

# THE BEREAN WATERS OF SHILOAH

No. 2

*“O Yahweh, you are my God; I will exalt you; I will praise your name, for you have done wonderful things, plans formed of old, faithful and sure.” (Isaiah 25:1)*

## Contents:

	Pg
Letter from the editor - - - - -	1
Intelligence – The Ambassador of the Coming Age July 1864 - - -	2
Inscribing the fleshly tables of the heart - - - - -	2
Be Ye Transformed “The Mind of Christ” by bro. Growcott - - - -	4
John Thomas and his Rediscovery of Bible Truth - - - - -	7
Dr Thomas and his Mission - - - - -	8
A Word in Season - - - - -	8
“What Riches Shall I have?” - - - - -	17

*“To the teaching and to the testimony! If they will not speak according to this word, it is because they have no light in them.” (Isaiah 8:20)*



# **Berean waters of Shiloah**

## **No.2**

Dear brethren and sisters in Christ Jesus scattered throughout PNG and in the Philippines. May Yahweh's grace mercy and truth continue to comfort you all as we await the restoring again of God's kingdom to Israel as spoken of by all his holy prophets and apostles.

As we write the world is still greatly afflicted by COVID-19 and its associated economic, political and social disruptions. We have heard that the worrying outbreak of the pandemic in Port Moresby has continued to accelerate, although contact with our brethren in the POM reassured us that the population has not been as severely affected as in other parts of the world. The brethren there wondered why that is the case and our answer to them first and foremost is, because Yahweh wills it to be so. There is no doubt that this plague from Yahweh has disproportionately affected some countries. The United States of America, with only approximately 4% of the world population, has to date incurred more than a fifth of the reported COVID-19 deaths around the world (John Hopkins University). This is God's outstretched arm at this critical time for very specific reasons. Nonetheless epidemiologists have warned that the worldwide pandemic which originated in the United States in 1918 inflicted the South Pacific last of all, but when it did come, it was very serious. As we have previously mentioned this virus greatly complicates medical preconditions and may cause long lasting burdens especially where your health system struggles to manage existing needs.

In the midst of all these concerns we have stayed in contact with our brethren who at present are working in Port Moresby. This week we sent some 600 pamphlets on various gospel subjects to them, along with copies of the key lessons and some Bibles for their efforts to preach the gospel among interested friends. Bre. Hicksy, David and Timon work together wonderfully, encouraging one another in the work of the gospel proclamation, and we are very thankful to our loving heavenly Father for such brethren in their devoted service among their fellow countrymen and women.

We also have been in contact with bro. Matthew in Mount Hagen who likewise continues to preach the truth along with bro. Keen among their family, friends and villages. In Lae bro. Kumo informs us that the brethren gather at the ecclesial block, and bro. Nelson who has had to leave the Aiyura area because of tribal fighting, has joined the brethren in Lae, and has greatly supported our brethren who have in turn spoken of his faithful ministrations.

After a long disruption to the postal service we have been informed that we are once again able to send items to the Philippines. Sis. Sharon has promptly posted material to bro. Manares, but again we will have to see how the reliability of the newly opened postal system in that country will cope with the back log of mail. Bro Manares has requested some further copies of the key lessons which we will send on confirmation that he has in fact received the smaller package of items just posted to him.

We are well aware that in addition to the ongoing concerns with this pandemic, there also remain the daily struggles and hardships which is the lot of many of our brethren and sisters. Beyond this there are also personal problems which are often shared with us. Such occasions provide opportunity to discuss how we have been able to draw on the word of God and its power, to put into perspective the disappointments, inconsistencies and frailties of our response under prolonged trial. None the less this forms a necessary part of the moulding and cleansing process we all have to experience. The divine aim is to produce “*vessels for honourable use, set apart as holy, useful to the master of the house, ready for every good work,*” “*in order to make known the riches of his glory for vessels of mercy, which he has prepared beforehand for glory*” (2 Timothy 2:21; Romans 9:22).

Let us remember the example of the apostle Paul, who suffered for Christ beyond any of his contemporaries, leaving us an example to follow:

*“I count everything as loss because of the surpassing worth of **knowing Christ Jesus my Lord.** For his sake I have suffered the loss of all things and count them as rubbish, in order that I may gain Christ and be **found in him**, not having a righteousness of my own that comes from the law, but that which comes through faith in Christ, **the righteousness from God that depends on faith**—that I may **know him and the power of his resurrection**, and may share his sufferings, **becoming like him in his death**, that by any means possible I may attain the resurrection from the dead”* (Philippians 3:8-11).

---

## **Intelligence – The Ambassador of the Coming Age July 1864**

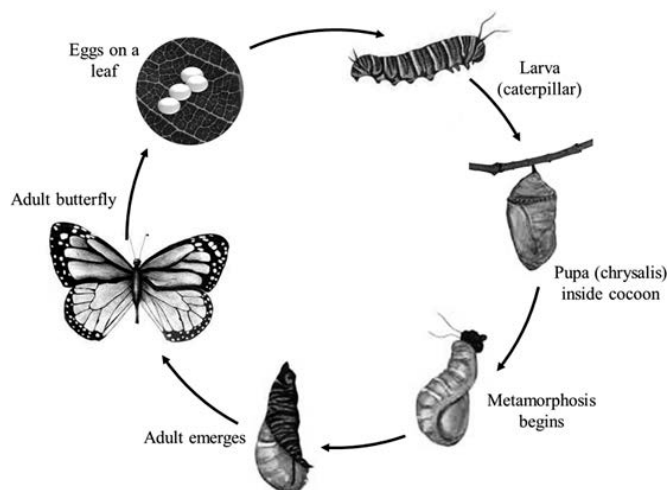
“Fellow feeling is a powerful instinct, and in none more so than among the brethren of Christ, who, in the proper development of their relation, love each other much. Hence their mutual fortunes have a powerful mutual interest; and if tempered with the proper ‘manner of spirit’ pertaining to their high calling, the interchange is profitable and encouraging. This is the apology, if apology be needed, for introducing a social column into a periodical more particularly devoted to the demonstration of the truth. Brethren in intercourse do not confine themselves to the doctrinal. The doctrinal is but the basis of their loves and hopes personally developed. So while wielding the broad sword of the spirit, we may be permitted in the intervals of attack, to step aside for a little to taste the enjoyment resulting from a contemplation of the truth in external and socialistic manifestation”. Editor – R Roberts

---

## **Inscribing the fleshly tables of the heart**

At the end of this edition of the Berean Water of Shiloah’s “A Word in season” we speak of “Preparing for Christ”. The secret we suggest is to get the gospel, which is the power of God, out

of our Bibles and into our minds. In Yahweh’s wonderful creation we observe the most exquisite thought provoking enacted parable in the transformation from caterpillar to butterfly. This complete metamorphosis partitions the immature caterpillar’s growing stage from the adults which inhabit a completely different world. A “new creature” is transformed from a nondescript cylindrical eating machine, by God’s creative power into a beautiful flying creature; **so is the birth of the spirit.**



The vision of the kingdom of God and the divine means through Christ crucified and resurrected to participate in “What no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man imagined” is arresting indeed. Like Moses who was caused by Yahweh’s grace to “turn aside” to understand a great sight – the bush burning with fire and not consumed, symbolising **immortality in one who was a root out of dry ground**, we too are attracted to this great sight. We are drawn in wonder to one who was despised and rejected of men, but now the risen Lord who is indestructible, and the promise of eternal life through him, that “*after you have suffered for a little while, the God of all grace, who has **called you to his eternal glory in Christ**, will confirm, strengthen and establish you*” (1 Peter 5:10). The vision of divine glory that Moses witnessed in the wilderness of Sinai was but the beginning; **a calling to him to apply himself** to what that vision of eternal life manifested in that root out of dry ground conveyed. In our curiosity and enthusiasm to apply ourselves, we should be like the nondescript caterpillar eating machine devouring the word of God. Particularly when we are young we do so without the divine purpose being clearly formed in our minds.

The teachings of Christ are designed to purify and sanctify when its principles are adopted wholeheartedly as **a way of life**. The mind is renewed daily by the consumption of the word, and more importantly, by the assimilation of the divine mind which leads to a transformation of the individual – a transformation which the apostle Paul describes as “from glory to glory”. The old man, old self, is put off; “*the new self, created after the likeness of God to righteousness and holiness*” is formed, “*created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand, that we should walk in them*”(Ephesians 4:24; 2:10). The character transformed is therefore by this spirit process prepared for an abiding place in the kingdom of God. This birth of the spirit (John 3) can be achieved only through the formative influence

of **the word of God** — that transforming spirit which makes one a partaker of the divine nature. Bro. Thomas in Elpis Israel states:

“In the mental constitution of man, God designed that the sentiments (the feelings which wondrously produce hope, reverence, kindness, faith and love) **enlightened by His truth, should have the ascendancy, and preside over, and govern his actions.** Under such an arrangement, the **thoughts** of the man would have resulted from **spiritual thinking** as opposed to the thoughts of the inferior creatures, which are purely the thinking of the flesh (or carnal mind). Where **the truth has possession of the sentiments**, setting them to work and so forming the thoughts, **it** (the Truth no longer in the abstract but as a power in us to bring about a remarkable metamorphosis) becomes the law of God to them; which the apostle styles "**the Law of his mind**"; and because **it is written there** through the hearing of "the law and the testimony", which came to the prophets and apostles through the spirit, he terms it, "**the law of the spirit**" (Rom. 7:23; 8:2) **inscribed "on fleshy tables of the heart"** (2 Cor. 3:3); and "**the law of the spirit of life**" because, **while obeyed, it confers a right to eternal life**". (Elpis Israel Logos Ed pg. 90 'The carnal mind').

To **apply** ourselves to the vision of eternal life in this our wilderness journey we propose in each "A word in season" edition of the "Berean waters of Shiloah" to encourage our readers to memorise a portion of Scripture, so that when under trial, we may identify with our Lord when he was led into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil, to be able to respond without hesitation "**it is written**". Where should we begin? With my Sunday school students I always take them to **Psalm 19** and I asked them to memorise verses **7 to 14**. Of course I encourage them to learn a verse at a time and against the howls of protest I tell them that I would not ask them to do something that I am not prepared to do myself! What I do not tell them is that after they have memorised verses 7 to 14 they are then to memorise verses 1 to 6! For in memorising the latter part of the Psalm first, the significance of the first half becomes clear.

Until next time we meet, beside the waters of Shiloah, we all have something to do each day; we expect everyone who reads this to have accomplished in a month the memorisation of Psalm 19:7-14. No protests will be accepted that you have a bad memory — none of you have a worse memory than mine, and I have to keep memorising every day to be able to say "**it is written**".

---

### **Be Ye Transformed - The Mind of Christ (by Bro. Growcott)**

"If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9).

This is a plea for a searching self-examination of our lives, to see whether we are on the way of life. I do not believe there is sufficient realization among us of the magnitude of the divine call—of how deeply it should reach into and transform every aspect of our lives—of the great

changes it must bring about in our characters and the direction of all our activities—of how we spend ALL our time and efforts and money.

The prize that we seek is infinitely beyond anything we can comprehend. For the devotion of a brief lifetime, God is offering us perfect joy for all eternity. The present is such an infinitesimal fraction of the future that it is the utterest folly not to give up everything possible in the present in order to assure the future. This folly will be tragically apparent at the judgment seat.

What God asks—and it is such a pitiful little compared to what He offers—is complete devotion, complete dedication, complete putting away of the present, complete consecration of the whole life to the service of God. Everything depends upon the COMPLETENESS of the dedication. One-half will not do; three-fourths will not do; nine-tenths will not do. God requires ALL our life, ALL our interest, ALL our labour and activity.

The reason part time service will not do is that there is no such thing as part time service to God. We CANNOT serve two masters. If it does not involve the whole heart and life and strength and love, it is no service to God at all. It is the few who perceive this who find the way of life. The many who do not only follow the way of death.

Jesus expresses it most broadly and deeply when he says: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with ALL thy heart, and with ALL thy strength, and with ALL thy soul, and with ALL thy mind." This, he says, is the first commandment. He says it comprises ALL commandments.

The trouble is that we can read commandments like this, fully accept them, and yet never realize or comprehend the fullness and depth of their meaning—the magnitude of WHAT THEY REQUIRE OF US. If we could really and fully perceive the infinite greatness of the destiny offered us, it would completely transform our lives. Every thought and action would be affected. We would be entirely different creatures from the common world around us, instead of being so sadly like them in so many ways.

The best this world offers—its greatest riches, its fullest pleasures, its highest honours, its most distinguished powers and positions and opportunities—are less than NOTHING, compared to the destiny that awaits the approved of God. In the ebb and flow of this uncertain world, the presidency of the United States is at the moment the greatest power and prominence to which man can aspire. Its honours are great, its powers and prestige are great, its opportunities for affecting human history and advancing human welfare are great. But all these things are mere children's mud-pies compared to the position of the LEAST of those who attain to the Kingdom of God.

We know this theoretically. We fully accept it as a logical proposition. But do we FEEL it and LIVE IF IN OUR LIVES? Are our lives consistent with this tremendous conception? Or are we just a few more natural creatures thinly veneered over with a little religious sentiment? Do we conduct our lives in harmony with what we profess to be—THE HIGHEST ARISTOCRACY OF

THE UNIVERSE— the divine, eternal aristocracy of righteousness—infinately higher than all the kings and presidents of this poor little passing world of wickedness?

We say, quoting Scripture—"The whole world lieth in wickedness" (1 Jn. 5:19) —and truly it does. Whatever is natural, whatever is human, whatever is not intelligent and purposeful godliness is wickedness. But how different are WE? Just believing a few first principles of Bible truth and calling ourselves Christadelphians does not automatically make us saints. It could much more easily make us hypocrites.

Paul says (Rom. 8:9), and this is the key passage of our subject—

"If any man have not the spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Here, then, is a clear test. Do we have the spirit of Christ? This is the most important question anyone can ask himself.

First of all, what does it mean to have the spirit of Christ? How would you define it? How would you test yourself to see whether you had it or not? If we cannot define it, we can be reasonably sure we have not got it, because the spirit of Christ is only acquired by learning what it is in its various aspects of character, and consciously— effortfully—adopting it. We can begin to define it from this same Romans 8— "They that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh, but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit" (v. 5). This gets us a little closer, but is it really reaching us? Is this another of those statements that we accept without comprehending? What are the "things of the flesh" and what are the "things of the Spirit," and what does it mean to "mind" them?

The things of the flesh are the things of this present life—food, raiment, shelter, entertainment—all human and natural activity—the natural daily round of possessing and enjoying. The things of the flesh also include all natural thoughts, reactions, emotions, desires, affections, pleasures, etc. Some of the things of the flesh are good and some are not. Those that are good are those necessary for the continuance of our life and maximum usefulness to God. Whatever does not contribute to this is a harmful detriment. Where does the line of necessity come? Where does necessity end, and unfaithful stewardship and misusing our Master's goods begin? It is not for us to say in individual cases, but we are sure that the Scriptures, frankly faced, leave no doubt that the line of duty cuts lower and deeper than most of us desire to live. The Scriptural standard is— "Having food and raiment, therewith be content." And Paul's accompanying observation is— "For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can take nothing out." The mind of Christ, and certainly the example that he gave us, is that we should be content with the bare necessities of life, and beyond that point should concentrate ALL our labour and time in the service of God. He gave us an example to follow, and he gently but very pointedly reminded us that—"The servant is not above his Lord." The apostles who followed him, and lived as he lived, call our attention to his example in this respect.



## JOHN THOMAS and his REDISCOVERY OF BIBLE TRUTH

### THE VOW

In 1832, a medical doctor named John Thomas was sailing from England to America when the ship floundered in a North Atlantic storm. The crisis compelled the doctor to consider his status before God Almighty: he had no particular religious conviction and no hope of life after death. Faced with such personal spiritual floundering, John Thomas vowed that if ever he survived the imminent shipwreck, he would not rest until he had discovered the religious Truth about God and made that Truth the basis and hope of his life.

God spared the doctor's life and John Thomas kept his vow.

### NINETEENTH CENTURY RELIGION IN AMERICA

Thomas came to America during a time of religious fervor characterized by confrontation and debate, periodicals and broadsheets, and many predictions concerning the Return of Christ. Controversies were fierce, but readers and audiences usually retained eager and open minds. Truth seekers were encouraged to investigate the evidence for themselves and to examine critically the arguments they heard. Many independent congregations welcomed any speaker they believed had any views or expositions worth contributing. The religious climate was perfect for a renewed interest in the true apostolic faith.

American liberty of speech and religion also provided the ideal environment for strong-minded men and women to express themselves and expect a following. Understandably, many new sects came into existence during this period, including Disciples of Christ (Campbellites), Jehovah Witnesses (Russellites), Seventh Day Adventists (Millerites), Mormons (followers of Joseph Smith), and Christian Scientists (disciples of Mary Baker Eddy). John Thomas was destined to begin another movement whose advocates would one day be called *Christadelphians*.

### A BLANK SHEET

Although son of a minister, Thomas was never, as he expressed it, "cursed with the poison of a theological education." His early years were spent in a private boarding school in England. He began his medical education when he was seventeen and spent the next eight years among medicine bottles, lecture rooms and dead bodies. He was totally ignorant of popular religious writings and had no intentions of enlightening himself in that area. Yet Thomas was to become one of the foremost Bible students and scripture protagonists of his day. Describing his state of Bible knowledge at the time, Thomas wrote: "Not having my mind perverted by human tradition, it took whatever impression the Word of God made upon it, like a blank sheet the impression of the printer's type." When the time came, Thomas was ready to learn and obey the plain teaching of scripture.

(To be continued)

## **Dr Thomas and his Mission**

“The truth as summarised in the phrase, ‘the things concerning the kingdom of God and the name of Jesus Christ’, (Acts 8:12) has not been long before this generation. It is not long disinterred from the ecclesiastical rubbish which had overlain it for centuries. It has come to light within the recollection of the living, through the labours of a sturdy quarryman who neglected other avocations for the badly paying but highly distinguished work of excavating the pearl of great price for the benefit of his contemporaries. This result is no doubt to be regarded as a providential development, and leading us beyond the proximate agency, should excite our gratitude to God, that in this hoary age of apostasy, he has permitted the resuscitation of his truth from the grave of ages. Nevertheless it is natural to be interested in the instrumentality by which such a glorious result has been realised, and it is proper and legitimate that such an interest should be taken: for a man is not a lifeless implement which depends for its operations upon the guiding hand of intelligence, but is himself a free and originating agent, capable of devising, choosing, doing, or with holding his hand as it may seem desirable. When therefore the devising, the choosing, and the doing are on side of that which is good, to the sacrifice of self-interest, it is commendable to carry out the injunction of the apostle, ‘hold such in reputation,’ (Philippians 2:29). Common sense and ordinary gratitude will dictate this sentiment where there is a sense of benefit conferred. In fact, it may be laid down as a rule, that the appreciation of the agent of a benefit is in exact proportion to the appreciation of the benefit itself.

Dr. Thomas, of West Hoboken, Hudson Co. New Jersey, U.S., has undoubtedly been the great instrument in the hand of God in digging out, in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the lost and hidden treasure of the gospel. The scattered elements of ‘the truth’ had here and there shown themselves occasionally before his day... But it was left to the remarkable man of whom we are speaking to collate and systematise the truth and evolve it in the complete doctrinal development which is efficacious for the salvation of men. In the accomplishment of this great work, he studied much, and brought out many long lost ideas. He also detected the fallacy of many a revered doctrine, and gave to the book of God such an altered complexion that the Bible which before time was enshrined in mystery, and cut off from the sympathies of intelligent men, became transparent in its intelligibility, and highly interesting in the grandeur of its revelations, and the adaptation of its schemes to the wants of the world.” (The Ambassador of the Coming Age No. 1 pg. 9–10, R Roberts 1864).

---

## **A Word in Season**

### **Yahweh’s stretched out arm, The Abraham Accord and how to prepare for Christ**

We come together once more on the first day of the week in the month of April of the year 2020. We watch unfold great and marvellous angelically controlled national manipulations

which will lead inexorably to the crisis of the ages and a judgement which of necessity must commence with the household of faith.

We see the manifestation of the divine hand and a virus the medical experts have named COVID-19, having been first identified in 2019. This virus is inflicting terrible tragedy upon the nations. No doubt in time the whole world will feel its effects not only in terms of the health outcomes, but its economic consequences, which often have a far more lasting impact. Famines, political protests and the overturning of governments by revolution have accompanied such events in the past. The economic shocks cause great geopolitical upheavals which the Lord Jesus Christ, having been granted all power in heaven and earth, will angelically use to simultaneously warn and punish a godless sick world. Where there is **no recognition** of who really is in command, and **no acknowledgement** of the divine purpose in the earth's creation, but only pride, arrogance and haughtiness in what man imagines are his own achievements, his own remedies – which occasion more boasting, more pride and more arrogance – then the God of Israel's righteous judgements are the only remedy!

We have observed in our daily news bulletins of how COVID-19 has also afflicted Israel, which like America, is happening at a time of great political upheaval. Again like America, this plague from Yahweh may well cause a change of leadership, which in the absence of God's stretched out arm, the political and social circumstances in these two nations, as indeed many others, would have continued in a very different path. Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, like Donald J Trump, pushed the country to open up too quickly, and Israel, a country of just 9.2 million, is now (in August) recording up to 1,500 new COVID-19 cases every day. It is the third highest total daily numbers in the European region tracked by the World Health Organisation. As a result, Israel along with the United States and Russia has been placed on a list of 'red' countries by the European Union – meaning its citizens cannot travel to Europe.

How are we to understand these things? Let us invite bro. Thomas to explain the Divine workings without bias, with his typical clear insightful **acknowledgement of truth**. In quoting those very familiar passages of Isaiah 45:7 and Amos 3:6 in "The Constitution of Sin" in Elpis Israel, he writes:

"Sin and evil are as cause and effect. **God is the author of evil**, but not of sin; **for the evil is the punishment of sin**. 'I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace, **and create evil**: I, the Lord, do all these things' (Isaiah 45:7). 'Shall there be evil in a city, and the Lord hath not done it?' (Amos 3:6)".

We had reason to once before quote this passage from bro. Thomas in an exhortation back in 2001 when during another Republican presidency the hand of Providence again dramatically intervened to alter the course of world events of the next 15 years, bringing us at last to the election of Donald J Trump. At the beginning of this divine intervention heralding a new century, New York was the city where the eyes of the world was fixed and once again it has been the epicentre of this new tribulation; the Trump tribulation – a plague from the God of

Israel, because that is where it comes from and let no one convince you otherwise, for Yahweh's arm is stretched out still!

Bro. Thomas continues, "**The evil then to which man is subjected is the Lord's doing**". Do we believe this, or are we going to be like Israel of old when Yahweh rebuked the nations saying "for three transgressions of Damascus and for four I will not turn back the punishment," Ah! Yes an inveterate enemy, they deserve what comes to them from the God of Israel! What of a nation that thinks because it supports Israel, that this support in some way is like a magical amulet that hangs around its neck which guarantees prosperity and forgets that Israel itself deserves Yahweh's punishment! Yahweh through Amos proceeds to go through all the nations that had interaction with Israel and therefore some national responsibility – the transgressions of Gaza, of Tyre, of Edom, of the Ammonites, of Moab. Is there not a latter day Tyre and a latter-day Moab in Bible prophecy? Then Yahweh through Amos comes to Judah. Oh yes, says Israel in her pride and arrogance, they too deserve what is coming to them. Finally, what did Israel think when they heard, "For three transgressions of Israel and for four I will not revoke the punishment". What was the nation's sin? Injustice, covetousness, cruelty, the mistreatment of those of another race and of the poor, the turning aside the afflicted, gross immorality, idolatry, pride, arrogance. What nation does that describe today I wonder, and whose ruler embodies the pride and arrogance of such a godless, covetous and sick people?

All the nations, some perhaps more than others, are deserving of Yahweh's terrible judgements – the sending of evil upon them as the punishment of sin – and if that is the case, then Donald J Trump's presidency in all its boastfulness, pride and arrogance of the latter-day Tyre and what it embodies, should enliven us to the great truth expressed wonderfully by Bro. Thomas; "War, famine, pestilence, flood, earthquake, **disease, and death**, are the terrible evils which God inflicts upon mankind for their transgressions". So clear, so insightful, he writes as one **not clouded by political bias**, and those to whom he writes, like bro. Thomas, strive to live like the Christians of the first century who were **dead to this world's politics** and its business and all it represents. What boastfulness was associated with identification with the humble carpenter of Nazareth, born in a manger, crucified as a malefactor? "**Far be it from me to boast**" says Paul, "**except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world**" (Galatians 6:14). May we with the Apostle Paul and with bro. Thomas clearly discern the times to which we, as they, stand related and joined with them as effectual watchmen – we all the more so, living in the epoch of "the time of the end" heralding the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ to a desperately sick world! Says bro. Thomas:

"Nations cannot go to war when they please, any more than they can shake the earth at their will and pleasure; neither can they preserve peace, when he proclaims war. Evil is the artillery with which he combats the enemies of his law, and of his saints: consequently, there will be neither peace nor blessedness with the nations, until sin is put down, his people avenged, and **truth and righteousness** be established in the earth. This is the constituted order of things. It is the Constitution of the world; and as

the world is sin's dominion, or the kingdom of the adversary (satan), it is the Constitution of the kingdom of sin" (Elpis Israel pg. 128 Logos edition)

We have seen in recent times the absolute blasphemy of the synagogue of satan in the United States, representatives of which support and constantly surround Donald J Trump, lauding him as a pagan Cyrus, a Pentecostal convert, an Episcopalian "baby" (rapture me up) "Christian" as they like to refer to him.

*"Satan's church is co-extensive with what they call 'Christendom'– a huge and mighty synagogue, comprehending all the names and the nominations of 'the Great City' from Rome to Bethany and Utah. 'The world rulers of the darkness of this Aion,' or course of things; 'the spirituals of the wickedness in high places'– are all members or supporters, in some form or shape, of this Synagogue. Like the blasphemers in Smyrna, **'they all say they are Christians, and are not, but do lie;'** and they are all either ignorant of the gospel of the kingdom, or if they have any knowledge of it, know it only to oppose it, or to neutralise the obedience it implicitly and explicitly requires" (Eureka VOL 1 red edition pg. 198).*

They gather in the White House to empower their Christian nationalism agendum and in prayer meetings call upon the God of Israel for help, quoting as they love to do Genesis 12:3 as evidence of God's blessing of America. They call on the God of Israel to end the plague immediately– a spectacle to behold! Only to see the infection rate double and double and double again and the death rate to rise exponentially. Like the priests of Baal on Mount Carmel when they were mocked by Elijah to "cry aloud, for he is a god. Either he is musing, or he is relieving himself, or he is on a journey, or perhaps he is asleep and must be awakened and they cried aloud," so too does the synagogue of satan "rave on until the time of the evening sacrifice, but there will be no voice" – not then brethren and sisters and not now! "No one answered; no one paid attention" till the time comes when Elijah once again will call Israel to come together, will call upon Yahweh the Elohim of Abraham, Isaac and Israel, that they and all the earth might know at last that there is a God in Israel who will answer the prayers of his saints, that their execution of the judgement written was according to Yahweh's word.

Will any of the synagogue of satan humble themselves by taking to heart the great truth – that the evil Donald J Trump refers to as "the China virus" which has become the "Trump tribulation", is a plague in fact sent by the God of Israel upon the nations for their pride, arrogance, sin and wickedness? Will Donald J Trump humbly acknowledge that great truth and pray for national relief and redemption with the rulers of the rest of the world? Will the synagogue of satan that surrounds him at last perceiving this great truth, be led to the logical extension and acknowledge that "truly our fathers have inherited nothing but lies, worthless things in which there is no profit" and cease to blaspheme the name of God, which has power over this plague, and repent, giving him the glory? May we be among those like Jeremiah who said "I have paid attention and listened" and not among those who "have not spoken rightly; no

*man relents of his evil, saying, 'what have I done?' Everyone turns to his own course, like a horse plunging head long into the battle" (Jeremiah 8:6).*

The brethren and sisters of PNG know well what we have said with respect to the sure word of prophecy in relation to the providential election of Donald J Trump back in 2016. Then, as we have said repeatedly since, his presidency would prove to be **the very antithesis of his boast of "making America great again"**. His administration's priorities – America first and Israel second – as we draw perilously close to the crisis of the epoch of the time of the end, must in fact necessitate **the weakening and distraction of America while at the same time provide Israel with a false sense of security!** The extraordinarily good job Trump continues to do on both these fronts prove what an easily manipulated tool he is in the hand of the Lord Jesus Christ.

### **The Abraham Accord**

In the midst of this plague sent from the God of Israel to inflict his righteous judgement upon the nations, and in particular upon the boastfulness of the latter-day Tyre, **six months before its elections**, has driven the Trump administration to use whatever distraction they can to sure up his political base. Four months after this exhortation was originally given, Donald J Trump announced what he described as "a truly historic moment" – that "Israel and the United Arab Emirates will fully normalize their diplomatic relations." Trump then asked a string of his administration's sycophants to describe **his** achievement.

National Security Adviser Robert O'Brien called it a "remarkable accomplishment," – remarkable indeed but not for the reason attributed to Donald J Trump. He summarised Trump's achievements as – "the destruction of the ISIS caliphate, the **reassurance of Israel**, the moving of the US embassy to Jerusalem and America's recognition of the Golan Heights as part of Israel's territory". "And now" he continued speaking of Trump, "you've brought about this historic peace deal between the UAE and Israel. This is the first time in 25 years that Israel and an Arab country have normalized diplomatic relations and entered into a peace deal."

In short, **this fills Israel with a false sense of security so that the Scriptures might be fulfilled as spoken through Ezekiel, "I will go up against the land of unwalled villages" says the Russian Gog who has been made the kingmaker of the Middle East by Donald J Trump! "I will fall upon the quiet people who dwell securely, all of them dwelling without walls, having no bars or gates, to seize spoil and carry of plunder, to turn your hand against the waste places that are now inhabited the people who were gathered from the nations who have acquired livestock and goods, who dwell at the centre of the earth. **Sheba and Dedan** and the merchants of Tarshish and all its young lions will say to you, have you come to seize a spoil?"** Donald J Trump is being used to bring into the open what has in fact been transpiring for many years secretly in Israel's cooperation with those southern gulf oil-producing powers of the Middle East in their shared fear of Iran's growing power.

**Donald J Trump has continued and indeed accelerated the policies of Barack Obama as illustrated by Robert O'Brien's acknowledgement of Trump's achievements, "you've got a peace agreement now with the Taliban, and we're going to have less than half the number of troops in Afghanistan that were there when you started your term of office". Kushner, Trump's son-in-law added, "making more peace there lessens our need, as a country, to have as many soldiers in that region and lessens our need to have as many conflicts in that region". Then Donald J Trump said "We don't have to be there anymore. We don't need oil. We don't need anything there except friendship. These are two countries that have been great friends, and we've been great friends to them (Israel and the UAE). But we no longer have to be there...we put ourselves, over the last few years in a position where we no longer have to be in areas that, at one point, were vital. And that is a big statement. But we are there for our friends, and we always will be there for our friends".**

It is very obvious from the passage quoted above from Ezekiel 38 that the Tarshish power, which undoubtedly is Britain, will be present at the crisis of the ages at Jerusalem with its young lions or those powers that had been associated with it in times past as part of its great empire. There has been speculation over the years that the United States having gained their independence from Great Britain by revolution does not constitute one of the young lions. I do not hold that view because no power embodies the characteristics of the power of Tyre, which was allied with Tarshish, more than the United States; but it is equally clear that the United States along with its Tarshish ally will be reduced to little more than a Bible footnote, a mere distraction to the overwhelming latter day Assyrian flood that will inundate the Middle East when Yahweh gathers all nations to fight at Jerusalem. **The ineptitude of Israel's allies at that crisis will have long been developed providentially by the God of Israel.** How simply ironic it is to read Trump's sycophants praise, "this is one more historic step in bringing **peace to the Middle East**", "this will **advance the region, and this will advance the whole world.**" What it will do, brethren and sisters, is "**advance**" THE KING OF THE NORTH'S control over that ancient part of the world which is his divine destiny, when he assumes the mantle of the little horn of the goat (Daniel 8). What Trump's "peace" plan will do is another step in preparing for the battle of the great day of God Almighty! But the latter-day Tyre has a part to play, and "Tyre" is not the only ancient designation that can be applied to the United States, because in **Genesis 14** it was the **King of Sodom** that fought against the Gog — Chedorlaomer, which invaded the Middle east of that Patriarchal time.

Donald J Trump said of this historic agreement: "It's a great — great thing. I wanted it to be called **the 'Donald J. Trump Accord'**." This was followed by laughter from his sycophants and the suggestion that Trump be nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize!! Instead Trump said that they had decided to call the agreement **the "Abraham Accord"** because, **added Ambassador Friedman**, "no person better symbolizes the potential for unity among all the three great faiths than Abraham, and that's why this accord has been given that name".

*"When the Lord Jesus is revealed from heaven with his mighty messengers in flaming fire, inflicting vengeance on those who do not know God and on those who do not obey the gospel," (2*

Thessalonians 1:7–8) what will be the father of the faithful’s attitude towards the ruler of the **latter day Sodom** when the anti-typical enactment of the first Armageddon chapter of the Bible (Genesis 14) takes place? Sodom headed up a coalition of **five** Kings; will the latter day Sodom do likewise? The latter day Sodom is the leader of “the **Five** Eyes” (FVEY) designating the intelligence alliance comprising Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United Kingdom and the United States. Sodom had given captured Lot a **false sense of security**. Lot means ‘veiled’ and he is a **type of Israel** whom Paul says were unable to “*gaze at the outcome of what was being brought to an end. But their minds were hardened so that to this day, when they read the old covenant, that same veil remains unlifted, because only through Christ is it taken away*” (2 Corinthians 3:13-15). The latter day Sodom will prove to be as ineffectual a defence for Israel as ancient Sodom was for Lot when it joined in battle with the anti-typical Chedorlaomer — “*Gog, of the land of Magog (1), the Prince of Rosh (2), Meshech (3) and Tubal (4),*” “**four Kings against five**” (Ezekiel 38:2; **Genesis 14:9**).

Though the king of Sodom will do all he can to ingratiate himself to Abraham the father of the faithful, Abraham will turn his back on him who embodies “Sodom and her daughters’ iniquity” of “**pride, excess food, and prosperous ease, but did not aid the poor and the needy, who are haughty and did abomination before Yahweh**” (Ezekiel 16:49–50). To the King of Sodom Abraham said (and will say again), “*I have lifted up my hand to Yahweh, the most high God (El Elyon)*” – **he who will be power or strength, who is high and lifted up, possessor of heaven and earth, that I would not take a thread or a sandal strap or anything that is yours, lest you should say, ‘I have made Abram rich.’” (Genesis 14:22–23).**

It will **not be by the arm of the flesh** — even if that arm is attached to Donald J Trump — that the father of the faithful, nor any of his Elohist seed will have “*received power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing*” but by he whom we remember this morning who alone was worthy to receive it of the Father, to give it to whom he judges worthy. Those who will be granted to sit with him on his throne will do so because during their probation they “*esteemed the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for they had respect unto the recompense of the reward*”. To them “*God made known what is the riches of the glory of the mystery among the Gentiles; which is Christ in you, the hope of glory*” (Hebrews 11:26; Colossians 1:27). For these reasons on the day of victory Abraham and all those in him, as “the man of the one” will have his eyes fixed on just one personage – THE KING OF RIGHTEOUSNESS, THE KING OF PEACE. He will bring forth bread and wine and he, in the company of the redeemed, will drink again of the fruit of the vine, when he drinks it new in the kingdom of God (**Genesis 14:18**; Mark 14:25).

This will memorialize, as we do each first day of the week, how **God’s righteousness was declared** through the lifting up the body of sin, that it could be publicly condemned, so that by his blood he might bring **that peace that passes all understanding**, redeeming a people for God from every tribe and language and people and nation, to make them a kingdom of priests to our God and they shall reign on the earth (Romans 3:25–26; Romans 8:3; Romans 6:6; Philippians 4:7; Revelation 5:9–10).



**Just pause and consider for a moment how powerful and moving it will be to do so in the presence of our God and King (John 20:28).**

### **How to Prepare for Christ**

In our readings from Numbers 31 (back in April) we considered Yahweh's instructions to Moses to avenge the people of Israel upon the Midianites. The Midianites afflicted Israel after the water was caused to flow from the smitten rock in the wilderness – which rock is Christ (1 Corinthians 10:1–4), and which stream followed them in the wilderness. The Midianites were drawn to those aspects of God's blessings upon Israel because they thought that they could gain material advantage. That is how the synagogue of satan in the United States and in PNG think, is it not? They represent themselves as supporters of Israel, as we have already noted in their quoting Genesis 12:3, and as with so much of scripture, they take a small part out of context and are wilfully blind to the judgements of God – the evil Yahweh is sending on a wicked world. At the end of Moses's life Yahweh's judgement was to come upon the Midianites who constantly terrorised Israel in their wilderness journey, so Yahweh commanded one thousand men from each of the 12 tribes to be chosen to war against their inveterate enemy. These represent the elect of God who will accompany the Lamb of God, going forth with him to victory as is described in Revelations 19. The record in Numbers 31 is typical of these things to come. Isaiah describes the judgement of Yahweh in the latter days in the terms of "the day of Midian". We read of this in the Immanuel prophecy chapter 9 and 10 so that "in that day his (Midian's) burden will depart from your shoulder, and his yoke from your neck; and the yoke will be broken because of the Anointing" – a reference to the "anointed one" the Lord Jesus Christ by whose hand the latter-day Midianites or the Russian Confederacy will be destroyed and all nations including the latter-day Tyre and Tarshish will experience a further dramatic stage of their humbling. In that day there will be no Donald J Trump boasting of the military supremacy of the United States! The God of Israel alone will be glorified. These are the things to which we stand related.

Numbers 31 also records the destruction of the false prophet Balaam, the representative of all those of the synagogue of satan who would use religion to enrich themselves. It was by his advice that absolute tragedy was brought upon Israel. The evil sent upon them in punishment for their sin was via a **plague!** In this plague, 23,000 perished along with another 1000 of their rulers, by the hand of those of the tribe of Levi, who remained faithful to Yahweh's commandments. This incident illustrates how the ecclesia, right at the very brink of realising the promise of entering God's kingdom, can insidiously be imbued with that which defiles and draws away from the obedience of faith!

How can we be found prepared and watchful? In our readings from Proverbs 22 we have the beginning of that third great division of the proverbs commencing chapter 22:17–21 which serves as an introduction; it is followed by 30 great sayings of the wise which takes us to chapter 24:22. The short introduction of chapter 22:17–21 sums up the sayings which follow. The sayings were penned by men under inspiration like Ethan and Heman, Calcol and Darda,

the sons of Mahol whose “fame was in all the surrounding nations” (1Kings4:31). It is probable that one of these men gathered these 30 sayings together by inspiration, and we read of him in Proverbs chapter 22:17–19 representing these wise men. Here we have the teacher appealing to the disciple, the learner, on a personal basis; as the apostle Paul does in the New Testament to Timothy. If we just take the little introduction of verses 17 to 21 we have encapsulated wonderful spiritual advice to help each of us to be ready to immediately open the door when Christ knocks receiving him joyfully.

*“Incline your ear and hear the words of the wise,”* we ask ourselves are we inclining our ears, are we attentively giving ourselves over to the study of God’s word? If so, to what purpose, do we **“apply your heart to my knowledge”**? Do we read the holy Scriptures with the purpose of “applying” it every day? Paul says to the Corinthians that he did *“not run **aimlessly**; I do not box as one beating the air”* but Paul **“disciplined his body”** or pummelled his body, *“making it a slave”*. **Paul used the word of God purposely,** *“to bring every thought into subjection to the obedience of Christ”*.

We have to take hold of the word of God and use it in a personal sense. When we examine ourselves and know we have a particular problem, to **want** to find the portions of Scripture that have some bearing on our problem, so that we might take hold of God’s provided power to conquer that diabolism. In this process we learn with the apostle Paul that the **grace** of the Lord Jesus Christ is in fact, in reality and in practice *“sufficient for us.”* We realise with great wonder and thankfulness that the power of the gospel – **“God’s power unto salvation”** in us is **transformative**; that it *“is made perfect in weakness,”* so that with Paul we may at last say *“for the sake of Christ, I am content with weaknesses, insults, hardships, persecutions, and calamities. **For when I am weak, then I am strong**”* (2 Corinthians 11:9–10).

The secret is to get that power into our minds because Proverbs 22:18 says *“for it will be pleasant if you keep them **within you**”*. It is the way the young man of Psalm 119 in enquiring how he might keep his way pure is answered before the question has even finished passing from his lips – and **that is the way we should recite it, “by guarding it according to the word of God”** (Psalm 119:9). How can this happen if we have not first **“stored your word in my heart that I might not sin against you?”** (Psalm 119:11) A **daily habit of memorising a portion of Scripture** which we can draw upon to help us overcome is a vital step in showing our loving heavenly Father that as his children we want to be like him. I suggest you start with those Scriptures which put the finger right on your problem. I do this – I have to do it because I am so weak! This can only work **“if all of them are ready on your lips”** (Proverbs 22:18). This is so that the holy scriptures can be brought to bear powerfully whenever we need them, but how can this happen if *“with my lips”* (we have not) **declared all the rules of your mouth”** (Psalm 119:13). By doing this daily, *“your trust will be in Yahweh”*. This is the reason he who we come to remember this day on whom the spirit of all wisdom and understanding rested (Isaiah 11) *“has made these things known to you today, even to you”* (Proverbs 22:19). Here is a personal appeal to each of us, *“have I not written 30 sayings of counsel and knowledge”* (each of the sayings comprise of two verses i.e. versus 22–23; 24–25 etc. through to chapter 24:22). For

what reason are they given? *“To make you know what is right and true, that you **may give a true answer to those who sent you**”* (Proverbs 22:21).

When I read those words I think of Isaiah in that monumental sixth chapter which introduces the Immanuel prophecy. In vision he heard the voice of the Lord say *“whom shall I send and who will go for us?”* Without hesitation though struck by his utter unworthiness Isaiah said *“here am I! Send me”*. Truly Yahweh manifested in Christ Jesus without hesitation said “here am I”; but are we not here this day before the emblems of our Lord with all our problems, but believing with hearts full of praise, in the power of God’s salvation, that we to stand prepared to be sent, now and in the age to come? Be ready always says the apostle Peter, *“to give an answer to everyone who asks you a reason of the hope that is in you”*. Very soon we all will give an account before our great judge who did not hesitate to respond to the divine invitation’s call, let us search our conscience and examine our preparedness.

As we see the evil the Lord is inflicting on the nations because of their sin, pride, haughtiness and boastfulness, may we remember the Proverbs and be at last numbered among those who have *“inclined our ears and heard the words of the wise and applied our hearts”* to **“know Christ and the power of his resurrection”** (Proverbs 22:17; Philippians 3:10).

---

The following poem was contributed by sis. Marguerite Mingham who now sleeps in Christ awaiting the resurrection:

### **“What Riches Shall I Have? (Matthew 6:20–21)**

Out of this life I shall never take  
The things of silver and gold I make.  
All that I cherish and hoard away  
After I die, for others will stay.

Though I call it mine, and boast its worth,  
I must then give it up for mother earth:  
All that I gather and all that I keep  
I must leave behind when I fall asleep

I wonder often just what I shall own  
When I pass before the Judgment Throne:  
What shall I find and what shall He see  
In the life and character that makes up me.

Shall the Great Judge learn when I am through  
That my life has gathered the riches true?  
Or shall at last be mine to find  
That all I had worked for I left behind?

**The Brisbane Berean Christadelphians**

PO Box 66

Capalaba, 4157

Australia

*Email: [bereanchristadelphians@yahoo.com.au](mailto:bereanchristadelphians@yahoo.com.au)*

Website: <http://www.bereanchristadelphiansaustralia.org/>