

Latter Rain

Magazine of the Christian Israelite Church Summer 1992



Where is He ?



This issue of "Latter Rain" comes out for the Australian summer. Our northern hemisphere readers will, of course, be freezing while we endure the heat over Christmas and the New Year.

The magazine starts with the story of the visit of the Wise Men to the Christchild - likened to the search each one of us must make to find God in our lives. There is an exhortation to "look-up" and see God through the stars in the sky at night which bear witness to believers of the truth of God's Promises. But to non-believers, "Where is the Promise of His Coming?" - clearly stated in the Scriptures, as the article bearing this name details. Let us be careful, however, that a strong belief in His Physical return does not blind us to The Power which is available already - "Where Is He Now?"

"Renewed Beginnings" explains how a renewed understanding can offer us a new start - a good recommendation for the new year. The article also focuses on the mission of John Wroe who set forth a particular interpretation of Scripture - thereby laying the foundation of the Christian Israelite Church.

And the usual features - All Round Health tells us what little boys and girls are made of - they are not different after all; the Apostle presented is James (which one?) and the children's story has an emphasis on the family at Christmas. There are a few other items - some sad, some happy and some general items of interest.

As our readers receive this edition we wish one and all a very joyous Christmas season, running into a happy new year and a safe holiday season.

We trust that you will find something in the magazine to challenge, sustain and inspire you so that you may offer more of yourself, "a living sacrifice" to Our Mighty God.

Happy reading.

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The Search

"Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" Matt. 2:2.

"Almost there," cried Baltazar in excitement, "see, there is Jerusalem, with her golden towers shining in the sunlight! What a beautiful sight! It won't be long till our quest is over. I can hardly wait to see him. I'm not sure how we will know him, but I'm sure we will. After all this distance and effort and all the problems on the way....." His voice trailed off as he relived the last few months of travel - the desert; over the rocky mountains on a barely perceptible path, into a foreign land - the land inhabited by the Jews.

They were not Jews, he and his companions Gaspar and Melchior. They were Magi, wise men of the East, and in their own country well known and revered. They had studied the ancient writings which foretold of the coming of a King of the Jews, a King who would save his people. Baltazar had heard many tales of the oppression of the Jews and he felt they needed saving.

"You know, I don't agree with you," Gaspar's deep voice broke into his reverie. "The writings say Bethlehem is where this King is to be born, not Jerusalem. I think we should go to Bethlehem in the morning and look for him there. It's not a very big town. Everybody should know what's going on and we shouldn't have any trouble finding the child."

"No, No!" both Baltazar and Melchior broke in, "He is to be King of the Jews. So, of course, the palace of the King is where we will look for him. They must be overjoyed at the palace that the prince is born. A pity that we've lost sight of the star we have been following

so faithfully, just when the journey is almost over. But, I'm sure Jerusalem is the place we want."

King Herod was not quite prepared for the question his three early visitors asked. He was expecting homage from them but was quite put out when asked "Where is he that is born King of the Jews?"

"Another plot, another uprising," thought Herod angrily, "Won't these Jewish people ever give up their ideas of liberation. Just wait till I get my hands on this child. King of the Jews indeed! But I must go quietly and play along with these men. They are very influential, anyone can see that. Perhaps the chief priests and scribes can give me some clues about this prince."

Hastily, and in fear, the chief priests and scribes were assembled, and Herod demanded where the child of prophecy should be born.

Returning privately to the wise men Herod said, "In Bethlehem of Judea. But tell me, when did this star that you have been following appear? Of course, I also want to worship the young child - governor of Israel, eh? He must be somebody special. Go and search carefully and when you have found him, come back and tell me."

Once again Baltazar, Gaspar and Melchior mounted their camels to continue their search.

"Look," said Gaspar, "there is our star again, that's wonderful. I thought we had lost it there for a while, but look,



Looking over the hill into the city of Bethlehem

there it is now, as bright as ever. Once more it is leading us in our search..... the star is stopping over that house. This must be where the child is. (A gentle woman answered Gaspar's knock on the door.)

"Where is he? Where is he that is born King of the Jews?" they asked.

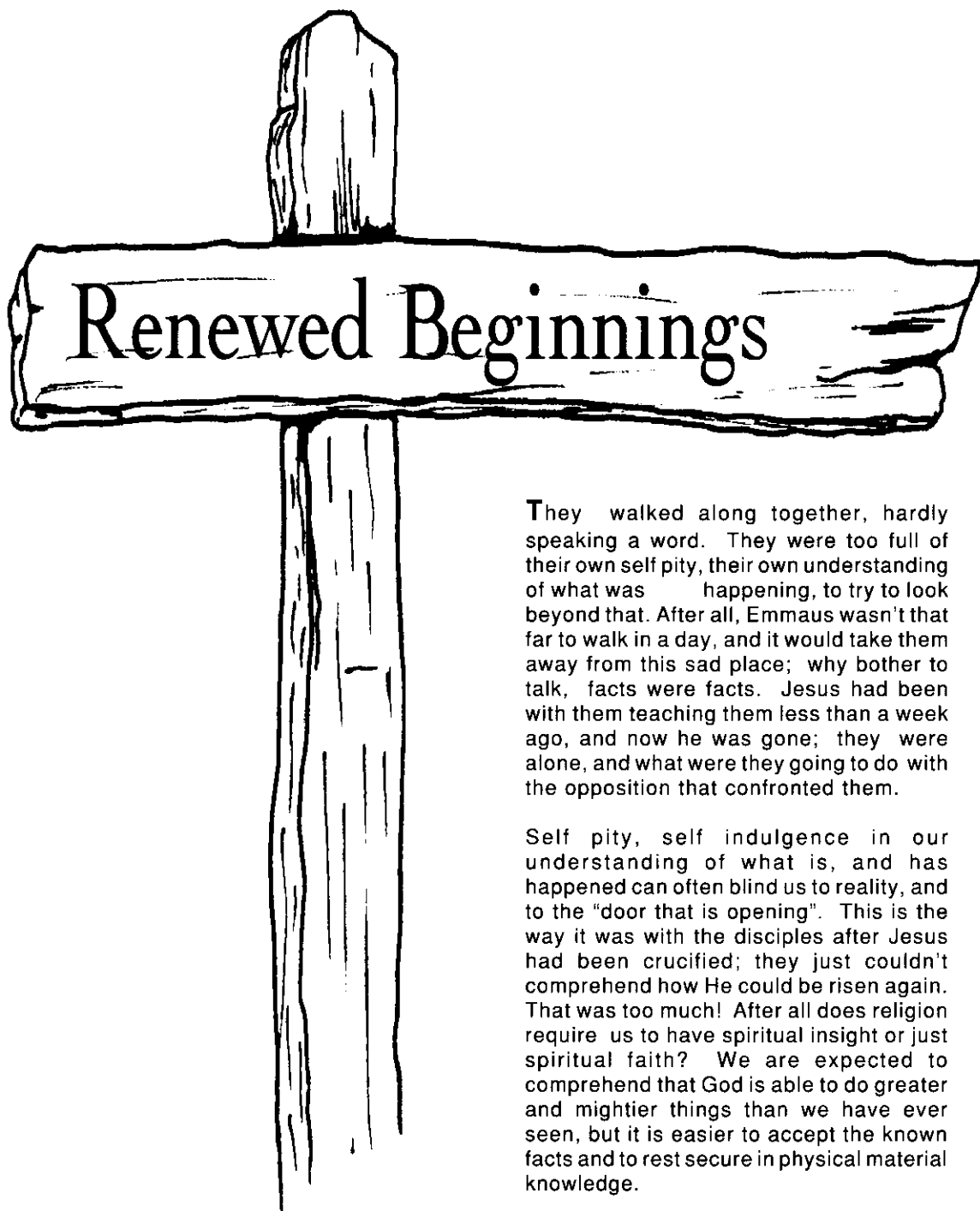
With great wonder and amazement they heard the story of the night of Jesus' birth and the wonderful promises that had been made. As they listened they began to understand a little more of the prophecies they had studied. They wondered at the simplicity of the surroundings but somehow knew that

this baby would some day become a king, not in man's way but in God's way.

Like the Magi, in our journey through life, we follow the star by faith. Sometimes the journey is smooth, but sometimes it is rough and hard going. Do we sometimes lose sight of the star, as the Magi did, finding it again and giving us renewed faith in the purpose of our life's journey? Do we look for the "Christ child" amidst earthly riches and splendour, giving these more importance than the spiritual values of life.

The Magi offered their gifts, gold, myrrh and frankincense. What would you offer the King?

Where is He today - He that was born King of the Jews? ...that they may offer unto the Lord an offering in righteousness." Mal. 3:3



They walked along together, hardly speaking a word. They were too full of their own self pity, their own understanding of what was happening, to try to look beyond that. After all, Emmaus wasn't that far to walk in a day, and it would take them away from this sad place; why bother to talk, facts were facts. Jesus had been with them teaching them less than a week ago, and now he was gone; they were alone, and what were they going to do with the opposition that confronted them.

Self pity, self indulgence in our understanding of what is, and has happened can often blind us to reality, and to the "door that is opening". This is the way it was with the disciples after Jesus had been crucified; they just couldn't comprehend how He could be risen again. That was too much! After all does religion require us to have spiritual insight or just spiritual faith? We are expected to comprehend that God is able to do greater and mightier things than we have ever seen, but it is easier to accept the known facts and to rest secure in physical material knowledge.

They hardly saw the stranger who joined them. Didn't God know what was best for His people? Why didn't God do things man's ways? No doubt the disciples pondered on these thoughts, the same as we do today. Perhaps it is the loss of a loved one; it may be a personal physical

illness - some event that causes personal trauma; but it didn't happen the way we thought it should, and we feel sad and betrayed.

The stranger walked with them awhile and observed them, then asked a leading question, "What manner of communications are these that ye have one to another, as ye walk, and are sad?" How often a caring friend has asked this question, and also received the obvious rebuke, "Art thou only a stranger.... and hast not known the things which are come to pass there in these days?" (Luke 24:13-31).

Then the opener is given for the person that is of a heavy heart to unfold the issues to the stranger with the response, "What things?"

Have you ever been with someone whom you felt was distressed, and this is the way the conversation developed? Talking about our distress or trauma, or what is worrying us helps us to formulate in our mind our own ideas, and often they are not as we thought they were. Positive results and healing only come when we have some answers, or can gain a glimpse of understanding that gives us a portion of God's insight. It is interesting that Jesus in speaking to the two travellers on the road to Emmaus reproved them, as well as instructed them, because both steps are necessary if we are going to learn from the experience and develop our character.

We are on a journey through life. We travel in groups, and our attitude can become self centred on our way of life, our problems. In looking beyond ourself though, we need to look at religious values, because religion is designed to "lift us into a higher plane of peace and understanding". To this end I am going to ask the questions.....**Where is your journey in life taking you? and Who is your companion?**

Spiritual Growth

I want you to start with the foundation of, "I am the way the truth and the light; no man cometh unto the father but by me...." or "Believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved" or "In my father's house are many mansions" and to build on that foundation and look within at your personal self, your developing character and see if it is following Jesus' teachings of, "If ye love me, keep my commandments". "Whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die, Believest thou this?" "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil" (John 14:15; 11:25-26; 17:15).

The sacrifice of Jesus was made for the forgiveness of our sins, but as well as this, what assistance has God promised to help us to attain the removal of evil from within us so that we will not sin again. Where is The Comforter promised in John 14:26 "... who shall teach you all things, and bring all things to your remembrance."

Just as the men travelling to Emmaus were compelled and drawn to listen to the stranger reprimand and instruct them, so we on our journey of life need to expand our thinking. Let us forget self, and seek to the Word of God asking for Spiritual insight to be given to us. If we do not ask, we are not showing a conviction that it can and will come. If we do not believe that it will come, we lack the faith of our conviction. Remember the tide does not turn with one wave, but by the continual process of repeated waves. It is our persistent and continual prayer, like that of the "importunate widow" that will gain us our goal (Matt. 6:33; 7:7-11; Luke 11:8; 18:1-8).

Prayer is our secret weapon that will enable us to gain the victory over the enemy, Satan.

Spiritual Help

I cannot show you a physical picture of what type of a person will come to help; however I can give you a picture of the type of caring loving and understanding force that can and will possess your being bringing you peace of mind.

Scripture tells us that God's work is manifest through Two Spirits which control this World; Christ and Jerusalem Above, the Male and Female Spirits are the Father and Mother of this World. When they have subdued all evil They will hand this World in its perfect state back to God Almighty (1 Cor. 15:24-28). Christ was the force that guided Moses, and the prophets, giving insight through the Laws and Commands as to how God wants mankind to live (1 Cor. 10:4). The Comforter, the Female spiritual power was present with Jesus to help Him (Luke 3:22). It was then withdrawn till a future time, causing Paul to say that "we see through a glass darkly; but then face to face; now I know in part; but then shall I know even as also I am known" (1 Cor. 13:12).

Through the dark ages of history, mankind still had the Rock, Christ, but it was not until the late 18th century that God awakened mankind, to prepare them for the implementation of His Plan, not to have evil and good mixed in His creation. God is going to cleanse this whole creation of sin and evil, and have only righteousness and good - but it is on a time schedule. In accordance with this schedule forgiveness of sin was possible through Jesus' sacrifice, and now in these latter days the Comforter will work with Christ and, is fully available to remove the evil - the cause of sin.

As travellers on life's road, we need to be guided by these Two Immortal Spirits. Just as the continual wash of the waves makes the change of the tide, so the continual work of the Two Immortal Spirits is preparing the way for the removal of evil as well as sin. This Spiritual Power is like

a cloud waiting to cover us, and prepare us, so that It can come to dwell within us. This Spiritual Power is so huge, so embracing, that It can help everyone everywhere at once.

The Renewed Beginning

Members of the Christian Israelite Church believe that in particular John Wroe had a series of visions, and on 14th December, 1822, "...began to renew the former laws which were given to Moses to gather together the Israelites." "...and the remnant of Jacob shall be among the Gentiles, in the midst of many people." Micah 5:8 "For I have spread you abroad as the four winds of the heaven said the Lord." Zech. 2:6. That His (God's) laws and commands might prove them, who are Israelites and who are not. And the Lord continues giving and renewing the former laws and commands by little and little. The Law and Testimony booklet of the Christian Israelite Church has three groups of the Laws of God, from the Bible as apply to those who will accept Israel's challenge to live in the World, but to follow the will of God as Jesus kept it. Also in this booklet is a summary of time from creation to restoration, highlighting God's purposes in each generation. (Please feel free to write and request a copy).

The special challenge of the Christian Israelite Church is to have a people prepared, living in God's Laws and Commands, who have been seeking for the evil as well as the sin to be removed from within them.

The sin is removed by belief in the sacrifice of Jesus.....the evil is removed by the **Fullness** of God's Strength, promised for the Latter Days - the Two Immortal Spirits, (Mother and Father) working with the spirit of the individual (John 14:26; Rev. 22:17).

Our Beginning

We need to know that these Spirits exist, and how They can help us if we are to

achieve this high standard. We believe that Jesus has returned to Heaven, and will return at the appointed time (Acts 1:11). It is for us to look for the "same power that did the work in Jesus, to do that same work in us" and even a Greater so that we can become His brothers and sisters (Rom. 8:29-30). "For whosoever shall do the will of my Father which is in heaven, the same is my brother, and sister, and mother" Matt. 12:50. This Power is here now, waiting for us to understand and seek it.

On the road to Emmaus the disciples listened to the expounding of the Scriptures from the stranger, putting aside their own preconceived ideas of what had happened.

We today, need to seek God's understanding on what is happening; we

have to beware that we do not summarise things in our own eyes, or just accept traditional belief, excluding God the opportunity to speak to us through study, prayer or some other way.

As the time for the physical return of Jesus' draws nearer, so the increased Help and Guidance of the Two Immortal Spirits Who are here now to prepare the way, to prepare conscientious believers walking in the light of the Law and Commands so that **their** physical body will have sins forgiven, and be ready for the change from mortal to Immortal by having the evil removed (Phil. 3:14 and 21. John 15:26).

"And I pray God your whole Spirit and Soul and Body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ." 1 Thess. 5:23

Kindness

Kindness costs so little, yet is very dear,
An omitted kindness causes many a tear;
All respond to kindness and a welcome smile;
We can be together such a little while

Oh, how many a heartache, many a bitter pain
Might be healed by kindness from which we refrain.
Such a little saddens lonely hearts and sore;
Such a little gladdens, brings a smile once more.

Yet we brush by blindly with a thoughtless mind
Many a heart just waiting for a greeting kind,
Selfishly forgetting all but our own ends,
And a wound is opened which time never mends.

Little things can vex us, little things annoy,
Little things bring pleasure, little things bring joy;
In the tiniest atom boundless life may lie,
And the smallest streamlet rivers can supply.

Though I give my body as a sacrifice,
If my heart is loveless, all will not suffice.
Love - the love of Jesus - kindled by His love,
Is the gift He asks for, other things above.

The Bible makes a large number of different references to the coming of a special person or power. Christians almost unanimously believe that Jesus fulfilled many Old Testament prophecies when he came to this earth of lowly birth, lived an exemplary life and was crucified without adequate human judgment.

However there is a great diversity of beliefs regarding the interpretation of other Bible prophecies about "other comings" or the return of Jesus.

Christian Israelites believe in a physical return of Jesus Christ to this earth, possibly in the near future. Before this time, however, there is promised a great outpouring of God's Power to prepare us for that event. His coming will be accompanied by cataclysmic changes following which Jesus Christ will establish His Kingdom, initially reigning for 1,000 years before finally conquering the power of the opposer and oppressor, Satan. God will then reign forever. (Rev. 11:15)

Where is the Promise of

Most of us surely are strange creatures! Take, for example, our attitude to change. Change is one of the most difficult issues to handle in our lives and in our society generally. Whilst on the one hand most develop ways of doing things and object sometimes even violently if someone suggests an alteration - even when at times we know it will be better - on the other hand many live in hope or expectation that some "good news" event will make life a lot better! "If only things were different." We object to events in the present, believe something different could be better, but object to any process necessary to make a change.

For many the hope of the coming of a Saviour or victor is at the centre of their ability to cope in the present. But what we most dislike in the present time - change - is the same process that we look for with hope in the future to improve our lives.

"Knowing this first, that there shall come in the last days scoffers, walking after their

own lusts, and saying, Where is the promise of his coming? for since the fathers fell asleep, all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation." 2 Pet.3:3-4.

A Special Person

The Bible talks in different ways about a special person who would come and bring change to the world. There are a large number of prophecies about the manner, process and timing of the "coming" and as a result there are many interpretations as to what they mean.

The basic difficulty is that writers in vastly different social and historical settings have used words and illustrations appropriate to their situations to try to express concepts which are beyond our comprehension anyhow!

Perhaps we should just take the words of Paul at their face value and leave it at that: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither

have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" 1 Cor. 2:9.

Paul suggested that the things of God are spiritually discerned and are not understood by the natural man. *"But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" 1 Cor. 2:14.*

would be a brother to everyone?

And Abraham was told that in his seed would all the earth be blessed - and then proceeded at God's command - to sacrifice the child of the promise. His hand was, of course, stayed by God, but the event pointed to a future coming of a Saviour who would fulfil this role (Gen. 22:1-18).

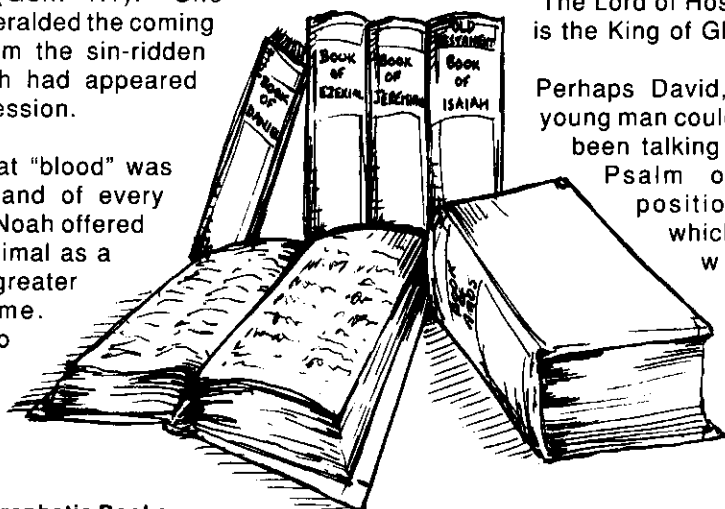
Then Moses made a proclamation: "The Lord thy God shall raise up unto thee a prophet from the midst of thee, of thy brethren, like unto me; unto him ye shall hearken" (Deut. 18:15).

Some people may believe that this was fulfilled in Joshua - for the Bible does say that the people obeyed the Lord during Joshua's lifetime (Jos. 24:31). But if this were the case, why did the Scribes and Pharisees 1500 years later come to John the Baptist and say "Art thou that Prophet?" There was a promised coming in which many believed, and which they believed had not till then been fulfilled.

Israel then entered a new era of Kingdomhood. David and Solomon were great Kings who ruled over a United Country. However, the prophecy of greater times then came in the form of a question: "Who is this King of Glory?" (Ps. 24:8).

The answer resounded:
"The Lord of Hosts; He is the King of Glory."

Perhaps David, as a young man could have been talking in the Psalm of the position to which God would



some Old
Testament Prophetic Books

His Coming ?

What does the Bible say.....

The Old Testament

A number of Bible prophecies are quoted to show how the range of expectations has developed.

God told Eve, that her seed would conquer the evil power, and when Cain was born she exclaimed " I have gotten a man from the Lord" (Gen. 4:1). She believed her son heralded the coming of deliverance from the sin-ridden environment which had appeared after their transgression.

God told Noah that "blood" was required at the hand of every man's brother; so Noah offered the blood of an animal as a type of something greater that was to come. (Gen. 9:5) But who was He that was to come who

elevate him before the people. But if this was the case why did David say "The Lord said unto my Lord, Sit thou at my right hand, until I make thine enemies thy footstool" (Psa. 110:1).

The coming of a King to establish peace and rule in righteousness was prophesied. But then the national ideal faltered and a new start was needed: *"Therefore the Lord Himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel."* Isa. 7:14

And on we can go - throughout the Old Testament.

As Christians we believe that some 50 or more Old Testament prophecies were fulfilled in Jesus' life and mission. Non-Christians would argue that each prophecy had a different and perhaps contemporary interpretation, and that the collated references have no common meaning.

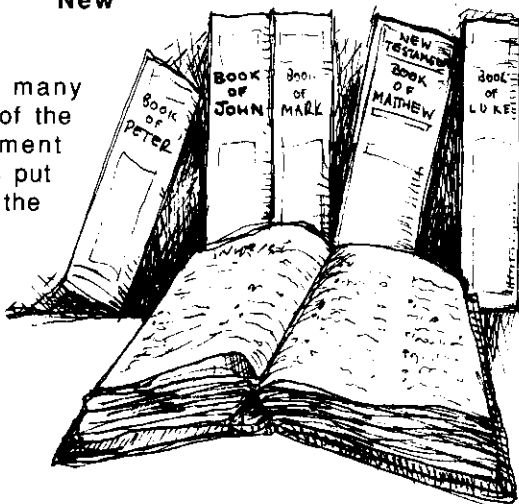
These passages detail some of the "comings" that have been anticipated. But there are still other promised "comings" including those of The King, The Prince of Peace, The Victor, The Refiner and The Redeemer and The Great Restorer, which we haven't discussed. See Isa. 9:6; Joel 3:1, 16,17; Zech. 14:9; Mal. 3:3. etc.

.....The Testament

The many prophecies of the Old Testament are perhaps put in context by the New Testament.

On one occasion Jesus'

New



disciples asked Him: "What shall be the sign of thy coming?" (Matt. 24:3).

This showed that the disciples at least realised that, although Jesus had "come", for indeed He was there, that there was to be another "coming" to fulfil promises in the Scriptures. They spoke about "the end of the world."

Many New Testament writers picked up the theme and it was also repeated by John in Revelations. John spoke of the coming of a "Mighty Angel" who would bind "the devil, and Satan" for "one thousand years". A thousand years is a millennium and many interpret this period as being the rest period promised by God. (Heb. 3:7-19) John saw this in vision, so speculation abounds as to whether the interpretation should be literal or metaphorical.

The Millennium - or Period of Rest

Three general interpretations have emerged about the "second coming" or return of Jesus Christ and the millennium.

One group believes that the whole period of time subsequent to the resurrection of Jesus comprises the millennium - theologians call this interpretation amillenarianism. Such a view usually embraces a belief that "the second coming" is associated with a personal experience - perhaps a personal "conversion" - and the "end of the world" is seen as an ultimate climax to this world order when "as a vesture", God will fold-up this world and change it for another.

Another interpretative framework is that Jesus will

some New Testament
prophetic Books



come again at the beginning of the millennium, and establish the "ideal kingdom" on the earth showing God's Power over creation during the one thousand years or seventh day. This view is termed a pre-millenarianism.

The third general view is that Jesus will not return to the earth till after the millennium. Believers of this interpretation are referred to as post-millenarianists, because they believe the second coming will be at the end of the thousand years. Within this group there is another division as to whether the "believers" will be caught up to heaven during this period, or whether they will stay on earth.

The New Testament is quite clear that there will be a return of Jesus Christ, but is not so clear as to when, how, where and why. There are lots of details, but subject to interpretation. For example, Peter tells us his coming will be as a thief-in-the-night, whilst Jesus himself said it would be as the lightning such that all would know it (2 Pet. 3:10; Matt 24:27). John in Revelations said that every eye shall see Him (Rev. 1:7).

What To Believe?

How do we make a decision from these interpretations, and choose what we will believe? Perhaps the thread which joins them all together is that of the creation sequence.

God created the world in six days and rested on the seventh. So too we believe He will allow Satan to "try" His creation for six days, or six thousand years, and rest again on the seventh day, or the millennium.

No matter what beliefs people may have about the formative process of the earth,

the Bible, using its internal chronology, shows that there was 4,000 years between Adam and Jesus. Subsequently there has been almost 2,000 years. Taking the key of Peter (2 Pet. 2:8) - one day as a thousand years - we see that the sixth day is almost over. Is it any wonder, then, that the cycle carefully planned by God, is perceived even by human wisdom to be almost completed! Too many people, insufficient resources, increasing inter-personal and international conflicts, confusion in the process of distribution of wealth and so on is the perception of even carnal mankind!

So the seven day cycle gives a framework within which all the isolated promises in Scripture can be inter-related and understood.

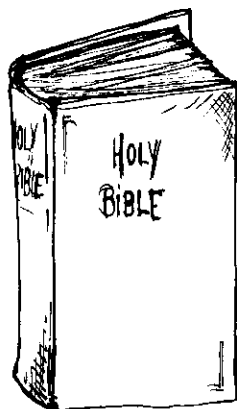
Those of us who are alive might now have a special potential to personally witness and experience the greatest change of all - the return of Jesus Christ and the change of living mortal beings to a state beyond our present comprehension - into that of physical immortal life.

"Behold, I shew you a mystery; We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (1 Cor. 15:51,52).

"Where is the promise of His Coming....." for it is this which gives us hope in the present life to struggle, to persevere, to seek to obey and to overcome that we may enter into glory at the Coming of the Lord.

Debug Your Bible

When someone writes a program for a computer the chances are that initially the computer will not do what the writer intended. The process of correcting the instructions is called "debugging". The Bible is God's word to us - we believe inspired and without fault - but over time common interpretations have gone astray from what we believe God intended. In this section we hope to "Debug" our bibles in that we go through various aspects of it and share with readers scientific findings that are in support of christian beliefs.



Christmas Trivia

Why was the date of the 25th December selected as the date to celebrate the birth of Jesus when we know from the historical records that Jesus was not actually born on this day?

The first use of 25 December as Christmas Day appears to date from Rome in the year 336AD. To the pagan Romans, it was the birthday of the 'Unconquered Sun'. The emperor Constantine's family had worshipped the sun; his vision of the cross came to him from the sun - after which Constantine and Rome were christianised. It was easy to transfer the festival to the Sun of Righteousness. Under St Peter's in Rome, Jesus was pictured driving the chariot of the sun through the sky in a mural.

What is Epiphany?

In the East, Christmas was long celebrated on 6 January, and in the Armenian Church still is. More generally this is Epiphany (Greek name also known as manifestation), the appearance of Christ to the Magi -

symbolically the gentiles who represent the world outside Judaism.

What was the star that led the shepherds and the Magi to Jesus?

Christians, of course, need no proof of the star's existence or of the star's significance to the birth of Jesus. There are however a few physical explanations put forward by modern astronomers.

An hour and twenty minutes before sunrise on 12 August 3BC, the planet Jupiter rose in conjunction with Venus, the 'morning star'. This planetary alignment would have created a blazing light in the sky. Jupiter, considered astrologically 'Father of the Gods', when conjoined with Venus could well have been interpreted as heralding the birth of a king, since Venus was the pagan goddess of fertility.

Also of possible significance to the nativity story is the fact, noted by an American scholar, E. L. Martin, that Jupiter was stationary in the heavens on 25 December 2BC, having reached its orbital point for retrogression (a change

in its direction of movement). It would also have been in the direction of Bethlehem from Jerusalem. This, he thinks was the date of the Epiphany.

The appearance of Halley's Comet has often been taken as a heavenly portent or omen - for example, it was visible from England in 1066 in the weeks immediately preceding the Battle of Hastings.

Some people have thought that the star seen by the Magi might have been Halley's Comet but astronomers now calculate that it would have appeared in 12BC. This date is too early to coincide with the nativity, though there may have been a folk-memory of its appearance in the latter part of Herod's reign, and an assumption that such a spectacular appearance must have heralded Jesus's birth.

We know what gold is but what are myrrh and frankincense?

Gold, of course, was in recognition of the fact that Jesus was King.

Frankincense was an incense used in Hebrew worship. When burned by the Hebrews it had its own special altar in the Temple. It could only be offered by priests - offered to Jesus it signified his priestly role.

Myrrh is a resin from shrubs

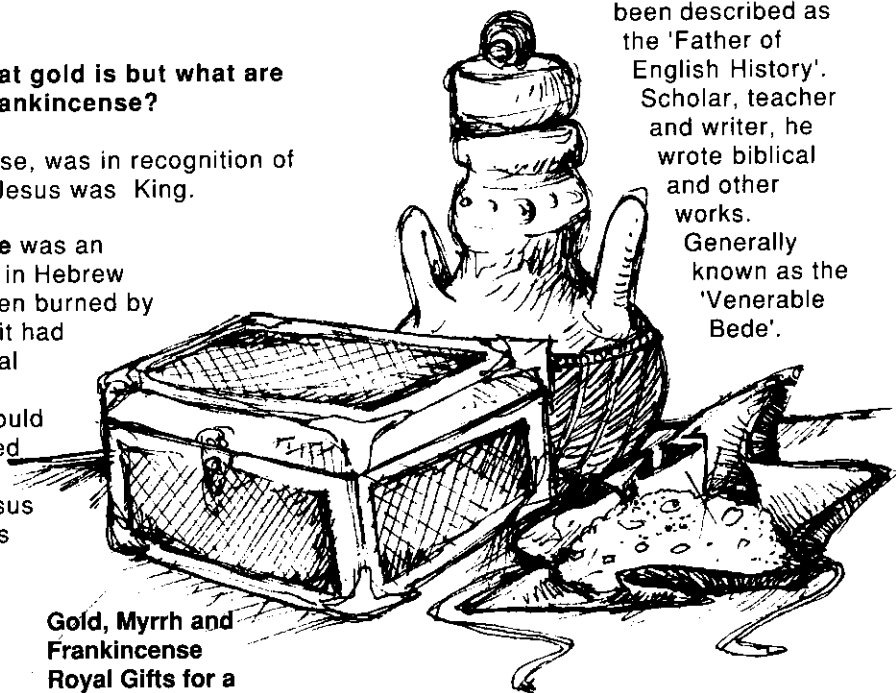
Gold, Myrrh and Frankincense
Royal Gifts for a Royal Child.

native to southern Arabia and eastern Africa. Major ingredient in special oils used in Hebrew rites for consecrating the altars, sacred vessels and the priests that used them. It was also used as a painkiller and to embalm the dead. Myrrh is mentioned a number of times in the Bible. This gift would signify by its various uses, Jesus' priestly role and be symbolic of what He would experience.

At no stage in the New Testament are the names of the Three Magi mentioned, so where do we get the names Baltazzar(Balthassar), Melchior and Gaspar?

The English historian Bede (died AD 735) gives the Magi these names. Bede became a monk at an early age and lived most of his life at Jarrow in

England. He has been described as the 'Father of English History'. Scholar, teacher and writer, he wrote biblical and other works. Generally known as the 'Venerable Bede'.



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.

Where Is He Now?

As the time passes and we head towards the year 2000, we begin to feel that the time of our Lord's return must be very close - that is, His **visible** return in full power and glory (Acts 1:11).

While we await that great event we may wonder "Where is Jesus Now?" The Bible provides a variety of answers on this front, some physical, some spiritual, and some prophetic. In many cases He has sent an angel to guide or safeguard us. It tells us that Jesus is set down at "the right hand of the throne of God." (Heb. 12:2) John the Divine in the Revelation saw Him as a Lamb which had been slain (Rev. 5:6) - this being in a vision in Heaven (Rev. 4:1).

Some Bible passages give us insight into Jesus' 'physical' presence but many other passages talk about the coming of Christ's 'Spirit' to His people.

Consider the following statements.....

"there am I in the midst of them..." (Matt. 18:20), that is spiritually present although physically absent.

"we (Jesus and The Father) will come and make our abode with him" John 14:23.

We also recall that Jesus appeared and disappeared on more than one occasion after His resurrection (Luke 24:15,16 and 21). His ability to do this is important as it means that He may in **this manner**, be near His people more than they may be aware. Jesus sent His angel to testify the things he showed John the Divine. His angel could come

to any of God's people today. There are many stories told by people who feel they have been helped by a stranger who later disappeared.

The Last Days are 'chock-a-block' with Prophetic utterances - which must be fulfilled before His Visible return.

Consider the following events, all under the control of the Lamb of God, and His Father.

- 1.....The pouring out of God's Spirit upon all flesh (Joel 2:28), **after** Joel 2:21-27.
- 2.....Elijah, the prophet returning... Mal 4:5
- 3.....The redemption of the mortal bodies of the seed of Israel Eze. 36:26,27.
- 4.....The ministry of the Two Witnesses. Rev. 11:3

It seems to be part of human nature to want 'evidence' or 'proof'. We are looking for physical signs indicating Jesus' return. We are looking to God to "do His part" so to speak, so that we may have some confirmation of our beliefs. The danger is, that while focussing on physical signs, we may lose sight of **His Presence**. In looking for His visible return we may in fact be missing out on the coming of God's Power to His people spiritually beforehand helping to prepare them for His Coming. The Bible warns us of this, telling us repeatedly to 'open' our eyes.

The Power of the Spirit is available now through prayer "There am I in the

midst of you" to guide and direct, but how can He help if no one listens, then questions?

Revelation is a 'Gift' of God, to "open" ones eyes to see Him. (John 9:39) Only those whose (spiritual) eyes are opened **can** see Him (Matt 11:27; 2 Cor. 3:18). Only those whose eyes are 'fixed on Him' will be ready to meet Him when He appears (1 John 3:2,3).

Instead of looking for God to do His

part, ie for the physical return of Jesus, let us focus on preparing ourselves, by **seeking the Spiritual Power that is here now, to move our heart and mind** so that we do good always. He is coming Physically (in Full Power and Glory). He is here **now** in power Spiritually. Is his presence **manifest** in your life?

"Behold, the Lord cometh with ten thousands of His saints...." Jude 14 - **"Go ye out to meet Him..."** Matt. 25:6.

From the Hymnal

The Saviour, now dwelling above,
Who once did ascend in a cloud,
Again shall return to His love,
Then all to His name shall have bow'd:
Angels with their message did come,
That He to the earth should return,
The long scatter'd seed to bring home;
Then Isr'el no longer shall mourn.

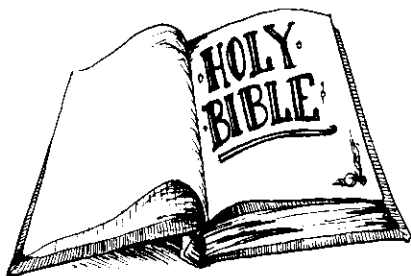
From Christ, the great Author of hope,
The light and the truth all shall come;
The cause of all sin He'll root up,
And Isr'el to Zion bring home;
He, full of compassion and love,
Whom the nations are bound to adore,
When the truth is reveal'd from above,
In th' glory and might of His pow'r.

This truth do the nations despise,
Until by His sceptre they're bow'd,
His gospel will make them all rise,
And glory to Him sing aloud:
When th' knowledge of God is reveal'd,
The earth shall His righteousness know;
His truth will no more be conceal'd,
To His name shall all praises flow.

Hymn No. 78 from Christian Israelite Hymn Book

Expand Your Bible

The Saviour



Since 1914 up until the present day, there has been an almost continual pressure of wars, within and without the nations of the world. Where temporary peace and harmony have reigned for a space of time, we find that both parties have generally come to some agreement, or decided to co-operate to solve some problem that has been the cause of the trouble.

In our lifetime, we look on the two great wars in which the British Empire has been involved, and we find that, during these two great struggles, we have had a sprinkling of Christian leaders who have sought help from Above, and who have been guided to bring about the victory of Good overcoming Evil.

There is a quotation in Romans 8:20 that says, "For the creature was made subject to vanity (evil) not willingly, but by reason of Him who hath subjected the same in hope."

This evil has been handed down from generation to generation (2 Esdras 3:21) and this causes a conflict within man himself, the same as there is between the nations of the world. This has been allowed to prove man; to prove whom his loyalty really lies with; the Scripture says, "You cannot serve two masters" (Matt. 6:24).

Let us look at Bible History and see what happened to some of the greatest Kings of that time. King Solomon said to be the wisest man that ever lived, while he yet served God, tried to also make provision for his wives to serve their foreign Gods, and departed from the commandment, "Thou shalt have no other god's before me" (Exod. 20:3).

King David on several occasions, departed from what was right and heeded to vanity, and

suffered severely for his crimes (2 Sam 24). King Nebuchadnezzar (Dan 4:48-37) and others, heeded to vanity and suffered severely for their error.

Paul, the Apostle, said there was a war in his members, "Warring against the law of his mind", consequently, "when I would do good, evil is present with me" (Rom. 7:23 and 21).

So life goes on, conflict within, conflict without; man has to be continually on his guard else the 'foe without' (the evil) will conquer him as it has so many rulers and leaders and individuals of today.

Is there no help for man? Yes, God sent His only begotten son into the World, as an example to show us how we should live; not only did He live as one amongst us, but that our way might be made easier, and that the ordeal of the sacrifices as carried out in the past might be abolished. He, God, allowed His only begotten Son to be offered a Sacrifice, as the Lamb of God which taketh away the sins of the World, He has become the mediator between God and man (1 Timothy. 2:5).

"Behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come into him, and will sup with him and he with me" Rev. 3:20.

Yes, mankind is in a race (1 Cor. 9:24) and he has the span of life to run it in; some will hear that knocking on the door and will answer the call, and in answering, some will work harder than others.

In Scripture, we find great promises written there, such as "If a man keep my sayings, he

shall never see death" (John 8:51). "I will cleanse their blood that I have not cleansed" (Joel 3:21).

God's "elect" number are to be brought out from amongst the peoples of the World, and are described as being "without fault before the Throne of God" (Rev. 14:5) being preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord (1

Thessalonians. 5:23). Then will the hope that God had of man living as He wished him to live be accomplished (2 Esdras 7:57-60).

By co-operation with our heavenly Father through his Son, Jesus Christ and the Holy Ghost, at our request and decision to serve one master, will all this come about.

The Christian Israelite Church beliefs are 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 for ever 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.

Israelite Archivist

This issue we are going to write a little about the history of the Christian Israelite church in Van Diemens Land (now known as Tasmania). The bodies of the church in the 19th century were numerous and well attended, this being unaffected by distance from capital cities or the mainland as in the cases of the churches in Van Diemens Land and New Zealand. Van Diemens Land had at least two groups of Christian Israelites until 1901 – these groups being at Hobart Town and Launceston.

We know from John Wroe's writings that he visited Australia five times. The first visit to Australia was in 1843 but there is no mention of him having gone to Van Diemens Land on their first voyage. We do know there were travelling preachers sent out Australia-wide at this stage to spread the word. The travelling preacher covering Van Diemens Land was Joseph Greaves. John Wroe visited Australia again in 1850 and this time visited Hobart Town as well as Little Scotland in South Australia, Collingwood in Melbourne and Sydney. His third visit to Australia was in November 1853 and again on this visit, he went to Hobart Town as well as Geelong and Collingwood in Victoria, and Adelaide in South Australia. By the year 1853 and this visit, John Wroe would have seen a thriving group meeting together regularly at Hobart Town and the commencement of a group in Launceston. His final visit to Hobart Town was in 1859 for on his fifth (in 1862) and final visit to Australia, John Wroe only got as far as Melbourne where he died in 1863. Some of the officers of the Hobart Town body were George Cooking, James Quested and Robert Robertson (in chronological order).

Earliest date in the records for naming of a child in Hobart town was March 1853. The first two namings in the register have no dates. These children were Sarah Jinks and Rebecca Ann Perry both named prior to March 1853. A lot of our early church signing books are missing, but from what we have the earliest Tasmanian members were made up of the following families. For Launceston: Thomas BROWN, Balthasar HERTEL, Elijah LARTER, Mary STANIFORTH to be joined later by the ANDERSON, BARRETT, BITERNMILLER, BUCK, CADDEN, CHAMP, DOLMES, DOWLING, DUNNING, GAFFREY, HALL, HAMMOND, IBORLD, LAMB, MADDEN, MILLER, SAMPSON, STEVENS, TURNER and UNDERWOOD families.

For Hobart town: Many of the families of this body are detailed on the following page. Other families not mentioned (for space reasons) were: BAMKENDARFAR, BROWN, HARVEY, LOVELY, ROGERS and SUMMERFIELD.

Many descendants of these families are still members of our church today. Close links between this body and Melbourne had always existed as can be seen by the migrations between the two islands. The founder of our church – John Wroe – felt it important enough to include Van Diemens Land (Tasmania) on most of his visits to Australia.

Van Diemens Land, Australia

<p>BROWN Thomas Brown and his wife Hannah Ararat were at Launceston body of the CIC. They had at least one daughter Elizabeth born in 1857 and named in the church and a son Thomas Frederick Brown who was by occupation a Woodturner. He married Grace Josephine Hosking and they eventually made their home in Melbourne VIC. Thomas and Grace had at least 3 children: Amy, Harold and Ivy.</p>	<p>that of Mariner. They had at least 7 children: Sarah born in 1856 in Hobart town married Thomas Hunt Bell and moved to Victoria; Mary born in 1858 in Hobart town and married Isaac Dickinson and moved to Victoria; Christina born in 1859 in Hobart town married Robert Robertson (see below); Frederick born in 1861 in Hobart town; Valentine born in 1865 in Hobart town; Clara born in 1867 in Melbourne married James Bell and resided in Victoria; Isabella born in 1867 in Melbourne.</p>	<p>born in 1851 at Whitehills in Tasmania and named in the church.</p>	<p>1839 and married Allen Stewart and lived in Melbourne Vic. The family gradually moved to Melbourne with the last family member in Tasmania being John Perry - in 1857 he was living at Argyle Street in Hobart town.</p>
<p>COLE Amos Cole and Ann White were members of Launceston church. He was a sawyer by occupation living at Alviston in Tasmania. They had at least one son - George - born in 1851 and named in the church.</p>	<p>HERTEL Balthasar Hertel and his wife Barbara Buttemiller were members of Launceston church. They lived at Rockford Hills near Avoca in Tasmania and later moved to Perth in Tasmania. Their children were: Esther born in 1859 at Perth; Daniel born 1860 at Perth married Catherine Finn and they lived at Evandale in Tasmania - their children were Samuel, Stephen, Adah, Ruth, Mary, Eunice, Eva, Edna; Hannaniah born 1862 at Perth; Shadrach born 1863 at Perth married Esther Hertel nee Tulk; Mishael born in 1865 at Perth, married Esther Tulk in 1886 - they had no children and made their home in Melbourne Victoria; and Jael born 1866 at Perth. All children listed were named in the church.</p>	<p>JINKS William Jinks and Rebecca Kerr were members of Hobart town church. His occupation was given as Shopwright. They had at least one child - Sarah born in 1851 and named in the church.</p>	<p>ROBERTSON Robert Robertson and his wife Christina Flood were members of Hobart town body. His occupation is given as Engineer. They had at least one child - Jemima born in 1863 at Hobart town and named in the church. Jemima married John Hannaford and moved to Melbourne.</p>
<p>CLARK Mary Clark - unmarried. She was a member of Hobart town church and had a son John born in 1856.</p>	<p>HILL James Hill and Lydia Kemp were members of Launceston church. They had at least one son - James</p>	<p>PERRY George Perry and Ann Stubbing were members of Hobart town church prior to 1851. George Perry was the son of William Perry and Lydia Church. George and his wife migrated to Hobart town Van Diemens Land in 1830 aboard the 'Mellish' with their sons William and John. George Perry was by occupation a Butcher. Their children were as follows: Jane born in 1821 died in infancy in England; William born in 1822 married Sarah Ann Tulk and had 15 children 8 of whom survived and these children married into the Gould, Potter, and Bulley families; John born in 1824 who married Elizabeth Hill and became one of the longest serving senior officers of the Christian Israelite Church in Australia and was present at the death of John Wroe in Melbourne; Richard who died in infancy; Lydia who died in infancy; George born in 1833 married Eliza Jane Dooris and lived in Melbourne; Harriett born in 1835 and died in 1840; Charles born in 1837 married Mary Scott and lived in Melbourne; Julia and Rebecca Ann born in</p>	<p>ROGERS George Rogers(x) and Martha Williams were members of Hobart town church. His occupation is given as Shoemaker and they lived in Bathurst Street Hobart town as early as 1857. They had at least one child - Jonathon born in 1857 at Hobart town.</p>
<p>FALFORD John Falford and his wife Johnna Flinn were members of Hobart town church. He was a sawyer and shoemaker by trade. They had at least 2 children: John Thomas born in 1852 and Esther born in 1854 both at Hobart town Van Diemens Land.</p>			<p>SPARROW Francis Sparrow and his wife Caroline Lewin were members of Hobart town church. His occupation is given as Sawyer. Their children were Judah born 1854 at Hobart town; Reuben born 1855 at Hobart town; Unnamed child born in 1857 at Hobart town; Ronis born 1861 at Fitzroy Vic; Hannah born 1863 at Fitzroy Vic; Frank born 1865 Carlton Vic; and Emily born 1867 at Carlton Vic.</p>
<p>FLOOD Frederick Flood and Sarah Mawdsley were members of Hobart town church. Frederick was the son of Valentine and Mary Flood, born in 1825 and his occupation was given as</p>			

The Parable of the Tares

(.....The Release from Evil)

In the Gospel according to St. Matthew, chapter 13, there are several parables as taught by our Lord. One of these, known as the Parable of the Tares, contains profound information. The parable reads as follows:

"The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field; But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way. But when the blade was sprung up, and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him, Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? from whence then hath it tares? He said unto them, An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him, Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up? But he said, Nay; lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them. Let both grow together until the harvest: and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers, Gather ye together first the tares, and bind them in bundles to burn them: but gather the wheat into my barn" Matt. 13:24-30.

Now this parable seems simple enough - two sorts of seed in one field - the 'good seed' and the 'tares' - but do you have any idea what it refers to? The importance of this parable was known to the disciples for we read in verse 36 of the same chapter, that they came to Him (Jesus) saying "Declare unto us the parable of the tares of the field."

Jesus went ahead to explain what it was about. The explanation showed that the parable referred to the Plan of God. The

'people' of God and the 'children of the wicked one'. In other words, it was an allegory of the Creation of God, The Father - the 'good seed' in the first instance was Adam - found to be 'very good' (Genesis 1:31). The 'children of the wicked one' coming about as a result of the 'Fall' of man (Genesis 3).

Jesus fully knew what had happened in the 'beginning' and now, He, the pure and sinless 'Lamb of God' alone could say "He that soweth the good seed, is the Son of Man" (he having no evil or 'tares' within Him).

What happened in the 'Fall' of man was, in effect, the marring of the man, whom God had created. He (Adam) had been created 'very good', but during a time of testing, his female partner, Eve, was deceived into 'breaking' God's command - this command being that they were not to take of the fruit of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. She took of the fruit thereof and gave also unto her husband, Adam, and they both ate. Suddenly they knew that they were 'naked' (Genesis 3:7) and looked for means of covering themselves. God's original creation now had been marred by the deception of the Wicked One who seduced them and caused them to 'break' God's command.

Now they had fallen and they knew it, they came under condemnation from God (Genesis 3:13-19). Furthermore, the conception by Eve of their first child Cain was not a blessing, for in due time, he rose up and slew his brother Abel. The disobedient act by Adam and Eve had far-reaching

consequences. Not only was their first child a murderer, but the 'effect' or consequence of what they had done was transferred on to the whole of creation. Once the 'tares' had sprung up, they were let remain and this is just how the parable describes it (Matthew 13:26-30 and 2 Esdras 7:48).

However, we learn in the parable of a glorious Hope, namely of the removal of the tares - which speaks of a physical bodily redemption. God has decreed, through Jesus, that the 'tares' shall be removed by the Angels who, at the command of Christ, shall gather together first the 'tares' and bind them in bundles to burn them. "The Son of man shall send forth his angels and they shall gather out of his Kingdom all things that offend and them that do iniquity."

There will be a 'purging' of the earth - of people who do iniquity, and of the very existence of the 'tares' - which symbolise the impurity or evil, which is in each of us. As stated before, it was not in Jesus because He was born 'free of evil' - Satan had no part in Him (John 14:30). But Satan does have a part in mankind until the 'tares' are taken away. At this stage so too will the root and seed of evil be taken away - this is called the "regeneration" - when the physical bodies of people, who have the Faith, and are looking for it, shall receive a physical bodily redemption (see Matthew 19:28 and also Luke 21:28).

When the 'tares' are taken from amongst the wheat, "Then shall the righteous shine forth as the sun in the kingdom of their Father" (Matthew 13:43).

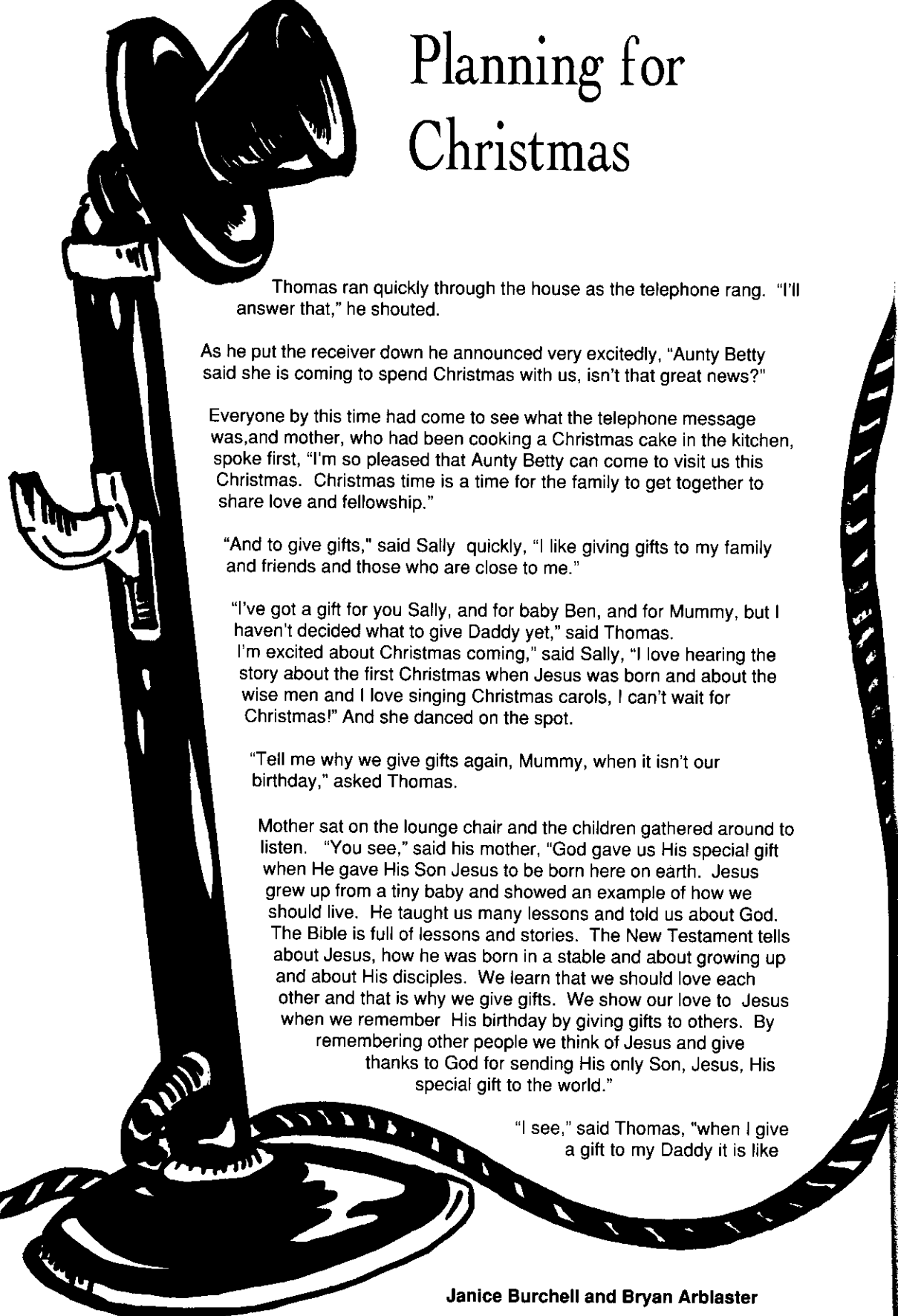
So you see what a glorious objective is placed before us in a supposedly simple parable. As with many of the parables a

deeper meaning can be obtained from further reading and interpretations may also be found to fit in with situations in our lives at various stages. The Parable of the Tares speaks of the Creation but also of a greater hope - the restoration back to man of the gift of immortality, which Adam had and lost.

When the 'tares' are taken from amongst the wheat, man no longer will be in subjection to Satan, nor be in subjection to the sentence of Death. Death will have been removed - its power destroyed and the 'good seed' (their descendants) will inherit the Kingdom of their Father (Matthew 25:34).

What is a tare?

This parable gains even more meaning when one understands the customs of the time. Apparently it was a common practice in the East for enemies to sow tares and other poisonous seeds in the fields of their enemies or those they wished to hurt. Some of these weeds can take literally years to get rid of. The Greek words for tares are *Zizania* or *zewan*, which is a grain that looks like wheat while growing, but when full grown and ripe has ears which are long, the grains being black and poisonous.



Planning for Christmas

Thomas ran quickly through the house as the telephone rang. "I'll answer that," he shouted.

As he put the receiver down he announced very excitedly, "Aunty Betty said she is coming to spend Christmas with us, isn't that great news?"

Everyone by this time had come to see what the telephone message was, and mother, who had been cooking a Christmas cake in the kitchen, spoke first, "I'm so pleased that Aunty Betty can come to visit us this Christmas. Christmas time is a time for the family to get together to share love and fellowship."

"And to give gifts," said Sally quickly, "I like giving gifts to my family and friends and those who are close to me."

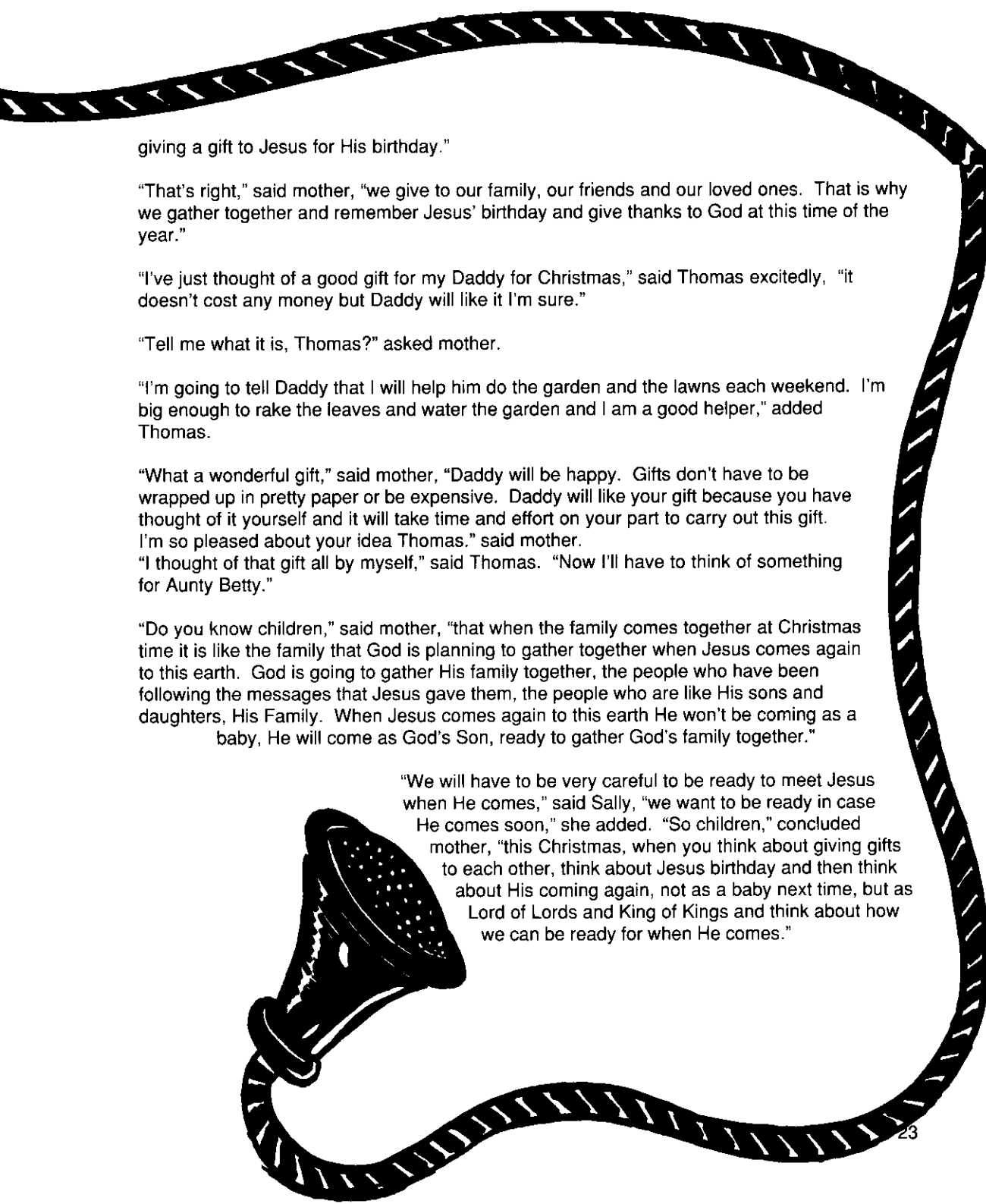
"I've got a gift for you Sally, and for baby Ben, and for Mummy, but I haven't decided what to give Daddy yet," said Thomas.

"I'm excited about Christmas coming," said Sally, "I love hearing the story about the first Christmas when Jesus was born and about the wise men and I love singing Christmas carols, I can't wait for Christmas!" And she danced on the spot.

"Tell me why we give gifts again, Mummy, when it isn't our birthday," asked Thomas.

Mother sat on the lounge chair and the children gathered around to listen. "You see," said his mother, "God gave us His special gift when He gave His Son Jesus to be born here on earth. Jesus grew up from a tiny baby and showed an example of how we should live. He taught us many lessons and told us about God. The Bible is full of lessons and stories. The New Testament tells about Jesus, how he was born in a stable and about growing up and about His disciples. We learn that we should love each other and that is why we give gifts. We show our love to Jesus when we remember His birthday by giving gifts to others. By remembering other people we think of Jesus and give thanks to God for sending His only Son, Jesus, His special gift to the world."

"I see," said Thomas, "when I give a gift to my Daddy it is like



giving a gift to Jesus for His birthday."

"That's right," said mother, "we give to our family, our friends and our loved ones. That is why we gather together and remember Jesus' birthday and give thanks to God at this time of the year."

"I've just thought of a good gift for my Daddy for Christmas," said Thomas excitedly, "it doesn't cost any money but Daddy will like it I'm sure."

"Tell me what it is, Thomas?" asked mother.

"I'm going to tell Daddy that I will help him do the garden and the lawns each weekend. I'm big enough to rake the leaves and water the garden and I am a good helper," added Thomas.

"What a wonderful gift," said mother, "Daddy will be happy. Gifts don't have to be wrapped up in pretty paper or be expensive. Daddy will like your gift because you have thought of it yourself and it will take time and effort on your part to carry out this gift. I'm so pleased about your idea Thomas," said mother.

"I thought of that gift all by myself," said Thomas. "Now I'll have to think of something for Aunt Betty."

"Do you know children," said mother, "that when the family comes together at Christmas time it is like the family that God is planning to gather together when Jesus comes again to this earth. God is going to gather His family together, the people who have been following the messages that Jesus gave them, the people who are like His sons and daughters, His Family. When Jesus comes again to this earth He won't be coming as a baby, He will come as God's Son, ready to gather God's family together."

"We will have to be very careful to be ready to meet Jesus when He comes," said Sally, "we want to be ready in case He comes soon," she added. "So children," concluded mother, "this Christmas, when you think about giving gifts to each other, think about Jesus birthday and then think about His coming again, not as a baby next time, but as Lord of Lords and King of Kings and think about how we can be ready for when He comes."

Merry



Christmas

Test your knowledge of Bible superlatives

Use the list of names below to fill in the FIRST - LAST - BEST - WORST - MOST - ETC. definitions on this page.

1. The first man _____
2. Oldest man _____
3. The book with the least number of verses _____
4. Probably the strongest man in the Bible _____
5. Probably the tallest man in the Bible (over 9 ft) _____
6. One of the shortest men in the Bible _____
7. Wrote the most books in the Bible (13 or 14) _____
8. Israel's first king _____
9. Jesus' first miracle _____
10. First Gentile to become Christian _____
11. Man who wrote the most songs in the Bible _____
12. First book in the Bible _____
13. First murderer _____
14. The last book in the Bible _____
15. One of Israel's meanest kings _____
16. One of Israel's kindest kings _____
17. World's best selling book _____
18. One of the Bible's wickedest grandmothers _____

Genesis
Solomon
Manasseh
Adam
Bible

Methuselah
Cain
King David
Cornelius
Athaliah

2 John
King Saul
Paul
Zacchaeus

Water to wine
Samson
Revelation
Goliath

Answers on page 32

All Round Health

with James Harrison

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

The human body is approximately 59% water, 20% protein, 15% fats and 2% carbohydrates. The remaining 6% is made up of minerals (5%), vitamins and enzymes (1%).

Proteins are used for building tissues; fats to insulate the body, protect organs and store energy; and carbohydrates are broken down into glucose which is burnt as fuel to give us energy to do things. You would think that if you took good care of supplying these substances, and water, a total of 94% of the body requirements, all would be well, but it isn't. The 6% that comprises vitamins, enzymes and minerals is perhaps the most important part after all.

In a car, energy is extracted from fuel by exploding it in the cylinders. This relatively crude process turns the petrol into energy, carbon dioxide and water (plus a few nasty bits and pieces). In the body the energy is released in a much more controlled way. Our food is converted to glucose which is then dismantled atom by atom, electron by electron in the electron transfer chain of the mitochondria within our cells. Energy is released, leaving the waste products carbon dioxide and water but there is no explosion. The body by using catalysts, minerals and enzymes extracts the energy without the 'bang'.

The various catalysts and enzymes needed within the body can be manufactured from vitamins, minerals and proteins. But without them we begin to lose energy and health. There are approximately 20 vitamins, 17 minerals and literally hundreds of enzymes available in good natural food. Processing

and refining remove many of the vitamins and minerals in food. Cooking destroys nearly all the enzymes. Boiling may cause vitamins and minerals to be leached from food, while the high temperatures involved with frying allow even proteins and fats to be damaged.

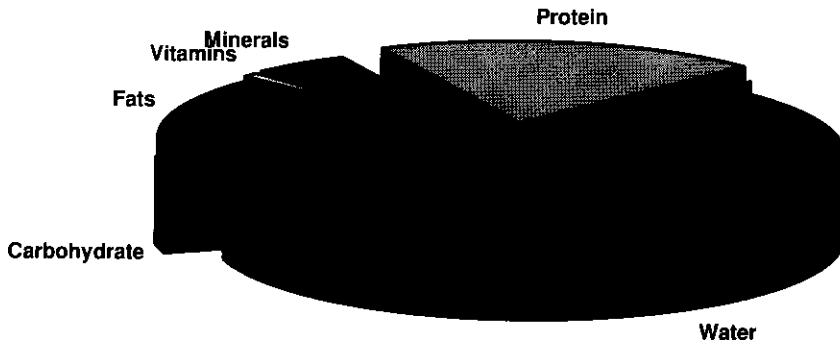
Over Christmas, when the sweets come out in force and there are lollies, chocolates, cakes and candies almost everywhere, think of a few of these tips:

- 1.....Eat sparingly of foods that contain white sugar, white flour or other processed foods such as chips, lollies and ice creams.
- 2.....Try not to over eat foods containing excess fats.
- 3.....Add a side salad of fresh garden vegetables to each savoury meal you have. Try to include fresh enzyme rich foods such as bean sprouts, or mineral rich foods such as lettuce.
- 4.....Eat plenty of fresh fruit rather than lollies and chocolates. Over this season in the Southern Hemisphere, there is an abundance of watermelons, mangoes, cherries, pawpaws, grapes, etc.

Sources:

"Enzyme Nutrition". Dr. E. Howell
"Nutrition Almanac". John
D.Kirschmann, McGraw Hill Book co.,
1979.

Approximate Nutrient Composition of the Body



Quick-mix Christmas Pudding

Can be made a week ahead.

1½ cups wholemeal plain flour
1 tsp mixed spice
1 tsp ground ginger
1 cup stale wholemeal breadcrumbs
1 cup chopped dates
½ cup chopped raisins

½ cup chopped dried apricots
60g butter
1/3 cup honey
1 cup cold mashed pumpkin (cook about 350g)
2 free-range eggs, lightly beaten

Sift flour and spices into large bowl, stir in breadcrumbs and fruit. Combine butter and honey in small saucepan, stir over low heat until butter is melted. Stir honey mixture into bowl with pumpkin and eggs.

Spoon mixture into well greased steamer (7 cup capacity), cover tightly. Place pudding in large boiler with enough boiling water to come halfway up side of steamer. Cover tightly, boil for 2 hours, adding more boiling water as it evaporates during cooking time. Serve with yoghurt sprinkled with nutmeg, if desired.

Look Up!

To-
night
take a few
moments to
reflect on the
wonder of the stars
and Creation. Drink
in their beauty. Worship
the Master Designer who
every minute detail of our lives

in His Hand and gives us the breath we breathe while readily listening to our smallest prayers.

"When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him? O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy name in all the earth!" (Psa. 8:3,4,9).

Amidst the problems which may have come your way in 1992 may you find comfort and blessing in the Christmas season as it comes to you this time. Let it sink deeply into your soul. Drink from it and be refreshed and restored (Psa. 23:5).

As you decorate your homes, sending cards, exchanging gifts, etc., reflect on the coming long ago of the true "Superstar" with His message of Love, Goodwill, Trust and Obedience and the impact this has had on lives over the centuries. May your heart be warmed when you ponder the enormity of God's Gift of Love to You. (Rom. 6:23)

May His Star light your way into the future. (Rev. 22:16). As you consider priorities remember the statement "God's Gift to YOU is LIFE. What YOU do with it Is **Your Gift to GOD.**"

Have you Thanked God for that First Christmas gift to you - His Son? "When they (the wise men) saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy." Matt 2:10.

Ask the "Superstar" to Light
the Way for You - and
thank God for the
Blessing of Stars
.....large and
small, and the
messages
they can
bring.

Obituary – Norman & Clifton Gray

This edition of the "Latter Rain" magazine would not be complete without conveying our sympathy to the families of Clifton Gray and Norman Gray of Singleton.

Clifton and Norman Gray were brothers, (sons of Horace Reginald Gray and Lydia Gould) both born in Kempsey (Clifton born in 1905 and Norman born in 1900). They were lifetime members of the Christian Israelite church, as were their parents, grandparents and great grandparents.

Clifton married Nellie Flood in 1929 and after her death married Myra Gray in 1979. He served on the Kempsey High School P & C Committee, was a member of the Kempsey Eisteddfod Society and served on the Kempsey Branch of the NSW Education Workers Debating Society. The Clifton Gray family moved from Kempsey to Singleton. In 1946, Clifton reconstituted the Singleton Chamber of Commerce and was president of the association for 30 years. He was chairman of the local Technical Education Committee for 30 years. He served on the first Hunter Valley Regional Technical College committee from 1974 - 1981. His services were recognised in the dedication of the Clifton Gray Library in April 1986 at Singleton TAFE. He served for 18 years on the Singleton Civil Defence Unit and was a member of the Singleton High School Debating Society. He, at the age of 87, had spent 60 years of his life tuning pianos - he was tuning a piano less than half an hour before his death.. He was a committed Christian Israelite and contributed greatly to development of the Church throughout his lifetime. Clifton is survived by 3 daughters, 2 sons, 12 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

He was proud of his beliefs and was a "roving ambassador" prepared to explain or discuss why he followed this way of life.

Norman was born in Kempsey but left to establish business contacts and moved in with relatives in Singleton. In 1926 he married Sarah Knight and they made their home in Singleton. He opened a Music Store in Singleton in 1927 which was called "Harmony House". His wife played the part of book keeper and shop assistant. In the early 1930's radios were making their debut, so being progressive, Norman Gray went into radio sales. This was the start of what was to become known today as Gray's Electrical. Norman was 20 years as an active member of the Singleton High School P & C Association - most of them as President. He supported the Chamber of Commerce, the Horticultural Society and the NAA. Gray's exhibit has been a feature of the Singleton Show for nearly 50 years.

He was actively involved in the Christian Israelite Church, both pastorally and administratively. He was a Sunday School teacher, active congregation member and preacher. In 1949 he became Judge of Singleton body. In 1964 became a member of the executive of the church being 4 in number. In 1968 he was elected to the role of Trustee of NSW. He was an active member of the church band and choir having performed at a band practice less than two weeks before his death - and at the age of 92 was the longest serving member ever in our church band. Norman was well respected by all who knew him, being an example of what he preached.

Like his brother Clifton, Norman also was a piano-tuner having tuned for about 75 years. Norman was the last surviving member of his original family having been pre-deceased by sisters Beulah, Adah, Edna and Harriett and just prior to his death by his much valued and loved brother Clifton. He is survived by his 5 sons, 3 daughters, 27 grandchildren and 21 great grandchildren.

"Well done, good and faithful servant(s); thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord." Matt. 25:23

The Twelve Apostles

James



The First
Apostle to
suffer
Martyrdom

James was the brother of John and the son of Zebedee and Salome. This Salome is thought to be a sister of Mary the mother of Jesus. Salome was present at the crucifixion and also went to anoint the body of Jesus at the sepulchre as recorded in Mark 15 and 16. Zebedee and his sons were fishermen and as we have learnt in previous articles, they were in the fishing business with the

family of Simon Peter and Andrew. They lived on the shores of Lake Galilee and were among the first called to follow Jesus. Tradition states that James and John were of the tribe of Levi through their father and Judah through their mother, i.e. the priestly and the royal house.

As we know from our Bibles, there were at least three James - two were apostles and the third was a disciple. The first James (the subject of this article) was known as James the Greater or James the Elder, the second James also an apostle, was known as James the Lesser and the third mentioned James (the disciple) known as James the Just who was the half-brother of Jesus and the author of the gospel in his name.

The requirements of an apostle were basic. The word apostle is Greek and interpreted means someone sent with delegated authority to perform a particular task. The apostles' first duty was to simply be with Jesus. No particular religious training was

required - just a strict adherence to the first and only duty. They were sent out in pairs to preach by Jesus, after their appointment, and were instructed to travel light, take no money and go to Jewish towns. Mark tells us these apostles had Messianic powers conferred on them by Jesus giving them power to preach, heal and cast out devils. James and his brother John were partners in preaching - kindred spirits, but owing to the premature death of James this partnership ended. James was also a companion of Peter and they are said to have preached the gospel in India. We have positive record of James visiting Britain to rejoin Joseph of Arimathea at least once. James' most famous mission trip was to Spain where he is known as Santiago. His supposed relics are still housed in a cathedral in Santiago which has been a principal pilgrimage centre for centuries. In Britain alone 414 churches were dedicated to him. Images of St. James bear the pilgrim's hat and scallop shell associated with Compostella.

James is always mentioned in the first four of the apostles, and with Peter and John, forms the trio that had a particular closeness with Jesus. As examples of his prestigious position we find the following in Mark chapter 5:37 "And he suffered no man to follow him save Peter, and James and John the brother of James" and they witnessed the raising of Jairus daughter and Mark 9:2 "And after six days Jesus taketh with him Peter, and James, and John, and leadeth them into an high mountain apart by themselves: and he was transfigured before them." There are other examples of the closeness accorded these brothers in the New Testament. James and John on one occasion requested of Jesus that they be placed on the right and left hand of Jesus in glory (Mark 10:37).

Jesus of course corrected them for the effrontery. This request did not make them popular among the other apostles.

Jesus surnamed the brothers "Boanerges" meaning 'Sons of Thunder'. Numerous reasons abound as to why. Amongst these are that it was symbolic of the zeal the brothers displayed in their preaching, and another, that it was symbolic of their fiery temperaments in wanting "fire to come down from heaven, and consume" the unbelievers (Luke 9:53-54).

James was martyred in AD44 by order of Herod Agrippa. Some historians believe that this Herod - also known as King of Chalcis - was probably the brother of the early Christian Aristobolus, companion of Paul. Tradition states that when James was brought into the Court, the guard who brought him in was so overcome that he confessed to being a Christian as well. Thus they were both beheaded together. On their way to execution, the newly arrested guard asked James for forgiveness. James is said to have thought for a moment, then said "I wish you peace", and kissed him. Eusebius states that Herod, seeing that his action in killing James gave the Jews satisfaction, then arrested Peter (Acts 12:3). James was beheaded by the sword which action Rabbis regarded as particularly disgraceful. Thus we have another apostle and one of that special inner circle dying by the lowliest form of execution. No successor was ever chosen for James in the apostleship. Some say his death was the fulfillment of Matthew 20:23 "Ye shall drink indeed of my cup, and be baptised with the baptism that I am baptised with: but to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father", perhaps signifying the alignment James' form of execution had with Jesus', but his placement in Paradise was not Jesus' to allocate.



Thus ends another chapter in the lives of these remarkable early Christians. We can see the exalted position held by James and his brother John with Peter, the trust that Jesus endowed on them and the blessings. They were present to witness miracles, transfigurations and unworldly visions - these men were constant companions of Jesus. They fulfilled their obligation with zeal - that being to serve Jesus - and with their devotion came the trust of their Lord. James ministry was cut short however with his early death, but to die as his Lord was still an honour. His brother John, of course, lived on till he was 100 years of age - perhaps making up for

the loss of his partner in Christianity by the acts of zeal and faith we have left of John today. James unfortunately is not credited with having written any New Testament writings, apocryphal or accepted, but after looking at how he lived his life, the testimony is there for all to see and understand.

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From everybody on the
production team of "Latter
Rain" we wish all our readers a
very happy Christmas and best
wishes for you and your family
in 1993

Answers to Bible Superlatives: (from page 25)

1. Adam; 2. Methuselah; 3. 2 John; 4. Samson; 5. Goliath; 6. Zacchaeus; 7. Paul; 8. King Saul; 9. Water to wine; 10. Cornelius; 11. King David; 12. Genesis; 13. Cain; 14. Revelation; 15. Manasseh; 16. Solomon; 17. Bible; 18. Athaliah.