

# The Bible Standard



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# A Great White Throne

I saw a Great White Throne and Him who sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heavens fled away; and there was found no place for them — Rev. 20: 11

Yet once more I shake not only the earth, but also heaven —yet once more, indicates the removal of those things that are being shaken, as of things that are made, that the things which cannot be shaken may remain — Heb. 12: 26, 27

**T**HE SHAKING described in our second text, Heb. 12: 26, 27, is not a literal shaking of the earth such as is caused by an earthquake and its aftermath — a devastating tsunami. Rather, as the Apostle explains, it is a symbolic shaking of earth's entire social structure by the upheaval of the world's present governmental, financial, political, and religious factions. To the thoughtful observer these conditions are manifested on every hand as now in progress, and they will continue until all things are removed which are out of harmony with the Divine standards. Contributing to this shaking there has been for many years and is now present in the world "a Time of Trouble such as never was since there was a nation" (Dan. 12: 1). During this period everything false, bogus, and inequitable is under siege by our Lord to make way for the establishment of His Kingdom here on the earth. One of the many strongholds of Satan's rulership in the earth at the present time is that of his financial domain. This is being attacked by our Lord and His glorified Church because of the evils that have resided there for centuries.

Note the "Enron" fraud case in point. It is alleged that Enron, through some of its top executives in conspiracy with the brokerage firm Merrill Lynch & Co., caused Enron's stock to trade as high as \$90.75.

They then sold more than 20 million shares of stock for insider trading bringing proceeds of \$1.19 billion. When their double dealing was found out and made known, the effect was enormous as Enron's stock dropped 91% to just \$0.26 per share. On December 2, 2001, Enron filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Enron's collapse led a series of corporate scandals that prompted Congress to pass sweeping securities law reforms. Thousands of Enron's workers lost their jobs, when the stock tumbled to just pennies, wiping out many workers' retirement savings.

These stocks and bonds have cost their present owners vast sums, and their actual value is what the properties should cost, plus a reasonable percentage of allowance for the right way for business to profit. In ordinary times these had a market value built upon hope of their future prosperity. Now, however, the investing public has become aware of the real situation and is fearful to touch at any price these shares and bonds of over-capitalized companies, and the most sound and solvent of them share the public distrust. Now, in the opening of the New Millennial Dispensation, when everything is being "shaken," we are to expect that all such financial markets will be depleted in value until everything of dishonesty and inequity shall have been completely rooted out.

*Many Scripture references in this issue are to the New King James Version.*

**"Lift up a standard for the people" — Isa. 62: 10**

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## SILVER IS OUT—GOLD IS IN

Over one hundred years ago, the world's great bankers and financiers concluded that it would be to their advantage to demonetize silver and have only a gold standard. As a result of a revision of the coinage laws in 1873 the silver dollar was omitted from the list of coins authorized for minting. Although the coinage of silver dollars was resumed in 1878, the metallic gold dollar remained the monetary standard of value in the United States; thereby bimetallism was legally discontinued and the gold standard adopted.

The next change in the currency system was introduced by the Federal Reserve Act of 1913, which authorized the establishment of 12 regional Federal Reserve banks with power to issue two types of currency. The first and most important was the Federal Reserve note and the second was the Federal Reserve bank note. The national bank notes were retired in 1935, but greenbacks are still part of U. S. paper currency. Executive proclamations issued by President Franklin D. Roosevelt in March and April 1933 prohibited gold exports except under government license, and called in all gold and gold certificates from general circulation, thus ending the gold standard. Under the Gold Reserve Act of January 30, 1934, the country returned to a modified gold standard with a devalued dollar. The act gave the President authority to lower the weight of the gold dollar to between 50 and 60 percent of its former gold content. This finally accomplished the curtailment of the world's monetary supply and enabled the bankers the better to control the entire situation throughout the world. Thus the profits of the larger banks increased amazingly by reason of higher discount and interest charges, making them rich at the public expense. The public, of course, acquiesced in the law demonetizing silver and making gold the single standard. But they did it under misapprehension, because they believed the bankers' tale — that this was really the best thing for the people, and not merely a measure in the interest of the banker and at the expense of the people. It is perhaps fair to say that less than one-half of the bankers understood the philosophy of the matter; the others were guided by the wealthier and more astute, who did fully understand. The result was great profits to the bankers, and great power; for without them, railroad stocks and bonds could not have been handled successfully. The bankers took over large issues of railroad stocks and bonds, by what is known as the underwriting process. They were

capable sales agents for the bonds at a good round percentage of profit, advancing money on the bonds and holding them for sale to the public.

On August 9, 1934, the President issued an executive order requiring that all silver in the United States, with the exception of certain categories, be delivered to the mints to be coined or held as bullion for later coinage. Under the Silver Purchase Act and subsequent legislation the Treasury purchased large quantities of silver abroad and from domestic producers which tended to raise the price of the metal and curtail the monetary use of silver abroad, especially in China and India.

## SILVER & GOLD ARE OUT — PAPER IS IN

Near the end of World War II most of the Allied nations joined together in a conference held at Bretton Woods, New Hampshire, to set up a new international monetary system, replacing the international gold standard that had collapsed during the Great Depression. The conference also provided for the establishment of the International Monetary Fund. The U.S. dollar played a key role in the new system, becoming in effect the world's currency. By early 1970 foreign government holdings of U.S. dollars were over five times greater than the U.S. gold stock. In August 1971 President Richard Nixon suspended gold payments of U.S. dollars. This closing of the "gold window" effectively ended all ties between the U.S. dollar and either gold or silver. Since then the United States has had a fully managed currency system, one with no metallic base whatsoever. Federal Reserve notes are overwhelmingly the dominant form of currency in circulation today.

Now we see fulfilled the Scripture declaration, "He catches the wise in their craftiness" (Job 5: 13). How so, do you ask? We reply that the great banks have their vaults well filled with bonds and stocks on which they had hoped to make large profits; but which on the contrary they are now unable to sell at any profitable price. These stocks and bonds reckoned as part of the banks' assets, showed them to be wealthy, with immense surpluses; but now the value is being taken out of these stocks and bonds. It shows an immense shrinkage in the resources of these banks. They have become suddenly poor without actually losing a cent, by reason of the market value of their securities falling. This fact is realized by all banks. They realize that as the Day of Reckoning has come, and as their holdings —their securities—are reckoned at their actual value,

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it means that instead of large resources and surpluses, some of the richest banks have become insolvent and have been called upon by the government, either to close their doors or to make good their shortage. And that is their difficulty; for the rich men of the world have their capital invested similarly, and the reaction unfavorably affects all the great commercial enterprises of the world. It went well for the bankers and the wealthy by reason of the demonetization of silver, but now as the Day of Reckoning is dawning, things go hard with these same people. And, the changeover involves the whole world, poor and rich alike.

#### **THE DEVASTATION OF WAR**

The liquidating process had already begun before World War II started — ever since 1929. The railroads were called to account. With the squeezing of the value from the financial structure by the processes of law it has accomplished their thorough “shaking.” But meantime, the war, waiting not for more gradual processes of the law, has brought the financial world to a crisis. The nations of the world were being shaken. The casualties of the war amounted to fifty-five millions of human beings dead, and the cost was one trillion dollars. Additional wars since that conflict have added much misery and monetary depreciation including the latest conflict with Iraq. The 1990 conflict cost the U.S. \$61 billion while the current episode is over \$100 billion and may reach \$200 billion according to White House economic advisor Lawrence B. Lindsey.

#### **FINANCIAL WOES**

The financial values have been greatly impaired, along with national credits. The thing wanted is gold, and as in every war, this precious metal disappears in the nations at war. Their home securities are not salable for cash, and a general attempt has been made to sell American securities — American stocks, bonds, *etc.* But who would have bought these? America has been the only market for them, as we have already seen; American banks and bankers are loaded down heavily. When we learn the immense amount of these

American shares and bonds are held in foreign countries, we need not wonder that American bankers pale at the thought of their being dumped upon the American market. If but one-fifth of these were sacrificed to realize cash, it would mean a financial avalanche. American banks, already overloaded with these “securities,” cannot purchase all; hence, prices did tumble and some financial institutions have collapsed.

#### **THE NATIONAL DEBT**

When we consider that the gold of the world is not sufficient for even the paying of the interest of the national debts, we perceive how the banking institutions have had the people, figuratively, by the throat, and now are being choked themselves by their own device. At this point it seems expedient to consider how the national debt has had a burdensome influence upon the economy. This debt has increased by leaps and bounds in the aftermath of WW’s I & II and the conflicts that have followed plus governmental senseless overspending, which have aggravated the problem. It may be of interest that the U.S. debt in 1914 was nearly \$3 billion dollars. By 1979 it had increased to over \$845 billion and as of 12/31/2004 it was over \$7 ½ trillion dollars. Written out it looks like this: \$7,596,165,867,424.14.

Apparently our financial “house of cards” is trembling and about to fall. Various expedencies are being tried by the governments and the ablest financiers of the world. We might hope that their skill would accomplish the end they desire, and save the present institutions — especially financial — from being “shaken” to pieces. But if we are right in our understanding of the Scriptures — if the great Day of Settlement has come in which all the shakable things are to tremble into oblivion, and nothing remains except that which *cannot* be shaken, then we may be sure that all human effort will fail, and the greatest of all crashes of a financial kind that has ever happened will take place, not even excepting the bank crashes of the early thirties. We are saying nothing new — it has been said in part at least by many, and published in the newspapers. We are merely bringing together these things, and showing their relationship to the testimony of the Bible, that we are now in the day of “great tribulation.” To some this will be considered fanatical pessimism, because the vast majority of people have absolutely no confidence in the Word of God. Nevertheless, now that these things have come to pass, some may be helped to an understanding of the true situation in world affairs — to a recognition of the fact

that the “shaking” upon the nations — financial, social, political and religious — is of the Lord, and not accidental.

### **A PROPHECY FULFILLED**

The demonetization of silver seems to be referred to by the Prophet Ezekiel (7: 19) saying, “They shall cast their silver into the street” — treat it as a commodity and not as money. The Prophet then tells how gold will become scarce and eventually be completely withdrawn, hiding it as though it were an unclean thing, as the Hebrew text implies — “Their gold shall be removed.” Thus neither silver nor gold will be available. Railroad magnates of the past and airline executives of today, and the bankers who hold their securities, perceive that if it is difficult to raise money for the meeting of the interest on the bonds, it will be more difficult to issue new bonds to replace maturing ones, no matter how sound and well managed the companies used to be; but the railroads then and the airlines now are mostly on the rocks. Is it any wonder that the trepidation of the financial and political princes of the earth is great, as they look into the future! Their well-grounded fears were prophesied by our Savior as one of the signs of the present time: “Men’s hearts failing them for fear and for looking after those things coming upon the earth” — the social order — and because of the shaking of the heavens, the ecclesiastical systems (Luke 21: 26) .

### **FEAR, A BLIGHT ON THE RACE**

Sin made moral cowards of our race. From early infancy fear and apprehension especially in respect to things future, have been impressed upon us. We realize that we are imperfect, that our God is perfect, that perfection is the only standard which He could approve, and that some kind of punishment for sin must be expected. The Adversary, taking advantage of our forefathers, misrepresented the Almighty, and has used our fears to alienate us from God and to distort His Message given in the Bible. St. Paul assures us that this is Satan’s general procedure; that he puts light for darkness and darkness for light. Considering Rev. 20:11 Throne prophecy, which is really one of the most beautiful and comforting in the whole Bible when understood, has to many become a lash in the hands of Satan (2 Cor. 4: 4). Our text is one of the symbolisms of a Book filled with symbols. God’s people, guided by His Holy Spirit, in due time will appreciate these symbols. For many, that due time is already here.

The Throne is Messiah’s; it represents His

Mediatorial Dominion of earth for a thousand years. Its whiteness symbolizes the purity, the justice, of His Kingdom of Righteousness under the whole heavens. The heavens and earth which will flee from the presence of the great Immanuel will not be the Heavens of God’s Throne, nor the earth which He has given to the children of men. The heavens and earth which will flee away, and for which no place will be found are the evil ones of Satan’s empire. In Bible symbology the earth represents established civilization; the sea, the restless, dissatisfied masses of humanity; and the mountains, kingdoms, human governments, which constitute the backbone of present social institutions. These symbolic heavens represent false spiritual influences—ecclesiasticism, churchianity. Interpreted in this way, our text declares that when Messiah assumes control of the world, the

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result will be that the social system of today, as well as present day ecclesiasticism will pass out of existence — no place will be found for them.

### **WHO IS REIGNING?**

Some may ask, “Has not our Lord been reigning ever since His ascension to the right hand of God for these last two thousand years before the Second Coming?” We answer, If the Redeemer has been reigning as the King of earth for over twenty centuries, there should be some indication of it in the Bible. On the contrary the Master’s own words tell us that Satan is the Prince of this Age; that Christ’s Kingdom is not of this world (age); that He will come again and receive His followers to Himself; that He went into a far country to receive title to His Kingdom and to return to take possession of it; and that at His Second Coming He will be the great King of Glory (John 14: 16, 30; 18: 36; Matt. 21: 33; 25: 14, 31).

When we scan the pages of history during the past twenty centuries, we are convinced that Messiah has not been King. To think of Him as such, with the omnipotent power we accredit to Him, would be to

charge Him with responsibility for bloody and atrocious persecutions, for wars, famine, pestilence and earthquakes and their aftermath, like the recent tsunami in southeast Asia. Surely, no right-minded person, after mature consideration, can rationally accept the theory that we have had the glorious Messianic Reign of Righteousness for the blessing of the whole world, the uplifting of humanity. No one can think that the Reign of the great Mediator is now. We must agree with our text that it is in the future; and that, when established, its effect upon present institutions—political, social, financial, religious—will be such that they will flee away; no place will be found for them. From this standpoint alone there is hope for the world. Today we are living at the turning point of civilization. Yet we behold more clearly than ever before that the deeply ingrained selfishness of humanity is a blight upon all our blessings. Selfishness is to be found everywhere. Although a semblance of righteousness is insisted upon and violators of that standard are styled criminals, nevertheless it seems impossible to legislate equity, justice. Men's keen intellects find opportunities for circumventing the laws and committing theft, murder, *etc.*, without punishment.

### THE GREAT WHITE THRONE

Neither Jehovah God nor His Representative, Messiah, can in any sense or degree be a party to injustice or inequity. The fact that injustice has been permitted, that inequity has been the rule for centuries, is to be accounted for by the fact that during all this period the world has been under the reign of Sin and Death, the reign of Satan, "the Prince of this world," and of the darkness of selfishness and evil — all of which Satan's name represents; that the world has not been under the dominion of Messiah, the Representative of Jehovah and His righteousness, and love. The New Dispensation which Messiah's Kingdom will usher in is pictured in our first text. It will be the worldwide dominion of purity, holiness, righteousness, justice, truth — a Great White Throne. No wonder we read that the symbolical heavens and earth, representing the old order of things — social, ecclesiastical — will vanish away!

But let no one think for a moment that ecclesiastical princes, financial princes and political princes will voluntarily acknowledge that the hour has come for a full surrender to Messiah and to all the principles of His absolute righteousness. On the contrary, these privileged members of our race will be more and more

drawn together for mutual protection — for the preservation of the special privileges which have come into their possession. Even now we see the prophecy of the Second Psalm fulfilling:

*Why do the nations conspire and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against His Anointed One. "Let us break their chains," they say, "and throw off their fetters" (Psa. 2: 1-3).*

We are in the very time when the Lord, through the Prophet David, calls the great ones of the earth to recognize the true situation of our wonderful day — that the Day of Messiah has arrived, and that He should be recognized and His principles of righteousness obeyed. But no! The prophecy declares that we are in the day when the people, the masses, will have foolish imaginations — when they will think that by their own strength they can inaugurate a reign of righteousness along the lines of Socialism, or by terrorism and anarchy. The people must learn that their help is in the Lord and not in their own frail arm. They must see the force of the words, "Blessed are all they that put their trust in Him" (Psa. 2: 12).

### RULERS IN COUNSEL

On the other hand, the money kings, earthly rulers and ecclesiastical princes are taking counsel together for the preservation of present inequities of the world, by which they are profiting. The Lord declares that in this they are banding themselves against Him and His newly appointed King, Messiah (Psa. 2: 2, 3). For over a century human liberty has been making progress, despite every endeavor to restrain it. Earth's potentates perceive the rising tide of human intelligence and of demands for equal rights. They perceive that unless something be done to counteract this general movement, the special advantages of the privileged classes will disappear. Even now they are taking counsel together how to break the restraints which the people are putting upon them, and how to reinaugurate a reign of autocracy and dictatorship, such as prevailed a century ago, but now a higher plane, controlled by greater knowledge, it is not possible to restrain the more intelligent masses. Would that the cultured and the influential princes of earth could take the proper view of the situation and realize the fallacy of their counsels, the impossibility of averting the great changes which are upon us by reason of the time having come for Messiah to take unto Himself His great

power and reign! Could the wise of earth realize the situation and fully submit themselves to the Divine requirements of absolute justice and truth, what a blessing it would be to the world! If these princes would turn their attention from the grasping of power and money to the enlightenment and uplifting of the people, they would become ministers of the New Dispensation, which would be ushered in with rejoicing. But the Lord informs us that this will not be the case; and that as a result Messiah's Kingdom will be ushered in by "a Time of Trouble such as was not since there was a nation" (Matt. 24: 21, 22; Dan. 12: 1)

### THE BOOKS OF JUDGMENT

God is no respecter of persons. Hence, before His Judgment Throne punishments will be meted out to small and great, when found to be violators of the principles of justice. Would that this could be impressed upon many of the lower classes who are crying out against injustice in high places, while practicing similar injustices themselves. Let it be remembered that the Great White Throne speaks blessings only to those who love righteousness and hate iniquity. The Master said, "My Word shall judge you in the Last Day." The books then to be opened will be the words of Jesus, of His Apostles and of the Prophets of old. Then all shall see the oneness of the Divine Message of righteousness, and each who would have everlasting life must conform his living and his thinking to those standards

therein contained. At the end of Messiah's Reign, those whose names will have been written in the new Book of Life will be found worthy of everlasting life; those whose names are not therein written will be destroyed in the Second Death (Rev. 20: 11-15).

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### HIS ROD AND STAFF

'Twas a wonderful lesson received from thy spirit,—  
 This grand truth to know, though a fruit of thy pain;  
 It taught thee to soar where before thou hadst groveled,  
 And the heart that had broken learned a heavenly strain.  
 O, thrice blessed sorrow that drives us to Jesus,  
 To find in his love a continuous peace—  
 A joy, that abides though all earthly hopes wither,  
 And brings from the nights of despair full release.

O, Heavenly Shepherd, how wise are thy dealings—  
 Thy thoughts far beyond human wisdom to know;  
 Thy rod and thy staff sure will guide and sustain us,  
 Held close in thy love while we tarry below.  
 So we patiently wait while we bide in the shadows,  
 Our eyes looking up through the gloom of the night—  
 Till the shadows shall lift, and the dawn of the morning,  
 Of the kingdom's full glory shall burst on our sight.

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## Items of Interest

Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice attended Sunday Church services while in communist China, sending a message to the country's leaders that the United States takes religious freedom seriously and expects other nations to do the same.—*Religion Today*

A Federal judge in Nebraska strikes down a state amendment barring same-sex marriage or civil unions, nullifying a Nebraska measure passed by 70 percent of voters in 2000.— *worldnetdaily.com*

Judge Linda Pearce Prestly has ruled that same -sex "marriages" preformed in Massachusetts are not valid in Connecticut. Spokesman for The Liberty Counsel said, that Judge Prestly's ruling establishes a strong court precedent for other states across America that are now wrestling with or will eventually confront similar

cases in involving same-sex "marriage."—*Agape Press*

The Mormons are the fastest growing church in United States. They had a growth rate of 1.71 percent compared to the Roman Catholic Church's 1.28 percent in 2004. The Roman Catholic Church remains number one among Christian religions with 67 million members; (2) The Southern Baptist Convention with 16.4 million; (3) The United Methodist Church with 8.2 million, U.S. members; (4) The Mormons (Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints) has 5.5 million members pushing The Church of God into fifth place with their membership being 5.4 million.

The report goes on to say, "The figures continue to look bleak for the country's mainline Protestant churches, who have been overtaken by the Mormons."—*Baptist Today* \*\*\*



# One Lawgiver and Judge



*There is one lawgiver,  
who is able to save and to destroy;  
who are you to judge another.” James 4: 12”*

There are two standpoints from which we will consider our text. The first is the Lawgiver and the second the Judge. There have been lawgivers among men from the beginning of time. Some time ago a code of laws from the time of King Hammurabi, who lived before Abraham's time, were found. There are 280 laws given in that code. Then we have the laws given to Israel through Moses. Solomon was another lawgiver. He had studied much from the Athenian law and made from them a code, which he gave to the people. The Pharisees had a very great system of rules and laws in the Talmud. They were so detailed that they made those who tried to keep them mere machines. There were also other lawgivers such as Justinian, Charlemagne, and Napoleon. We find that there have been many lawgivers, but every one of them was unable to bring about the desired results. Their efforts are commendable, when we consider the weakness of the fallen man. Some of the laws were cruel, and incited the people. One of the greatest difficulties in these systems of laws is that there were so many of them, which in itself is a sign of their weakness.

Our Heavenly Father is a much different Lawgiver. His law is simply an expression of His character. He is a self-originating Lawgiver. He is a wonderful Lawgiver in that He is the acme of perfection in every grace. This is why he is better than all others. God has given all his creatures, who are free moral agents, the same inclinations etc., as He has, and has surcharged their hearts with His law. This is a part of God's image in his creatures. Every grace was given in a nutshell, and no affection was lacking in the hearts of His perfect creation. Gradually this law became obliterated in the hearts of men. Instead of developing the graces, the disgraces were developed, but nevertheless no one has ever been born without affection organs, although they are depraved in all cases, some more and some less. There is a mixture in the hearts of fallen

men, they in most cases having little of this grace, and a little of another, a little of this disgrace, and a little of another. It is some thing like ore, which is mixed metal and alloy.

At the time of Moses the law was becoming obliterated to a great extent in the hearts of men and so they were given the laws on the tables of stone, and some on parchment, i.e., the ceremonial ordinances etc. During the Gospel Age God has undertaken to rewrite His law in the hearts of men, but only of the Spirit-begotten particularly during the time of their calling. Since 1878 He has been doing it in the hearts and minds of others, who will be of the Youthful Worthy class Joel 2:28. In the Millennial Age the law of God will be rewritten in the hearts of men in general. If we consider it, how much different is the law of God than human laws.

The word law is used in different senses, (1) The whole Bible as we can see from Psa. 119:97 “Oh, How I love your law, it is my meditation all the day,” (This means more than only the Ten Commandments) and also (2) the effect that the law has upon the heart, (a) duty love to God and (b) duty love to the neighbor. When we look at Matt. 22: 37-39 we can see this to be true. “You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind..” With all the graces, affections and will in this all embracing sense, includes every expression of our hearts going out in duty love to God, or piety. There is no grace which cannot be included with duty love to God. “You shall love your neighbor as yourself.” In this, the second sense, we have another all embracing picture. There is no expression of duty love to man that is lacking. If these two simple rules are followed, there is no need for any law aside from them as far as human beings are concerned. This is one of the proofs of the Divine inspiration of the Bible. If we had nothing else in the Bible to show it, we would be led by these two rules to the conclusion that it is of Divine origin. Let us admire, appreciate and adore the great Jehovah for being such a wonderful Lawgiver.

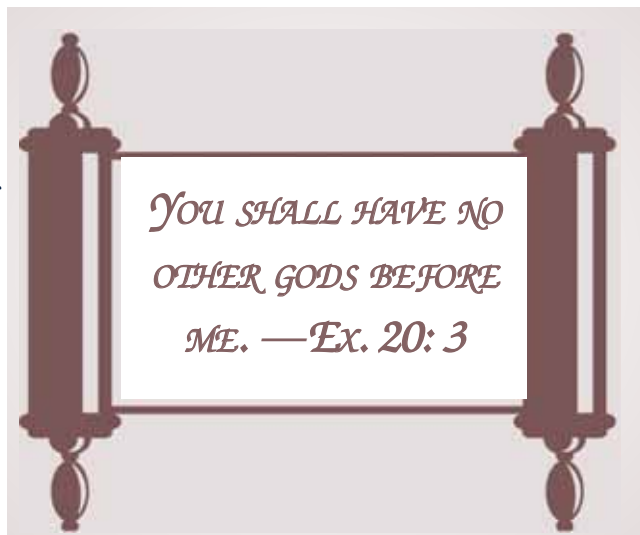


God has another kind of law. This is the law of Christ. Christ is not the originator of this law, even though it is called the law of Christ. It is the law of disinterested love. It is not duty love like the other, but is love, which is based on delight in good principles, a holy pleasure in the Truth and the principles of the Truth. The restitution class will not be put under this law. Only the spirit-begotten are under this law. The Youthful Worthies and the Consecrated Epiphany Campers are not required to perform it but should seek to develop this kind of love. Only in the Millennial Age will they actually be put under it as a law. God is also the lawgiver of this higher kind of law. If He would have no disinterested love He would have never given His Son for us. This was the highest expression of disinterested love that ever was made. He also shows disinterested love in the uses He makes of the Body of Christ for sacrificial purposes, and in a certain sense of the Ancient and Youthful Worthies, and also the cleansed Great Company. None deserve admiration so much as our God. He says in Num. 18:20, "I am your portion and inheritance." If we think of this and have our hearts in attunement with God we are sure to receive a blessing. We do not mean that there were not any other lawgivers. The thing is that He alone is able to save and to destroy. This is the uniqueness of our God.

He alone is able to save, the word *able* here carrying the thought of willing as well as able. He is willing to have all come into harmony with Him if they come in the way He has provided. That is why He has made a great plan of salvation. On the other hand He has the ability to destroy, and will do so in the case of the willfully wicked. If some have been given a full opportunity to come into harmony with Him and then violate the Spirit of grace they will be destroyed. They would make others as well as themselves unhappy throughout eternity if permitted to live on, and this is out of harmony with the thought that sin will be wiped out. Some teach that the devil will be saved and hence agree with Universalism. It is only a shallow delusion and makes God coerce our free will and will not change His Plan for the benefit of a few shallow thinkers called Universalists.

God is also a Judge. In human arrangements,

we have different forms of judging, and also different things connected with it. We have grand juries, prosecuting attorneys, etc., in our judgment courts. At best these courts are imperfect and often unjust. Some are also to be commended for they have sought to do the best they could. Many of our judges have been very poor reasoners. We are reminded of a case which we recently heard of in which the prosecuting attorney told the judge that he had six witnesses which saw the defendant commit the crime of which he was accused. The defense attorney, knowing that the judge was a poor reasoner, got up and said, "Your Honor, I have twelve witnesses to prove that the defendant is not guilty." The judge, reasoning that twelve witnesses were more than six, dismissed the case. This is reported to be an actual court case. Some of the judges were too severe. There was in England some time ago a judge named Jeffreys who was given the work of punishing the non-conformists. Of those who came before him were such characters as John Bunyan, Butler, and Richard Baxter, the last named being one of the noblest characters of his time and a Little Flock member, we believe. This judge wanted to have Baxter lashed, dragged through the streets of the town and then imprisoned for an indefinite time, simply because he would not join the Episcopal Church. Others intervened in time to prevent the lashing,



which would perhaps have killed him, for he was a man of 78 at the time. God has without doubt a better kind of court and judgment, and he cannot be bribed as the earthly judges sometimes are. We had a case of this recently when the ninth highest judge in the United States was proven guilty of accepting bribes. We see the judgment of God in many ways, as in the case of Adam and Eve, the Israelites, and the New Creation. His judgment is in perfect harmony with His duty love and his disinterested love. He is the Judge of all. Some are judged under the Sarah covenant, others under the Oath-bound, and still others will be judged under the New Covenant, during the Millennial trial. I think every one of the Ancient and Youthful Worthies will prove overcomers in their Millennial trial. Not that they could not fall but that they will not fall because of the faithfulness which they developed during their trial for

Princeship. "No man can pluck them out of the Father's hand."

So my brethren, this is a wonderful Lawgiver and Judge. Those who come to know Him need not dread Him, but should love and praise Him, for He is certainly praiseworthy. Let us always honor and praise Him as the one who is able to save and to destroy. Amen. \*\*\*

*O LOVE divine, that stooped to share  
Our sharpest pang, our bitterest tear!  
On thee we cast each earthborn care,  
Feeling at rest while thou art near.*

## ISRAEL'S EXPERIENCES TYPICAL

— Judges 2: 1-19 —

*I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely — Hosea 14: 4*

**T**ODAY'S STUDY tells us of the death of Joshua, who became the leader of the Israelites at the death of Moses. He was a worthy example of faithfulness to God among the Jewish people. Under Divine direction he divided the land of Palestine among the twelve tribes of Israel, giving each one their portion with the understanding that their portion was a gift of Jehovah, and that the more obedience observed the more quickly would the tribe enter into its inheritance.

The Israelites were admonished by the Lord through an angel, especially sent as God's representative, that they should speedily take possession of the land, driving out their enemies, destroying their idols and altars of worship, and thus conquering the entire country for themselves as God's people and ridding themselves and their children of all idolatrous and immoral worship. But instead of doing this to completion, they made leagues with the various heathen peoples that inhabited the land, and brought themselves into a fraternizing relationship. This disobedience to Divine command proved to be a serious snare.

In studying the history of Israel, we are to remember that the Apostle tells us those things were allegorical (1 Corinthians 10: 11). They were true, they were real occurrences for Israel of the Jewish Age; but their chief object and purpose, from God's standpoint, was to illustrate certain great truths for God's people of the Gospel and Millennial Ages "they are written for our admonition." These truths have been fulfilled in the Gospel Church primarily but also for others of the consecrated to the present. Therefore,

when we accept Jesus as our personal Savior and consecrate, we enter upon a new life which from then on is under the controllership of our New Heart, Mind and Will, preparing ourselves for our place in the Kingdom. This corresponds to the Israelites crossing the Jordan River — dying to old aims and interests and entering into the new promised inheritance (Canaan). Under the leadership of Jesus, our Joshua, we have entered into this new life as a Christian.

We then learn as God's people to conquer the perverted appetites of our minds and bodies, which correspond to the idolatrous peoples who resided in Canaan. So it is the duty of the "new man" to drive out the sinful hopes, ambitions, weaknesses, perversions, and all oppositions to the Lord and His righteousness. If the work of extermination is carried out thoroughly, the result will be a well developed character, strong in the Lord, full of faith, obedience, joy, peace and blessing

However, like the Israelites of old, the tendency of the Lord's people is to make a truce with their own improper developments and fleshly weaknesses. We through lack of perseverance in well doing are unsuccessful in our attempts to drive these out, and fail to overthrow the altars of degraded passion, avarice, etc. These weaknesses and depravities of the flesh for a time cower before the Christian, entreating mercy, patience and a measure of gratification. But so surely as these are granted, the result is that the passions and weaknesses become thoroughly entrenched and we as children of God are often worsted in the conflict, and then must cry to the Lord for deliver-

ance, lest we perish before the onslaught of our own misdevelopment of character. In this way, the lives of many Christians are a succession of conflicts and defeats—captivities. The battle should have been fought out at first. The will should have been fixed firmly on the side of righteousness, truth, and obedience to God.

It is difficult to determine how many of the Lord's people suffer as a result of not being firm enough, and rigorous enough in their dealings with their own flesh, especially at the beginning of their Christian experiences. The only remedy is to cry unto the Lord as the Israelites did when they found themselves hard pressed. As the Lord delivered them, so He is willing to deliver all of His Spiritual Israelites.

It is certainly a shame for Christians that their defeats are so numerous, as it was a shame to the Israelites that, during the period of the Judges, they were eighteen times oppressed by their enemies—slaves when they should have been in control. The one great lesson of all this to the Jews and to Christian people is the lesson of God's mercy, as expressed in our text. The Lord is very gracious, willing to forgive our trespasses and to assist us when we realize our wrong condition and appeal for help. "I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely."

### **JOSHUA'S WISE EXHORTATION**

The Book of Joshua closes with the account of his death, and the Book of Judges begins with incidents covering the same period. When Joshua realized that his work was done and that he was about to be gathered to his fathers — to sleep with his fathers in death — he called the Israelites together, and reminded them of the Lord's mercies and manifest favors in bringing them this far and finally giving to each tribe the allotment of its inheritance in the Promised Land. Then he warned them respecting the dangers of the situation, the necessity for being separate from the people of the land—Gentiles; otherwise the tendency would be toward idolatry. He urged upon all a full settlement of the mind, the will, on the side of the Lord and against all the heathen religious influence. It was then that he took his stand and announced, "Choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve . . . But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord" (Joshua 24: 15). The others joined with him in the same resolve.

Our lesson tells us that all the days of Joshua, and the days of the others of the judges, who outlived Joshua, things went well with the Israelites. They had

the Lord's blessing and were prosperous. These leaders had in mind the Lord's wonderful dealings, and realized the importance of being on the Lord's side, if they would have His blessing. The idolatries that came in were subsequent.

### **HEATHEN INFLUENCE**

The true God has always prohibited idols, while the false gods have usually been represented by idols. The idols, according to faulty human reasoning, would appear to be a way of keeping religion before the mind; but it was not God's way, and hence was not acceptable. As the Israelites noted the idolatrous worship of their neighbors, they doubtless felt that the latter were religious, because of this outward demonstration.

Moreover, these heathen forms of worship contained various licentious practices, which influenced the Israelites to do evil through the weaknesses of their flesh. The true God, on the contrary, had instituted for them a worship which was pure in itself, in every way condemning sin, pointing out the necessity for its cancellation and the need for drawing near to God in the way of His appointment. In a word, the true religion appealed to the highest and noblest sentiments, while the false religions of the Canaanites appealed to the baser passions, combining a form of godliness with gratification of the sinful flesh, such as suggestive and sensual dancing and immoral conduct.

But as for the Christian who condemns the Israelites very severely for wandering off, time and again, into the idolatries of their heathen neighbors and requiring to be punished by the Lord that they might turn again and seek the Lord in the right way—let us as Christians remember the antitype—how various forms of godlessness are inclined to take the place of true heart-worship, and reverence; and how some are inclined to justify themselves and attempt to appear to be in accordance with the Divine will through sin. We notice that many today worship the "golden calf" more than they worship God. Fornication, homosexuality, adultery and like sins bring a falling from grace and requiring chastisements time and again to correct them, to awaken them to their real condition (Rom. 1: 24-32). Let them remember, too, that so-called Christians have made idols equally as hideous as any made by the heathen — not idols of stone or wood or bronze, but abominable misrepresentations of the Divine character — the printed creeds inspired by dark age errors that dishonor God's character claiming that He is the Author of eternal torment, immortality of

the soul, and consciousness of the dead, *etc.*

Judges 2: 16-20 and its connections seem to indicate that the record of our lesson covers a long period of centuries of Israel's experiences, under many judges. When they repented, the Lord raised up judges, or, as we say, deliverers, through whom their adversities would be corrected. Yet even these repeated experiences did not deeply enough impress the great lesson, so that they needed to learn their lessons over and over. When the judge would bring them back from their adversities, and they would have rest for some years during his lifetime, it was merely to fall away after his death. Nevertheless, the Lord's Covenant was with the nation. The centuries since have shown the persistency of God's mercy.

### GOD'S FAVOR RETURNING TO ISRAEL

As we have previously pointed out, the Bible indicates clearly that Israel's lessons of oppression were while they were under the rule of the Gentile nations. This was especially so in Europe during the periods of 1914-1918 and 1939-1945. The period of chastisement, twenty-five hundred and twenty years long, began where the crown was taken from King Zedekiah, B.C. 607 (Ezekiel 21:25-27). They were not an independent nation in all those twenty-five hundred and twenty years and did not assume national status until May 14, 1948. As the Lord declared, Zedekiah was the last of the line of David who should reign until Messiah's Kingdom would be established. The end of Gentile Times, then, indicates that Messiah's Kingdom is already in progress. Everywhere we see manifestations that He as the great Judge is taking over the affairs of the world, and that Israel's final deliverance is at hand, although there has been much chastisement on Israel and much more is in the offing in "Jacob's Trouble."

Spiritual Israel (the Church) has been the first to be delivered by the glorious "change" in the First

Resurrection. Thus God's Spiritual Empire has been established with the addition of the Great Multitude (Rev. 7: 9-17). This great event and the incidental Time of Trouble, now in progress, will be the introduction and the exaltation of the leaders of Natural Israel to be the earthly rulers of the Kingdom. These will be the Ancient Worthies from among the Hebrew people — Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and all the Prophets. Israel as a nation, delivered from Gentile domination, will nevertheless get their blessing through their acceptance of the Kingdom arrangements, which includes the thought that their eyes of understanding will open and that they will recognize their Messiah as the great King.

Therefore, it is written that they that pierced Him shall look upon Him and mourn because of a realization that they crucified the Prince of Life (Zech. 12: 10). Nevertheless they will have a great blessing, in proportion as they seek conscientiously to serve God and the principles of His righteousness. Then the Lord will pour upon them the spirit of prayer and supplication, in connection with which they will have so great a blessing (Zechariah 12:10). And this blessing of the Lord, coming upon Israel first, means also the eventually blessing through them of the entire world.

All who realize that the Times of the Gentiles have ended, should be looking for and cooperating with the further steps of the Divine Plan. One of these is Israel's possession and the control of Palestine. The time is ripe; Israel since 1948 has been recognized as a nation in a small portion of Palestine. Through God's overruling providences all of Palestine will eventually pass into the possession of the Jews.

\* \* \*

## ISRAEL'S HOPE—REVEALED

When we look at Israel of the past and its national birth in 1948 how could anyone have perceived the Jew of today? Threatened militarily and by economic boycott from without, vastly outnumbered by sworn enemies and with her allies wavering in their support, torn by political, religious and ethnic factions within, her internal economy in a whirling inflationary spiral—yet God's chosen are here to stay.

It is only those who are enlightened by the

prophetic word that could envision Israel in its present state and for its future chief position among the nations of earth. This foresight was first outlined by Pastor Russell in his writings previous to 1904 and it included the ultimate hope of the whole world of mankind. This great hope for Israel is exemplified in the word—Zionism (Micah 4: 2, 3; Psa. 48: 2).  
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### ISRAEL'S RETURN

**Q** Please explain just what is meant by "Israel's Return"?

**A** By Israel, the Bible means the Jewish people (John 4: 22; Matt. 10: 5, 6; 15: 24). And it sets forth two lines of thought connected with their return: (1) their return to their land, and (2) their return to God's favor. Let us first consider (1): The events that preceded their return to their land are their dispersion among all nations and their persecutions, both during the Dark Ages and in more recent times. Their dispersion throughout the Gospel Age in many lands was forecast in many texts among which is Jer. 16: 13-16 "Therefore will I cast you out of this land into a land that you do not know, neither you nor your fathers; and there you shall serve other gods day and night, where I will not show you favor. . . but, The LORD lives who brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north and from all the lands where He had driven them. For I will bring them back into their land which I gave to their fathers." The desolation of their land and cities was forecast in among other places Amos 7: 9—"The high places of Isaac shall be desolate, And the sanctuaries of Israel be laid waste. I will rise with the sword against the House of Jeroboam." These prophecies have had an abundant fulfillment. Until recently, the land has been practically bereft of the Israelites, its fertility has been greatly diminished and it has been desolate. The inducements to Israel's returning to their land are their religion, their patriotism, their persecutions in various countries, their need of a place where they can dwell in safety, the awakening of national consciousness, the returning fertility of the land and the resumption of business there. We see it becoming an actuality, in part due to the individual and collective initiative manifested

by the Jewish people in Israel, *e.g.*, in their colonization and collective immigration. Many prophecies point to this great work. (Jer. 16: 14-18; 30: 4-8, 18-22; 31: 4-14).

These Scriptures cannot refer to their return from Babylon, for it is therein called the return from the North country, while Babylon is east of Palestine. The predicted seven times (7x360 years) or 2520 years' punishment (Lev. 26: 18, 21, 24, 28), lasted from 607 B. C. to 1914 A.D. Since then there has been an ever increasing activity influencing the Jews to return to Palestine. Even as far back as the 1890's political Zionism began to motivate their numbers to return to the land, and their return is progressing rapidly. Secondly, we consider Israel's return to the Lord's favor. The cause for their loss of the Lord's favor was their stubbornness and pride, culminating in their rejection of Christ. In Lev. 26: 14-45 Moses gave a remarkable prophecy of the punishments that God forecast as coming upon them for their violations of His covenant. Many other passages also indicate their loss of the Lord's favor. However, their blindness and disfavor were not to continue forever, according to Isa. 40: 1, 2; Rom. 11: 25-32). In harmony with these prophecies, and the fact that we are living in the time to expect their fulfillment, we find Israel's blindness and prejudice against Jesus passing away; whereas Jews formerly were very bitter against Jesus, many of them now regard Him as one of their greatest prophets. We find the New Testament translated into Hebrew being circulated among the Jews; There is much non-sectarian evangelism being used to awaken them to recognition of their mistake in rejecting Jesus, and also in helping them to see that He is the Messiah foretold in the Old Testament. The glorious results of Israel's return to the Lord's favor are shown in Rom. 11: 12, 15, 16; Ezek. 16: 46-63.

## TWELVE TRIBES OF ISRAEL JUDGED

**Q** Jesus promised the Apostles in Matt. 19: 28 that in the regeneration they would sit with Him judging the twelve tribes of Israel.

When was this fulfilled?

**A** Some claim that it was fulfilled in A.D. 70 which is apparently not correct, for the regeneration of the world occurs after our Lord's Second Coming during the time of the Restitution process. Jesus stated that the judging of Israel would take place "when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of his glory," and this is during His Second Presence when all nations, including the twelve tribes, shall be gathered before the throne of His glory for their final judgment (Matt. 25: 31, 32; Rev. 20: 1-6). This is Scripturally styled the 1000 years' reign of Christ with the 144,000—the Church. But notice that this presupposes that the Church Class including the Apostles have all finished their earthly sojourn and are with their Lord in their heavenly office of judging, not only the twelve tribes but the whole human race, who in God's due time, will have been awakened from the tomb in this time of regeneration or restitution process (Acts 3: 19-21; John 5: 28).

## KING OG—GIANT

**Q** How do we understand the statement in Deut. 3: 11 that "only Og king of Bashan remained of the remnant of giants;"? Does this mean that some of the giants of Noah's day survived the flood?

**A** At first thought one might jump to that conclusion but according to Gen. 7: 21-24 "all flesh died . . . All in whose nostrils was the breath of life. . . .And Noah only remained alive, and they that were with him in the ark." Therefore, there were no giants (nephilim—the offspring of the fallen angels with the daughters of men) who survived Noah's flood.

When Moses wrote in Deut. 3: 11 that only Og remained of the remnant of giants (rephaim) he was not referring to the giants (nephilim) of Noah's day but to the giants that existed after the flood in Abraham's time, the Emims, Anakims and Zamzummins of Gen. 14: 5. These were defeated by Chedorlaomer

king of Elam, supported by other kings 14: 1) and in turn this group of nations was defeated by Abraham when he freed Lot and his household. We also know of the 9' 8" Philistine, Goliath, who was killed by David (1 Sam. 17: 4). So, there were many tribes of very large people (giants) who existed after the flood.

## NOAH AND FAMILY LEAVE THE ARK

**Q** I understand that Noah's Ark where in the eight human souls and the clean and unclean animals entered in and were saved from the flood of waters which represented the saving power of the Abrahamic Covenant whereby the four elect classes, and the and the quasi-elect and the non-elect will ultimately be saved from the Adamic curse. What is typed by Noah and his family accompanied by the animals leaving the ark?

**A** It seems that the period of time in the anti-type would be at the end of the 1, 000 years and progressing further to the end of the Little Season and entering on to the threshold of "ages to come" when the tested and faithful Restitutionists, the sheep class will have secured for themselves eternal life and human perfection.

It is at this time also that the four elect classes together with the Quasi-elect of which the highest class among them being the Consecrated Epiphany Campers will have reached the jumping off point to the ages of perfection and eternity.

\* \* \*

*The Bible Standard welcomes Bible questions. Although not all correspondence can be published, readers' questions and opinions are appreciated. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters for brevity and clarity. Mail to: Bible Standard, Question Box, 1156 St. Matthews Rd., Chester Springs, PA 19425*

*I'll walk this day, O Lord, with Thee;  
And then, if more days come to me,  
I'll fight their battles valiantly,  
Because I walked this day with Thee.*

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Greetings!

I recently read quite a few of your tracts and find them excellent and scriptural. Praise our Lord and Savior for using your ministry to share these precious truths with us.

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Dear Sirs:

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from the text, the set-apart, the Holy Bible. The Bible doctrine, teaching, not man's doctrine, man's teaching.

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\* \* \*

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## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BIBLE STANDARD CHANGE IN 2005

*The Bible Standard* will be published every other month in 2005, with the hope to resume it as a monthly in 2006. The subscription price will remain at \$12.00 for 12 issues — six issues in 2005 continuing into 2006 to complete 12 issues.

### GENERAL CONVENTIONS FOR 2005

#### *At-a-glance*

**France:** *at Barlin*, July 29-31, November 5-6

**Germany:** *Altleiningen*, October 14-16

**Nigeria:** *Umunkiri*, September 25; *Aba, Abia State*, November 25-27; *Agbado, Ogun State*, August 5-7

**Poland:** *Bydgoszcz*, July 8-10; *Lodz*, July 11-13; *Krakow*, July 14-16; *Susiec*, July 14-16; *Wroclaw*, August 26-28

**Ukraine:** *Lvov*, August 19-21

**United Kingdom:** *Hyde*, August 5-7; *Sheffield*, October 29, 30

**United States:** *Ohio*, July 22-24; *Illinois*, September 23-25.

**Please note: All United States conventions will conclude after the first (morning) session on the final day of the convention.**

#### *Details*

### United States

*Ohio*, July 22-24 (Friday-Sunday)

*Site:* The Ohio University Inn, 331 Richland Avenue, Athens OH 45701; telephone (740) 589-3705. *Room rate:* \$77.00+tax. Make reservations through the hotel - mention the LHMM. If you need transportation contact the Athens/Nelsonville Class secretary: Mrs. Karen Brown, 7491 Crooks Rd. SW, Lancaster, OH 43130, phone: (740) 969-3717

*Chicago*, September 23-25 (Friday-Sunday)

*Site:* Holiday Inn, 3405 Algonquin Rd., Rolling Meadows, Illinois 60008; telephone (847)259-5000. *Rates and reservations:* \$65.00 (+10.64%=\$71.92) for up to four people per room. Reservations should be made direct with the hotel by August 30. *Be sure to mention you are attending the LHMM Convention to obtain the discount rate.* If you need limousine service from the airport please telephone the Holiday Inn from baggage claim; hotel courtesy shuttles depart from the Bus/Shuttle Center across from terminal 2. Make all other inquiries to the class secretary: Mrs. Audrey Hammer, 1702 Highland Ave. Arlington Heights, IL 60005

### SERVICES BY VISITING MINISTERS

#### **Ralph Herzig**

Ohio Convention, July 22-24; Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **Richard Blaine**

Ohio Convention, July 22-24; Cleveland, GA September 17;  
Marietta, GA, September 18; Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **Robert Herzig**

New Haven, CT, August 21; Chester Springs, PA, October 16;  
Boston, MA, October 23

#### **John Wojnar**

Ohio Convention, July 22-25; Boston, MA, September 25;  
Springfield, MA, October 2

#### **Leon Snyder**

Ohio Convention, July 22-25; Illinois Convention, September 23-25; . . .  
Minneapolis, MN, October 15, 16

#### **Baron Duncan**

Springfield, MA, August 7; Pittsfield, MA, October 9

#### **Thomas Cimbura**

Ohio Convention, July 22-24; Chicago, Illinois, August 20, 21;  
Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **John Detzler**

Athens/Nelsonville, OH, July 20; Ohio Convention, July 22-24;  
Broomfield, CO, July 31; Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **Donald Lewis**

Ohio Convention July 22-24; Grand Rapids, MI, August 13;  
Muskegon, MI, August 14; Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **James Shaw**

Ohio Convention, July 22-24; Dallas, TX, September 3;  
Jacksboro, TX, September 4; Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **Jack Zilch**

Ohio Convention, July 22-24; Illinois Convention, September 23-25

#### **Robert Steenrod**

Ohio Convention, July 22-24; Derry, PA, August 28; Illinois  
Convention, September 23-25

### Evangelists' Services

**Robert Branconnier**, Pittsfield, MA, August 14; New York  
City, NY, September 18; New Haven, CT, October 16

**Jon Hanning**, Chickamaugh, GA, July 8, 9; Marietta, GA, July  
10,13; Cleveland, GA; July 14-16; North Canton, OH,  
September 18

**David Lounsbury**, Reidsville, NC, July 2; New York City, NY,  
October 16

**Walter Markiewicz**, Moscow, ID, July 9,10; Spokane, WA,  
August 6, 7

**Richard Pigune**, Mustang, OK, August 14; Independence, KS  
October 23

**William Sturges**, Cambridge Springs, PA, September 11;  
Cincinnati, OH, October 9

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