

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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Prophesied to Happen to the United States

Here is the most astounding prophecy for our time. WHY have our American and British nations not been warned of this before? This is the second installment of Mr. Armstrong's forthcoming book—the most startling and eye-opening book, we believe, of this generation.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENT

IT'S TIME the great American and British nations knew the staggering turn of world events prophesied for us. *90% of all prophecy is concerned with it*—and a third of the Bible is prophecy!

WHERE do we find the United States, Britain, and the democracies of northwestern Europe, mentioned in Bible prophecy? We are the wealthiest, most powerful nations—the professing Christian nations. A vital point to remember is that we have acquired most of our vast resources and power *since the year 1800 A.D.*

Our Wealth Promised Abraham

Millenniums ago, this same national greatness was promised by Almighty God to Abraham—yet few have ever noticed this astonishing fact. The Bible is an Israelitish Book, concerned only with Israel and other nations only insofar as they come into contact with Israel.

In a world strayed far from God, there was one man, Abram, who was willing to OBEY GOD. When God commanded, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, unto a land that I will show thee," Abraham obeyed without a question. "So Abram departed," is the simple Scriptural statement.

The vital point very few have realized is that *God made DUAL promises to Abraham*. The spiritual promise of the Messiah, and of salvation thru Him, is well known. But God made also a most amazing promise of NATIONAL GREATNESS for Abraham's natural-born children, which has been overlooked. To Abram God first said: "*I will make of thee a great nation . . . and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed.*" (Gen. 12:1-3). The latter of those promises is repeated in Gen. 22: 18: "*IN thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed,*" and in Gal. 3:8,16, this "*one seed*" is plainly defined as referring to CHRIST. But the "great nation" promise refers solely to RACE, not to GRACE!

This is made certain by repetitions of

God's promises. In Gen. 17:1-5, we find: God said to Abraham, "Walk before me, and be thou perfect, and I . . . *will multiply thee exceedingly . . . thou shalt be a father of MANY NATIONS*. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of MANY NATIONS have I made thee." Continuing (verse 6), "*And I will make thee exceeding fruitful, and I will make NATIONS of thee, and kings*" (more than one) "shall come out of thee." This is physical generation, not spiritual regeneration. RACE, not grace.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in THEIR generations." (Verse 7). The "seed" here is PLURAL. "And I will be THEIR God." (Verse 8).

Never Fulfilled in Jews!

The Jews have never been more than ONE nation. God promised by flesh generation MANY nations. Later, on Abraham's further obedience after severe test, God made the covenant UNCONDITIONAL. Abraham had fulfilled his

CHAPTER II

The Separation of the Birthright and the Sceptre

part. God Almighty is now BOUND to fulfill the promises. (Gen. 22:16-18).

In this Scripture, too, is added an important detail of the promises: "I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and *thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies.*" A gate is a narrow passage of entrance or exit. When speaking nationally, a gate would be such as pass as the Panama Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal. This promise was repeated in Gen. 24:60 to Abraham's daughter-in-law: "Be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess *the gate of those that hate them.*"

The Jews have never possessed the geographical passageways of enemy nations. This cannot be fulfilled *after* Christ's second coming—there will be no enemy nations—only world peace, then. This promise must have been fulfilled in this present world, and by others than the Jews, or we must reject the Holy Bible as the Word of God!

It is a test of the inspiration of the Bible!

These tremendous promises were re-promised to Isaac and to Jacob. Ishmael and Abraham's other sons were rejected from this birthright. Esau sold this birthright, and he was rejected. The promise as confirmed to Isaac is recorded in Gen. 26:1-5. To Jacob it is repeated in Gen. 27:26-29, where *national MATERIAL wealth* is promised, and also that heathen nations shall be ruled by the birthright nations of Israel. Another detail is added in Gen. 28:13-14—these nations eventually shall spread around the world.

The Test of Bible Inspiration

Still later, God appeared unto Jacob, whose name was changed to ISRAEL, still further defining the make-up of these "many nations" thus: "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; *A NATION* and a *COMPANY OF NATIONS* shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins." (Gen. 35:9-12). So these "many nations eventually are to take shape as "a nation"—one great, wealthy, powerful nation, and another *COMPANY* of nations—a great group, or commonwealth of nations.

This promise has never been fulfilled in the Jews. It cannot be realized thru Christ. It is the promise of RACE, not grace. Yet this promise MUST stand fulfilled today, unless we are to reject the Bible as God's inspired Word! Here is the enigma of the ages! Is this a divine promise unkept? The very faithfulness of God hangs on the answer. Here, then, comes the most astonishing revelation of the whole Bible!

NOW WE come to a most vital distinction, and a bit of Bible truth known to but very few.

Very few, indeed, have ever noticed that the promises to Abraham were twofold. But the Bible itself makes sharp distinction between these two phases of the promises.

The *spiritual* promises—the promise of the "one seed," Christ, and of salvation through Him—the Bible calls "the SCEPTRE." But the *material* and *national* promises relating to many nations, national wealth, prosperity and power, and possession of the Holy Land, the Bible calls the "BIRTHRIGHT."

Race, Not Grace

Let us understand the meaning of the terms:

"*Birthright*: native right or privilege."—Standard Dictionary. "Any right acquired by birth."—Webster's. A birthright is something which is one's *right*, by birth. It has nothing to do with grace, which is unmerited pardon, and free gift which is *not* one's right. It has to do with RACE, not grace. Birthright possessions are customarily passed down from father to eldest son.

"*Sceptre*: kingly office; royal power; badge of command or sovereignty."—Standard Dictionary. The promised kingly line culminates in *Christ*, and involves *grace* to all.

We have seen how both sets of promises, *right of birth*, and *gift of grace*, were unconditionally made by God to Abraham. Both the birthright and the sceptre were re-promised by the Eternal to Isaac and to Jacob.

But the fact that should open your eyes, as a joyous truth newly discovered, is that from that point *these two sets of promises became separated!* The Sceptre promises of the kingly line culminating in Christ, and of grace thru Him, were handed on to JUDAH, son of Jacob and father of all Jews. But the astonishing truth is that the Birthright promises were never given to the Jews!

Birthright and Sceptre Separated

"*The Sceptre shall not depart from Judah.*" (Gen. 49:10).

"*But the Birthright is JOSEPH'S.*" (I Chron. 5:2).

Of course it is well understood that the Sceptre went to Judah, and was handed down through the Jews. King David was of the tribe of Judah. All succeeding kings of David's dynasty were of the House of David, tribe of Judah. Jesus Christ was born of the House of David, and the tribe of JUDAH.

"Salvation," Jesus said, "is of the JEWS!" (John 4:22). "The Gospel of Christ," wrote Paul, "is the power of God unto salvation to everyone that believeth; to the JEW *first*, and also to the Greek." (Rom. 1:16). The promises of GRACE were handed down thru JUDAH!

But the promises which the Bible terms "the BIRTHRIGHT" have not been understood at all. Few have understood the nature of the Birthright promises. Few have ever noticed that God made any promises to Abraham other than the Sceptre. *Few know what's in the Bible!*

Birthright Never Given to the Jews!

Fewer still have understood that these great national material promises *were never given to the Jews!*

The astonishing and *vital* fact the MANY have overlooked is "the Birthright is JOSEPH'S." And, as we shall see later, neither Joseph nor his descendants were Jews! Astounding as it may be, it's TRUE!

This knowledge about the BIRTHRIGHT is the pivot of this entire truth which will prove THE KEY to the understanding of all PROPHECY! It's of supreme importance that you get this clearly in mind!

"Birthright," as defined above, includes only that which comes by RIGHT of birth. No one can receive eternal life as a *right*, from natural birth. If it were our RIGHT, inherited by BIRTH, it would not be by GRACE! Salvation comes by GRACE—God's GIFT, by undeserved pardon—unmerited FAVOR. We can receive *only material* possessions as a *right by birth*. And when that right is passed down thru generations to ever-multiplying descendants, it finally devolves into a NATIONAL inheritance. It confers only *material* possessions, power, or position. It does *not* bestow *spiritual* blessings. It is a matter of RACE, not grace!

What the Birthright Conferred

Just what special material inheritance was passed on by the Birthright few have understood.

Yet it conferred the richest, most valuable material inheritance ever passed from father to son—the most colossal wealth and power ever amassed by man or Empire! The magnitude of this Birthright is staggering! Yet the churches, the religious leaders, the scholars and higher critics of the Bible, seem never to have read it.

It includes all that first phase of God's tremendous promises to Abraham. This legacy GUARANTEED on the authority of God Almighty, *unconditionally*, multitudinous population, untold wealth and

(Please continue on page 13)

Where Will the Millennium Be Spent?

In Heaven? or on Earth?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHERE are the saints of God going to REIGN for the coming thousand years?

Some say: "On the Earth!"

Others say, "Up in heaven! All unsaved people shall be destroyed by the brightness of Christ's coming. The earth will be desolate during this thousand years."

But **WHAT DOES THE WORD OF GOD SAY?**

Will you notice, now, Revelation 20:6: "Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God, and of Christ, and shall reign with Him a thousand years."

This THOUSAND YEARS is commonly called "the MILLENNIUM." But the question we now want to settle—and settle it rightly out of God's Word—is, **WHERE** shall we SPEND that thousand years? And over **WHOM** shall we reign?

The facts of the resurrection and second coming of Christ are plainly expressed in I Thes. 4:14-17, and I Cor. 15:52. The dead in Christ are resurrected, and the living in Christ are translated, and all are caught up to MEET the Lord in the clouds, in the air of the earth's atmosphere. But the question is, **WHERE DO WE GO FROM THERE?**

Now, in order to reign, these saints must have someone to reign OVER. To rule is to RULE over. A king reigns over his subjects. The subjects are always of inferior station and power to the king. The king is in authority OVER his subjects. And so, whether in heaven or on earth, there will have to be someone of **INFERIOR RANK—of LOWER POSITION**, over whom the saints shall have **POWER and AUTHORITY!** Now **WHO** will the immortal saints reign over?

Notice Rev. 3:21 Jesus said: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." Jesus spoke those words. He says that He is, at this time, sitting in **WHOSE** throne?—notice it—He says "as I . . . AM set down with my FATHER in HIS throne." The Father's throne is in heaven. The heavens have received Jesus UNTIL the times of restitution of all things (Acts 3:21). During this dispensation He is sitting on HIS FA-

THER'S throne. And HIS FATHER'S THRONE IS IN HEAVEN! as the Scriptures plainly state.

TWO Thrones in Heaven?

Then, my friends, **WHERE WILL JESUS' THRONE BE**, when He LEAVES His Father's throne?—when the times of restitution of all things comes?—and when He sits on HIS OWN throne? He does not say that the saints shall sit with Him on the Father's throne *in heaven*. He says they shall sit with Him **IN HIS THRONE**. Will His throne, too, be in heaven? Will there be **TWO** thrones in heaven? Will Jesus have a throne there, competing with the Father? A Kingdom with **TWO** thrones is a kingdom divided, and Jesus said a kingdom divided against itself cannot stand. Jesus is not now, at this time, sitting on HIS own throne, but in HIS FATHER'S throne, reigning WITH His Father in exactly the same manner the saints shall sit with Him, in HIS throne, reigning with Him. Where, then, will HIS throne be?

Why, we read in Luke 1:30-32 that Jesus will be given the throne of DAVID. And **DAVID'S THRONE IS ON THE EARTH!** According to Ezek. 21:37, that throne, which will be located in the city of Jerusalem, **ON THIS EARTH**, is to be given to JESUS, whose right it is.

Now notice carefully. **GOD'S** throne is in heaven. **DAVID'S** throne is existing today on **EARTH**. At THIS time now, Jesus is on His FATHER'S throne, *in heaven*—but when the saints reign for a thousand years, they shall be sitting with Him, on HIS throne, the throne of DAVID, which throne is located **ON THE EARTH!**

Now notice Rev. 2:26-27: "And he that overcometh . . . will I give **POWER over** the **NATIONS**: and he shall **RULE** them with a rod of iron." Notice it!—these same overcomers who shall reign with Jesus **ON HIS THRONE**, are to be given **POWER over** other people. And the ones they shall **RULE** are **THE NATIONS**. The nations of **THIS EARTH!** Can you conceive of nations in heaven so sinful they need to be **RULED** with a rod of iron?

Then again, notice Luke 1:33: "And He—Jesus—shall reign over **THE HOUSE**

OF JACOB forever." It is the **HOUSE OF JACOB**—the nations of Israel and Judah—whom God has **BLINDED** during this time (Rom. 11:7-8), whose blindness shall be removed and who shall find salvation (Rom. 11:25-26), when God sets His Hand again the **SECOND TIME** to recover the remnant of His people Israel (Isa. 11:11), during the times of restitution of all things! What a glorious **GOSPEL!** What wonderful **GOOD NEWS!**

Now notice one more text which tells in the **PLAINEST OF LANGUAGE** *when* the saints shall reign. Remember they are to reign **OVER**—to rule the nations. They shall reign *a thousand years*. Now turn to Rev. 5:10, and let us see whether we shall be willing to believe the plain words of **GOD**. Here we read of a new song about Christ who redeemed "men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation and hast made them unto our God kings and priests: and they shall reign **ON THE EARTH!**" There it is, properly translated and in **PLAIN LANGUAGE**. "They shall reign **ON THE EARTH**." God give us willingness to believe it!

How Jesus Will Return to Earth!

Let us see now **HOW** Jesus will return to earth. In Acts 1:9-11, we read: "And when He (Jesus) had spoken those things, while they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven.*"

We know He shall return at the close of this age, just prior to the battle at Jerusalem which climaxes this world's defiance of God's rule. His coming is described in the 19th chapter of Revelation, beginning the 11th verse. All nations are gathered against Jerusalem for this great battle, their armies having previously assembled at Armageddon (notice also Rev. 16:13-16). This same battle is described in the 14th chapter of the Book of Zechariah.

Notice it: "Behold the day of the

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HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG

Publisher and Editor

Herman L. Hoeh

Executive Editor

Roderick C. Meredith

Associate Editor

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Lord cometh . . . for I will gather all nations against Jerusalem to battle" (Zech. 14:1-2). This can be only the last battle of the great day of God Almighty, for it is the only time described in Scripture where ALL NATIONS are to be gathered against Jerusalem for battle, prior to the millennium. Now notice the 3rd and 4th verses: "Then shall the Lord go forth"—second coming of Christ—"and fight against those nations . . . and His feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east." Notice it—Jesus' feet shall stand upon the Mount of OLIVES—WHEN? It says "IN THAT DAY"—not a thousand years AFTER that day when this battle is being fought, but IN that day.

And so we see Jesus shall so come in like manner as He went, just as the Scriptures say. When He went, He was standing on the Mount of Olives. He was visibly caught up. A cloud received Him out of the disciples' sight. As many Scriptures affirm, He shall COME with clouds. And in the very DAY of the battle before Jerusalem, Jesus' feet shall stand once more on the Mount of Olives! Yes, He is coming AS HE WENT. He WENT from the Mount of Olives, and He shall RETURN to the Mount of Olives!

Now will He remain on the earth from that time, or immediately return to heaven? Notice verse 8: "And it shall be IN THAT DAY, that living waters (salvation, thru the Holy Spirit) shall go out from Jerusalem . . . in summer and in winter shall it be." Beginning from that very day when He comes, this event, the work of the times of restitution of all things, shall continue on thru SUMMER, and thru WINTER!

Shall the land be desolate and unin-

habited from that time on for a thousand years? Notice verse 10: All the land shall be turned as a plain from Geba to Rimmon south of Jerusalem: AND IT SHALL BE LIFTED UP, AND INHABITED." And again notice in the 16th verse, those left of the heathen, *Gentile nations* whose people were not destroyed in the battle at Armageddon, "shall even go up FROM YEAR TO YEAR to worship the KING, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles." Here we find the picture of these nations being ruled over WITH A ROD OF IRON—notice verses 17-19—when Jesus is KING over all the earth (verse 9), sitting on David's throne, and when the resurrected and immortal saints are reigning WITH Him a thousand years, ON THE EARTH, ruling

THESE NATIONS from year to year—notice it—from YEAR TO YEAR, from the time of the second coming of Christ! How plain!

And notice, too, that the nations which come from year to year are not altogether obedient—observe, in verse 17-19 how God will punish those who will refuse to obey. So these are not immortal saints. They are GENTILES. And notice carefully that these mortal sinning Gentiles shall be required to come up TO JERUSALEM—and Jerusalem is ON THE EARTH. And it is AT THE TIME when Jesus Christ has returned to rule as KING of kings, and LORD of Lords—yet future. It cannot be BEFORE the millennium. It cannot be AFTER it. It MUST be during the millennium. And the place is ON THE EARTH. Here, my friends, are unanswerable Scriptures!

Will Israel Ever Accept Christ and Be Saved?

Now what about the JEWS? What about ISRAEL? Has God cast them eternally away? Some seem to think so. What do the SCRIPTURES say?

Back in the 26th chapter of Leviticus we read how God warned His chosen race that IF they would not obey Him, He would PUNISH THEM—for a duration of 2520 years! Not with eternal loss of salvation—but a duration of 2520 long years—the prophetic "seven times" mentioned in verses 18, 21, 24, 28. The children of Israel became divided into TWO NATIONS—one called the House of Israel, the TEN Tribes,—the other the House of JUDAH, consisting of Judah and Benjamin, called the Jews. Israel sinned first, and was driven among the Gentiles, losing their identity. The world today commonly believes they are Gentiles. Then Judah sinned worse than Israel, and the Jews were taken to Babylon B.C. 604-585. God took away national dominance from Judah, and turned it over to the Gentiles.

Now I want you to study carefully one of the most wonderful, important chapters in all the Bible—the eleventh of Romans. Notice the question in verse 1: Has God cast away the Israelites? In verse 2 Paul says "NO!" Study verses 7 and 8. A few of them accepted salvation, but the rest were BLINDED—and—note it—GOD blinded them! Notice verse 11. They have not stumbled that they should FALL, or lose salvation, but salvation has come to the Gentiles—WHY?—to provoke Israel to JEALOUSY, so they, too, will turn. Notice verse 15—they are to be received again—and as life from the dead. Verse 23 says those who abide not still in unbelief shall YET receive salvation. Now study carefully beginning verse 25: "Blindness in part is happened until Israel!"—HOW LONG? Forever? No—note it—"UNTIL

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Prophesied to Happen to UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 2)

material resources, national greatness and world power!

Not only had God promised a world-dominant nation and a company, or commonwealth of nations whose populations descended from Abraham would be as the sand of the sea-shore—as the stars for multitude; not only did He promise they should possess the "GATES" of enemy nations, which alone signifies world dominance and power; but the Birthright finally included vast material wealth and unlimited national resources. That was made plain in the blessing given to Jacob, as we shall soon see.

The Birthright Denied to Ishmael

Unless by divine interference, which occurred three times, the inheritance of the Birthright fell automatically to the eldest son in each generation.

Isaac was chosen by the Eternal to inherit both the Sceptre and the Birthright. Abraham had other sons. Ishmael was the eldest. But God chose Isaac, and "Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac." (Gen. 25:5). Isaac, however, was Abraham's first-born *lawful* son. Ishmael was the son of Hagar, Sarah's hand-maid.

Abraham loved Ishmael, his eldest son, and desired for him to have the Birthright.

"And Abraham said unto God, 'O that Ishmael might live before thee.'" (Gen. 17:18). Sarah his wife was barren.

"And God said, 'Sarah thy wife shall bear thee a son indeed; and thou shalt call his name Isaac: and I will establish my covenant with him for an everlasting covenant, and with his seed after him. And as for Ishmael, I . . . will make him fruitful, and will multiply him exceedingly . . . and I will make him a great nation.'" (Gen. 17:19-20).

Regarding the future nation to spring from Ishmael, the angel of the Eternal had said to Hagar, "he will be a wild man; his hand will be against every man, and every man's hand against him; and he shall dwell to the east of all his brethren." (Gen. 16:12).

Two clues are given here: 1) Ishmael's descendants were to become a great nation but the Birthright nations were to be greater; and 2) they were to dwell to the east of their brethren—that is, of Isaac's descendants who had the Birthright. The children of Ishmael have become the Arabs of today. The nation and company of nations who hold the Birthright must, therefore, be larger, wealthier, more powerful, and

must be found geographically WEST of Saudi Arabia.

Abraham was the human type of God the Father, and Isaac of Christ. There are many parallels. Space prohibits expounding them here, except to note that if we are Christ's we are Abraham's children (Gal. 3:29), and Abraham is the "FATHER" of the faithful (Gal. 3:7); that Abraham was called on to be willing to sacrifice his only (legitimate) son (Gen. 22:2) even as God GAVE His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, for the sins of the world; that Isaac's wife Rebekah is a type of the Church, and she had to fall in love with him and accept him as her husband before she SAW him with her eyes; and the fact Isaac was born BY PROMISE, and by a miracle from God, even as Jesus was miraculously born of the virgin Mary.

Isaac had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. Esau was the first-born, and therefore the legal inheritor of the Birthright. But Esau undervalued it and sold it to Jacob.

Esau Sells the Birthright

God had chosen Jacob to possess these promises before the twins were born. But Jacob, influenced by his mother, instead of waiting on The Eternal, resorted to deception and took it from Esau.

The Eternal had said to Rebekah, regarding Esau and Jacob, that they were the beginning of two nations—"two manner of people."

"The one people shall be stronger than the other people:" said God, "and the elder shall serve the younger" (Gen. 25:23).

Their descendants, then, were to become two different manner of people. Esau was hairy and red, but Jacob was white (Verse 25). The story of Jacob's premature and deceptive acquisition of the Birthright continues, in Genesis 25:26-34:

"And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

"And Jacob sod pottage (boiled porridge—Fenton's translation); and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: and Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red pottage; for I am faint: therefore was his name called *Edom*."

"Edom" means, literally, "Red Soup,"

and is so translated in the Fenton version. It will prove another "key" to Bible understanding for the reader to carefully fasten in his memory the fact that "Edom" refers to ESAU. Many prophecies pertaining to the present and future employ the name Edom. They cannot be understood unless it is realized that they refer to the descendants of Esau, the Turkish nation today.

"And Jacob said, Sell me this day thy birthright. And Esau said, Behold I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he swore unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentils; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright." (Gen. 25:27-34).

Later, Jacob subtly took from Esau his blessing. The story of this deception is found in the 27th chapter of Genesis.

Jacob's Deception

It was at a time when Isaac was old, his eyesight dimmed with age. Nearing the end of his life, he called Esau and requested that he go to the field and hunt for venison, prepare it and bring it to him. He would then bestow the blessing confirming the birthright.

But Rebekah overheard, and sent Jacob quickly for two kids of the goats. These she prepared in the same tempting way that Isaac loved his venison. Then she took some of Esau's clothes and put them on Jacob. Now Esau was very hairy, while Jacob was smooth, so Rebekah carefully placed the skins of the two kids upon Jacob's hands, arms, and smooth part of his neck.

And so in this disguise, with his imitation venison, Jacob went in to receive his father's blessing.

"And Jacob said unto his father, I am Esau thy firstborn." (Gen. 27:19).

Isaac was surprised he had found the venison so quickly, and became suspicious. Jacob lied again, asserting the Eternal had brought the venison to him. Isaac detected the voice was that of Jacob.

"And Isaac said unto Jacob, Come near, I pray thee, that I may feel thee, my son, whether thou be my very son Esau or not. And Jacob went near unto Isaac his father; and he felt him, and said, The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy, as his brother Esau's hands, so he blessed him." (Gen. 27:21-23).

What the Birthright Included

And now notice carefully what that blessing included!

"And his father Isaac said unto him, Come near now, and kiss me, my son,

And he came near, and kissed him: and he smelled the smell of his raiment, and blessed him, and said, See, the smell of my son is as the smell of a field which the Eternal hath blessed: *Therefore God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine:* (Fenton's translation: *increase and possession*). *Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be everyone that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.*" (Verses 26-29).

Note it! Materialistic promises, NATIONAL in nature, every one! Not one of them pertaining to salvation. None having to do with the life after death. Nothing spiritual here! All pertaining purely to this present fleshly life!

Note it! NATIONAL prosperity—rain-fall, plenty of corn and wine, the fatness of the earth, or, as the margin reads, the fat PLACES of the earth—*increase and possession*. "NATIONS shall bow down to thee!" "Let people serve thee."

When Esau returned and found how Jacob had supplanted him, he was very bitter. He pleaded for a blessing, too. But Isaac could not retract the blessing given to Jacob. So he passed on to Esau the following prophetic blessing:

"Behold, thy dwelling shall be the fatness of the earth, and of the dew of heaven from above; and *by thy sword shalt thou live*, and shalt serve thy brother; and it shall come to pass when thou shalt have dominion, that thou shalt break his yoke from off thy neck." (Gen. 27:39-40).

"And Esau hated Jacob." (Verse 41).

Prophecy for Turkey

The sparse records of history, with other proofs, show that the Turks are the descendants of Esau. Therefore we must remember that all prophecies pertaining to the latter days, referring to Edom, or Esau, refer to the Turkish nation.

In Isaac's dying prophecy, he foretold that Esau's descendants would come to a time when they should have dominion, and then break the yoke of the Israelites from off their necks. That has happened. The Children of Israel, thru sin, were driven out of the promised land that belonged with the Birthright. The Turks came to power and dominion, and for many centuries possessed that land. Esau's descendants always have lusted for that land, central promise of the Birthright! The Turks have truly lived by the sword!

The Lesson for Us

But to return to our story. Before Jacob was born, God had spoken to his

mother and revealed to her that Jacob should receive the Birthright. Instead, however, of waiting on the Eternal to bring this about in His own way, she schemed with Jacob to take it by lying and deception. There is a lesson here for us today.

Sometimes we become too much in a hurry. We ask the Almighty for things He has promised in His Word. Then we try to dictate to Him just HOW, and WHEN it shall be accomplished! We need to learn to "wait upon the Lord." He always does things in HIS way, and in His own time. And He distinctly tells us that His ways are not our ways! Once we commit a thing to the Almighty, let us have not only the trust, but the respect for One so great, that we will LEAVE the matter in His hands.

Had Jacob trusted the Eternal, instead of taking this into his own hands in a wrong way, the Birthright would have come to him more honorably. Under the circumstances, Jacob, which name means "supplanter," had far more difficulty securing God's blessing upon the precious possession than his predecessors.

But after years of trial and test—after finally wrestling all night thru with the angel—after confessing his name as "Supplanter"—God bestowed His blessing upon Jacob, took away his reproachful name, and gave him a new, untainted name, "ISRAEL,"—which means "prevailer," or "overcomer."

And thus we see that thru Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, the promises were handed down to one man at a time. There was no branching out, toward national growth, until the days of Jacob. For three generations it had been a "one-man nation." But Jacob had twelve sons, and thru them the future *great nation and company of nations* was started on its way.

The third installment will appear in the April number.

Millennium— where will it be spent?

(Continued from page 5)

ever to the thousand years, or to the whole earth, but the land of Palestine ONLY, and during the sieges of Nebuchadnezzar, 604 to 586 B.C. The original Hebrew word for "land" in this chapter is the *same* word which is wrongly translated "earth." Jeremiah was speaking of the whole *land*!

JOHN 14:1-3: This text is also used as a proof-text for going to heaven. Jesus said "If I go, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself." He receives us unto Himself WHEN HE WILL HAVE COME AGAIN—right here in the

earth. We are to meet Him IN THE CLOUDS, and airplanes fly higher than that every day. That same day we come on down WITH HIM upon the Mount of Olives (Zech. 14:4, 5). "That where I am, THERE ye may be also." After Jesus receives us unto Himself, He will remain here on this earth. We shall ever BE with Him. We shall sit with Him IN HIS THRONE—which is the throne of David ON THIS EARTH. The places prepared are positions of responsibility in the KINGDOM He went to receive (Luke 19:12 and Mat. 25:3—note the kingdom is PREPARED, and its PLACE is the earth!). The place will also be the CAPITAL of that kingdom, the NEW JERUSALEM, which comes down FROM GOD, out of heaven, down to this earth, PREPARED (Rev. 21:2). What glorious Good News—WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH DURING THE MILLENNIUM! (4 Rev. 5:10).

Today's Religious Doctrines

(Continued from page 12)

down by Semiramis. Satan has the people of the earth so confused today that they actually do not know whether they are coming into the true knowledge which will lead to the eternal life or actually going the way which will lead to eternal death. Only the inspired word of God—the Bible—*closely* studied, shows us the right way and the *actual* destinations of the sinner and the saved!

Here we see that Pluto (the Greek name for their god representing Nimrod), or Kronos (the Babylonian name for their god representing Nimrod),—merely different names for the Devil or serpent, instead of burning people up, was *purifying* them by fire after death!

Devil Worship Reaches Rome

Purgatory in Paganism was the grand hinge of priestcraft and superstition. "The serpents were the supreme of all the gods and princes of the universe." . . . No wonder that it came at last to be firmly believed that the Messiah, on whom the hopes of the world depended, was Himself the "seed of the serpent"! (Eusebius *Proeparatio Evang.* vol. i. p. 50.)

"This was manifestly the case in Greece; for the current story there came to be, that the first Bacchus (the Grecian name of Tammuz) was brought forth in consequence of a connection on the part of his mother with the father of the gods, in the form of a 'speckled snake.' Thus the (devil) . . . got himself almost everywhere recognized as in every deed 'the god of this world.'" (Ibid.) The devil, through one