

THE

PLAIN TRUTH

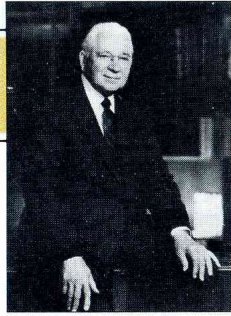
a magazine of understanding



Europe and the Papacy

BRIAN KNOWLES

Pope
John Paul II



Personal from...

Your Human Potential Is Incredibly Greater Than You Have Realized

Don't sell yourself short! The possibilities that lie ahead for you are transcendently greater than you have ever come to know!

When I was an adolescent of sixteen, as I have said and written many times, **AMBITION** was aroused in me. It was on my first summer vacation job away from home. I had never thought very seriously before of making something of myself in the world.

I had devoted my time, as most boys do, to "having fun." I had played baseball, football, and spun tops. At age twelve I became interested in wrestling. Those were the days when wrestling was wrestling—not a deceptive comedy show like professional wrestling later became. Those were the days when Frank Gotch was world champion—a *real* champion—the days of "Farmer Burns," Zbysco, and other superstrong men. The older brother of a neighbor boy I played with had set up a real wrestling mat, and we boys were learning all about half nelsons, arm locks, and toeholds.

Then at sixteen I had a summer vacation job in another town. My employer complimented me on my work, and this caused me to try hard. He began telling me I had abilities to make a real success of my life—I could really accomplish big things, if I applied myself.

Ambition is the **DESIRE** to accomplish, **PLUS** the will to apply oneself energetically with determination. I didn't then know *what* I would do—in what field I would become such a success—but I began to believe in myself, and began to apply myself to studies at the public library, entirely aside from the high school studies.

At age eighteen I put myself through a course of self-analysis, by means of a book I found in the public library, *Choosing a Vocation*. It helped me avoid "fitting the square peg in the round hole." It set forth the requirements for success in the professions, businesses, occupations. This self-survey, coupled with a survey of occupations, led me into the advertising profession.

I applied myself vigorously. As I grew into the twenties, I became quite successful. With an office in

Chicago's Loop from age 23 to 30, I was finally earning an income which, on today's dollar value, would amount to \$150,000 per year.

Then, at age 34, I was challenged most seriously, and was led into an intensive, almost night-and-day, in-depth study of evolution and the Bible. My marriage depended upon it, and I did not believe in divorce.

This in-depth research **OPENED MY EYES** to an entirely **NEW HORIZON!**

Up until then I had been imbued 1) with *self*-confidence, and 2) with an horizon limited to mental or physical secular fields.

In other words, I interpreted "human potential" in terms of the physical and the material, as I suppose most everybody does today.

Commonly, people will think of human potential as the possibility of making such a success in life as a Thomas A. Edison, an Einstein, a Paderewski, an Arthur Rubinstein—or, historically, a Napoleon, or an Alexander the Great.

But now a **WHOLE NEW HORIZON** loomed transcendently before my mind's eye—something immeasurably greater and more wonderful than any physical, material, or mechanical accomplishment.

And now, too, an entirely **NEW** kind of **CONFIDENCE** began to grip me. I began to exchange **SELF**-confidence for the confidence that is **FAITH** in the living Jesus Christ. **Self**-confidence began to disappear. **FAITH**, which is **RELiance** on God, began to grow.

And a potentiality that is possible for humans now loomed up stupendously greater than anything I had conceived of before.

I had begun to see, in the Bible, something **TREMENDOUS** that seems hidden from human eyes in this world. I began to realize that the gospel message which God sent by Jesus Christ involves a vast comprehension of God's great **PURPOSE!** I began to discover the missing dimension in knowledge—knowledge undiscovered by science, untaught in higher

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Supernatural Forces on a Collision Course!

WHAT NOW?

Two opposing supernatural powers are fast converging toward the supreme crisis of all time. It will drastically affect your life and all humanity! The end of this world is imminent. What's prophesied to happen next?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

It's back to prophecy, now! We need an immediate updating on events fulfilling biblical prophecy! It's now urgent that we pinpoint where we are in prophesied world events, especially in view of two month-apart papal elections and a serious new threat from the Soviet Union. Precisely what do these events portend for the immediate future?

It all started millennia ago. Now it is converging rapidly toward the CATAclysmic CLIMAX of the ages!

YOU are living in this supreme CRISIS-TIME of all eternity! It will severely affect YOUR LIFE—and perhaps *your eternity!*

Origin of the Supernatural Forces

It all began in eternity—farther back than your mind can grasp—and it will lead *to* a future happy eternity.

Yet we live at the very point of supreme CRISIS!

It all began with the existence from eternity of God and the Word. The Word was much later to become—less than two thousand years ago—the Lord Jesus Christ. But He had always existed—“without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life” (Heb. 7:3). All things were created by Him. God created all things (the UNIVERSE and all therein) by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9).

First to be created were the angels. Angels are spirit beings, composed of spirit, immortal, with life inherent. Three levels of angels were created: ordinary angels who do NOT have wings, seraphs and cherubs, both of whom do. Angels are on a higher plane than man. And the supreme creation in angel life

were cherubs, of which only three are mentioned in the Bible.

One of these was the archangel Lucifer. Long before the creation of man, Lucifer had been set by God on earth's THRONE, to administer the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over angels which then inhabited the earth.

This Lucifer was the SUPREME MASTERPIECE of God's creative power—actually next to GOD in superPOWER! But Lucifer turned from God's government and led his angels in REBELLION against God. As an invading army they swept up to God's heaven, but were cast back down to earth. Lucifer's name was changed to Satan the devil. His angels became demons.

Adam's Rebellion

Then, in His greatest Master Plan of all, God undertook the actual repro-

duction of Himself, through MAN. God created man in His image—form and shape—for a special relationship with God. But Satan got to Adam through Eve his wife. Adam followed Satan in rejecting the government of God. Adam had been made, as had Lucifer and the angels, a free moral agent—with independent MIND and ability of free choice.

On Adam's fateful decision and rebellion, Adam's world, descended from him, was sentenced to being CUT OFF from God for 6,000 years, after which God decreed Christ should come to RESTORE the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to earth, establishing the KINGDOM OF GOD with worldwide RULE.

Satan is an immortal spirit being, next to God in supernatural power. When Adam failed to reject Satan's WAY, but followed it in defiance of his Maker, it remained for Jesus Christ, the "second Adam," to reject Satan's way, defeat him, and qualify to restore God's government. Those IN Christ, who have received the gift of His Holy Spirit and overcome Satan, shall qualify to sit with Christ on earth's throne—by a soon-coming resurrection—at Christ's imminent return as KING of kings.

God, in sentencing Adam and his world, had said, in effect, "Go, form your own governments, your own religions, your own civilization." Satan has remained to deceive and thus sway all mankind—save only those few whom God has specially called to a unique mission, in preparation for the Kingdom of God.

In this world, soon after the Flood, a human despot, Nimrod, formed the world's first city-states. His mother-wife, Semiramis, started a pagan, Satan-influenced religion, from which many world religions have sprung—deceived—with Satan the god of this world.

Some six centuries before Christ, one Nebuchadnezzar conquered other nations and established the Chaldean Empire (Babylon) as the world's first empire.

Meanwhile God had called the descendents of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob out of Egyptian slavery, 430 years after Abraham, to become

God's nation on earth. Spiritual salvation was not offered them. Their God-established government was based on God's spiritual law. But they rebelled, and were successively conquered and taken as captive slaves—first by Assyria, and later Judah was taken by Nebuchadnezzar to Babylon.

Through the prophet Daniel, God revealed Himself to Nebuchadnezzar as supreme Ruler over all. Nebuchadnezzar had a chance to come under God's rule. But as Israel had rejected that, so did Nebuchadnezzar. His empire was following the Babylonian mystery religion.

God gave prophecies of world events from the time of Daniel until our time and immediately beyond. The Persian Empire succeeded the Chaldean, then the Greco-Macedonian of Alexander the Great, followed in 27 B.C. by the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire held world sway during the time of Christ's ministry.

Jesus Christ founded His Church A.D. 31 at Jerusalem. He had trained His original apostles, whom He sent forth with His GOSPEL MESSAGE of the KINGDOM OF GOD, backed up by the Church of God, imbued with God's Holy Spirit.

Counterfeit Christianity

By A.D. 33 the Pater-leader of the Babylonian mystery religion, one Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24), falsely claimed Christianity and applied that name to his religion. It entered into fierce opposition and persecution of the Church of God, and by A.D. 58 a counterfeit gospel was being accepted, and the gospel of Christ was suppressed by Roman power by A.D. 70.

The Babylonian mystery religion (Rev. 17:5) became a Rome-based religion, persecuting true Christian believers. The Roman Empire was overthrown by northern barbarians in 476. There was a semi-Roman rule by the Vandals, Ostrogoths and the Heruli for nearly 200 years—but all three disappeared eventually as if the earth had swallowed them.

Meanwhile the Roman Church, still claiming Christianity, now known primarily as the Roman

Catholic Church, had gained prominence and power. In 554, its pope brought Justinian, who ruled the Roman Empire of the east at Constantinople, to Rome, for a resurrection of the Roman Empire—then known as the Holy Roman Empire—with the popes claiming infallible divine rule over the state. Church and state were united—the Roman religion was enforced.

There were ups and downs in the continuing Holy Roman Empire—reaching peaks in A.D. 800 under the French King Charlemagne, then later another upsurge under the German Otto the Great, still later the Hapsburg Austrian dynasty rising to a peak under Charles V, and finally the Holy Roman Empire coming to its end under Napoleon, who "met his Waterloo" in 1814. Thus, as prophesied (Rev. 13:5), the medieval Holy Roman Empire continued for 1260 years (a day for a year in prophecy).

In 1935 Mussolini had conquered Ethiopia, with Eritrea, Italian Somaliland and Libya. Mussolini—having arranged a concordat with the Vatican—proclaimed the resurrection of the Roman Empire. It was an insignificant "empire," hardly making front-page news. This was the kingdom that "was, and is not, and yet is" of Revelation 17:8.

Verse 10 (Rev. 17) says: "And there are seven kings [kingdoms]: five are fallen [as of 1935], and one is, and the other is not yet come."

Prophesied United Europe

I have been proclaiming and writing, ever since 1935, that the final one of the seven eras of the Holy Roman Empire is coming in our generation—a "United States of Europe," combining ten nations or groups of nations in Europe—with a UNION OF CHURCH AND STATE!

The nations of Europe have been striving to become reunited. They desire a common currency, a single combined military force, a single united GOVERNMENT. They have made a start in the Common Market. They are now working toward a common currency. Yet, on a purely political basis, they have been totally UNABLE to unite.

In only one way can this resurrected Holy Roman Empire be brought to fruition—by the “good offices” of the Vatican, uniting church and state once again, with the Vatican astride and ruling (Rev. 17:1-5).

This united Europe is pictured in the prophecy of Daniel 2 (the stupendous dream-image) as the ten toes of an image, which image portrayed and foretold the entire Gentile and Babylonian rule from Nebuchadnezzar’s Chaldean Empire, 605 B.C., until the KINGDOM OF GOD (Dan. 2:44). This united Europe will attempt to fight and destroy the glorified Christ, as He returns for WORLD RULE (Rev. 17:13-14).

This new united Europe will be, militarily and economically, as strong, or even more powerful, than either the United States or the U.S.S.R. It will be a third gigantic world power! But it will be exceedingly short-lived (Rev. 17:10, 12)—as iron and miry clay are not adhesive, and will not stick together (Daniel 2:42-43).

Now let me fill in a few pertinent points. Revelation 13:2,4 reveals that Satan gave this religious-political combine its power, and seat, and great authority.

Yet that does not imply that the millions of people within it are in themselves any more evil than the rest of humanity in this world, for THIS WHOLE WORLD—all nations—has been DECEIVED by Satan (Rev. 12:9). A deceived person may be ever so sincere, thinking he is right. Those deceived—all but the very minimal “elect”—are simply natural- or carnal-minded—and the natural mind of MAN is hostile against God, and not subject to the LAW of God, neither indeed can be (Rom. 8:7) and is “deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked” (Jer. 17:9). THAT DESCRIBES ALL OF US, as we were prior to conversion!

Satan has been the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4).

When God SENTENCED the world (all except the very few, comparatively, that He would call) to be CUT OFF from God, He at the same time ALLOWED Satan to remain.

There were two vital reasons for this: 1) The THRONE OF THE EARTH, on which God placed Lucifer, MUST NOT BE VACATED. Even though Lucifer was disqualified and his name changed to Satan, he must occupy the throne UNTIL his successor, Christ, has qualified (which He did in A.D. 31) and been INDUCTED INTO OFFICE (as He shall be at His second coming in supreme POWER AND GLORY). 2) As Jesus had to QUALIFY by rejecting and overcoming Satan, so must all those, from righteous Abel on to now, ALSO reject and overcome Satan in order to QUALIFY to sit *with Christ* in His throne when He ousts Satan and Himself sits on that THRONE OVER ALL THE EARTH!

The REAL CULPRIT to blame for all the world’s evils is Satan—NOT DECEIVED MAN!

The 6,000-Year Battle

World-famous evangelists have said there is a supreme CONTEST or BATTLE going on between Christ and Satan. They believe that NOW is the ONLY day of salvation; that Christ is engaged in a supreme struggle to get everybody “SAVED,” while Satan is fighting savagely to keep everybody “LOST.” THAT IS AN ENTIRELY FALSE AND ERRONEOUS CONCEPT. Those who proclaim it are themselves DECEIVED by Satan.

The only CONTEST is between those few God has called and Satan, not between CHRIST and Satan. Those called must, it is true, overcome Satan, even as Jesus did, to QUALIFY to sit on Christ’s THRONE (a throne NOW OCCUPIED BY SATAN). Therefore, WE—we called-out ones, we who are CHRIST’S—are contending not against *other people* who persecute, accuse and become hostile against us. We are contending against WICKED SPIRITS IN HIGH PLACES, that is, Satan and his demons (Eph. 6:12). It is Satan working in people (Eph. 2:2) who really is antagonizing, accusing, trying to destroy us.

But Jesus Christ has already CONQUERED and OVERCOME Satan. The former Lucifer was “perfect in all his ways” from the day of his creation “UNTIL iniquity was found in

him” (Ezek. 28:15). GOD created Lucifer BY Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9). Christ is his MAKER! Satan has deceived evangelists of this world into putting Satan on an EQUAL FOOTING in power with God his Creator!

UNDERSTAND THIS, once and for all! Satan cannot do a thing except what God ALLOWS him to do! Notice this in the book of Job: “Now there was a day when the sons of God came to present themselves before the ETERNAL, and Satan came also among them” (Job 1:6).

Satan contended against one of God’s “CALLED”—Job. Satan wanted PERMISSION from God to destroy all Job possessed. “And the ETERNAL said unto Satan, Behold, all that he hath is in thy power; only upon himself put not forth thine hand” (Job. 1:12). Satan can do NO MORE THAN GOD ALLOWS! There is NO CONTEST going on between God and Satan!

But the first man, Adam, MADE THE CHOICE to follow Satan’s way. God then sentenced man to be ON HIS OWN, cut off from God. God has ALLOWED Satan to sway and deceive mankind—and GOD HAD A GREAT PURPOSE IN DOING SO!

This world has NOT been God’s world. It has been MAN’S world, but, for a PURPOSE, God has allowed Satan to tempt, deceive and mislead mankind.

The Dilemma of the Papacy

Now, in SUCH A WORLD allowed by God—a world deceived and CUT OFF from Him—consider the situation of the Roman Catholic Church. This church has sat astride the governments of Europe through the Middle Ages and up until 1814. For a time after 1814, the popes had gone into virtual exile.

But now, in this twentieth century, a drastic CHANGE has come over all humanity. The so-called “new morality” has swept over the world. This, more than anything else, was a revolt against the Roman Catholic dictum, generally accepted in the Western world, that sex is in itself SINFUL, shameful.

Probably the founder of psychoanalysis, Sigmund Freud, started
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PART THREE:



THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



God promised great wealth and abundance to Abraham's seed—but did they ever inherit those fantastic blessings? Just where are these “Lost Ten Tribes,” anyway? Did they simply disappear from the face of the earth, or did they go on to become the richest nations in the world? You would be shocked to know how much the answers to these vital questions have to do with your future and the future of Western civilization!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

After the death of Jacob and his twelve sons in Egypt, their children grew in about two and a quarter centuries to a population probably between two and three million in that land.

But Israel's children became slaves: “And Joseph died, and all his brethren, and all that generation. And the children of Israel were fruitful, and increased abundantly, and multiplied, and waxed exceeding mighty; and the land was filled with them. Now there arose up a new king over Egypt, which knew not Joseph. . . . And the Egyptians made the children of Israel to serve with rigour: and they made their lives bitter with hard bondage . . .” (Ex. 1:6-14).

Then God raised up Moses and fitted him in a special way to lead these children of Israel out of the bondage that had come to them in Egypt.

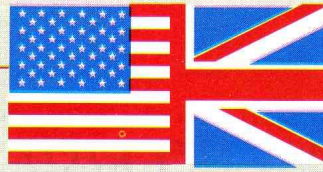
When they reached Mt. Sinai, in the peninsula wilderness, God made a covenant with them establishing them as a NATION—His nation—among the kingdoms of the

world. Their government was theocratic, with the civil, as well as the spiritual and religious laws, given directly from God. God Himself was their King and He ruled them by a system of judges.

Israel's First King Was God

God was Israel's only King! Israel was *both* church and state. In Acts 7:38 we are told that the Israelites formed the church in the wilderness. The word “congregation” of Israel used throughout the Old Testament has the same meaning exactly as the word “church” in the New. Israel, consequently, had more than one set of laws. God gave Israel a twofold form of government. The congregation, or church, was given ritualistic laws—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal or fleshly ordinances.

But Israel also was a *civil* government, thus for it God established civil officers and civil laws—statutes and judgments. The one great central code of law, basis for



both church and civil government—the overall SPIRITUAL CODE—was the TEN COMMANDMENTS, spoken by God directly to all the congregation, written with the very finger of God in tables of stone.

For several generations after leaving Egypt, God was their King! (This history is found through the books of Moses, Joshua and Judges.) Each tribe kept separate by itself, but together they formed one nation in much the same manner as the United States is one nation composed of individual states.

Each tribe occupied its own land, or district. The Levites became the priestly tribe, mingling throughout the other tribes, having no inheritance in the land and no separate territory (except for cities) of their own. To offset this, however, the children of Joseph were divided into *two* tribes—Ephraim and Manasseh—thus leaving twelve distinct and separate tribes, each occupying its own territory or province, *in addition to* the Levites who were sprinkled among the tribes.

All these years the birthright and the sceptre remained within the one nation—the birthright, of course, being handed down through the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh, the sceptre with Judah.

Dissatisfied With God

The children of Israel were human, even as you and I. They continually grumbled and complained. Their carnal minds were hostile to God and His laws, even as human minds today (Rom. 8:7). Soon they became dissatisfied with God as their King and demanded that a *man* should be their king as in the Gentile nations around them. So today, we want to be like the non-Christians around us instead of conforming strictly to the ways of God as we are instructed in His Word! Human nature has ever been thus.

When the elders of Israel came to Samuel demanding a man be made their king, it naturally displeased Samuel, their prophet. But the Eternal said: “Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, *but they have rejected me, that I should not reign over them...* howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them” (I Sam. 8:7-9).

Saul was their first human king. He refused obedience to God and was finally rejected. He was slain in battle. His sole surviving son, Ishbosheth, was slain after a reign of only two years (II Sam. 2:10). However, Ishbosheth never reigned over Judah. With this short reign over part of Israel, Saul’s dynasty ceased. That is how God rejected him. His dynasty was cut off!

David’s Dynasty Forever

David succeeded Saul. David sat on the *Eternal’s throne*. David’s son Solomon succeeded him, also sitting on the Eternal’s throne. “Then Solomon sat on *the throne of the*

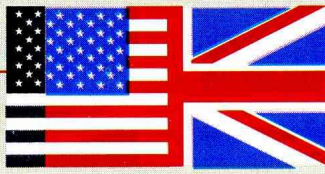


Solomon sat on the Eternal’s throne. God promised that Solomon’s dynasty would never end; it would be continuous and unbroken through all generations forever.

Eternal as king instead of David his father” (I Chron. 29:23; see also II Chron. 9:8).

I wish here to impress another special point. Before Saul, the Eternal had been King over Israel. These human kings were sitting upon the Eternal’s throne. The Eternal—“LORD”—is Jesus Christ who was with the Father before the world was (John 17:5 and 1:1-2, 14). Jesus is both the “root” *and* the “offspring” of David (Rev. 22:16). Since He was the “root,” the throne was His before David was born. David merely sat upon the Eternal’s throne. Secondly, since Jesus was David’s lawful fleshly Son, this same throne shall once more become His right by inheritance, continuing David’s dynasty. And so, when Christ returns to earth, David’s throne will be doubly His right!

Now we come to a seemingly incredible fact—fantastic—almost unbelievable, but *true!* While David was



king, God made with him a perpetual covenant, unconditionally, which God cannot and will not break! This covenant is even more amazing, and less understood, than the unconditional covenant with Abraham!

I want you now to plant firmly in mind the specific nature and character of the covenant the Almighty made with David. For it is a vital link in the purpose and mission of Christ—an important KEY to Bible understanding!

In II Samuel 23:1, 5, we find: “Now these be the last words of David. . . . God . . . hath made with me *an everlasting covenant*, ordered in all things, and *sure*.” In other words, a covenant that shall endure forever and *cannot fail!*

Turn back to the seventh chapter of II Samuel for more specific details. God gave David this covenant promise at a time when David was much concerned over the Ark of the Covenant dwelling in a tent. David wanted to build a great temple at Jerusalem.

“And it came to pass that night, that the word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying, Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord, Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? . . . When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels [Solomon], and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, *and I will establish the throne of his kingdom for ever*. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: But my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. *And thine house and thy kingdom shall be established for ever* before thee: **THY THRONE SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOR EVER**” (II Sam. 7:4-5, 12-16).

Points to Notice

Notice carefully these points:

1) David’s throne was set up and established with Solomon, David’s son.

2) The throne—David’s throne (verse 16)—was established FOREVER in Solomon (verse 13). Observe that this nowhere says that when Christ comes, God will establish it in *Him* forever. It says it was to be established forever *in Solomon*.

3) What if Solomon, or the children of Israel, disobey? Would that cancel this covenant? Verses 14-15 plainly say that if they commit iniquity, God will chasten them *with the rod of men*, but will NOT break this covenant. The throne shall go on forever just the same!

4) Notice particularly, in case of disobedience, God will *not* take the throne away as He took it from Saul. How did He take it from Saul? Saul’s dynasty ended! No son of Saul ever sat on the throne. But Solomon’s dynasty would not end. The punishment for disobedience would be chastening at the hands of *men*.

5) Since God did firmly establish this throne with David and with Solomon, if David’s throne ceased from existence, even for the length of one generation, could we say it had been established *forever* as God here promised?

Here is the fact as little realized as any in the Bible! Almighty God made an absolutely binding—just *how* binding we shall see!—covenant with David, *unconditionally* guaranteeing that there should never be a single generation from that time forward when there would not be a descendant of David in UNBROKEN DYNASTY sitting on David’s throne, ruling over children of Israel! It was the promise of a continuous, unbroken dynasty—all generations *forever*—that was guaranteed.

This is hard to believe! Yet God promised and *unalterably guaranteed* just that! There were no conditions. Nothing that would happen could prevent it. The sins of the people were not to change it. The promise stood immutable!

The End of the Record

But where is that throne today?

The history of the Bible records a line of kings, all descendants of David in continuous dynasty, down to King Zedekiah. But in the year 585 B.C. this last recorded king ever to sit on this throne was captured by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his eyes were put out, he was taken to Babylon, and there died in a dungeon!

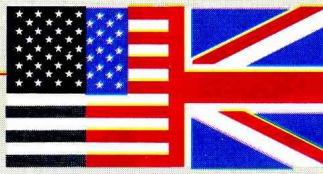
Moreover, all his sons were slain! All the nobles of Judah who were not already imprisoned or enslaved at Babylon at that time were killed, so that none could remain to sit on the throne of David! The Chaldeans destroyed Jerusalem, burned the Temple and the king’s houses, took the Jews, a captive, slave people to Babylon. There is certainly no record of any king of the line of David ruling over Judah from that day to this. However, the line of Jehoiakin to Jesus survived in Babylonish captivity—so Jesus was a descendant of David.

Some will say, however, that this throne is established today in Christ. But Christ has not yet taken over this throne! He pictured Himself as the nobleman (Luke 19:12) who went to a far country (heaven) to get for Himself a Kingdom, and, who, after receiving the right to the Kingdom, *would return*. Jesus Christ will not sit upon the throne of David until His second coming to earth, yet in the future!

But what of the nearly 600 years between King Zedekiah and the birth of Christ? *Who* was reigning over the Israelites and sitting on David’s throne during those generations? If no one, then we must conclude God broke His Word, or the Scripture has been broken!

The answer is a mystery more astounding than any tale of fiction! The Bible reveals it, step by step.

But, then again, some will point to the expression “I will establish” (II Sam. 7:13) and conclude that possibly



God meant *at the second coming of Christ* He would establish that throne forever. And still that will not do. From whom would Christ take over David's throne if that throne has ceased these centuries to exist? But God plainly promised He would establish that throne *in Solomon*: "And I will stablish the throne of *his* [Solomon's] kingdom FOR EVER." He was not speaking of establishing it many centuries later in Christ—at His second coming. The "he" referred to is Solomon—not Christ, for God said: "If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him" (II Sam. 7:14).

But now I give you a scripture that ends all speculation as to *when* this throne was established: "Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel; ought ye not to KNOW that the Eternal God of Israel GAVE the kingdom over to Israel to David FOR EVER, even to him and to *his sons* by a covenant of salt?" (II Chron. 13:4-5.) The margin says "PERPETUAL covenant." This shows the establishing of the throne was then *in the past!* God gave, did give, this kingdom to David and his *sons*—not his *Son*, Christ, but his sons, plural—continuously forever.

Established for All Generations

"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed [dynasty—Moffatt] will I establish for ever, and build up *thy throne to all genera-*

If the throne of David ceased with Zedekiah, then it does not exist today. And if it does not exist, how shall Christ sit upon a nonexistent throne?

tions" (Ps. 89:3-4). Note it! This throne, established forever, was built up to *all generations*. God *did* establish that throne, beginning with David and Solomon. We have a record of it for a number of generations—as far as King Zedekiah, 585 B.C.

It was established to *all* generations, continuously, perpetually, FOREVER! That term "all generations" certainly must include those generations from Zedekiah to the birth of Christ. Who occupied that throne during those generations?

Christ is not sitting on that throne now, but on the throne of Almighty God in heaven (Rev. 3:21).

So what about *this present generation*? Where is there a descendant of David today sitting in unbroken line of kings on the throne of David, ruling over *children of Israel*?

Can one wonder that men like Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in the Bible? They saw these unconditional promises, but they could not see how they had been kept. Yet, if we have patience, we shall see!

But to continue, in the 89th Psalm, with the 28th verse: "My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed [dynasty—Moffatt] also will I make to endure for ever, and *his throne as the days of heaven.*"

Consider a moment the meaning of the word "seed" in this sense. Moffatt's translation in modern English properly translates it "dynasty." The Revised Standard Version translates it "his [David's] *line*"—that is, continuous line or succession of sons, generation after generation. This "seed" is not the general population of the children of Israel. This is speaking of David's seed, or David's sons. His sons were to be *kings*. David was of the tribe of Judah, possessor of the sceptre, not the birthright, promise. His "seed," therefore, was the *kingly* line. So, literally, it means his *dynasty*, his *line* of successive sons.

Now while his throne is enduring through all generations, as the days of heaven, consider the next verse: "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgression with the rod, and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. *My covenant will I not break*, nor alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. HIS SEED [dynasty] shall endure FOR EVER, and *his throne as the sun* before me. It shall be established for ever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven" (Ps. 89:30-37).

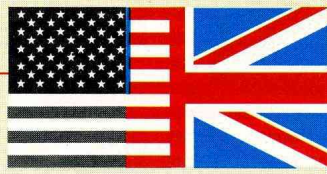
This is speaking of those generations when his children may disobey and forsake God's law. Some today are excusing their inability to locate this throne by saying the covenant was *conditional*—that because the children of Israel disobeyed God, the covenant was broken. But what does the Almighty say? If the children disobey and transgress, they shall be *punished* for their transgression—but *not* by the breaking of God's unconditional covenant with David!

Some say Christ took over the throne. But He didn't. Instead He was crucified, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. He *shall* come, and soon now, to sit upon that throne as the King of kings and Lord of lords. But how could Jesus Christ, when He returns again to earth, take over and sit upon a throne that long ago ceased to exist?

Will Christ Come to a Nonexistent Throne?

If the throne of David ceased with Zedekiah, then it does not exist today. And if it does not exist, *how shall Christ sit upon a nonexistent throne?* (See Luke 1:31-32.) And, since it was to continue through *all* generations, how about those many generations between Zedekiah and the birth of Jesus?

The very important *fact* that the glorified King of kings is coming to sit on an *existing throne* is further affirmed by the prophet Jeremiah. In the 33rd chapter is



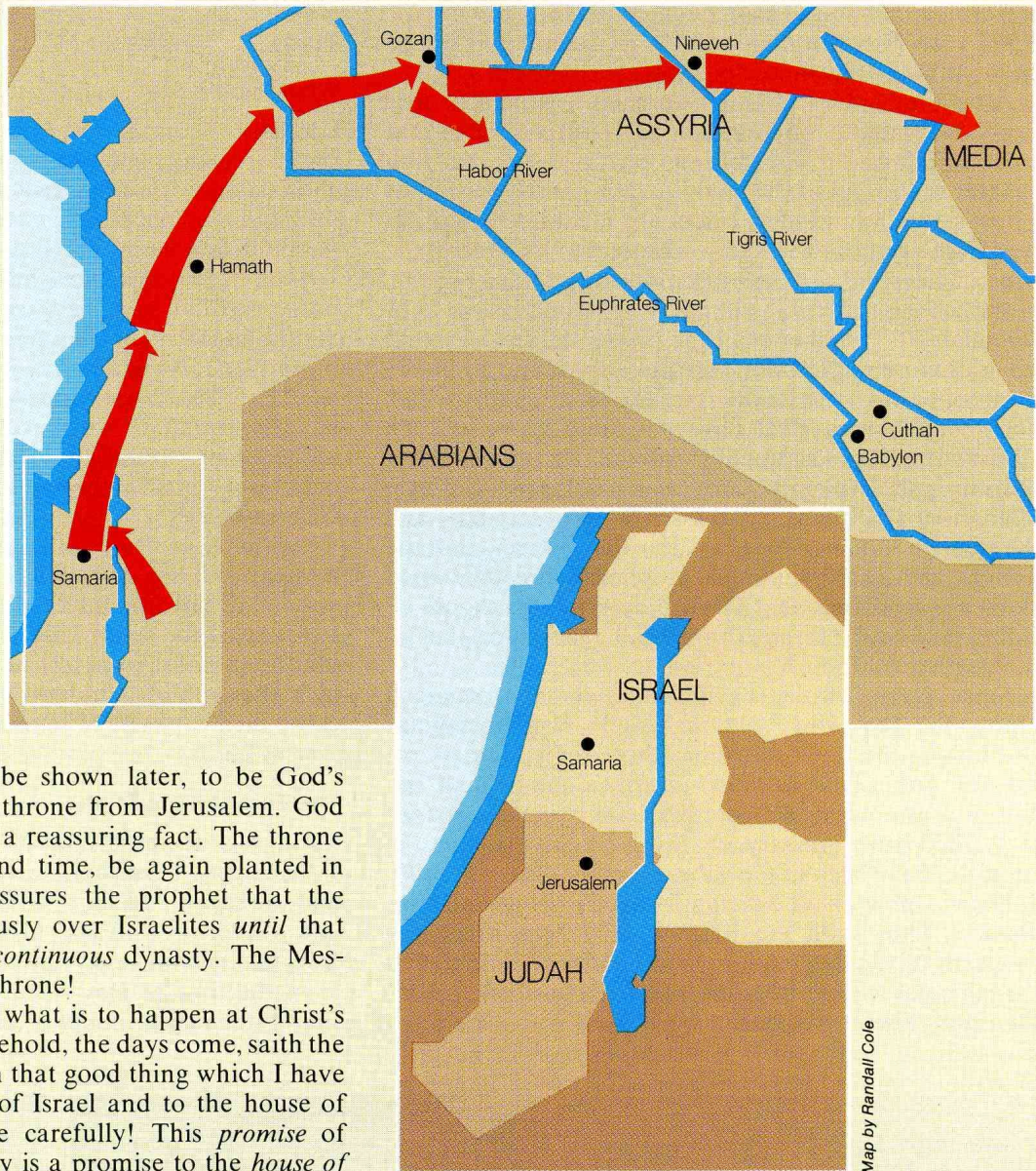
a prophecy of events to occur at the time of Christ's coming in supreme power and glory! At the time of writing this prophecy, the prophet was imprisoned in Jerusalem. The armies from Babylon were taking the Jews captive. God said to Jeremiah, "I will . . . show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not . . . concerning the houses of this city, and concerning the houses of the kings of Judah, which are thrown down . . ." (verses 3-4).

Jeremiah knew the kings' houses in Jerusalem were being destroyed—the throne of David removed from Jerusalem. He was, as will be shown later, to be God's agent in rooting out that throne from Jerusalem. God was now revealing to him a reassuring fact. The throne of David would, in this end time, be again planted in Jerusalem. God now reassures the prophet that the throne will rule continuously over Israelites *until* that time. It will be the *same continuous* dynasty. The Messiah will sit on an existing throne!

Here is the prophecy of what is to happen at Christ's glorious coming to rule: "Behold, the days come, saith the Eternal, that I will perform that good thing which I have promised unto the house of Israel and to the house of Judah" (verse 14). Notice carefully! This *promise* of David's continuous dynasty is a promise to the *house of Israel*, as well as to Judah. Since the division into two nations, that throne had not been connected with Israel—only with Judah. But the promise to be fulfilled at Christ's coming connects it with Israel as well as Judah!

Continue: "In those days, and at that time, will I cause the Branch of righteousness [the Messiah] to grow up unto David; and he shall execute judgment and righteousness in the land" (verse 15). This speaks of Christ's rule as King of kings. Jesus, a descendant of David by human birth (Rom. 1:3), was the righteous *Branch*, or offshoot of David.

Continue: "In those days shall Judah be saved, and Jerusalem shall dwell safely. . . . For thus saith the Eternal; David shall never want a man to sit upon the throne of the house of Israel" (verses 16-17). Note it! It does not say David shall not, *finally*, after 2,500 years without a



THE LARGE MAP ABOVE shows the various locations to which the ten tribes of Israel were carried captive by Assyria. Smaller map (inset) distinguishes the separate kingdoms of Judah and Israel.

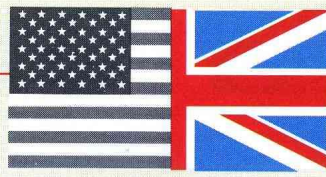
man on the throne, want for one. It says David shall NEVER—at any time—through all generations—want for a descendant to remain sitting on his throne!

And over whom?

Throne Not Over Jews

Not Judah! Read it in your own Bible! During these more than 2,500 years, David shall not want for a man to sit upon the throne of *the house of Israel*—not Judah!

The throne was, at the time God revealed this proph-



ecy to Jeremiah, being rooted out of Judah. During these 2,500 years between then and Christ's coming, it was to be the throne of the house of ISRAEL!

After the coming of Christ to rule, it is evident that Israel is again to offer sacrifices, burnt offerings and meat offerings. In Ezekiel's prophecy, from the 40th chapter to the end of the book, covering this period after Christ's coming, these sacrifices are mentioned. But, after Christ's return, when they are again to be offered, the tribe of Levi will not have been destroyed—descendants of the priestly tribe will still be living. Notice verse 18 of Jeremiah 33: "Neither shall the priests the Levites want a man before me to offer burnt offerings, and to kindle meat offerings, and to do sacrifice continually." This does *not* say they shall have, all these years prior to Christ's coming, continually offered sacrifices. Other scriptures show plainly sacrifices should *not* have been offered by Christians after Christ's own sacrifice, and they were not offered by Jews after the destruction of the Temple in A.D. 70. But other prophecies already quoted show just as plainly that David's descendants should be ruling on David's throne through all generations, beginning with Solomon.

Since many of the Levites undoubtedly remained among the Ten Tribes—although we know many continued among the Jews—and since those remaining among the Ten Tribes have *lost their identity* along with all Ten Tribes, it is entirely possible that many, if not most, of the called true ministry of Jesus Christ through the centuries have been of the tribe of Levi.

Notice, now, how *binding* is God's covenant with David. "Thus saith the Eternal; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; then may also my covenant be broken with David my

servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne . . ." (verses 20-21).

What People Say

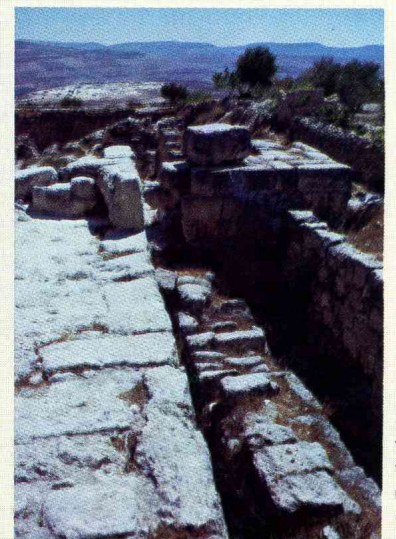
Continue: "Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Eternal hath chosen, he hath even cast them off? Thus they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them" (verse 24).

That is what the *people* have been saying, as they were prophesied to say! They say the Jews were scattered among many, if not all, nations—scattered *individuals*—but no longer a nation having its own government! And the Ten Tribes were supposed to have been "lost," or to have gone out of existence, or to be just part of the scattered individual Jews! Yes, so the Jews themselves have said—and so the world has said! But what does GOD say?

Continue, next verse: "Thus saith the Eternal; If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; then will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed [dynasty] to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob: for I will cause their captivity to return, and have mercy on them" (verses 25-26).

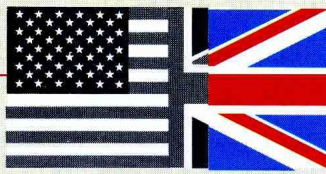
The Test of Bible Truth

Strong words, those! Unless you can stop this old earth from turning on its axis—unless you can remove the sun and the moon and stars from heaven, says the Almighty, you cannot prevent Him from keeping His covenant to maintain *continuously, through all generations, FOREVER*, from the time of David and Solomon, a descendant of David in one continuous dynasty on that throne!



Plain Truth photos

JERUSALEM (left) and Samaria (right) were the capital cities of the two separate nations Judah and Israel.



He would not necessarily rule over *all* the house of Israel, or the Jews—but at least some of them, and enough to form a nation.

This *cannot* be applied to mean that there would not have been a continuous throne, or that it applies only to the “one seed”—Christ—finally coming to rule. Notice, it says specifically, “. . . So that I will not take any of his seed to be RULERS [more than one] over” Israelites. It is speaking of continuous, multiple rulers—not one Ruler coming to sit on a throne that 2,500 years before had ceased to exist!

The COVENANT PROMISE to David is plain and definite. Either his dynasty has continued and exists today, ruling over the house of ISRAEL (not the Jews), or God’s Word fails!

Remember again the sceptre promise, which includes this line of kings until it culminates in CHRIST at His second coming: “The sceptre *shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver* [margin, ruler’s staff] *from between his feet, UNTIL SHILOH* [Christ] *COME; and unto him shall the gathering of the people be*” (Gen. 49:10).

Has the sceptre departed from Judah? Has the throne ceased? Or does it, as God so bindingly promised, exist today so that Christ can take over and sit upon a functioning, continuous throne when He comes?

The infallibility of the Bible is at stake! God’s Word is at stake!

Children of Israel Become Two Nations

The house of Israel *is not Jewish!* Those who constitute it *are not Jews*, and never were! That fact we shall now see conclusively, beyond refute.

After David’s death, his son Solomon succeeded him to the throne over Israel. Solomon taxed the people excessively and reigned in a gorgeous splendor probably never equalled before or since.

He also married Gentile wives from outside nations. Because of them, he burned incense and sacrificed to Moloch and other idols. As a result of this, “the Eternal said unto Solomon, Forasmuch as this is done of thee, and thou hast *not* kept my covenant and my statutes, which I have commanded thee, I will surely rend *the kingdom* from thee, and will give *it* to thy servant. Notwithstanding in thy days I will not do it for David thy father’s sake; but I will rend it out of the hand of thy son. Howbeit I will not rend away *ALL the kingdom*; but will give *one tribe* to thy son for David my servant’s sake, and for Jerusalem’s sake which I have chosen” (I Kings 11:11-13).

Israel Separated from David’s Throne

Note it! It is *the kingdom*, not part of it, which is to be rent away. It is the *part*, one tribe, which is to remain. And note—for right here is expressed the great *WHY* of this whole question—though Solomon himself deserved to have it rent away, God will leave one tribe, not

because of leniency toward Solomon, but “FOR DAVID’S SAKE”!

God has made a perpetual covenant with David, unconditionally, which He cannot and will not break. David’s dynasty cannot be broken! That is the reason the sceptre promise is not destroyed, but the ruler is to be permitted to rule on, without a single generation’s gap, over at least a part of the children of Israel.

In I Kings 11:26 you read of Jeroboam, the son of Nebat, an Ephrathite, or Ephraimite, Solomon’s servant. He was made ruler over the “house of Joseph”—or Ephraim and Manasseh.

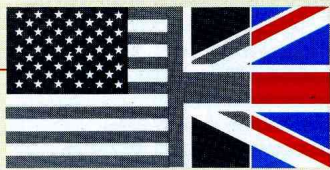
Speaking to Jeroboam through Ahijah the prophet, the Eternal says: “Behold, I will rend the kingdom out of the hand of Solomon, and will give *ten tribes* to thee. . . . Howbeit I will not take the whole kingdom out of his hand . . . *for David my servant’s sake*, whom I chose, *because HE kept my commandments and my statutes*. But I will take THE KINGDOM out of his son’s hand, and will give it unto thee, even ten tribes. And unto his son will I give one tribe, *that David my servant* [remember *why*] *may have a light alway before me in Jerusalem, the city which I have chosen me to put my name there. And I will take thee, and thou shalt reign according to all that thy soul desireth, and shalt be king over Israel*” (I Kings 11:31-37).

These words make plain two facts: The *nation* Israel is to be taken away from Solomon’s son and given to Jeroboam. It is not just a tribe, or a few tribes, but *the nation* called by the title *Israel* which this Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, is to rule.

The ten-tribed kingdom was the one to which the national title “Israel” was given. For truly, the name “Israel” was named on the sons of Joseph! (Gen. 48:16.) Wherever *they* are, the Bible calls them by the national name ISRAEL. To the world, their identity today is lost. But, in biblical prophecy, it is *they*—not the Jews—who are called ISRAEL! And they were in, and headed, the ten-tribed nation ISRAEL.

On the other hand, because of His promise to David, the Eternal left one tribe, Judah, in Jerusalem under the sons of Solomon, so that a son of David might continue to sit on the throne of David over children of Israel. God had promised David, unconditionally, that the time would never come when he would not have a son or descendant sitting on the throne ruling over children of Israel.

Now, in later actual history, we see that promise being carried out—that covenant made *binding!* The children of Judah, though they do not constitute *all* the children of Israel and though they are not called by that national title, nevertheless *are* children of Israel, and thus God can keep His promise to David; can avoid abolishing the sceptre promises made to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. And at the same time God can visit punishment upon Solomon by taking away the NATION Israel and leaving a son of the sceptre promise sitting on the throne over only one tribe. Note the very important point that, though a



punishment must be inflicted, *God does not break any of His promises.*

David's Dynasty Rules Over Judah

God had promised that "the sceptre SHALL NOT DEPART FROM JUDAH." He did not break that promise. Now note carefully that the ten tribes, rent away, are called by the title "Israel," and that the one tribe remaining under Rehoboam, Solomon's son, is merely called "Judah" or the "house of Judah." They go by their tribal name, while the ten-tribed kingdom continues to carry the national name "Israel."

Actually, Israel rejected its king and set a *new* king, Jeroboam, on Israel's throne. The tribe of Judah *seceded* from the nation Israel in order to retain Rehoboam as *their* king. But now Rehoboam, David's grandson, became king of a *new* nation. That new nation was *not* the kingdom of Israel. It was the kingdom of *Judah!* Now see how it happened.

When Solomon's son, Rehoboam, succeeded to the throne, the people at once demanded that the heavy taxes imposed by Solomon be reduced. They sent their leader, Jeroboam, as spokesman, to Rehoboam.

Pleaded Jeroboam: "Thy father made our yoke grievous: now therefore make thou the grievous service of thy father, and his heavy yoke which he put upon us, lighter, and we will serve thee" (I Kings 12:4).

The reply was: "My father chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (verse 11).

Israel rebelled. The command to the people was: "To your tents, O Israel!" The challenge to the royal family was "Now see to thine own house"! (Verse 16.)

"So Israel rebelled against the house of David unto this day [the day this was written]. And it came to pass, when *all Israel* heard that Jeroboam was come again, that they sent and called him unto the congregation, and *made him king over ALL ISRAEL*: there was none that followed the house of David, *but the tribe of JUDAH only*" (I Kings 12:19-20).

Then "Rehoboam . . . assembled all the HOUSE OF JUDAH, *with the tribe of Benjamin*" (verse 21). Rehoboam commenced to fight to subdue and bring back the house of Israel, but God said, "Ye shall not . . . fight against your brethren the *children of Israel* . . . for this thing is from me" (verse 24).

Israel Divided into Two Nations

Did you notice that it is now the ten-tribed kingdom (headed by the Ephraim-Manasseh tribes with an Ephraimite as their king), the inheritor of the birthright promises, which is called the HOUSE OF ISRAEL?

The tribe of Judah left to Rehoboam, along with the Benjamites and later, after Jeroboam kicked them out of office in Israel, the priestly tribe of Levi, is called in Scripture, *not* Israel, but *the house of Judah*. They are all actually children of Israel but are no longer called by

that national title. This is emphasized so much because the common conception is exactly the opposite.

The average conception today seems to be that the tribe of Judah which remained carried the title "Israel." Most people seem to think of the Ten Tribes as merely certain tribes driven out *from* the nation Israel.

But it is ISRAEL which now sets up its kingdom under the Ephraimite Jeroboam, in the land of Samaria, north of Jerusalem. It is not Israel, but *Judah*—a mere three tribes broken off from Israel—which is left behind in Jerusalem.

The Ten Tribes were not broken off from Israel. Israel did not remain in Jerusalem. Instead, *Judah was broken off from Israel.*

Israel at War with the Jews

Notice it carefully! The house of Judah, now including the tribe of Benjamin under King Rehoboam of David's dynasty, was about to fight against the nation Israel—with its ten tribes headed by Ephraim and Manasseh.

Now let us have scriptural *proof* that the ten-tribed people called Israel, often prophetically spoken of as Ephraim, are not Jews and *never were Jews!* Remember that the term "Jew" is merely a nickname for "Judah." Hence, it applies to the one nation, or house of Judah *only*—never to the house of Israel.

From any exhaustive concordance you can learn that the first time in all the Bible that the word "Jew" occurs is in II Kings 16:6. Nowhere in all the Bible before this does the name "Jew" appear. Notice it!

Ahaz began to reign as king of Judah (verse 1). He sat on David's throne (verse 2). At this time, a man named Pekah was king of Israel. King Pekah of Israel formed an alliance with Rezin, king of Syria, *against* Judah, and together the armies of *Israel* and Syria, allied, came up against Jerusalem. They besieged King Ahaz of Judah, but could not overcome him (verse 5). "At that time," says verse 6, "Rezin king of Syria [the ally of Israel, fighting with Israel against Judah] recovered Elath to Syria, and drove the *Jews* from Elath" (verse 6). The first place in the Bible where the word "Jew" is used, we find *Israel at war against the Jews!*

Who drove the *Jews* out of Elath? The *ally* of King Pekah of Israel! The army fighting *with* Israel *against* Judah. And the children of Judah who resided in the town of Elath are called Jews in a manner which distinguished them from the house of Israel, with whom these Jews were at war! Observe the significance of that!

The first place in Scripture where the name Jew appears, the *Jews were at war against ISRAEL!* They are of a different nation altogether. They are, individually, children of Israel. But they do not have that *national* title—house of Israel.

It is wrong to call the Jews of today "Israel." They are not the nation Israel—they are *Judah!* And wherever Israel is today, remember that Israel (Continued on page 36)