

From the Inkhorn



The theme of this issue, "He is Coming" follows the general topic of the previous issues of Latter Rain detailing what happened to Jesus since His crucifixion. In this issue we look at "This Same Jesus..." and are we "Ready to Go", coupled with "When" and what "Thy Kingdom Come" means to us.

The parable of the "two pence" illustrates how the Law and Gospel need to be combined if we are going to follow the complete will of God as exemplified by Jesus. Faith will possess greater depth, and give us vitality and action if we are more specific in what we are looking for.

Our human body is a complex machine which flashes red lights to us, if we can read them; how we heed these warnings and prepare our body to become the "Temple of God" is a reflection on our depth of study into God's word and our "health". It is in the recognition of God's promises that our faith gains foundation and through our seeking to them, our faith is developed.

As you read the articles you will find interwoven the thread of our promises, and our responsibility to act, in faith, from a pure heart that is seeking truth. At Pentecost we remember the first great outpouring of the Holy Ghost; the preparation in the hearts and minds of the individuals, made the event possible. The promise is there for this to happen again, the people are being prepared, so that this time the Spirit can abide on them and dwell within them to eternity.

It is the simple acts and thoughts that prepare us, little by little; it doesn't need to be one spectacular occurrence - Wham!

As God is preparing this group let us make ourselves available for Him to use and prepare us for this mighty event which will culminate in the return of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

Index

When Will the Lord Return?	2
A Daily Blessing	4
This Same Jesus - Shall So Come	5
From the Hymnal - No. 69	7
Ready to Go	8
Thy Kingdom Come	12
The Joy of Being You	14
Debug Your Bible - The Deluge	15
Expand Your Bible - Workers in the Vineyard	18
Outline of Belief	19
Give Me Oil In My Lamp	20
All Round Health - The Temple of God	22
Twelve Apostles - Philip - Apostle to Gaul	24
Philip the Disciple	27
Recipes	

When Will the Lord Return?

The Bible is full of promises of the Lord's return to the earth, but the big question that concerns us all is when will this be? Over the years scholars have predicted certain times for His return, but these dates have come and gone and still the world goes on with many losing their enthusiasm and expectations. God has not given a specific time or date for the Lord's return, but Jesus, when speaking to the disciples on this very subject, told them the parable of the fig tree. When you see the shoots on the fig tree then you know that summer is nigh. So too, when you see the signs as promised in the Scriptures coming to pass, you know the end is nigh.

Never before in history has there been such an increase in knowledge. We live in the Technological age where the hidden forces of nature are yielding themselves wholesale to man's ingenuity. We travel at a faster and faster pace, breaking the sound barrier and trying for the speed of light. We have developed machines of such accuracy that we can measure time in less than a million-millionths of seconds. Every process in life has been revolutionised and computerised. Man has developed such weapons of terror and destruction using this new technology that fear permeates the world. Today a computer is obsolete almost before it reaches the market!

While reading recently I came across this quotation, "The last half century has witnessed changes unprecedented both in their nature and their extent; it is possible that within this brief period of time greater changes have taken place than in all the centuries between the coming of Christ and the

middle of the last century..... nor is there as yet any slackening in the rate of change: everywhere there is anxiety and disquiet as to what the future may bring forth".(1) This was written by Dr. Garbett, the Archbishop of York..... not today, but back in 1953! What would his comment be today!

This great increase of knowledge is one of the signs of the nearness of the Lord's return. In the Biblical book of Daniel, he, Daniel, was given a preview of the events of the latter days. This vision was almost too mind boggling for him and he was told to "shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). Daniel's cry might well be ours "I heard, but I understood not: and then said I, O my Lord, what shall be the end of all these things? (Dan. 12:8).

A second Bible prophecy to consider is from Joel 3:12-14. "Let the heathen be wakened, and come up to the valley of Jehosophat:..... multitudes, multitudes in the valley of decision: for the day of the Lord is near in the valley of decision". Today the peoples of Asia and Africa are arising as new nations and as peoples to be reckoned with. Vast masses of humanity which have hitherto been passive and have been in many cases despoiled and abused by western civilisations have suddenly become conscious that they too have a destiny and are demanding a place among the so called "civilised" western powers. Many of these countries have upset traditional trade with their manufacturing policies causing many established economies to review their practices. Even many of the

smallest provinces want "self determination". Just think of the troubles arising from the dissolution of the old Soviet Union - almost every country involved wanting to be independent and many conducting religious wars within their own boundaries.

Another often quoted sign of the second coming is from Luke 21....."Nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom, And great earthquakes shall be in diverse places and famines and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven..." Today we certainly have nation against nation and kingdom against kingdom; earthquakes of great devastation have occurred in many places not normally affected; volcanoes which have been sleeping for many years have

suddenly erupted. Famine has been affecting a very large percentage of the earth's population, either because of drought or because of civil wars and fighting in these countries. Everywhere we turn our crops and gardens are affected by yet another bug or disease. Over the years many sightings of unusual and strange phenomena have been made in the heavens. Today's big problem seems to be the theory that the ozone layer, which has hitherto protected the earth from excess heat, has a "hole" in it and sun's rays are becoming hotter and hotter causing damage to the earth - what will be the long term affect of this?

In 2 Peter 3:3 we are admonished "knowing this first that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their own lusts". Today our world is full of



scoffers, belittling the power and majesty of God and making His teachings and instructions of no consequence. Today people are materialistic, seeking their own creature comforts, sexual desires and cravings - stealing, killing, drug taking to obtain their own gratification. These people say "where is the promise of His coming?" in a mocking way.

Again in Matthew 24:14 we read "this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come". Modern inventions, radio, television, satellites to carry messages and pictures from one side of the world to the other, are all helping to spread the Gospel and the Word of God is being taken to more and more people. The modern typewriters and printing methods enable thousands of copies of Bibles and religious tracts to be produced, as well as videos, tapes and CD's.

The Bible Society continues the

wonderful work of translating and printing Bibles in many languages and dialects - more than 1100 languages and a new one almost every day, as many of the more remote areas are reached.

This short article presents only a few of the "signs of His coming", but sufficient to make us realise we are indeed living in the time of the end or the latter days. Let us always be mindful of the warning given in Peter's epistle "the Lord is not slack concerning His promises as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9).

(1) "In an Age of Revolution". Dr. Garbett. p. 14,15.

PS Perhaps we could add another sign to this list after reading the article on All Round Health. Are all, or many of,

PS. Perhaps we could add another sign to this list after reading the article on All Round Health. Are all, or many of, these additives some of the "pestilences" of the last days?

A DAILY BLESSING

May Jesus Christ Our Saviour,
Who hears our every prayer,
Who guides us as we go through life
And keeps us in His care,
Be close beside you always
And bless every day you live
With the peace, the joy, the heart's
content

His Love alone can
give.

This Same Jesus

Foty days after Easter, when Jesus was meeting with the disciples, "while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight" (Acts 1:9).

No doubt their minds went back to a story they would have known well from their "Bible" - that of the translation of Elijah (II Kings 2:9-12). As they gazed up in wonder, "two men stood by them in white apparel", and told them that "this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven" (Acts 1:10-11).

From this event forward the New Testament Christians started looking for the return of Jesus Christ. It had been well established that this person was the same Jesus who had been crucified on Passover Friday, and whose body had disappeared from the heavily guarded tomb of Joseph of Arimathea - see for example Paul's testimony in 1 Cor. 15:1-8.

"This same Jesus" was the holy child which had been born some 33 years earlier under the extraordinary circumstances of a virgin-birth. That supernatural event had enabled the birth of a child of the human race without inheriting the evil which all have received from Adam, and which is passed down through the male progenitor (Heb. 2:14-16; John 14:30; 8:23).

This miraculous birth had in turn allowed God to prepare a human being perfect in all respects - and without sin before God - to be offered a Sacrifice for all (Heb. 5:8-10).

In keeping with this high office, we also believe that the spirit which ministered to the baby born to Mary and known as Jesus had a special place in God's spirit world before the physical creation of mankind. We understand that the spirit which ministered to the man Jesus - for each human being has a spirit and a soul and a body - was the Spirit called Michael. Michael is referred to only a few times in the Scripture, but the role which Michael, as a spirit, plays, parallels that which Jesus Christ undertakes on behalf of the physical creation. Daniel 12:1 says: "And at that time shall Michael stand up, the great prince which standeth for the children of thy people; and at that time thy people shall be delivered.....", and Revelation 12:7 tells us that "there was war in heaven; Michael and his angels fought against the dragon; and the dragon fought and his angels, And prevailed not; neither was their place found any more in heaven."

Jesus, the child born to Mary, then, had a spirit called Michael, a soul through being born of blood and a body of which God was the actual Father (Luke 1:35). As well, the Power of God had

Shall So Come

overshadowed or anointed Jesus from His birth - (Luke 2:52). In 1 John 2:27-3:1 the sequence of events in the life of Jesus is explained as a promise for those who will also become children of God at His return. For after the "anointing" from his birth, Jesus entered physically into the presence of Christ and the Holy Ghost at the River Jordan at His baptism (Matt. 3:16-17), He then dwelling within that Power. Then, at the time of his trial, the Power of God withdrew and Jesus, as a man, suffered for the human race.

After his crucifixion he was, of course, raised to life by the indwelling power of the presence of God (Rom. 8:11) - remember his blood was shed on the cross -, thus establishing Jesus Christ not only as the physical Son of God but as the everlasting Son of God by the rebirth of the Spirit - see John 3:3.

The work and mission of Jesus, wrought upon by the Power of God in Christ and the Holy Ghost, had been foretold by the prophets - even Moses - see Deut. 18:15. He was to be the Saviour of His people, and this had been fulfilled at the Passover.

Other Old Testament prophecies, however, spoke of a King to reign in Righteousness (Zeph. 3:15-17) and Power. These prophecies, coupled with a further dimension of understanding which now came with the "New Era", clearly pointed forward to a time when Jesus Christ would return to deliver all God's creation from the bondage of corruption (Romans 7:22-23) brought about by the

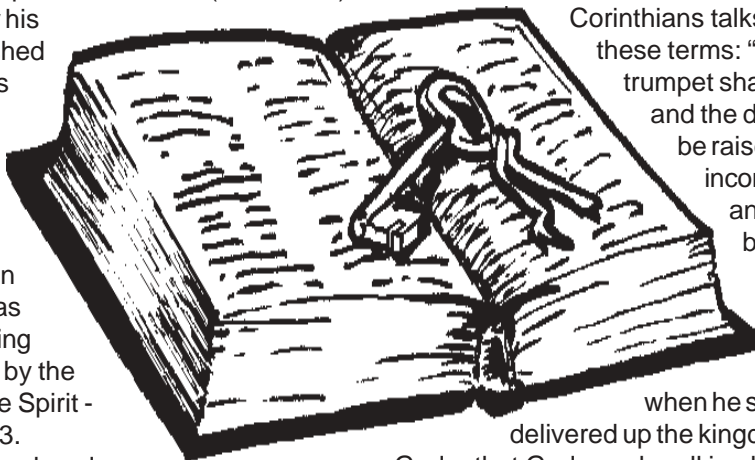
subjection of this creation to Satan - see also Rev. 19:12-16.

Jesus himself, on one occasion, spoke with the disciples about the signs of His coming - see Matthew chapter 24. He clearly inferred that should He not return at a critical moment, the Earth would self destruct! He then added a rider, "But for the Elect's sake, those days shall be shortened".

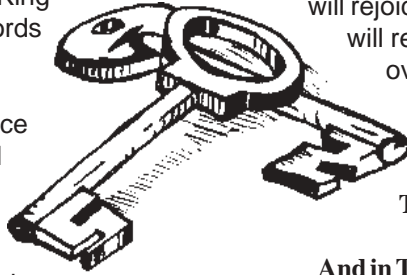
Yes, a compelling reason for His return is so that God's people may receive the hope of redemption - the high calling of immortality - physical life without death.

And when He returns, what a great time it will be. Paul in 1 Corinthians talks about it in these terms: "for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed... then cometh the end, when he shall have delivered up the kingdom to God....that God may be all in all" (1 Cor. 52.24.28).

Just as God rested after the six days of creation, and established the seventh day Sabbath, so Jesus Christ must return so that the earth may again rest on the Sabbath day - the millennial period foretold in the Scriptures (Heb. 4:4-9, II Pet. 3:8 and Rev. 20:1-3). For Peter gave us the key that "one day is as a thousand years". It can be calculated that there was 4,000 years from Adam to Jesus, and we understand nearly 2,000 years since. Using Peter's key we believe that this same Jesus will return soon - although the exact date we do not know. The brightness of His coming will destroy



all wickedness (2 Thess. 2:8), and prepare the earth for the reign of the King of kings. At that time the words of Zephaniah will be fulfilled which he spoke some 2,500 years ago, "be glad and rejoice with all the heart.... The Lord hath taken away thy judgments, he hath cast out thine enemy: the King of Israel, even the Lord, is in the midst of thee: thou shalt not see evil anymore.....The Lord thy God in the



midst of thee is mighty; he will save, he will rejoice over thee with joy; he will rest in his love, he will joy over thee with singing".
Zeph. 3:15-17; Zech. 2:10; 14:9.

**Then will Isr'el cease to
mourn,
And in Thy glory shine:
Thou the source of life and light;
Thou great Restorer from the fall,
Now in the pow'r of Thy might
Redeem this earthly ball.**

From the Hymnal

Hymn

No.69

Thou the Lamb who once was slain
To bring redemption in,
On this earth Thou here wilt reign,
And make an end of sin:
Prove the justice of Thy cause,
Thy full dominion to extend;
O'er the earth proclaim Thy laws,
And make all nations bend.

When that star did once proclaim
Thy great auspicious birth,
Then redemption in Thy name
Resounded through the earth:
On the cross Thou didst expire,
The pow'r of Satan to subdue;
Thee all nations will desire,
Thou great, all just, and true.

From on high Thou wilt return,
In majesty divine;
Then will Isr'el cease to mourn,
And in Thy glory shine:
Thou the source of life and light;
Thou great Restorer from the fall,
Now in the pow'r of Thy might
Redeem this earthly ball.

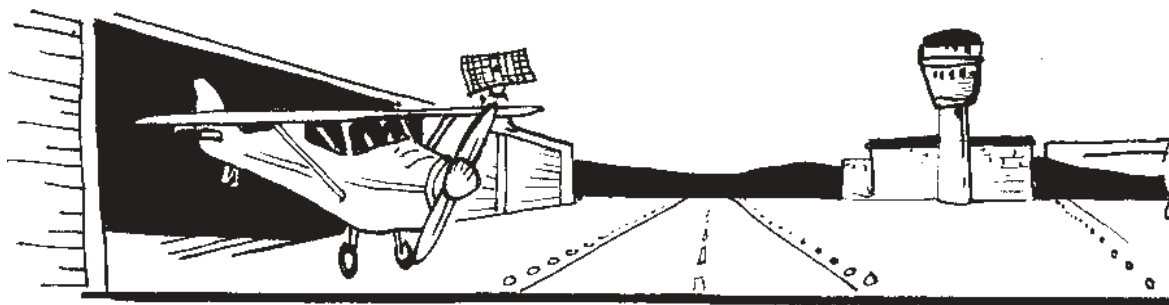
Ready To Go

Peter pondered over his check list again. Vaccination certificates, airline ticket, passport, work permit. All these major things were ticked off, as he started to recheck his departure lists. He was hoping to be in England on a work permit for a year, so had a lot on his mind, and these lists were his way of checking that he didn't forget anything.

Now the second list: winter clothes, special snow gear, dress shirt and suit, etc., the list was long, but he progressively checked off each item. Now the third list: farewells. He had said goodbye to Grandma and Grandpa. He had had a card from Dad's mother, and she had quoted a Bible verse, "I am with you alway, even unto the end of the World," from Matthew 28:20. A swelling came into his eyes as he remembered the character building talks he had had with Grandma as she explained the principles that God wants us to follow. He couldn't quite understand the fact that if God was all powerful why He didn't just do what He wanted done, instead of all this messing around in the World for 6,000 years with Satan fighting all the way against good. He hadn't seen Uncle Bill yet, but Uncle Bill was

a busy church Pastor, and he was going to take him to the airport. There were the twins, they were only six, but he wanted to see them too. They always made him feel so important in the way they came up to him.

He had finished work yesterday, and the boys there had given him a farewell card. That card had a Bible verse printed in it too, "In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths." Prov. 3:6. He had become a Christian at the Beach Mission when he was 14, and since that time had grown hot and cold and hot and cold in his walk with Jesus. The Christian way of life can demand a lot of a growing man. "You shouldn't do anything you wouldn't like to be doing when Jesus comes" was a motto Aunty Marjorie would often quote to him. He felt guilty each time he had intoxicating drink but he didn't lie or swear, they were no problem. Now this card from the men at work made him think! If he accepted Jesus more sincerely did that mean nothing bad would ever happen to him? Did his conduct interfere with the way he thought? After all, if he thought nice and good thoughts, didn't lie, or cheat, or swear, and worked hard, did it really matter if he got drunk or played the



poker machines heavily?

Well that was all his lists. He was off to England to broaden his knowledge of people, places and learn a bit of history. He had arranged for a work permit so that he could get "hands on" experience with the way of life in the country. He felt he was a Christian, and he would visit churches for services, as well as for their historic value, but to go so far as to say he would work actively in a Christian community, he didn't know.

Did God require too much of people? After all the ways of God seem to separate you from the parties at work, the topics that got most laughs and the pin-up pictures. Jesus lived such a long time ago. Would he be the same if he lived today, or would he bend a bit to go with the flow? To keep the seventh day sabbath holy often meant missing out on an organised outing. Having to get up earlier so that you have time to pray, sort of broke up the day. He had tried praying in bed before he got up, but that didn't always work because he fell asleep again, then had to rush to keep up his schedule. He could handle honesty, truthfulness, kindness, they made good sense, but to keep the Sabbath, to pray at least three times a day(1), to pay tithe, and to observe the food regulations like Mum and Dad, sort of brought restrictions. He never could quite fathom out why Uncle Bill was so happy, after all he was only a Church Pastor, having to bury the dead, listen to people whine and complain when they felt they had

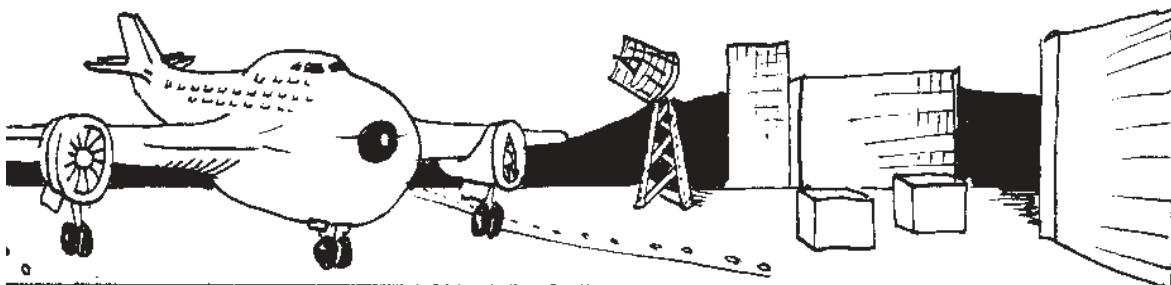
a raw deal, and the weddings, they would be alright, but the preparations for sermons, and to be on 'beck and call' to the whole community, he felt that would get him down.

Uncle Bill was on time, and they were soon loaded, thanks to Peter's preparation. As they headed to the airport they spoke of the political unrest, business instability, the court cases in the paper, and the devaluation of the dollar, and Uncle Bill remarked, "Well they are signs of the times. Jesus told us there would be a time of unrest such as never was before. Daniel said knowledge would be increased and people would run to and fro, just like you are today, zipping off thousands of kilometres just like driving to the next town. Jesus return must be near now, so we need to be prepared always," (6) he concluded.

"Do you honestly feel Jesus is real and that He is coming back again to this earth?" asked Peter.

"Yes I do, and it won't be far off, possibly in our lifetime. Jesus told us certain signs that would indicate His return was near, just as the spring shoots on the fruit tree show that summer is near. Well those signs are showing, so I know, in fact I am positive, and if I was a betting man I would put money on it, that Jesus is coming again soon." Peter hadn't quite expected that serve. I guess that is one topic Uncle Bill is really wrapt in.

"We have to be prepared for Jesus return. He will come as a thief in the night to those who take no warning (2), and they will



miss out on the joy and fellowship that is promised to those that love and obey Him. You see Peter, God wants people to follow Him, because they want to do it. He doesn't want puppets, or people following because they have to. This is why God has allowed Satan to try everybody to see how loyal they really are to the ways of God (3). God has promised that those who accept Jesus' sacrifice, and try to obey His Laws and Commandments, and make a commitment or covenant with Him, that He will give them His spiritual strength to help them to do it"(4).

"That's cheating, only doing it because you are helped to do it," interjected Peter.

"No, there is a difference in approach. If you promise to do something, I might say, 'I'll help if you have trouble. You have made the initial move. I am offering support. But if you said to me, 'I'll do it if you help me, and wait for me to make the move, then you still haven't started. You make the start, in faith that I will help you, that is the difference. You have made the commitment in FAITH. This is what God wants men and women to do, to make a commitment in faith, and then He will gladly help them.'"

"Alright so you make a point. But why are you always so happy when you are only a pastor", piped in Peter, feeling a bit browbeaten.

"You're not hitting below the belt are you?" laughed Uncle Bill good naturedly.

"Well if you cannot answer it say so. I'm only learning about life. You are older, and supposedly have all the answers?"

Bill was enjoying this conversation. He had longed to have a heart to heart with this lad, but as hard as he had sought the opportunity it didn't come. Now was his chance. He glanced at his watch, yes he could slow down a bit, and still get there in plenty of time.

"Peter, I reckon I have been enriched by life's difficulties. Years ago I was hesitating

on the threshold of greater Service to God. I didn't swear, I ate and drank modestly, I didn't tell lies, I kept the Sabbath Holy to God, paid tithe and observed the clean and unclean meats as in Leviticus chapter 11. I felt pretty good in my own righteousness, but I kept getting tempted, and falling. As much as I tried I would fall short and disappoint myself. The verse of John, 16:33 continually came to my mind, 'These things have I spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation; but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.' If Jesus offered peace, why didn't I have it? It was then I realised that I wanted Jesus and his ways, and this world as well. I had to be prepared to realise that the next world will not have greed, selfishness, pride, and all those traits, so unless I could live without them, I was not prepared. I offered myself to God, and pledged that I was prepared to give them up, and asked Him, in faith, that He would help me, just like Jacob did, (5), after all He did say He would not leave us comfortless. I made the first move. He made the second, and He has helped me to cope with anything that has come along. I won't say I don't have difficulties, I do, and some of them are very trying, but I know, through the positive power of prayer and faith, that I can and will overcome. 'I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me,' Paul said in Phillipians 4:13. My happiness stems from the fact that I have a purpose in life. I am living to be ready to meet my Saviour, and for Him 'to change my 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.' Phil. 3:21. I am on the winning team. I cannot fail, as long as I have faith. If I, through the promise of help that Jesus has made, keep the Laws and Commands of God, I cannot fail to be ready for the change when 'mortal shall put on Immortality.' 1 Cor. 15:54. Next I decided to become a Pastor so that I'd have the opportunity to help others.

I am sorry if my happiness upsets you, but when you are always winning, you have reason to be happy.”

There was a long pause. Peter was reflecting on Bill’s words. If Bill was an example of a true believer, it was worth being a true believer, and the bonus was that he knew where he was going, and what was happening in such a mixed up World.

“Uncle Bill, I don’t swear, I don’t tell lies, I try not to get drunk, but keeping the seventh day holy, praying regularly, paying tithe they are harder. Maybe I’ll just leave it awhile to make a committment”

“Sure, God will reward every man according as his work shall be, is the way John put it in Revelations chapter 22, but if you want to take the worry out of it, if you want to be sure to be there, you need to make a complete committment, and undertake, through the love and fellowship of the Holy Spirit, to follow the whole of the Laws and commands,” replied Bill.

“Is that the airport tower?” asked Peter.

“Sure is! The trip has gone quickly with us talking. Think upon these words Peter, as they contain more value than any amount of silver or gold.”

It wasn’t long before they were trundling the luggage along to the departure desk and their turn came to be booked out.

“Ticket and seat number please,” asked the attendant.

Peter proudly presented his ticket.

“Seat booking please,” asked the attendant.

“I don’t have one. There is my ticket,” replied Peter. The attendant consulted the computer screen, then disappeared behind the divider. She soon reappeared with another person who consulted the screen also. They spoke to one another then they turned to Peter,

“I’m sorry, that flight is booked out. You failed to confirm your departure and didn’t get a seat booked,” she said,

“What did you say?” exclaimed

Peter.

The attendant replied, “There are no seats on that flight. Your ticket was not committed for a seat, and they are all allocated.”

Peter looked at Uncle Bill. Uncle Bill looked at Peter, “I guess this is one of the knocks of life Peter. You prepared in so many ways, but you failed in booking a seat. I reckon many people prepare for Jesus coming, but how many fail to commit themselves wholly and will miss out on the change from Mortal to Immortality.”

Peter was a bit taken back by Uncle Bill’s frankness. He was even smiling when he said it. He was about to burst into tears, and he caught again Bill’s words, “everything works together for good for them that love the Lord” and he remembered Bill’s committment to this, and he too smiled. Turning to the attendant Peter asked “When is the next flight I can get?” Then he turned to Bill and said, “At least here I have a second chance. I guess if people fail to be ready for Jesus’ return they won’t get another chance.”

“You are right Peter. “

It was only hours and Peter was off, but his discussion with Uncle Bill still lingered in his mind. On the flight he took out his Bible and weighed up the passages, and then he too made up his mind to commit his life wholly in covenant to God. He is now waiting for Jesus’ return when the promise of “Mortal to put on Immortality” will be fulfilled.

Are we “Personally” prepared for Jesus’ return?

- (1) 1 Thess. 5:17; Psalm 55:17.
- (2) 1 Thess. 5:2 & 4.
- (3) Rom. 8:20
- (4) Prov. 12:28. Rom. 12:1-2. John 8:51. & 14:26.
- (5) Gen. 28:20-22.
- (6) Matt. chapter 24. Daniel 12:1.

When saying the Lord's prayer and asking for "Thy kingdom come, thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven" (Luke 11:2) many questions may be asked as to the meaning of this. What type of Kingdom? Come to who? How can it be in earth as it is in heaven? When will it be, and what is God's will?

It is commonly said when someone dies that they will "go" to heaven. In Matthew 5:20 Jesus speaks about entering the kingdom of heaven, yet He says in Matthew 6:33 "Seek ye first the Kingdom of God and all these things shall be added unto you". It would appear then that there are two kingdoms, the kingdom of heaven, and the kingdom of God. Is there any difference between them?

In the New Testament Jesus

return to this planet if it were that all men should die? It would seem unnecessary as after death they "go" to Him in heaven. We see His return is to set up the kingdom of God here on earth, "as it is in heaven" with a people that will not die and He will reign King of kings and Lord of lords with a people that have lived and sought to do God's will.

Revelations Chapter 21 gives a description of the New Jerusalem, likened to a bride, and verse 3 states "behold the tabernacle of God is with men, and they shall be his people and God himself shall be with them, and he shall be their God, and God shall wipe away all tears from their eyes, and there shall be no more death" etc. No these people do not die but will be changed in a moment in the

Thy Kingdom

speaks many times about these two kingdoms and if we look closely we see there is a difference. A quick summary shows that the kingdom of heaven is spiritual or celestial; and after the death of a person, they spiritually "go" there. The kingdom of God, on the other hand, is earthly or terrestrial and it will "come" to this planet and a people will enter into it. In Luke 17:20-21 Jesus was asked when the kingdom of God would come. His answer was "that the kingdom of God cometh not with observation - for behold the kingdom of God is within you."

There are many Bible passages that say Jesus Christ will return and there are many things happening today that show His return could be very near.

Why would Jesus Christ want to

twinkling of an eye" 1 Cor. 15:51-52.

When Satan tempted Adam and Eve and they "fell" or became sinners, the result was that their bodies could/would die, and it has been his objective ever since to gather as many bodies as he can to the grave, fulfilling the statement "Dust thou art and unto dust shalt thou return". God has also decreed by the Psalmist that there will be a people loosed from appointed death (Psa. 102:20) and He says in Isaiah 28:18 "and your covenant with death shall be disannulled and your agreement with hell shall not stand." God does not like death, all He had asked of the children of Israel was to obey His laws and live. In Ezekiel 18:31-32 he says "Cast away from you all your transgressions whereby ye have

transgressed: and make you a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves and live ye." Again Isaiah 38:18-19 says "For the grave cannot praise thee, death cannot celebrate thee, they who go down into the pit (the grave) cannot hope for thy truth. The living, the living he shall praise thee, as I do this day, the father to the children shall make known thy truth".

The truth is that the kingdom of God will be set up both on this planet and in a remnant of the 12 tribes of Israel that God will gather from the 4 corners of the earth (Isa. 11:11; Jer. 31:4-10; Mic. 2:12). We can see the kingdom of God is physical, it will be here on earth, and God

Come

has promised people will partake of it. Surely this is different from the hope to those that die and go to heaven and live with God. However, we are not saying that those people will not be happy as they also live eternally with God in a spiritual glory.

What will the Kingdom of God be like?

In Isaiah chapter 11 a description is given of a changed animal habit, co-living with man. In verse 9 we read "they shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain, for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord". "the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the calf and the young lion and the fatling together; and a little child shall lead them.

And the cow and the bear shall feed; their young ones shall lie down together: and the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the sucking child shall play on the hole of the asp, and the weaned child shall put his hand on the cockatrice' den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea." Isaiah 11:6-9..

In the writings of the Messenger John Wroe, which we believe were the revealed Word of God, we are given many descriptions of the new kingdom here on earth.

Volume 1 page 310 says "For the time shall come that everything shall grow to perfection - wood shall not decay, stone shall not perish. There shall be no dust seen upon the earth that the wind can take away. For the whole earth shall be watered with dews every month a regular rain." "Fine flour made into the best biscuit: butter and honey: milk in abundance, and of all the choice fruit I will name unto thee before the time".

In Volume 1 page 484 we read "neither shall there be frost or snow, or a cloud to be seen, neither shall there be a rainbow seen." (Gen. 2:6).

In Volume 2 "the flesh and the bone shall live by the Spirit and not by the blood(1 Cor. 15:50). Every male and female of the house of Israel at that day shall live by the water and the spirit: he shall eat and drink the water and the fruit that the earth produces." (Gen. 2:9).

Volume 2 "their flesh shall become fresher than a child's and their skin fairer than the lily: they shall be returned to the days of their youth (Job 33:25) their bones straighter than the willow by its water course (Isa. 44:5)."

These descriptions show that God will finish His plan by making His creation perfect, not just "very good" as written in Genesis chapters 1 and 2, then He will

take His day of rest on the seventh day as ordained.

The promises of the Kingdom of God were given to the children of Israel. The choice to discern and divide the Scriptures and seek to partake of the kingdom of God is ours. God is looking for a willing people to obey His laws and commands and overcome the power of death, and thus show that God is supreme. 1 Cor. 15:54 sums it up saying "So when this corruptible shall have put on

incorruption (this is the kingdom of heaven) and this mortal shall have put on immortality (the kingdom of God) then shall it be brought to pass the saying that is written Death is swallowed up in Victory".

The Joy of Being You

Oh, have you ever felt the joy,
The joy of being you;
The lovely, vital thrill of life
In everything you do.

The kinship with the field and trees,
And with all life around;
The fellowship with winds and seas,
The friendship of the ground.

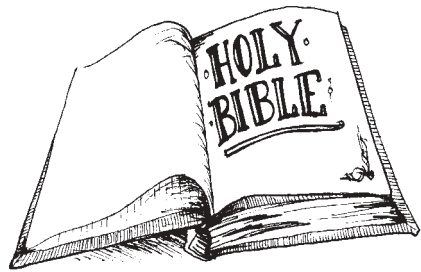
When the Lord God gave you life
You were a creature new,
And since He loveth all His works,
He must be glad you're you.

With all the limits to your powers,
With all your good and ill,
God has an individual place
Which only you can fill.

Rejoice in life wherever lived,
Be glad of work to do;
Your heart will be forever young
While you are glad you're you.

Debug Your Bible

The Deluge



Generally, it is believed that the details of a flood or deluge as detailed in Genesis chapters 7 and 8 are exclusive to Judeo-Christian or Muslim peoples. This article will show the reader some of the enormous numbers of civilisations (modern and ancient) whose folklore or myth and legend recount a deluge (caused either by continual rain but more popularly recorded as being from the earth's core outward - thus more like an overflowing) and a saving of a particular family or group of people with animals in a ship..

In the Hebrew version, Noah and his family were saved with 2 males and 2 females of each animal other than those named as being "clean" and 7 males and 7 females of each type of "clean" animal. The name Noah in Hebrew is easily identifiable in the Christian and Muslim version of his name - Nuh.

Scientists tell us that the deluge was possibly caused from a collision with an asteroid or from the slipping and melting of the glaciers and ice caps causing the planet to careen, changing the geography of the earth.

The most common outcome of the folklore about the deluge or "flood" was the total death of all people and animals except those on the ship. There are over 600 variations on the deluge or ark legend, covering all quarters of the globe. Any variations to the basic story are usually in the description of the ark or ship, the reasons for God's or heavenly wrath and the way chosen individuals were saved.

Thanks to archaeology we now know that the deluge story goes back to all early middle eastern races: Sumerians, Babylonians, Assyrians, Egyptians, Hittites, Hurrians and others.

References to the deluge or flood were found in some ancient cuneiform tablets discovered in the late 19th Century and these tablets were recorded at an earlier period than Judeo-Christian records. A problem came in deciphering the tablets as no one had any knowledge of the language. With the disappearance of these old empires, languages became extinct and through the ages were completely lost, except for what is found in archaeological digs. Fortunately though, from the destruction of these ancient cities, usually by fire, came greater preservation of these tablets - as with further baking greater became their ability to survive the ages until they were discovered. From these tablets we learn that these ancient civilisations were in contact with the Hebrews for we do have some reference in the Bible to these lost civilisations. The language of the cuneiform tablets was eventually unravelled by George Smith, and English language expert. He had been working on a fragment from the buried cities of Mesopotamia. The end of the story was broken off, so Smith returned to the ruins of Nineveh, and incredibly, found the missing pieces of the tablet. This translation became known as the Gilgamesh epic. A copy of the same

story has also been found in the tablet library of King Ashurbanipal. Gilgamesh, a Sumerian hero and demigod (common to this culture) journeys to the other world to find immortality. He meets Ut-napishtim, who tells him how he, Ut-napishtim, survived the Flood by building a ship in which he saved his family, friends, animals and plants from the flooding waters. In the Sumerian-Babylonian version the raven stays away (after being sent out) because he is feasting on the washed up corpses of the flood victims. The Babylonian historian and priest, Berossus, wrote that the flood survivor was Xisuthros (or Ziusudra in Babylonian), supposedly the last dynastic king before the flood. Xisuthros was warned by the god Chronos who told him to build a ship and put in it his family, friends, animals and supplies. An Assyrio-Babylonian version makes Ubaratutu or Khasistrata the survivor.

In the Greco-Roman legend the survivors were Deucalion and his wife Pyrrha, their children and a collection of wild and domestic animals, in a vessel built like a great box. After the vessel ran aground they repopulated the world.

In India, Manu and seven companions were survivors and an avatar of the god Vishnu, in the form of a great fish, pulled Manu's ship to a mountain in the south of India.

Two versions of the flood have been handed down in Egypt. One is mythological the other logical. Surid, a pre-dynastic king of Egypt, dreamt of the flood and that fire would come from and during the apogee of the constellation of Leo. King Surid ordered the two greatest pyramids, Khufu (Cheops in Greek) and Khafra, to be built and recorded on their walls the secret sciences and star positions, plus knowledge of arithmetic and geometry. In Greek and Roman times it was reported that the outer

casings of these two pyramids had inscriptions on them. The outer casings were removed in the Middle Ages.

In Persia, the survivor is Yima and he invited 1,000 couples to share his refuge. His companions were screened for evil customs, leprosy and even uneven teeth. They, though, had a three storey high bunker underground, where they stayed while the deluge happened above.

The tribes of pre Christian Europe go back to a flood theory. Pre-Christian Ireland had a sudden oceanic rise causing Queen Cesair and her court to take ship and sail through the flood for seven and a half years. The Great Flood is remembered in the Welsh annals "The Third Catastrophe of Britain" and the survivors were Dwyfan and Dwyfach.

In Scandinavia, the Icelandic saga, the "Edda" reads:

*Mountains dash together
And heaven is split in two,
The sun grows dead -
The earth sinks into the sea,
The bright stars vanish
Fires rage and raise their flames
As high as heaven.*

The ancient Gauls claimed to the Roman conquerors that their ancestors were survivors of a former island in the Atlantic Ocean.

American Indians also have the same legend of the flood. AmerIndians (from Mexico, South America, etc) all remembered a catastrophe. In Aztec tradition the names of the survivors were Coxcox, Tezpi, Teocipactli and the birds sent from the boat were vultures.

In China there are two flood accounts. One from Asia follows the Koranic Nuh or NuHwa in Chinese - ie the same as the Christian version. The second story tells us the survivor was called Fo-Hsi. In the 4320 Volume work, compiled by Imperial Edict, called the Ch'in-ting'ku'chin't'su-shu-shi-ch'eng and

designed to contain “all knowledge” states: “The Earth was shaken to its foundations. The sky sank lower toward the north. The sun, moon, and stars changed their motions. The Earth fell to pieces and the waters in its bosom rushed upward with violence and overflowed the Earth. Man had rebelled against the high gods and the system of the Universe was in disorder. The planets altered their courses and the grand harmony of the Universe and nature was disturbed.....”

In Columbia the hero Bochica and his wife are believed to have escaped up a high mountain on camels.

As mentioned at the beginning of this article the full Biblical account of the deluge, or flood, is contained in Genesis chapters 6 - 9. This article has not sought to discuss the reasons for the flood, the covenants God made with mankind after the flood or the lessons to be learned from

Teba, the word translated as 'ark' is rare in the Bible, the only other reference being to the reed boat in which the baby Moses was put adrift on the Nile (Exod 2:3).

Sir Isaac Newton estimated the ark described in Genesis to be 611.62 feet long, 85.24 feet wide, 51.56 feet high between keel and top deck, and weighed, empty, 18231.58 tons.

it. If you are not familiar with these issues you may care to read the chapters in the Bible and think about it in more detail.

However, these traditions from all corners of the world show that the basic thread of the story is the same. It would take volumes to detail all these legends and all their details but at least I hope with this small selection to have given most readers some idea of the extent to which the Biblical belief is supported.

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As further evidence of a great global change, ie. flood or deluge, look at the changes in the flora and fauna of Palestine. Elephants were common in Syria (a major source of ivory). Assyrian and Egyptian kings favoured the sport of elephant hunting up until the 10th century BC. The Asian lion - only now found in a single game reserve in India, was still common in areas of Syria and Palestine - see the feats of some Biblical heroes. Samson, for example, was a lion killer - see Judges 14:5-6 - and David too was a slayer of lions - see 1 Samuel 17:34. Other animals of ancient Palestine included the hippopotamus, wild aurochs and the giraffe. Even the unicorn was said to have been exterminated by the flood.

The Trustees of the Christian Israelite church do not necessarily agree with the views expressed in this section but appreciate that some readers would find them informative and of interest.

Expand Your Bible:



Parable of the Workers in the Vineyard

Jesus uses parables to give us a temporal illustrative idea of a spiritual or heavenly situation to help us to understand more fully God's ways and methods. Sometimes on the surface some of these parables might not seem relevant because our interpretation is limited by our evil nature, but, when seen in the light of, and in parallel with, other parables, can increase our knowledge of God's overall plan for mankind. A parable such as this is recorded in the gospel of Matthew 20:1-17. A householder goes out at different times of the day and hires labourers to work in his vineyard. If you are unfamiliar with this parable it would be a good time to reread it now. At the end of the day the householder pays each the same wage - the wage for which they had contracted. Those that worked all day and those that worked but a short time all received the same wage. However, the evil in the workers who had toiled all day, thought that they should have received a greater wage, even though they had contracted to work for a fixed price. We are not told whether those that came late worked harder or not but that all received the same wage, that for which they had contracted.

In the preface to this parable Jesus said, "For the kingdom of heaven is like unto a man that is an householder .." Matt 20:1. We see in this parable Jesus attempting to explain to us about the kingdom of heaven. We must work to

obtain the kingdom of heaven. The gift of the sacrifice of our Lord was made to enable us to work to obtain the kingdom of heaven but we must still prepare ourselves to show that we are worthy of our wage, the one penny. This one pence is set a type of soul salvation at the first resurrection. We will have done only that which we were required to do (see parable of the unprofitable servant in Luke chapter 15).

We believe that the kingdom of heaven is living in the state of Paradise, the condition from which our first parents fell, over shadowed by the spirit of God, and living under the influence of the power of God's Spirits. To return to this state we must submit to His authority by belief in His sacrifice and obedience to His instructions in the works of faith. These works of faith are enumerated in Hebrews 6:1-3 which are "...repentance from dead works ...faith toward God ...the doctrine of baptisms .. the laying on of hands .. the resurrection of the dead ... eternal judgment." Yet for this we have only contracted for soul salvation. Peter

sums this up aptly when in 1 Peter 1:9 he writes "...receiving the end of

your faith even the salvation of your souls". We must ever be mindful that the wage we receive is paid by the sacrifice of our Lord, the price He has willingly paid to enable



us to receive our wage. If we only do that which we are obliged to do we are unprofitable servants. Would it not be better to be as the innkeeper who was given the two pence to nurse the injured man back to health and who would be reimbursed for any other expense he may have had? (Luke 10:30-35)

This parable makes it abundantly clear that God wants us to know what we are aiming for and that we will receive our

wage according to our aspirations and commitments. We should seek that His authority be manifest in us so that His power will be developed and shown through our life and be the wage for which we have laboured.

Outline 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
- * In the existence of Satan, the Devil, in whom God allowed iniquity to be placed
- * That God created a spirit-world in which the devil manifested evil and caused a rebellion
- * That God created our physical world, to which each person comes with a body and a soul made alive by a spirit from the earlier time
 - * That God gave His people instructions on the way they should live, which instructions were "for their good always" (Deut. 6:24)
 - * That all have sinned and come "short of the glory of God" (Rom. 3:23)
 - * That God has reconciled the (whole) world to Himself through the sacrifice of Jesus
 - * 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
 - * 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
 - * That Jesus Christ will return to this earth again, subdue the power of Satan and reign forever and ever
 - * That the return of Jesus Christ is near and we are living in the period described in Scripture as the latter days
 - * That there are promises in the Scriptures especially to Israel - God's chosen people
 - * 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
 - * 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

. 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.

Give Me Oil In My Lamp

There were ten girls who were going to be bridesmaids for a wedding. They were all very excited about getting dressed up in their pretty dresses and about the wedding to follow. The Bridegroom was coming to meet them but they didn't know when he would arrive. Each bridesmaid took her lamp with oil to wait for the bridegroom. As they waited their lamps burned brightly. They got tired of waiting and soon, one by one, went to sleep. About midnight the Bridegroom arrived. With great excitement they all woke up and started trimming their lamps.



Suddenly five of the bridesmaids realised they didn't have any oil left in their lamps. "What will we do?" they all cried. One said, "Give us some of your oil", for five of the girls had taken spare oil for their lamps in case they needed extra. They thought the Bridegroom may be longer than expected, or that they may need extra so they took spare oil. "Go and buy extra oil for yourselves", replied the five wise girls. "The shops are closed", replied the five girls who needed more oil. So the five bridesmaids who were wanting oil went running off in the dark to find more.

In the meantime the bridegroom arrived and took the five bridesmaids who had their lamps burning brightly, off to the wedding with him. When the five bridesmaids returned having found extra oil for their lamps they knocked on the door calling, "Let us in, open the door!" But the door didn't open to them and the Bridegroom said, "I don't know you, you have missed the wedding!"

Jesus told this story to many people and you can read it for yourself in Matthew 25:1-13. Jesus was explaining about the time known as "the last days". We believe that we are living in that time now when Jesus will come again. Jesus said, "Watch" that means, be ready, "For none of us know the day nor the hour when He will return to this earth." We can learn a lesson from this story; we are like the bridesmaids and Jesus is the Bridegroom. We have been told that Jesus will come again, as in the story the Bridegroom is coming. We must be ready for return. Just as the bridesmaids had prepared lamps and had extra oil, so too we are told to be ready for Jesus' return.



His
their

How can we be ready for Jesus' return? Firstly we always try to do

our best to be good, helpful, kind, honest and do as our parents tell us, so that when Jesus does return we will be ready to meet Him. We will then be like the bridesmaids with their lamps trimmed and burning brightly waiting for the Bridegroom.

We want to be like the five wise virgins and not like the five foolish virgins in the parable which Jesus told.

Puzzle Time

If you can draw a line to connect each item in Column 1 with the correct matches in Columns 11 and 111, you will complete 12 true sentences (answers on page 27).

	1	11	111
1.	Noah	was Jesus' friend	from prison.
2.	Lazarus	destroyed a prison	to see whose God was real.
3.	Jehu	led a march	at night.
4.	Angels	commanded some men	and increased her food supply.
5.	Nicodemus	rescued Peter	and a family found God.
6.	A widow	built a boat	between two mothers.
7.	Naaman	fed Elijah	who rose from the dead.
8.	Elijah	came to see Jesus	to throw a queen out a window
9.	A wise king	was awakened in the night	even though people laughed
10.	Joshua	settled a fight	and was healed of leprosy.
11.	Samuel	had a contest with the prophets of Baal	around a wall.
12.	An earthquake	dipped seven times by a voice calling in a river	

All Round Health with James Harrison

The Body is the Temple of God

Are Man Made Chemicals Affecting Your Health?

Unknown to many of us we daily face man made chemicals which our bodies are not in most cases designed to handle.

Since the Second World War the majority of the 3,000,000 different chemicals registered with the American Chemical Society have been synthesised. Fortunately only 63,000 are in regular use.

These chemicals are used in the manufacture of products and in the operation of machinery that keeps our twentieth century world going. Chemicals and waste products enter the air we breathe and the water we drink, but this is not all. We voluntarily add others to food to make it look right, or taste better, or last longer. We also use chemical fertilisers, pesticides and herbicides.

World wide there are some 3,500 chemicals which are considered suitable to add to food. They are used to change its appearance, taste, shelf life and texture. Most are toxicologically harmless, but they can lead to "intolerance" symptoms in some people.

Intolerance symptoms may manifest as

1. Headache
2. Fatigue
3. Muscle pain
4. Joint pains and arthritis
5. Cardiovascular symptoms
6. Brain fog and impaired thinking
7. Depression
8. Other symptoms such as

hyperactivity, irritability, digestive symptoms and respiratory symptoms.

Any of these symptoms may also be associated with some organic disease and should of course be properly checked out before they are assumed to be from chemical intolerance alone.

How about natural chemicals or don't they exist? Chemicals that are added to foods, by design are termed "additives" but those that are there by accident are called "contaminants". "Almost invariably what the industry and health authorities call contaminants are the residue of everything chemical that has come into contact with the food before it arrives at the factory of the final manufacturer, or in the shop if it is sold in its natural form, such as fruit and vegetables."*(p116)

For example pesticide residues that come with the wheat are "contaminants" as far as the baker is concerned. But to these contaminants he will add chemical "additives" to improve the taste, shelf life, workability or colour of his products. In fact so many additives are used that annually we could be eating anywhere from 3-15kg of food additives each.

In spite of what we are told by manufacturers and health authorities, almost no pesticide can be removed from a food that has been treated by it, no matter whether by washing, rubbing, peeling and sometimes even boiling. (p.117). Each year we now use about 500gm of pesticide for every human being on earth.

Although less than one in a

thousand species of insect are harmful to humans, crops or animals, most pesticides are non-selective enough to kill everything they come into contact with. "Pesticide chemicals get into the food chain, killing or damaging the young and the eggs of many species along the way. Birds eat the insects and die or cannot reproduce properly: animals eat the birds" (p. 330) and people eat the animals or plants originally sprayed. This has happened to the extent that DDT, once widely used, has now been found in the tissues of all living creatures and at least 400 different chemicals have been found in human tissue.

Many pesticides have been shown to cause cancer in test animals and others may be associated with brain and nerve damage.

Another source of exposure to chemicals is the air pollution in our own homes. It has been estimated that chemical pollution inside the home can be up to ten times as great as the pollution outside. Chemicals may be released by heating and burning, or by the process of

"outgassing" where small amounts of chemicals escape from the substance itself. Common indoor pollutants are gas, oil and kerosene heaters, formaldehyde (from car exhaust, household incinerators, urea formaldehyde insulation used in caravans for instance, many common household products, disinfectants, leather goods, newsprint, etc, etc.), curtains and wallpaper, carpets, clothes and fabrics, dry cleaning, cosmetics, some pharmaceutical drugs. These indoor airborne chemicals can cause the same type of intolerance symptoms as food additives.

Perhaps your illness or lack of energy is not all in your mind. In the next issue we will consider this in more detail.

* "Why Do I Feel So Awful" Dr. David R. Collison - Timothy Hall, Angus & Robertson, Nth Ryde, Australia. 1989.

Below is a list of elements in the human body plus a detailed list of some of the other components that make up this marvel of engineering.

Iron, Sugar, Salt, Carbon, Iodine, Phosphorus, Lime, Calcium and others.

263 bones

600 muscles

970 miles blood vessels

20,000 hairs in the ears to tune into sounds

40 pound jaw pressure

10,000,000 nerves and branches

400 cups on tongue for taste

3,500 sweat tubes to each square inch of skin or 40 miles long

20,000,000 mouths that suck food as it goes through the intestine

600,000,000 air cells to the lungs that inhale 2,400 gallons of air daily

Heart beats 4,200 times an hour and pumps 12 tons of blood daily

Telephone system that relates to the brain instantly any known sound, taste, sight, touch or smell.

The Twelve Apostles



The Apostle to Gaul

The apostle Philip was said to be the son of Talmai and brother of the apostle Nathanael who is also known as Bartholomew. This means a total of four sets of brothers made up a large percentage of the apostles. As with Peter, Andrew, James and John, Philip was from Bethsaida and seems to have already had an established friendship with Peter and Andrew. Philip was initially a follower of John the Baptist. The general conclusion reached after reading the gospels is that Philip was of a retiring disposition.

Philip was met by Jesus early in His ministry at Bethany beyond the Jordan where John the Baptist was baptising (John 1:28). Philip was asked personally by Jesus to become a disciple, "The day following Jesus would go forth into Galilee and findeth Philip, and saith unto him, Follow me" (John 1:43). Philip was the person who informed Nathanael (Bartholomew) that they had found Jesus of Nazareth. "Philip findeth Nathanael, and saith unto him, We have found him, of whom Moses in the Law, and the prophets, did write, Jesus of Nazareth, the son of Joseph" (John 1:45). Thus we have one of many prophecies fulfilled when Nathanael replies "Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth" (John 1:46). This further supported the prophecies on the humbleness of Jesus' origins but the incident demonstrates Philip's belief in the Old Testament books.

It was Philip whom Jesus questioned

as to how they would feed the multitude (John 6:5-7) probably as a form of test for Philip. Philip found the task impossible but Andrew brought forth the boy with the loaves and fishes; perhaps one of the first instances to show the doubt which Philip would be questioned on later. We find later when the Greeks approached Philip for an audience with Jesus, Philip had to in turn approach Andrew who took them to Jesus (John 12:20-23). Philip requested of Jesus to show them (the apostles) the Father (John 14:8-21). Jesus then questioned Philip's level of understanding after so long - "He that hath seen me hath seen the Father, and how sayest thou then, Shew us the Father?" (John 20:19-25). Philip, with the other disciples was also present in the upper room after the crucifixion and experienced the descent of the Holy Ghost.

After the crucifixion and resurrection Philip was said to have taken the Word to Gaul (France), thus becoming known traditionally as the Apostle to Gaul but he was, more accurately (due to his apostolic authority) while in Gaul, head of the Gallic Christian Church. Lazarus aided Philip in his work and later came to dominate the Gallic Scene himself. Scripturally we have no mention of Philip after AD60. It was in AD65 he is reported to have consecrated Joseph of Arimathea for the third time (the first consecration took place in AD36 - first trip to Britain, second consecration in AD60) in Gaul. Philip is also said to have baptised Joseph of Arimathea's son, Josephes, in AD65, on his way to Britain to spread the Word.

Gaul appears to have been Philip's base, for he often travelled and worked with other apostles and disciples. The disciple Luke spent time spreading Christianity in

Gaul. In AD60 Simon the apostle had been assisting Philip in Gaul. Mansuetus, at the request of Philip, went to Gaul where he founded the Lotharingian Church, often called the Mother Church of Gaul. Thus we find more and more evidence of the early importance to the spread of the Christian message to Gaul (now known as France) and how Gaul acted as the hub for the wheel of early christianity to keep in motion.

William of Malmesbury in his work the "Antiquity of Glastonbury" (written AD1121) writes "They also found the whole story in ancient writings how the holy apostles, having been scattered throughout the world, St. Philip the Apostle coming into France with a host of disciples, sent twelve of them into Britain to preach, Their leader, it is said, was Philip's dearest friend, Joseph of Arimathea, who buried our Lord".

Philip was given the responsibility of Gaul after the death of Jesus when the disciples spread over the continent. It is ultimately stated that 160 followers of Jesus had been sent by Philip to Britain at various intervals to help Joseph of Arimathea. Lazarus was Philip's companion in Gaul, and was said to have been sent to help Philip by Joseph of Arimathea.

Pynson's 'Life of St. Joseph' tells us "So after Hyr Assumpcyn, the boke telleth playne; With Saynt Phylp he went into France. Phylp bad them go to Great Brytayne fortunate."

Thus after the death of Mary, Joseph returned to Philip, his dearest friend, in Gaul. He then returned again to Britain with 10 others and his son Josephes.

Tradition tells us that Philip was crucified at Hierapolis at an advanced age but here we see some of the confusion between Philip the apostle and Philip the disciple (detailed below). Philip the disciple preached in the area of Hierapolis (Lycus River Valley of Phrygia, near Colossae and Laodicea) with the help of the apostle



John. All references to the death of Philip refer to his four daughter being buried with him and always reference is made to these same daughter's piety and virtue but it was Philip the disciple who had the four daughters noted for their virtue in Acts chapters 6 and 8.

Cardinal Baronius narrates, "Philip the fifth in order is said to have adorned Upper Asia with the Gospel, and at length at Hierapolis at the age of 87 to have undergone martyrdom. It is also stated that Philip travelled over part of Scythia and for some time preached the Gospel with Bartholomew". (Confusion between the apostle and the disciple).

Isidore, Archbishop of Seville (an eminent Spanish church historian) AD600-636 in his work 'Historia' wrote that "Phillip of the city of Bethsaida, whence also came Peter, preached Christ to the Gauls, and brought barbarous and neighbouring nations, seated in darkness and close to the swelling ocean to the light of knowledge and port of faith." Critics have criticised Isidore's writings especially in his interpretation of the Epistle to the Galatians being addressed to the Galatians of Asia - a lot of scholars attribute this Epistle to be addressed to Gaul In the Greek language (which the New Testament was written) the name for Gaul is Galatia. Interesting that this letter may not have been intended for the Galatians but the Gauls, as with a lot of the history of the Bible, until further documents are unearthed the real

destiny of the message in this Epistle may never be known.

We find in trying to establish where Philip died, there is no reference. He is repeatedly confused with his compatriot Philip the disciple but the areas they covered were different and unless both of these Philip's had four daughters all noted for their virtuousness and uprightness, it would appear that Philip the disciple died at Hierapolis and Philip the apostle's resting place is unknown.

Philip was responsible for the spread of the Christian message to far reaching areas and worked with many of his apostolic brothers. You could say, after reading of his participation in the Josephian mission, that he was in part responsible for the preservation of the life of Jesus' mother and the other outcast followers. He sent hundreds of followers to Britain from Gaul whilst there and was noted for his closeness to Joseph of Arimathea. Despite his retiring disposition he was responsible in a large part for the spread of the Christian message.

The only known writings of Philip is the gnostic Gospel of Philip. Philip is represented either by a cross or a crosier.

In Acts 6:5 we read of the selection of seven disciples who experienced the apostles' laying on of hands (consecration). These were Stephen, Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, Nicolas a proselyte of Antioch. (A proselyte is a newcomer, a convert from a Gentile religion

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Philip the Disciple/Evangelist

to Judaism.) These newly consecrated followers were sent to spread the Word so that the apostles could “give themselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the Word” (Acts 6:4). We mention the selection of these disciples because quite a few early Christian historians confuse Philip the apostle with this Philip - Philip the disciple or the evangelist.

Philip lived in Caesarea, one of the seven disciples. He had four daughters, purported to be virgins which did prophecy. Paul spent some time with Philip the Evangelist. Thus the confusion between Philip the Apostle and Philip the disciple(Evangelist). Philip the Evangelist preached and healed effectively at Samaria after Stephen’s martyrdom; he led Simon the sorcerer to become a believer and brought about the conversion of the Ethiopian convert to Christianity. Through this conversion, Philip became partly responsible for bringing

Christ’s message to north east Africa. Eusebius tells us that he went down to Samaria and was the first to preach the Word there. For further reading on Philip the Evangelist see Acts 6:4,5; 8:5-13; 8:26-40; 21:8,9. Philip took up residence in Caesarea on the Mediterranean where he was host to Paul (Acts 21:8-15) who was on his way to Jerusalem. Philip had four unmarried daughters(Acts 21:9). Philip is said to have met his death (traditionally crucified) at Hierapolis at an advanced age and to be buried with his daughters - all of whom were noted prophetesses and virgins.

Answers to Puzzle on page 21:

2. Lazarus was Jesus' friend who rose from the dead.
3. Jehu commanded some men to throw a queen out a window.
4. Angels rescued from prison.
5. Nicodemus came to see Jesus at night.
6. A widow fed Elijah and increased her food supply.
7. Naaman dipped seven times in a river and was healed of leprosy.
8. Elijah had a contest with the prophets of Baal.
9. A wise king settled a fight between two mothers.
10. Joshua led a march around a wall.
11. Samuel was awakened in the night by a voice calling.
12. An earthquake destroyed a prison and a family found God.

Recipes:

Pumpkin, Raisin and Nut Damper

1 cup mashed pumpkin
1 egg lightly beaten
¼ cup milk
2½ cups self raising flour
¼ tspn ground cinnamon
60g butter
¼ cup castor sugar (optional)
¼ cup chopped pecan or walnuts
¼ cup chopped raisins
1 tblspn milk, extra
1 tblspn castor, extra (optional)

Sieve pumpkin into bowl, stir in egg and milk. Sift flour and cinnamon into bowl, rub in butter. Stir in sugar, nuts and raisins then pumpkin mixture. Knead on floured surface until smooth.

Place dough onto greased oven tray, press out with fingers to a circle about 2cm thick. Brush with extra milk, sprinkle with extra sugar (if desired). Mark into 8 wedges. Bake in moderately hot oven for about 30 minutes or until golden brown and damper sounds hollow when tapped lightly with fingers.

Peanut Rissoles with Barbecue Sauce.

Makes 8 rissoles.

1¼ cups (155g) unsalted roasted peanuts
1½ cups cooked brown rice
1 medium onion, chopped
2 eggs
2 tblspns smooth peanut butter
2 tblspns fruit chutney
tspns curry powder
2 tblspns oil

BARBECUE SAUCE:
2 tspns cornflour
½ cup water
½ cup tomato sauce
2 tspns Worcestershire sauce 1½
1 tblspn brown sugar
½ tspn tabasco sauce

Blend or process peanuts and rice until finely chopped, add onion, eggs, peanut butter, chutney and curry powder; process until combined. Refrigerate mixture for at least 30 minutes.

Using lightly floured hands, shape mixture into 8 patties. Heat oil in large frying pan, add patties, cook for about 5 minutes or until browned on both sides; drain on absorbent paper. Serve with Barbecue Sauce.

Barbecue Sauce: Blend cornflour with water in small saucepan, add remaining ingredients, stir over high heat (or microwave on HIGH for about 3 minutes) until mixture boils and thickens.