seeing death (1 Thessalonians 5:23). To be one of the remnant of the lost tribes of Israel is our hope and desire and we look forward to the day when our Lord Jesus Christ returns, and we can greet Him, and He will say as in Matthew 25:34 "Come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world". □

Whitsuntide - a time to Stop, Review, Renew

In Australia in recent years we have had a campaign directed at motorists when travelling on long journeys to break their travel and rest every two hours to avoid fatigue and to relax their faculties so that they may continue to drive more safely and arrive at their destination. The slogan reads "Stop Revive Survive". It is claimed to have been a successful campaign, and those who heed the advice receive the benefit.

In our journey through life we must also be careful that we take time out to consider where we are at so that we can remain fit to continue to the end. We are all aware of the seventh day Sabbath which was instigated by God so that we would rest from our temporal and physical secular labour, and renew both our bodies and minds by thinking about spiritual ideas and values for one day each week. This weekly stop gives us opportunity to do a quick check around, but unfortunately we can usually do little more than a 'petrol fill up' in the time we allow.

The Bible does, however, suggest a few more major stops in the course of the year. These include Easter [Passover], Whitsuntide [Pentecost] and The Feast of Tabernacles for which there is no immediate Christian equivalent, but which perhaps we loosely celebrate at Christmas. These were times when all of Israel in the Old Testament had to go to worship in Jerusalem.

The time of Pentecost was always a very special time, and we see that the first outpouring of the Holy Ghost was given to the disciples of Jesus on the day of Pentecost. Some years later we see that Paul was making every effort possible to be at Jerusalem for Pentecost - for it hadn't been called Whitsuntide at that time (Acts 20:16) - but clearly was a significant event in the calendar.

On that first Christian Pentecost many believers were baptised, and so it became a custom for people to put on white robes and to be baptised at Pentecost. The day then became known as White Sunday, and later as WhitSunday, and the time as Whitsuntide.

Within the culture of the Christian Israelite Church Whitsuntide is the time of the year when we make our major spiritual stop.

It is the time when we look at our relationship with God and consider if it is growing or going. It is the time when we think of what God really wants us to be doing, and review our spiritual life. It is the time of the year when we feel strongly the fellowship of like-believers, and when members from outlying centres come together to share in the worship of God. It is the time when a feeling of spiritual closeness is felt, and when, for just a few short days, we are transported out of the everyday concerns of business and normal living to experience a foretaste of what the Kingdom of God may be like. It is a time too, however, for many to humanly reflect on those who have gone on before, and have pointed the way in which we should go.

In the emotion of all that is going on at Whitsuntide, we are encouraged to undertake strict self-examination and make resolutions to renew our vows and relationship with God, both as our Immortal Mother as well as our Heavenly Father.

For Christian Israelites the time of Whitsuntide is a time when the temporal shows us a figure of the spiritual. The children - and many adults too - all have new clothes to wear, there is abundant sharing of food with community shared meals at the Church, and all come together for frequent worship and praise to God. It is indeed a time to STOP REVIEW and RENEW.

STOP and evaluate where we are up to in our journey through life, REVIEW our relationship with God, and RENEW our dedication and vows to ensure we are heading in the right direction.

Whitsuntide is without doubt a shadow of greater times to come, when our Lord and Saviour will return and establish God's Kingdom on the earth. We really don't know what it will be like them, but if it is like one continuous Whitsuntide we know it will be good!

"And the Spirit and the bride say, Come. And let him that heareth say, Come. And let him that is athirst come. Even so, come, Lord Jesus." □

Rodney Gray

The Kingdom of Heaven

The Kingdom of Heaven on Earth

When the angel spoke to Mary he told her "the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the highest shall overshadow thee; therefore also that holy thing which shall be born of thee shall be called the Son of God" Luke 1:35. This message is perhaps one of the most significant surrounding the birth of Jesus, as it shows that these events were orchestrated by God Almighty. The naturalness of the everyday happenings, the normal circumstances that veiled this special occasion, were part of "the veil" that is upon mankind. Mary's reply is particularly poignant, " for He that is mighty hath done to me great things; and holy is his name.....behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it unto me according to thy word" Luke 1:49,39. How many of us are prepared to submit our life to do the will of God, when it can bring ridicule and criticism upon us? Very significant is the wording here regarding Mary's calling to do God's will - "the Holy Ghost shall come upon thee, and the power of the Highest shall overshadow thee" - this Power did not come to dwell within her, but to overshadow or influence her for her special calling. Note also that the Power from the Highest (which we believe is Christ, the Father) and the Holy Ghost (which we believe is the Comforter, our Spiritual Mother) were both present. This is the representation

of the Godhead which we refer to as the Two Immortal Spirits from God.

We recognise that Jesus had a special birth, which prepared Him as a vessel to do God's work, but it wasn't until He was baptised that this work commitment really began. ".....Jesus also being baptised, and praying, the heaven was opened and the Holy Ghost descended in a bodily shape like a dove upon him...." Luke 3:22-23. Jesus was anointed by the Spirit of God, still the Spirit did not dwell within him at that time, but dwelt upon Him and continued to anoint Him while He did the ministry work on earth. When it was time for Him to be crucified, the Spirit of God withdrew, causing Him to cry out "My God, My God, why hast thou forsaken me?" Matthew 27:46; Isaiah 54:8; Mark 15:34. The sufferings on the cross were borne by the man Jesus, not by the Spirit that did the work in Him. When Jesus rose from the grave and appeared to Mary, He told her, "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father; but go to my brethren and say unto them, I ascend unto my Father, and your Father; and to my God, and your God" John 20:17. After Jesus ascended He received the Power of the Spirit of the Godhead again, but this time not just to anoint Him, but it dwelt with Him and was the source of life (see John 4:14), because He had proved God's victory over physical death. He could

then appear as either spiritual or physical, but at all times possessing the strength and might that emanates from God (Revelation 1:18).

Overshadowed/Anointed or Within

We find that in the case of Mary she was overshadowed with God's power and Jesus was anointed by the Spirit of God to do His work. In the case of both of them, for various reasons, this spiritual presence withdrew. In the case of Jesus we see how He gained it again. From the study of these two cases, plus Elijah, Moses, etc., we understand this to be the condition of the Kingdom of Heaven on earth. In these cases the kingdom was possessed in their physical existence for a time and it enabled them to do the work of God. The Power of God was present with Mary and within Jesus, but His Spirit did not live within them, but overshadowed or anointed them, perhaps similar to a hen nurturing her chickens, protecting and instructing them.

The Bible speaks of the "144,000". "the elect" and those "foreknown of God" (Revelation 7; Matthew 24:22; Romans 8:29,30). This group are to press for the victory of good over evil in their physical bodies. This group will be looking for the Holy Ghost to come upon them and the power of the Highest (Christ) to come upon them. They are looking for and need the Two Immortal Spirits so that they fully gain the victory over sin and evil. Man's spirit, with the help of God will overcome. This state of proving God's power of good over evil is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth, and will be possessed while they are confronting evil and all its powers while physically alive. This power will stay with them so that they gain this victory for God proving good over evil. When Jesus returns and the victory is won, this group will have

subdued sin and evil in their minds and physical bodies and the Spiritual Power can then go one stage further and dwell within them casting evil out of them. They thereby would possess the Kingdom of God.

Christians look for forgiveness of sins and this is freely given when people acknowledge their need. However, it is only those pursuing the faith and further commitment to overcome evil in their whole being, spirit, soul and physical body that will possess this Kingdom of Heaven on earth and be eligible to go on to enter the Kingdom of God. Paul tells us that to possess this faith and to strive toward attaining it is "pressing toward the prize of the High calling of God in Christ Jesus.....who shall change our vile body that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby he is able, even to subdue all things unto himself" Philippians 3:14,21.

The Second State of the Kingdom of Heaven

When a person physically dies, the body is returned to dust as a result of the curse upon it (Genesis 3:19). However, at the same time this removes the bondage of evil and the spirit and soul only have to answer for their own sins at the Judgment Day (1 Corinthians 5:5; Revelation 20:4). The soul is held in the grave until Jesus Christ returns, chains Satan and sets up the judgment.

Universal salvation, through the power of the sacrifice of Jesus on the cross, ensures all will eventually enter the Kingdom of Heaven, but each in his own order (1 Corinthians 15:22-23). Even those who lived before the flood and before His sacrifice have had this message which they held in faith, now preached to them (1 Peter 3:19). Universal entry into the Kingdom of

Heaven is why Paul exclaimed "when he ascended upon high, he led captivity captive and gave gifts to men: Ephesians 4:8. The Kingdom of Heaven, the glory of resurrection, is one of the Kingdoms Jesus will establish when He returns, and is reserved for those who are resurrected to life.

Those who have accepted the sacrifice of Jesus before they died, at the resurrection their spirit enters into their soul and they dwell within Christ. This is the Kingdom of Heaven, dwelling within the mighty power of Christ.

The Sadducees told Jesus of a woman who had seven different husbands and asked the question, "In the resurrection, whose wife shall she be of the seven?....and Jesus answered and said unto them, "ye do err, not knowing the Scriptures nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven" Matthew 22:23-30. There will be no propagation. Paul tried to clarify the resurrection status in 1 Corinthians 15:35-49, concluding that as the resurrected "....have borne the image of the earthly, we shall also bear the image of the heavenly", and "God giveth it a body as it hath pleased him and to every seed his own body". As finite thinkers we try to understand God and His values in our rational terms but we should be allowing for His values, His realm of understanding and knowledge to guide and direct us.

God's Purpose

After Adam and Eve were created in the Garden of Eden the Spiritual Presence of God was withdrawn from them so that they could be tried in this new surrounding. The Spiritual Presence was still available to them, as it is

available to us today to give us strength and understanding, but it was withdrawn from abiding upon them - withdrawn from being a protective shield to them. This was why they were pronounced very good, but not perfect, and why Satan was able to tempt and cause them to sin.

God's purpose is that He will rule in the hearts and minds of people and the individual dwelling in the spirit of Christ and the Holy Ghost is the Kingdom of Heaven on earth.

The difference between the Kingdom of Heaven and the Kingdom of God is that in the Kingdom of Heaven one dwells within the Spirit of God, while in the Kingdom of God the spirit dwells within you. These kingdoms are not areas or countries, but are with the individual, agreeing with Jesus' words "the Kingdom of God cometh not with observations; neither shall they say lo here! or lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you" Luke 17:20,21. This aspect of God's teaching is worthy of our consideration and understanding, and while it may seem hard to reconcile all Bible references to it, the conceptual understanding gives us a pictorial explanation. See also John 15:4 and the parable about grafting which was discussed in Latter Rain No. 5 in the article "One or Two Pence".

The Scriptures speak of many mansions (John 14:1-3). Again, from Paul where he asked and answered the question "How are the dead raised up? and with what body do they come?" 1 Corinthians 15:35-58. He likened them to "one glory of the sun, and another glory of the moon, and another glory of the stars; for one star differeth from another star in glory...." In Revelation 22:12 John records, "Behold I come quickly and my reward is with me, to give

every man according as his work shall be". Somewhere in the mercies and blessings of God Almighty, He has prepared a place for everyone of His created people. Even though they may differ in station as the brightness of the stars and sun, it will be a just reward, according as their work has been here on earth. To those whom knowledge has been given, He will expect much; from those to whom the veil has clouded their understanding, He will expect little. It is for you and I, who have been given certain understanding to use this ability, and to follow in the ways of God more sincerely.

We do not know all the answers to the mind of God, but we have been blessed with some understanding.

These gems of understanding fit together like a big jig-saw puzzle, bringing to us a glimpse of the knowledge and mind of God. The knowledge of the difference between the Kingdom of God and the Kingdom of Heaven is a vital part of this understanding and we accept that God will bless individuals who do seek for understanding.

"O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! how unsearchable are his judgments and his ways past finding out!" Romans 11:33-36. yet He said, "Unto you is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God" Mark 4:11. Let us seek to God in prayer that He will continue to increase our understanding.□

Look to this day -

Yesterday is already a dream

Tomorrow is only a vision,

But today, well-lived, makes

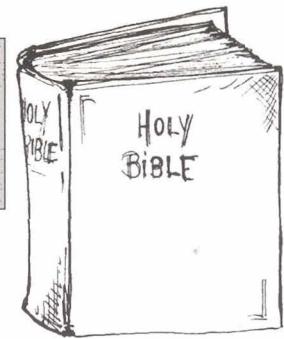
Every yesterday a dream of happiness

Ane every tomorrow a vision of Hope.

Martha Handy

Debug Your Bible:

Before “the Beginning”



Just how far back do you want to go? Let's face it, we've all wondered at one stage or another what happened in the past, whether it was last week, last year, 2,000 years ago, when the world was formed, or beyond..... Now don't get me wrong - not everyone is cursed with the "what happened before that?" syndrome. Some people are content not to question what existed or what happened before 2,000 years ago, or before creation, and that is admirable. But for those of you who wonder "what existed before the Universe was", here's a little brain teaser for you.

Let's jump straight in at the deep end and make an assumption that there are three current plausible scenarios to explain the origin of the Universe. They being:

1. **The Big Bang:** ie. the Universe resulted after the explosion of some concentrated matter at the beginning of time, and we are the result of some anomaly of nature that defied the laws of Physics;
2. **That God created the Universe:** ie, in accordance with the Biblical sequence of creation;
3. **That the Universe has always existed and was never created.**

There are a number of arguments which can strike the last item off our list. One which fits the bill is the "universally established" 2nd law of thermodynamics (the law of Chaos and Entropy). The law states basically that everything will tend

towards disorder or a lower energy state unless acted upon by an external force, and so energy will go from a more useable form to a "less-useable" form. Basically, if this Universe had always existed, then all matter and energy would now have reached constant entropy level, and the universe would be in an ultimate "disorganised" state, ie, no suns, no planets, no people! The universe would be one big disorganised soup! Also, according to this argument, is the fact that God must exist or else how can higher and more organised life forms come about if all is supposed to tend towards disorganisation.

Anyway we are now left with the two options that the Universe resulted either from Big Bang, or from classical Creation. Big Bang implies that either "someone" created the matter that produced the big bang, or that the big bang resulted from some abstract mathematical model based on questionable assumptions. I'll let you be the judge, but it seems to me as though we can't get away from the fact that God either created Creation, or created the Big Bang. So assuming there was a Big Bang or Creation then the question arises "what state existed before the Universe?"

Now we can theorise that for the Universe to come into being, it must have come from a state which was not the universe. Let's just think of how we fit into the picture of the Universe. We have

laws of nature and laws of physics which govern and define processes within our Universe. So when our Universe was created, these laws must have come into effect. If they were present before our Universe then our universe must have existed in another state before this present Universe came into being, since these laws define our Universe! So all the laws we know, use, and assume are all linked with our Universe. Anything we experience is through our association with the laws and experiences of this Universe. For instance, when someone wants to explain something to you, what do they do? They relate it to your experiences or frames of reference - experiences you have received in this Universe - and through your association of these experiences, you develop an understanding of what they are trying to explain.

So that is how we relate to this Universe and the reason why we can't relate with anything outside the Universe. Let's just think about God for a second. A God is the only "thing" which could have created our Universe. Therefore He must have existed in a state before the Universe as well as in our Universe now. If we said that God could only exist inside our Universe, then we are still left with the question "what existed before this Universe?" Since God existed before our Universe then we know that God can't be completely described by the Laws which we know are in effect in our Universe after it was created. We also know that God cannot therefore be constrained by the laws which govern our Universe. We might even go so far as to say laws He cannot be contained by pertaining to space, time and mass.

Anyway, getting back to our original question of "what existed before the Universe was?" then we can surmise

that the only way to know what existed before, is to have God reveal it to us. Science won't be able to explain it because the laws of science didn't exist before the Universe, but were created with the Universe. So, basically, if we want to describe God or know what existed or know what happened before the Universe was created, then we can only find this out through Divine revelation. Science cannot describe pre-creation because the laws of science weren't in effect. God is the only one who understands this and any other universe, and can impart the associations required to understand them.

Now I've run out of room here so I can't go through the Bible and show all of the things we know about pre-creation, but I will just briefly mention a few things. We know angels exist in some state (which our Universe can't, or can't yet, describe), and they can interact with our Universe but don't seem constrained by the laws of our Universe. We understand Heaven and Hell to be states commonly perceived as somewhere outside this Universe. As mentioned in the Bible, Enoch, Elijah and of course Jesus ascended somewhere and we can't describe anywhere in our Universe which is hiding them. (Hmmm..... perhaps they went into the pre-Universe state which we know must have existed.) But most curious of all we know that Christ (or the consciousness which is the evidence of Christ) existed before this Universe (John 1:1-3). Jesus said "Before Abraham was, I am" (John 8:58).

So what have we learned? Firstly we know there are two possible theories that explain the existence of this Universe: creation or Big Bang. Secondly, to believe either we need to believe in a God. Thirdly, the only way in which to explain that a state existed

before the Universe was created is to believe there is a God. And fourthly and finally, the only way in which we can possibly know or understand the pre-Universe state is by revelation through God giving us the associations and understandings required to perceive/

understand it. (See Hebrews 11:3 and 1 Corinthians 2:9-14). Our Universe itself cannot reveal what was before it.

This is just another small testimony to the fact that God must exist, and He is the only source for revealing what happened "before the beginning". □

Hymn No. 81

**The kingdom of heaven
Was likened to leaven,
The first Eve did hide in three measures of meal,
And Daniel was bidden,
The words to keep hidden,
For three times to cover them under a seal.**

**Mysterious God's ways are;
Hid Jesus' three days were,
The three days of Hosea were hidden the same;
Isaiah's years were sealed,
And were not revealed,
Until that the end of the third season came.**

**The fourth watch is unfurl'd
But they of the old world
Are call'd of the dark when no sun-dial's discern'd,
To see how the night goes,
But he of the light knows
The twelfth hour is here, and the whole earth is warn'd.**

**Within these three ages,
The prophetic pages
Point out that from evil shall Jacob be freed;
In these generations,
Or these dispensations,
Redemption will come to the second Eve's seed.**

(Isaiah 8:16; 29:11,12; Matthew 13:33; Hosea 6:2)

CHURCHWISE

The Lord's Prayer

Christian Israelite parents are instructed to teach their children the Lord's Prayer with the meaning of it. The Church recommends use of the rendition found in Luke Chapter 11, verses 2-4.

The prayer in Luke chapter 11 is, of course, similar to that in Matthew chapter 6 verses 9-13, but whilst the Luke version looks for the heavenly state to come to earth (that is for our bodies to remain but be cleansed of the evil) the Matthew version looks for the earth, or our physical life to become as it is in heaven, that is - spiritual.

Thus, although to many the two prayers may be seen as alternate renditions of the same thing, we believe that two different hopes or philosophies are typified in the two prayers - the spiritual (incorruptible) or the physical (immortal).

The prayer records the words of Jesus Christ Himself and we believe contains the essence of everything we need and want. That is not to say, of course, that we do not use other prayers - but generally members pray individually. The Lord's Prayer is the only prayer which we use in public in the church - as this removes the feeling of either inadequacy or pride which people may feel in public prayer circles (see Luke 18:10-13).

We believe that the words of Jesus in Matthew 6:6 "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" refer to the fact that the true

essence of prayer is the direction of the heart and mind towards God. Jesus shows that we should pray within our hearts(closet) and with the door(the mouth) shut. Remember the old song "I built a Cathedral deep down in my heart, Where God holds His counsel with me, And no one on earth can visit me there, For I have the only known key...."

The Lord's Prayer itself, on the surface appears to cover requirements for our daily lives - "give us day by day our daily bread" - but we see this as being a type or shadow of the eternal substance for which we are truly seeking ("the bread of life which cometh down from heaven" John 6:35).

So too when we pray "Thy Kingdom come," we are asking both for God's Spirit to guide us now (the Shadow) and also we are looking for the time when He will enter into us and become the life of our bodies - thus receiving the ultimate "substance" - eternal physical (with substance) life.

"That I may cause those that love me to inherit substance; and I will fill their treasures" Proverbs 8:21.

So whilst we live in the shadow of the Kingdom we must live as though the world were to go on forever, we must at the same time also be ready to deliver up at any moment to the substance and greater fulfilment of "Thy Kingdom Come".

There are very many issues raised in the Lord's Prayer, but there is not space to discuss them here. For those interested a copy of the Prayer with explanation is available on request.

Seven -

Just seven weeks after that first Easter when Jesus was crucified on the cross and rose from the tomb, was the time of Pentecost. We now call this time Whitsuntide. This was when God sent His Helper to the crowd of people who had gathered together from all over the country to remember Pentecost.

Our Church celebrates this special time of Whitsuntide every year and Church members come from many places to join together and have a special time of worship. At this time too, we ask God to send His blessing on us all.

The number 7 is mentioned quite a few times in the Bible as a special number and every seventh year when we remember Whitsuntide we think of it as an extra special time. This year, 1994, is a special year for Christian Israelites, as it is a seventh year.



A Special Number

There are many stories in the Bible where the number 7 was a special number and here are just a few examples. Do you know that God blessed the seventh day and told the Israelite people to work for six days of the week but to rest on the seventh day. This is one of the commandments that God gave to Moses to pass on to the Israelites when the ten commandments were given.

It took 7 years for Solomon to build the temple where God was worshipped. Before this the people didn't have a beautiful building like a Church, but Solomon carried out God's instructions on how this magnificent building should be built.

When Joshua was invading Canaan he told his soldiers to march around the city of Jericho once a day, then on the seventh day they were to march around 7 times. After that they were to blow their trumpets and all should shout loudly together. Then the walls of the city fell down and the children of Israel were able to capture the city.

Another story in the Bible is about Naaman, a very important man, who had sores all over him. Elisha told him to bathe in the river Jordan 7 times. He was annoyed as he thought this wasn't a very important thing to do. However, after thinking about it he decided to do as Elisha, the prophet of God, had told him. He bathed in the Jordan river six times and nothing happened but after the seventh time his sores had gone and he was cured.

There are many other stories about this special number 7. When we get ready for Whitsuntide this year, let us all stop and think about this special time. God wants to send a blessing on the people that love and serve Him. Let us ask God for His help and have a happy time this special year at Whitsuntide. May God bless us all.□

7 7 7 7 7

Puzzle Page

‘W’ - Word Widdles

Find the words described, letter by letter, then write each word in a verse at the bottom of the page.

1. My first letter is in **word** and also in **want**,
My second letter is in **wore** but not in **wire**,
My third letter is in **write** but not in **white**,
My fourth letter is in **whisk** but not in **whish**.

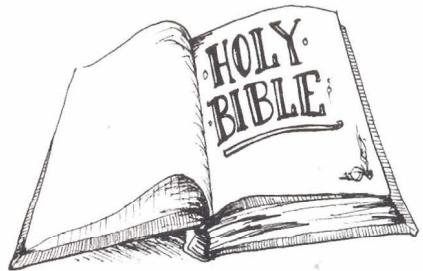
2. My first letter is in **wood** and also in **wealth**,
My second letter is in **water** but not in **writer**,
My third letter is in **while** but not in **whale**,
My fourth letter is in **went** but not in **when**.

3. My first letter is in **wear** and also in **wool**,
My second letter is in **wind** but not in **wand**,
My third letter is in **wish** but not in **with**,
My fourth letter is in **wind** but not in **wing**,
My fifth letter is in **won** but not in **win**,
My sixth letter is in **worm** but not in **worn**.

Verses from Proverbs:

1. "_____ of the godly will flourish." (Proverbs 14:11)
2. "Don't repay evil for evil _____ for the Lord to handle the matter." (Proverbs 20:22)
3. "_____ is mightier than strength." (Proverbs 24:5)

Expand Your Bible:



Release, Redemption and Restoration

There are many social requirements set down by God to be observed by the Nation of Israel. The instructions effected financial policy, employment, resource utilisation and egalitarian issues. They established a framework of social justice which would surpass anything in place today.

This article looks at some of the key issues and their meaning. It is based on policies set out in Exodus Chapter 23, Leviticus chapter 25 and Deuteronomy chapter 15. References to specific verses in these chapters are not given in the article.

After the high interest rates of the eighties, it has been a welcome relief to borrowers to see the lower interest rates of the last few years. That interest demanded from the lender certainly takes the fun out of borrowing! The imposition of interest is a charge put on the future by someone who already "has" (the lender) against someone who "has not" (the borrower). The comment has been made that the borrower becomes servant to the lender.

Although in our modern society the charging and payment of interest has become a part of our way of life, it was not so under the theocracy established in Israel about four thousand years ago.

Under God's law the Israelites were not to charge usury (interest) on money lent to each other, although they could charge it of foreigners.

Imagine if all your earnings, except for a tithe which was used by the Church to provide the social needs of society, went to directly pay for your expenses - no interest, no hidden taxes and no further State or Federal levies. Perhaps this underlying principle in fiscal policy was one reason why during the reign of Solomon the Bible says "And the king made silver in Jerusalem as stones" 2 Chronicles 9:27.

But further, every seven years all borrowers were released from their debts. What a wonderful relief that would be!

The seven year cycle also applied to slaves, who were to be released and given their liberty, and the land which was not cultivated in the seventh year. The poor were offered the produce of the untended crops in the seventh year.

Seven Times Seven

The instruction from God to Israel was to observe the year of Jubilee every fiftieth year, the year after the seventh seven years (Leviticus 25:8,9). This command was given as part of His

law, which when fulfilled would be for their good and welfare forever (Deuteronomy 5:29).

On the tenth day of the seventh month, in the day of atonement, the loud trumpet was to be sounded throughout the land, to proclaim liberty to all the inhabitants thereof. This covered liberty to the man who through the reverses of life had become dispossessed from the land of his family inheritance, to return to it again; liberty to every Hebrew slave, or hired person, so that in the Jubilee he became a free person again; liberty in release from toil in cultivation and harvesting of crops. In this case the sabbatical 7th year had just closed when the Jubilee year immediately followed it, requiring two years without sowing crops. But God provided for this.

Strictly speaking, there could be no permanent sale or purchase of land. What one could sell was the right to the lands, its products and that only for a limited time. Every fiftieth year the land was to revert to the family to whom it originally had been allocated. Thus, land sold say 5 years after a Jubilee - with 44 years to run - would be expected to sell near the maximum price, whilst that sold say only 5 years before a Jubilee would sell for the value of its remaining 5 years of productivity - for then it would return to its original owner - free of cost. The Israelites were instructed to hold to this principle and not to wrong one another. They were encouraged that if they obeyed this law, they would dwell in safety, the land would yield its fruit and they would eat to their fill.

And it is told in Exodus 21:2 that in no case shall a man serve more than six years, and in the seventh year he was to

have the privilege of going out free. The law of the Sabbatical year and the Jubilee was adapted to serve as a powerful discipline of faith toward God. In this practical way, every Hebrew was to be taught that "man doth not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Deuteronomy 8:3). Probably the most prominent and important object of the regulations was to secure, as far as possible, the equal distribution of wealth by preventing excessive accumulation of either lands or property or human domination in the hands of a few. Just starting on its career as a new country, as Israel was at that time, this system could be very effective in controlling social justice.

Conditional Promises

It must be remembered that great as God's blessings were they were conditional upon Israel's acceptance and obedience to His revealed law. It was as Azariah told King Asa in 2 Chronicles 15:2, "The Lord is with you, while ye be with Him;.....but if ye forsake Him, He will forsake you". Alas! Israel forsook the Lord - as told in 1 Kings 9:9 and 11:28-35. God does not change (Malachi 3:6). His righteousness shall not be abolished (Isaiah 51:6). It was Israel who changed, and forfeited God's blessings. But in His great love and grace, He has purposed to forgive their iniquity, and remember their sin no more (Jeremiah 31:34). His Word tells that the seed of Israel shall not cease from being a nation before Him forever (Jeremiah 31:35,36).

In Isaiah 44:21,22, there is a promise of God, "O Israel, thou shalt not be forgotten of Me. I have blotted out as

a thick cloud thy transgressions, and, as a cloud thy sins; return unto me." "Return unto Me, and I will return unto you" Malachi 3:7. Scattered throughout the Holy Bible are many references and promises by God concerning the destiny He has provided for His people Israel in the latter days, as yet unfulfilled, but which no human can frustrate. "O Israel, trust thou in the Lord" (Psalm 115:9), for what He has spoken, He surely will bring to pass (Isaiah 46:11). "Happy art thou O Israel: who is like unto thee, O people saved by the Lord" Deuteronomy 33:29.

Types and Figures

No doubt you can recognise a similarity here with our "bondage" to Satan and the "freeing" or release of the individual Israelites from their commitment of debt, slavery and servile work.

This creation in which we live took a negative turn when a curse was put upon it in the Garden of Eden (Genesis 3:17-19) and it has been deteriorating ever since! Polluted rivers, weeds and thorns, and now we are told of a hole in the ozone layer, to name a few. God has promised that at Jesus' return the natural

sequence toward good and balanced conditions will be restored(Isaiah 65:17-25).

We believe that the seven year cycle is a figure of the seven periods(days) of God's cycle of creation.

Satan has been given six days, or six thousand years, in which to seek the allegiance of people on the earth, but God will release mankind from the power of Satan on the seventh day - the millennium. Through the sacrifice of Jesus for the forgiveness of sins and the Power of the Comforter to arrive at a standard of obedience and true righteousness to God's commands, there will be a people - latter Israel - who will be totally freed from the bondage of slavery to sin.

Most people will be released from this bondage to sin through death (1 Corinthians 5:5), but there will be some who will be redeemed wholly from Satan's power and whose physical bodies will be restored to their rightful owner and creator - God Almighty (1 Corinthians 6:19-20).

At that time will all the types and shadows which God placed in His instructions to Israel become clear.

"This shall be written for the generation to come: and the people which shall be created shall praise the Lord. For he hath looked down from the height of his sanctuary; from heaven did the Lord behold the earth; to hear the groaning of the prisoner; to loose those that are appointed to death" Psalms 102:18-20.

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.

All Round Health

with James Harrison

Coughs, Colds, Chills and Winter Ills.

"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's" 1 Corinthians 6:20.

Well, the season of winter ills and chills has come upon us. Now that the mercury has dropped we are faced with mankind's most common enemy, the cold.

This quote from "The Biochemic Handbook" describes the course of a cold:

"The so called "common cold" is an infectious disease caused by a virus, although there can be predisposing factors such as exposure to draughts, wetting of the feet, etc. Some people are more likely to catch colds than others. A cold should never be neglected and if there is fever and congestion it is best to remain indoors. According to Dr. Schuessler's System of Biochemistry, there is depletion of the mineral salts within the tissues of the respiratory tracts and especially the nose. A disturbed mineral salt balance may cause congestion of the tissues with uncombined albumin. This furnishes an ideal breeding ground for the bacteria which are the exciting cause of the inflammation."

Colds usually begin with a feeling of dryness and irritation in the nose, occasionally with smarting and burning discharge from the nose, which may be

bland or excoriating, and this in turn changes to a thick, yellowish discharge. Obstruction of the nose may accompany any or all stages of the disease. Chronic catarrh can follow."

Schuessler's Biochemic Cells salts make use of mineral salts combined in a low dose homoeopathic form. Some chemists and virtually all Health Food shops stock them.

The recommended treatment is:
Ferric Phosphate (Ferr Phos): For feverishness, also stuffiness and sneezing that herald the onset of a cold. With the first bout of sneezing this remedy can be taken. It is believed to help to strengthen blood vessels and deliver oxygen to cells to help to "burn up" invaders.

Potassium Chloride (Kali Mur - from the old names for these elements): For the second stage where there is white phlegm and stuffiness with congestion. Kali Mur is excellent for the treatment of soft glandular swellings.

Sodium Chloride (Nat Mur): Running watery colds with chilliness and general feeling of discomfort. Loss of taste and smell.

Calcium Phosphate (Calc Phos): A short course of this remedy is helpful in

building up the general health after a cold.

Biochemic cell salts are easy to take. In the acute phase you can take them every half hour until they have an effect, then increase the time interval between doses. For longer term conditions take them three times a day. The standard dose is four little tablets for adults and two for children. Because of their formulation it is impossible to overdose on them, however, should your condition become aggravated stop taking them until it calms down then start again at a lower frequency of dose.

There are of course many other remedies for the common cold. Here is a suggestion from the "How to Herb Book".

1. Use a herbal infection fighting combination. These are often available over the counter and one containing the herb Echinacea is very good. Yarrow, Goldenseal, Capsicum, Black Walnut, Garlic or Rosehips are also good inclusions. The dose will probably be recommended on the bottle but frequently this

2. can be increased for the onset of a cold.
2. Specific remedies for coughs and kidney function.
Multivitamin and mineral supplements with B complex vitamins.
4. Vitamin A which helps strengthen mucous membranes and make their secretions more antiseptic. Doses as high as 50 - 100,000 IU have been used for a few days.
5. Vitamin C which has been found to improve the activity of white cells at a dose of 1,000mg every two to three hours.
6. It may be necessary to cleanse the colon with herbal laxatives. When treating a cold, a good quantity of water should be drunk to help with the elimination process.

When a cold is present, it is the body's signal for us to rest and let it eliminate poisons. When this elimination is taking place a good quantity of water should be drunk in addition to the treatments outlined above.

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Recipes

Parsley and Onion Bread

1 oz Butter
6 oz whole meal self raising flour
1 level teaspoon salt
2 tablespoons chopped parsley
2 tablespoons chopped onion
3/4 cup milk

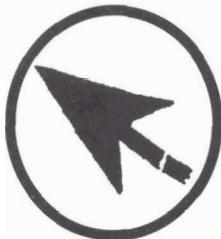
Rub the margarine into the flour and salt. Add the parsley and onion and mix to a soft dough with the milk. Spread evenly into a 10" x 3" bar tin, then turn upside down onto a greased oven slide. Bake in a hot oven (375degF) for 25 minutes. Serve sliced and spread with butter with salads or use for sandwiches.

Vegetable Curry

1 medium broccoli, cut into flowers
1 medium onion, sliced
2 medium garlic cloves, pressed
2 carrots, chopped
1 stalk celery, chopped
1 small can of crushed tomatoes
1 teaspoon curry powder (mild or hot)
1/2 teaspoon cumin
1/2 teaspoon tumeric
tamari or soy sauce to taste
1 cup plain yoghurt
2 cups cooked brown rice

Saute onion and garlic in a little oil (olive oil is good) - about 5 minutes. Add celery, carrots and broccoli. Saute another 5 minutes or so. Add tomatoes, spices and tamari or soy sauce. Cover and cook till broccoli and carrots are tender (don't overcook - the vegetables taste great a little crunchy and the less cooked the better for you). Add yoghurt right before serving. Spoon over rice and serve with other Indian side dishes. (Serves 6 - 8)

The Twelve Apostles



The Apostle to the Indians

If relying on the New Testament for details of Thomas Didymus, we find he is mentioned little. In analysing what is in the Gospels we find that Thomas gains prominence particularly in the 4th gospel, especially in the closing scenes which will be detailed later in the article.

Thomas Didymus (meaning twin) was Jewish and from Galilee and, as with the other disciples, he was of humble origin. We are not told what his occupation was or how he became a disciple of the Lord.

He is commonly called "doubting Thomas" because he questioned the oral reports of the risen Lord. Rather than interpreting this as a sign of doubt, it can be seen that the "doubt" was more a refusal to accept the testimony of his friends and an insistence, personally, on finding the truth for himself. When he did become an eye witness, his support was unquestioning and unwavering. Thomas was the first disciple/apostle to give the title of God to Jesus, other than the prophets in predicting these events. Once Jesus revealed himself to Thomas, Thomas convinced calls Jesus "My Lord and my God" (John 21:28).

One of the most important conversations in the Gospels took place between Jesus and Thomas when Thomas asked of the Lord "we know not whither thou goest: and how can we know the way?" To which the Lord replied "I am the way, the truth and the life: no man cometh unto the Father but by me. If ye had known me, ye should have known my Father also: and from henceforth ye know him and have seen him" John 14:5-7,

Thomas was absent after the crucifixion and this has led to much conjecture as to where he was. The most reasonable explanation was that he was literally attending "church" as we

After the resurrection, Thomas was responsible for the spread of the Word to the Parthians and the Indians. Idol priests in India are said to have tortured him with red hot plates, then cast him into an oven which had no effect on him. They were then said to have pierced him with spears while in the furnace until he died. St. Jerome tells us that his body, unconsumed, was buried at a town called Calamina. Support for Thomas having preached the Gospel in India lies in a third century document called "Acta Thomae". The story provided by the Acta tells us that when the Apostles at Jerusalem divided the countries of the world for their labours, India fell to the lot of Judas Thomas.

There is even a large population of native Christians calling themselves 'the

Christians of St. Thomas' who live along what is known as the Malabar Coast of India. Their history is known since the sixteenth century, but they have been Christians since much, much earlier - in their liturgy they use forms and a language (Syriac) that were derived from Mesopotamia and Persia. They claim to have been evangelized originally by St. Thomas himself. They have an oral tradition that he landed at Cranganore(west coast) and established seven churches at Malabar, he then went eastward to the Coromandel Coast, Madras and was buried at Mylapore - a suburb now of Madras. He met his death through martyrdom - he was speared on 'Big Hill' 8 miles from Madras. There are several early references to the tomb of St. Thomas in India at Mylapore but the bulk of his relics were taken to Edessa in the fourth century and the abovementioned work, the *Acta Thomae*, tells us that they were taken from India to Mesopotamia. His relics are no longer at Edessa but were moved to the island of Khios int he Aegean, from there they were taken to Ortona in the Abruzzi where they are still venerated today.

Thaddeus is given a close relationship with Thomas. It is said Thaddeus was sent by Thomas to preach the Gospel in Edessa. Eusebius maintains that Thomas is also known as Judas Thomas and the Gnostic Acts of Judas Thomas go back to Syria. In Christian Syriac literature Judas Thomas is the twin brother of Jesus.

The writings of Thomas - all we have in existence today is the Gospel of Thomas often referred to as "spurious and heretical". It makes up part of the collection from the Dead Sea at the Nag Hammadi library. The Gospel of



Thomas is a collection of 114 sayings ascribed to "Jesus the Living" and said to be recorded by his disciple Didymus Judas Thomas.

Thomas is represented by an elderly man holding a lance, or pierced by a lance; or kneeling before Our Lord and placing his fingers in His side.

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They That Wait Upon the Lord

Hast thou not known?
Hast thou not heard,
that the everlasting God,
the Lord,
the Creator of the ends of the earth,
fainteth not,
neither is weary?
there is no searching of His understanding.

He giveth power to the faint,
and to them that have no might
He increaseth strength.

Even the youths shall faint
and be weary,
and the young men shall utterly fall.

But they that wait upon the Lord
shall renew their strength:
they shall mount up with wings as eagles,
they shall run and not be weary,
and they shall walk,
and not faint.

Isaiah 40:28-31

Answers to the Puzzle page.

Work, Wait, Wisdom.

If you will be visiting one of these areas over the next few months or would like to contact our group, please feel free to attend one of the following at the church addresses. All are welcome.

Melbourne	Regular Service held each Sunday evening - 7pm in Summer and 2.30pm in Winter.
Singleton	Regular discussions each week with the exception of the first Sunday of the month when there is a service at 7.15pm.
Terrigal	Discussion First Sunday evening in the month. Local papers will advertise services.
Sydney	Services and discussions alternate Sundays at 2.15pm.

For further information please ring or write to one of the following contacts:

Melbourne		Terrigal	
Church:	193 Fitzroy Street, Fitzroy, Victoria. 3065 (03) 416 0807	Church:	Cnr. Terrigal Dr & Serpentine Rd Terrigal, NSW. 2260 (043) 84 3535
Write:	As above.	Write:	64 Erina Valley Rd., Terrigal, NSW. 2260.
Singleton		Windsor	
Church:	Cnr Bishopgate Street and Goulburn Street, Singleton. (065) 71 1269	Church:	340 Macquarie Street, South Windsor. (045) 77 2190
Write:	P.O. Box 127, Singleton. NSW. 2330 (065) 72 2741	Write:	Lot 24, Morilla Road, Wilberforce. NSW 2756 (045) 763 264
Sydney		Kempsey	
Church:	196 Campbell Street, Darlinghurst. NSW 2010 (02) 331 5625	Church:	10 Marsh Street, Kempsey. NSW 2440 No phone.
Write:	P.O. Box 50, Enfield. NSW 2136 (02) 642 4555	Write:	6 Seaview Street, Bonny Hills. NSW 2445 (065) 854 495
U.S.A.			
Write:	c/- Mrs. M. Shafer, 4502 Shafer Drive, Lafayette, Indiana, USA, 47905 Phone:	Church	1204N Rural Street, Indianapolis. USA 46201 Residence:
	0011 1 (317) 589 3221	Phone:	0011 1 (317) 632 4746

Jesus said:

"If a man keep my saying,
he shall never see death."

John 8:51

It's true!