



The WATCHTOWER

And Herald of
Christ's Presence

"Watchman, What of the Night?"
Isaiah 21-11.

VOL. LVIII

SEMIMONTHLY

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Ye
are
my
witnesses,
saith JEHOVAH,
that I am God
Isa. 43:12

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the WATCHTOWER

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117 Adams Street - Brooklyn, N.Y., U.S.A.

OFFICERS

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"And all thy children shall be taught of Jehovah; and great shall be the peace of thy children." - Isaiah 54:13.

THE SCRIPTURES CLEARLY TEACH

THAT JEHOVAH is the only true God, is from everlasting to everlasting, the Maker of heaven and earth and the Giver of life to his creatures; that the Logos was the beginning of his creation, and his active agent in the creation of all things; that the Logos is now the Lord Jesus Christ in glory, clothed with all power in heaven and earth, and the Chief Executive Officer of Jehovah.

THAT GOD created the earth for man, created perfect man for the earth and placed him upon it; that man willfully disobeyed God's law and was sentenced to death; that by reason of Adam's wrong act all men are born sinners and without the right to life.

THAT JESUS was made human, and the man Jesus suffered death in order to produce the ransom or redemptive price for all mankind; that God raised up Jesus divine and exalted him to heaven above every creature and above every name and clothed him with all power and authority.

THAT JEHOVAH'S ORGANIZATION is called Zion, and that Christ Jesus is the Chief Officer thereof and is the rightful King of the world; that the anointed and faithful followers of Christ Jesus are children of Zion, members of Jehovah's organization, and are his witnesses whose duty and privilege it is to testify to the supremacy of Jehovah, declare his purposes toward mankind as expressed in the Bible, and to bear the fruits of the kingdom before all who will hear.

THAT THE WORLD has ended, and the Lord Jesus Christ has been placed by Jehovah upon his throne of authority, has ousted Satan from heaven and is proceeding to the establishment of God's kingdom on earth.

THAT THE RELIEF and blessings of the peoples of earth can come only by and through Jehovah's kingdom under Christ, which has now begun; that the Lord's next great act is the destruction of Satan's organization and the establishment of righteousness in the earth, and that under the kingdom all those who will obey its righteous laws shall live on earth forever.

"KING OF KINGS"

The next testimony period, October 2-10 inclusive, will be world-wide, coextensive with the earthly realm of the King of kings, after whose title the period is named. The publication now of the book *Riches* in many languages makes it appropriate for this book to be concentrated on them, the same to be offered together with a self-covered booklet. Other details of the service are due to be published in the *Informant*, which please consult. Let your preparations and arrangements begin at once, as unto the King of kings. Your prompt report, from whatever part of the earth you inhabit, will be awaited at this office.

VACATION

The office and factory at 117 Adams Street will suspend operations from September 11 to 26 inclusive. This will permit the members of the Bethel family to attend and serve at the Columbus convention and also to enjoy a few extra days in field service or otherwise before resuming regular work at Brooklyn.

All kingdom publishers will therefore anticipate their needs of literature to last until the end of September and should promptly send in their orders to this office so as to insure filling and shipping before the close on September 10. No mail will receive attention or be dispatched from here during the above period.

ITS MISSION

THIS journal is published for the purpose of enabling the people to know Jehovah God and his purposes as expressed in the Bible. It publishes Bible instruction specifically designed to aid Jehovah's witnesses and all people of good will. It arranges systematic Bible study for its readers and the Society supplies other literature to aid in such studies. It publishes suitable material for radio broadcasting and for other means of public instruction in the Scriptures.

It adheres strictly to the Bible as authority for its utterances. It is entirely free and separate from all parties, sects or other worldly organizations. It is wholly and without reservation for the kingdom of Jehovah God under Christ his beloved King. It is not dogmatic, but invites careful and critical examination of its contents in the light of the Scriptures. It does not indulge in controversy, and its columns are not open to personalities.

YEARLY SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

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All sincere students of the Bible who by reason of infirmity, poverty or adversity are unable to pay the subscription price may have *The Watchtower* free upon written application to the publishers, made once each year, stating the reason for so requesting it. We are glad to thus aid the needy, but the written application once each year is required by the postal regulations.

Notice to Subscribers: Acknowledgment of a new or a renewal subscription will be sent only when requested. Change of address, when requested, may be expected to appear on address label within one month. A renewal blank (carrying notice of expiration) will be sent with the journal one month before the subscription expires.

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COLUMBUS CONVENTION

The Watchtower further announces the convention for Jehovah's witnesses and companions at Columbus, Ohio, September 15-20 inclusive, which will serve the United States, Canada, and others who may be able to attend.

The president of the Society expects to be present at this convention. Make your arrangements for vacation during this period. Let all of his people ask Jehovah to make this convention a great witness to the honor of His name.

See information in July 15 issue of *The Watchtower*.

IMPOSTORS

Persons going about the country, and claiming to be in the truth and Jehovah's witnesses, present themselves at different places and collect money and get other favors of the brethren. We warn the brethren everywhere to have nothing to do with these impostors.

ANNOUNCING COMPANY MEETINGS

Many hearers of radio transcription lectures have the desire to meet with Jehovah's witnesses and to study his Word with them. Hence wherever the kingdom message is radiocast, the time and place of meeting of the local company of Jehovah's witnesses should be announced after the transcription. The time on the air being paid for, the station manager should readily grant your request to make such announcement.

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AND HERALD OF CHRIST'S PRESENCE

VOL. LVIII

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No. 17

HIS "WORK" AND HIS "ACT"

"As I have done to Shiloh."—Jer. 7: 14.

PART 1

JEHOVAH declares his purpose to do his specific work, which he designates as "his strange work"; that to then be followed by his bringing to pass his specific act, which he designates his "strange act". (Isa. 28: 21) What Jehovah did to his typical covenant people at Shiloh appears to foreshadow and foretell what his purpose is to do to the professed Christian people, that is, the religionists who have taken the name of Jehovah God and Christ Jesus and who have been unfaithful to the Lord and have defamed his holy name. By taking Jehovah's name and assuming to serve him through Christ Jesus those people are in an implied covenant with the Lord to do his will. The arrogant Catholic Hierarchy organization assumes that position, claiming to be the true church and the covenant people of God; and that organization takes the lead in organized religion, which is by them, and others, wrongfully called "the Christian religion". In this latter day the so-called "Protestants", and even the Jews, co-operate with and support the Roman Catholic organization, all practicing their religion together. What came to pass typically at Shiloh is now of peculiar interest to those who are really devoted to Jehovah God when it is understood that God thus foreshadows and foretells his purpose toward organized religion.

² Jehovah sent Jeremiah to give warning to the Israelites at Jerusalem; which message proclaimed by Jeremiah at the command of Jehovah was a "strange work" to those who regarded themselves as God's favored people. Corresponding thereto, the Lord sends his servants in this day, whom he has made his witnesses, to declare his message of warning to professed Christians, otherwise called "Christendom", and to make known God's purpose to punish that unfaithful people at Armageddon. The work thus being done by Jehovah's witnesses in the name of Jehovah God and Christ Jesus appears to the religionists as a "strange work", and is to them strange. Jehovah made good his warning message by destroying his professed covenant people at Jerusalem, and that was his act foreshadowing his "strange act" at the end of Satan's rule. Having given warn-

ing to "Christendom", which organized body claims to practice the "Christian religion", Jehovah will make good his warning by destroying that hypocritical organization; and such will appear to most people to be a "strange act", and will be strange to all persons except those who are wholly devoted to Jehovah God. Jehovah's "strange work", therefore, may be briefly stated as his message of warning; and his "strange act" may be briefly described as his work of execution at Armageddon, in which all religious organizations, and other ungodly organizations of the world, which have Satan for their god, will be destroyed.

³ *The Watchtower* now attempts to arrange a study of certain parts of the prophecies of Jehovah uttered by Jeremiah at God's command, that the same may be of aid and comfort to the people of God who are faithfully endeavoring to maintain their integrity toward him. This study embraces particularly chapters seven, twenty-five, twenty-six, twenty-seven and twenty-eight of the prophecy of Jeremiah. It is believed that a detailed consideration of this particular prophecy will enable the student of God's Word to more fully appreciate the duties and obligations which the Lord places upon his covenant people now on earth and enable them to better see their privileges of faithfully serving him. In this study the inspired words written by the apostle should always be kept in mind, to wit: "For whatsoever things were written aforetime were written for our learning, that we through patience and comfort of the scriptures might have hope." (Rom. 15: 4) The mere casual reader will find this study irksome, but those really devoted to God and his King will find the same "meat in due season" and that it is from the Lord, and they will profit thereby and rejoice. Studies of the prophecies published in *The Watchtower* are for the purpose of enabling the remnant, first, to get a better understanding of their true relationship to the Almighty, and then to use the knowledge gained to enlighten those of good will who are seeking to know God and Christ Jesus. The covenant people of Jehovah are now being put to a real test to determine their integ-

urity, and it is apparent that Jehovah is giving to them an understanding of his prophecy that they may be strengthened and that their hope may be clear.

ANATHOTH

⁴In the territory of Benjamin was one of the cities assigned to the priests, and it is therefore called a 'priest's city'. (Josh. 21: 18; 1 Chron. 6: 60) Hilkiah, one of the priests who resided there, had a son named Jeremiah. The meaning of the name of that son is, "raised up of Jehovah," or, "Jehovah establishes," or, "exalted by Jehovah." When he was quite a young man Jehovah appointed Jeremiah to a responsible position, and as Jehovah's servant he was commanded to go and do a specific work. That Jehovah selected and ordained Jeremiah from the beginning of his existence is shown by the following statement of prophecy: "Before I formed thee in the belly I knew thee; and before thou camest forth out of the womb I sanctified thee; and I ordained thee a prophet unto the nations." (Jer. 1: 5) Jeremiah was modest and meek, and from the beginning he had a proper estimate of the duties assigned to him.

⁵"Meekness" does not mean to be cowed in the presence of others. "Meekness" means a willingness to learn, and an alertness, that one may learn what is the will of God. Many who have made a consecration to do God's will appear to have great difficulty in learning what meekness means. Only the meek will properly see and appreciate the instructions coming from God's organization and will be on the alert to perform them.

⁶When Jeremiah told the Lord that he was 'but a child', it may mean that before he became of age to serve in the priest's office Jehovah had assigned Jeremiah to some minor service about the temple, and he considered himself not qualified to undertake more responsible duties. But Jehovah's time had come for Jeremiah to begin his specific and prophetic work, and Jehovah would therefore have him forget his youth and bear in mind that he was the servant of the Most High who must trust in God and do as he was commanded. "But the Lord said unto me, Say not, I am a child: for thou shalt go to all that I shall send thee, and whatsoever I command thee thou shalt speak." (Jer. 1: 7) At this point the meekness of Jeremiah is demonstrated; that is, he was willing to learn and anxious to know what to do and then do it. Manifestly Jehovah informed his young servant at the time that he would be bitterly opposed by the religionists, because the Lord said to him: "Be not afraid of their faces: for I am with thee to deliver thee, saith the Lord." (Jer. 1: 8) The Lord gave Jeremiah assurance, and Jeremiah meekly received the instruction and relied upon the Most High. "Then the Lord put forth his hand, and touched my mouth. And the Lord said unto me, Behold, I have put my words in thy mouth." (Jer. 1: 9) He went forth in the strength

of the Lord. The Israelites at Jerusalem had at that time departed from the commandments of Jehovah and were following after the teachings of men, and their leaders in particular were very religious or superstitious. The conditions existing in Jeremiah's day exactly correspond with the conditions at the present time. Jeremiah, being a faithful servant of Jehovah, pictured those who are now of the remnant or "faithful servant" class and who continue faithful even unto death. As Jeremiah had much opposition from the religionists then, even so now the "faithful servant" class of Jehovah is greatly opposed by the religionists of "Christendom". This means that men, as servants of the Devil, are fighting against God by bitterly opposing God's "faithful servant" company on earth.

⁷Jeremiah was sent forth to do, not his own work, but the work of the Lord. To Jeremiah Jehovah said: "See, I have this day set thee over the nations, and over the kingdoms, to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant." (Jer. 1: 10) The work in which Jehovah's witnesses are now engaged is not their work, but is the Lord's work, the witnesses performing service assigned to them, and without any credit due to them whatsoever. The commission given to Jeremiah was a broad one, commanding him to "root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, to build, and to plant". Likewise Jehovah sends forth his servant class today and commissions them to declare "the day of vengeance of our God", and "to comfort all that mourn". (Isa. 61: 2) In doing this work they are not to engage in physical combat. Their duty is defined by the apostle, who under inspiration wrote: "For the weapons of our warfare are not carnal, but mighty through God to the pulling down of strong holds." (2 Cor. 10: 4) The proclaiming of the Word of Jehovah today as he has commanded operates to root out, pull down, throw down and destroy the stronghold that the Devil has erected by religion and religionists; and at the same time the work performed by them brings comfort and aid to those that mourn and builds up that sincere class of persons who are seeking after God and his kingdom. The work of Jeremiah foreshadowed and foretold the work of Jehovah's servant class now on earth; and, knowing this fact, those who engage in the service of Jehovah do so with a zeal and joy peculiar to the Lord's house. The striking similarity of the commission to and the work of Jeremiah, to that of Jehovah's witnesses, will appear from a detailed study of the prophecy, and is therefore encouraging and helpful to the servant class, because it is God's "meat in due season" for them.

COMMAND

⁸The young prophet received his orders from Jehovah, and he must obey them regardless of all

opposition. As a faithful servant he must be blind to everything else than Jehovah's commandments. The religionists would fight against Jeremiah because he represented Jehovah and they represented the Devil, having turned to Devil worship. To Jeremiah Jehovah said: "And I will utter my judgments against them touching all their wickedness, who have forsaken me, and have burned incense unto other gods, and worshipped the works of their own hands." (Jer. 1:16) God's time had come to inform those religionists who had agreed to do his will, but had been unfaithful, what was about to befall them; and likewise Jehovah's due time has now come to inform the religionists, who claim to represent God and Christ, as to what are God's judgments against them and when they will be executed. Jeremiah must not falter, but must go in the strength of the Lord; and therefore the Lord God said to him: "Thou therefore gird up thy loins, and arise, and speak unto them all that I command thee: be not dismayed at their faces, lest I confound thee before them."—Jer. 1:17.

⁹ Jeremiah, trusting in and faithfully obeying Jehovah, was certain to receive his protection. "For, behold, I have made thee this day a defenced city, and an iron pillar and brazen walls against the whole land, against the kings of Judah, against the princes thereof, against the priests thereof, and against the people of the land." (Jer. 1:18) Likewise today, Jehovah's witnesses must not falter or compromise because of opposition manifested against them by Satan's representatives, but they must go forth in the strength of the Lord, relying wholly upon him. This is God's day of judgment, and his faithful witnesses must with full confidence in God and with boldness declare his judgments.—1 John 4:17, 18.

¹⁰ Jeremiah was informed that he would have to fight, but that the enemy should not prevail against him: "And they shall fight against thee, but they shall not prevail against thee; for I am with thee, saith the Lord, to deliver thee." (Jer. 1:19) Likewise today, Jehovah's witnesses know that they must fight, and therefore God has commanded them, saying: "Arise . . . against her in battle." (Obadiah 1) And at the same time Jehovah gives assurance to his faithful ones that they shall not be overwhelmed by the enemy, because they are led by Christ Jesus, the victorious Warrior, and are fully backed up by the Most High. Let the Roman Catholic Hierarchy and their cohorts and religious supporters do what they will in opposition to Jehovah's work now being performed by his faithful servants. In due time God will see to it that the enemy shall suffer complete defeat; and therefore he says to his servants: "Be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might."—Eph. 6:10, 12.

¹¹ With these preliminary observations we begin with the study of the prophecy appearing at the

seventh chapter. Jeremiah, teachable and ready to obey, gave heed to the Lord's command. "The word that came to Jeremiah from the Lord, saying, Stand in the gate of the Lord's house, and proclaim there this word, and say, Hear the word of the Lord, all ye of Judah, that enter in at these gates to worship the Lord."—Jer. 7:1, 2.

¹² Jeremiah was not commanded to go to the houses or church buildings and there nail his message on the door of the house, but was commanded to take his stand at the gate, where he could speak his message to the people going in and out of the temple. It was during the reign of the wicked king Jehoiakim, and therefore the "house" mentioned was the house of the Lord in name only, due to the fact that the Jews had abandoned the commandments of Jehovah God and had become religionists and continued in the temple house to carry on their religious ceremonies. There they engaged in a form of worship contrary to the commandment of the Lord. The "Lord's house" mentioned in the prophecy pictures the religionists and their places of operation of the present time, organized and carrying on their ceremonies in the name of the Lord God, and which are contrary to his commandments. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy and their supporting clergy take the lead in indulging in forms of worship and religious ceremonies, in which many people participate, and all of which is an abomination to the Lord God.

¹³ Jeremiah was commanded to take his position or stand, and that stand foretells that Jehovah's witnesses must come forth in the open, and within the hearing and sight of the religionists, and fearlessly proclaim the message of Jehovah as he has commanded; and that they are not to take credit therefor, but to say: "Hear the word of the Lord." No one is to say: 'Hear the words uttered by man,' but, 'Hear what God's Word has to say.' This is Jehovah's work, and it is a "strange work" to those religionists who call themselves "Christians".

¹⁴ Furthermore, Jeremiah must make proclamation of the message without first asking permission from the priests of the temple. Likewise Jehovah's witnesses must now make proclamation of God's message of truth concerning his name and his kingdom and must do so without first asking permission from the clergy or for a license from the police authorities so to do. If any of those going in or out of the temple were the Lord's true people, they would hear and recognize the message proclaimed by Jeremiah as the truth. Likewise today, if among those who are held in the religious organizations any of them are truly seeking after God and his truth, they will hear and give heed to the message of warning that comes to them from Jehovah God and that is delivered by his witnesses, and they will recognize and accept it as the truth, and will flee from the religious organiza-

tions, and thereby receive comfort, and they will find the place of safety.

¹⁵ Years before the proclamation of Jeremiah was made the ten tribes of Israel had been carried away into captivity. Judah was the tribe that remained in Palestine, and continued to carry on a form of worship at the temple. The tribe of Levi was serving, and there were some of all the tribes that came to the temple; but Judah was the predominating tribe. Jeremiah was commanded to say: "Hear the word of the Lord, all ye of Judah." And thus were pictured the religionists in the present day, who falsely call themselves teachers of the "Christian religion" or "Christendom", and who claim to occupy their present position and rule "by the grace of God". Such are given the opportunity to hear the warning of the Lord.

¹⁶ The Roman Catholic Hierarchy take the lead in the practice of religion, and other religionists follow after them. "Christendom" consists of those peoples claiming to follow Christ Jesus but who do not and, on the contrary, practice a religion or formalism which is of the Devil and which they wrongfully call the "Christian religion". Such are the ones that must be warned and that receive the warning.

¹⁷ Israel was the chosen nation of the Lord. The practitioners of so-called "Christian religion" claim to be the chosen people of God, because they have taken his name. Jeremiah was commanded to say to those addressed: "Thus saith the Lord of hosts, the God of Israel, Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place." (Jer. 7:3) His words apply to typical Israel or Judeans, and to those of "Christendom". Having taken the name of the Lord, they must now prove that they had not taken the name in vain. They were warned that, if they had taken God's name in vain, their time was short to when they would cease to occupy the land God had assigned to them, and that only those who would obey his command to "amend your ways" would be permitted to dwell in the land assigned to them. The carrying away of the ten tribes to Assyria should have served as a warning to Judah; but, instead, the Judeans said: "It cannot happen to us." Judah had hypocritically, that is, "feignedly," assumed to amend her ways, but she had not. "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel committed adultery [with the Devil's organization], I had put her away [out of the land, by exiling her], and given her a bill of divorcee [no longer acknowledged her as my people]; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also. And it came to pass through the lightness of her whoredom, that she defiled the land, and committed adultery with stones and with stocks. And yet for all this her treacherous sister Judah hath not turned unto me with her whole heart, but feignedly, saith the Lord." (Jer. 3:8-10) The

warning must now be proclaimed to those remaining at Jerusalem, and Jeremiah was commanded to make the proclamation. Likewise today, the warning must be proclaimed to "Christendom", which "feignedly" or hypocritically is on the Lord's side, but which in fact is on the Devil's side; and those who do not give heed to the warning shall suffer the judgments of Jehovah executed by Christ Jesus.

¹⁸ The religious leaders of Israel, the typical people, had led the people into a trap, causing them to rely upon the religious formalism and traditions taught by men and to disregard God's commandment. Therefore the prophet, in obedience to God's commandment, said to them: "Trust ye not in lying words, saying, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, The temple of the Lord, are these." (Jer. 7:4) It was the scribes and "Pharisees", the clergy or religious leaders, that were lying to the people. The people attended the formalistic doings at the temple, and the "Pharisees" falsely told them that their coming into the building was thereby drawing near to the Lord and worshiping him. It was a lie to call the place "the temple of Jehovah" when such material building was now used as a place of reproach to the name of God. Not even representatively or typically could Jehovah dwell in the defiled place. At the dedication of the temple building by Solomon under the Lord's directions, Solomon said: "But will God indeed dwell on the earth? Behold, the heaven and heaven of heavens cannot contain thee; how much less this house that I have builded?" (1 Ki. 8:27) The dwelling-place of Jehovah is in heaven. He had put his name at the temple at Jerusalem, to be honored by the true and faithful worship of him by the people; but a place used contrary thereto could not be called "the temple of God". Concerning this the apostle wrote: "God that made the world, and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands [men's hands]; neither is worshipped with men's hands [by going through motions and signs and uttering senseless words], as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things."—Acts 17:24, 25.

¹⁹ Religionists in this present day do exactly as the religionists did at Jerusalem. They erect buildings or cathedrals, where they meet, and they call them by the name of "the church of God", and as men pass by these buildings they tip their hats to the building because, they say, "the host's bread is inside thereof." The Roman Catholic Hierarchy claims its buildings or cathedrals are the church of God, that they themselves are the holy church. In these buildings they go through their various motions and pronounce incantations; and this they call "worship" or "drawing nigh to God". All these things are "lying words", which the credulous people have been induced to rely upon. The credulous Catholic population, following

their leaders, make the form of the cross upon the breast when approaching the meeting-house, showing that they rely upon it. The Lord says to all that such are "lying words" spoken by the religious leaders, and that the Catholic population, or children of the church, or other church-goers, must not rely upon such words. Those lying words are in no wise a safeguard or guarantee against calamity or disaster to such church-goers or to anyone else. The people are led to foolishly claim to thereby be leaning upon the Lord, while at the same time they are relying upon the works of men's hands. To all such Jehovah says: "The heads thereof judge for reward, and the priests thereof teach for hire, and the prophets thereof divine for money; yet will they lean [presumably] upon the Lord, and say, Is not the Lord among us? none evil can come upon us."—Mic. 3:11.

²⁰ The Israelites were in the wrong way, and the Lord was so informing them, that those of good will might take the right way; and this is shown by his words: "If ye oppress not the stranger, the fatherless, and the widow, and shed not innocent blood in this place, neither walk after other gods to your hurt: then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever." (Jer. 7:6,7) Likewise today, all religionists are in the wrong way, some willingly and some unwillingly. This is particularly true with reference to those who practice what they call "the Christian religion". Many of the clergy, particularly the principal ones of the Hierarchy, are willingly in the wrong way, while the parishioners are wrongfully induced to take the wrong way. Jehovah gave the people at Jerusalem warning. Today Jehovah sends forth his witnesses to give his warning to "Christendom", which warning must be sounded before the day of his great wrath is expressed against "Christendom". The zealous religionists among the Israelites were at the time oppressing the strangers and their own brethren. Likewise today, the zealous and unreasonable religionists, who claim to be followers of Christ Jesus, oppress Jehovah's witnesses who truly serve God, and they also oppress the "strangers", that is, those of the Jonadab class, by attempting to keep them from knowing the truth. There are still a few men among the so-called "Protestants" that make an effort to serve God by publicly quoting the inspired Word of the Scriptures, and even such men the Roman Catholic Hierarchy persecutes, and it uses its influence to prevent the Scriptures' being proclaimed, which Scriptures they fear might expose the fraudulent religionists. An instance of this appears in the public press. In Canada a Protestant preacher filed his manuscript with the radio station, which speech he expected shortly to broadcast, and in which manuscript he quoted the scripture at 1 Timothy 2:5. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy caused the radio censors to strike out that scripture from his speech for the manifest

reason that such inspired word of God shows that the Catholic priests cannot act as a mediator between God and man, and that their claim so to act is false; and the Hierarchy would have the people kept in ignorance of what the Scriptures say. Such is the policy pursued by the Roman Catholic Hierarchy everywhere. They withhold from the honest and sincere people the Bible and any explanation of the Scriptures, because they fear the Bible truths will so expose the Hierarchy that the honest people will break away from them. The religionists at Jerusalem, while acting contrary to the commandments of God, had the gall to come to the house called by the name of the Lord and by coming thus pretend to give their undivided devotion and worship to God. Likewise today, the religionists persecute real worshipers of God and at the same time bow down before images which they have made, and thus pretend to worship God. While thus indulging in a formalism contrary to God's Word, these religionists claim to worship God as though there could be any agreement between idolaters and the true worship of the Most High.—2 Cor. 6:16.

²¹ By giving the people at Jerusalem warning Jehovah was keeping the way open for them to reform in their ways and, thus reforming, the privilege of continuing to live in the land which he had given them. If they would amend their ways, "then will I cause you to dwell in this place, in the land that I gave to your fathers, for ever and ever." (Jer. 7:7) Had they given heed to such warning and followed the Lord's commandment, they would be the true people of God and continue in that condition. God gave his "holy land" only to those who would continue to be faithfully obedient to his commandments. He did not give it to covenant-breakers that they might dwell there indefinitely. Likewise God has given the place in his kingdom with Christ Jesus only to those who keep their covenant to faithfully do and obey his commandments. He gives warning to the pretenders, that is, the hypocritical religionists who claim to have his favor, and he tells them that unless they amend their ways he will completely cast them away and destroy them. Today Jehovah is giving his final warning to "Christendom", and this fact alone shows that there must still be some who are held in bondage to the professed hypocritical religionists who, upon hearing the truth, give heed to the commandments of God and withdraw from the religious organizations and serve and worship God in truth and in spirit. Those who do not thus change their course will suffer destruction. Claiming to worship God and being in an implied covenant to at least obey him, the covenant-breakers are worthy of death. (Rom. 1:31,32) Manifestly one purpose of sounding the warning is to awaken the gullible ones and give them an opportunity to seek the place of safety. "Behold, ye trust in lying words, that cannot profit." (Jer. 7:8) The clergy of the Roman Catholic Hierarchy,

in particular, lie to the people, telling them that the Bible is proper for study only when the priests use it, and tell the people what they shall read, and tell the people what they shall do. Otherwise stated, the Hierarchy tells the people that they must obey man's word and not God's. They induce the people to believe all kinds of lying doctrines, and say to them that if they attend the so-called "church services" and pay their money over to the priests, and indulge in formalism, praying with their beads and bowing before images and making signs of the cross upon themselves, thus they will find protection and be guaranteed against calamity. The Lord says that that kind of foolishness will profit nothing. The Roman Catholic Hierarchy continue to say, as God through his prophet foretold they would say: "We have made lies our refuge, and under falsehood have we hid ourselves"; and concerning these things the Lord says that all such are entirely in vain. Claims founded upon lies will profit nothing. Those who hold to and rely upon the religious organizations and follow the lead of the clergy are certain to come to great sorrow in the day of God's wrath expressed at Armageddon.

²² The Israelites were bound by the promise of the everlasting covenant concerning the sanctity of human life. (Gen. 9:3-10; Isa. 24:5) They were bound by the terms of the law covenant to obey God and to serve him, and not to practice the Devil religion. (Ex. 19:3-8) They were bound to be governed and controlled by Jehovah's commandments. Instead of obeying, they broke the terms of their covenant time and time again. Jehovah then commanded Jeremiah to say to them: "Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?" (Jer. 7:9, 10) That was a warning that they could not continue to break their covenant and still expect to stand before the Lord and receive his approval. Likewise today, those who profess and who practice what is called the "Christian religion" are bound by the terms of the everlasting covenant, are bound by the terms of the implied covenant to do the will of God, and hence are bound to be governed by and obey the commandments of God as written. In the face of these covenants and the commandments of God the religionists have broken their covenant with God and every part thereof. They literally steal material things and steal the people away from God. They literally commit murder by carrying on wars and wickedly shedding human blood. They commit murder by pretending to enforce the law of the land; they commit adultery literally and, worse, by claiming to represent God and at the same time participating in and co-operating with all manner of wicked political schemes, working together with other worldly and wicked men. (Jas. 4:4)

They lie and swear to lies in order to bring about the punishment of innocent persons; and they do burn incense unto the Devil, and the Devil's images. To them says the Lord: "And after doing all these wicked things, then you come [brazenly] and stand before me, and say, We have set ourselves free, for the purpose of committing all these abominations." (Rotherham) "We are delivered; that ye may do all these abominations." (R.V.; Leeser) The clergy perform what they call "absolution" or forgiveness of the wrongdoer, provided the wrongdoer has a sufficient amount of money to contribute. One of the religious practitioners commits all manner of crime and then goes to the priest and deposits his money in the receptacle provided for that purpose, and the Catholic priest says in substance: "Now I absolve thee"; meaning that the priest forgives the wrongdoer and justifies his wicked action. After some formalism performed in the church buildings, such as sprinkling the culprit with so-called "holy water", the wrongdoer is then informed that he is free and he can go about his business, to again commit some crimes. The priests or other clergymen induce those of the Catholic population who commit crimes to believe that after going through certain religious formalism in the church building the offender has thereby rendered unto God the things that are God's, and now he is free from all guilt, and all the rest of his time he may render unto Caesar (the political gangsters) the things that are Caesar's. (Luke 20:25) Outside of the church building these "church-goers" who seek absolution dismiss all thought of God and feel free to lead a course reproachful to the name of God, whom they profess to serve. When they get into the church building they appear very penitent, act solemn, and perform certain senseless ceremonies, which they call worship, such as kneeling while the clergyman drops some water on their head, cross themselves, and say a few unmeaning words while dropping money in the collection basket. The entire performance is formalism and is hypocritical and profits nothing whatsoever to anyone.

²³ The Israelites, having become religionists, turned the house called by the name of God into a place of merchandise for unjust dealings. Here is further proof that the Devil at all times has used religion for political and commercial purposes, and by those three things, to wit, religion, politics and commerce, the Devil turns the people away from Jehovah. The Israelites appeared to be blind to the fact that they had committed and were continuing to commit such great wrong, and the Lord said to them: "Is this house, which is called by my name, become a den of robbers in your eyes? Behold, even I have seen it, saith the Lord." (Jer. 7:11) Those religionists, led by the clergy, were still in this condition when Jesus was on the earth. Seeing that the Pharisees or clergy were leading the people into Devil worship and practice

of "the Jews' religion", and that they were using the temple to carry on their wrongful business, Jesus said to them: "Take these things hence; make not my Father's house an house of merchandise." (John 2:13-16) Jesus openly and publicly rebuked those religionists. "And Jesus went into the temple of God, and cast out all them that sold and bought in the temple, and overthrew the tables of the money-changers, and the seats of them that sold doves; and said unto them, It is written, My house shall be called the house of prayer; but ye have made it a den of thieves." (Matt. 21:12, 13) The very next day after uttering the foregoing words Jesus foretold the destruction of that house or temple building, which had been built by Herod. Compare the prophecy of Jesus, and that spoken by Jeremiah, with what is now practiced in "Christendom" in the buildings which are called "the church of God". In this day such buildings are houses of merchandise and politics and unrighteous scheming.

²¹ "Organized religion," falsely called "Christianity" or "Christian religion", has become a political and mercantile organization and a veritable den of robbers. The "principal of the flock" of those organizations rob the people, and in consideration of receiving absolution they give rich gifts to the so-called "church" and to its clergy, and thus stop the mouths of the clergy and keep them silent concerning their crookedness. Furthermore, the "principal of the flock" work together with the clergy to rob the people of opportunities to receive the truth, by preventing the people from hearing it. The clergy also "rob God", as stated in Malachi 3:8. The clergy stand by and see robbery going on, and they connive at such wrongdoing: "When thou sawest a thief, then thou consentedst with him." (Ps. 50:18) They consent thereto by accepting gifts from the thieves, thereby tacitly agreeing not to expose the thieves. Also, the clergy rob the people, and particularly the Catholic population, by taking their money under the false pretenses and wicked lie of being able to render aid to their dead friends who it is claimed are in "purgatory". Many a poor widow has been induced by the clergy to give up money which she sorely needed, upon the false representation made by the clergyman that such money so contributed would work beneficially to her dead loved ones. The priest receiving this money from the widow utters a "prayer", which never gets above his head and by which he induces the poor widow to believe that he has done something for the man in "purgatory". To such lying robbers Jesus says: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye devour widows' houses, and for a pretence make long prayer: therefore ye shall receive the greater damnation."—Matt. 23:14.

²² The clergy, particularly the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, proceed in their wicked work and induce even themselves to believe that no one sees them or knows

about them. But to such robbers Jehovah says, as stated by Jeremiah: "Behold, even I have seen it." Supporting this prophecy it is written, in Isaiah 29:14, 15: "Therefore, behold, I will proceed to do a marvellous work among this people, even a marvellous work and a wonder: for the wisdom of their wise men shall perish, and the understanding of their prudent men shall be hid. Woe unto them that seek deep to hide their counsel from the Lord, and their works are in the dark, and they say, Who seeth us? and who knoweth us?" Proverbs 15:3: "The eyes of the Lord are in every place, beholding the evil and the good." Psalm 11:4, 5: "The Lord is in his holy temple, the Lord's throne is in heaven: his eyes behold, his eyelids try, the children of men." God also sent his prophet Ezekiel to give warning to the religionists that claimed to worship God. "Then said he unto me, Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients [the *padres*, so-called *fathers*, the clergy in the church organization] of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers [at their meeting-houses] of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth." (Ezek. 8:12) All things done by the religionists the Lord sees, and he will cause the clergy to bear the burden of their wickedness in his own due time. The Roman Catholic clergy in particular think they are playing safe by saying to each other: 'We are safe, and nothing can harm us, because we have made lies our refuge.' (Isa. 28:15) The Lord gives those workers of iniquity all the rope they wish, to permit them for a time to go on in their wickedness, and they continue to grow bolder and more cruel and ruthless in their conduct toward others, assuming that they can commit any wrong and get away with it.

²³ Because Jehovah is "slow to anger" and affords the wicked full opportunity to carry forward his wickedness, many become very bold and convince themselves that they can with impunity continue in their wrongful course. For many years Jehovah has permitted Satan to carry on his wicked work, and probably Satan has for centuries considered himself immune from punishment. His servants are in a like condition.

²⁴ The Israelites had fallen into the way of Satan and had forgotten what had befallen that people on former occasions. Therefore Jehovah, through Jeremiah, said to them: "But go ye now unto my place which was in Shiloh, where I set my name at the first, and see what I did to it for the wickedness of my people Israel." (Jer. 7:12) It was at Shiloh that God for a time permitted his typical people to carry on their worship. "And the whole congregation of the children of Israel assembled together at Shiloh, and set up the tabernacle of the congregation there. And the land was subdued before them." (Josh. 18:1) Jehovah set his name there first in the land of Canaan. The religionists afterwards set up images: "And they

set them up Micah's graven image, which he made, all the time that the house of God was in Shiloh."—Judg. 18:31.

²⁸ The Lord then compelled the Israelites to recall what had come upon Shiloh. Just because his typical tabernacle was erected there and that was the place where he put his name, was no guarantee that God would shield wrongdoers at Shiloh. Although duty-bound by their covenant to worship Jehovah God alone, and none other, the Israelites fell away to the Devil religion, and then God forsook them. "So that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men." (Ps. 78:60) How did God show that he had forsaken the tabernacle at Shiloh? "And [he] delivered his strength [the ark of the covenant, which symbolized his presence in the tabernacle] into captivity, and his glory [the ark of gold, whereon the glorious light shone] into the enemy's [Philistines'] hand. He gave his people over also unto the sword; and was wroth with his inheritance. The fire consumed their young men; and their maidens were not given to marriage. Their priests fell by the sword; and their widows made no lamentation."—Ps. 78:61-64.

²⁹ God permitted the Philistines to give battle to his typical people, and in this God used the Philistines to inflict punishment upon the religionists who had broken their covenant with him. Then the religionists began to wake up and to try to get protection by possessing the ark of the covenant, which was at Shiloh, and bring it into the camp of the Israelites as a means of protection to them. They did not find protection, because God had forsaken them. "And when the people were come into the camp, the elders of Israel said, Wherefore hath the Lord smitten us to day before the Philistines? Let us fetch the ark of the covenant of the Lord out of Shiloh unto us, that, when it cometh among us, it may save us out of the hand of our enemies. So the people sent to Shiloh, that they might bring from thence the ark of the covenant of the Lord of hosts, which dwelleth between the cherubims; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were there with the ark of the covenant of God."—1 Sam. 4:3, 4.

³⁰ The battle took place. "And the Philistines fought; and Israel was smitten, and they fled every man into his tent; and there was a very great slaughter; for there fell of Israel thirty thousand footmen." (1 Sam. 4:10) In that battle the Israelites suffered a great defeat: "And the ark of God was taken; and the two sons of Eli, Hophni and Phinehas, were slain. And there ran a man of Benjamin out of the army, and came to Shiloh the same day, with his clothes rent, and with earth upon his head. And when he came, lo, Eli sat upon a seat by the way side, watching: for his heart trembled for the ark of God. And when the man came into the city, and told it, all the city cried out. . . . And the messenger answered

and said, Israel is fled before the Philistines; and there hath been also a great slaughter among the people: and thy two sons also, Hophni and Phinehas, are dead, and the ark of God is taken. And it came to pass, when he made mention of the ark of God, that he fell from off the seat backward, by the side of the gate; and his neck brake, and he died; for he was an old man, and heavy: and he had judged Israel forty years."—1 Sam. 4:11-18.

³¹ Learning of this great disaster, the daughter-in-law of Eli, under the great strain, gave birth to a child and died, and as she was dying she cried out: "The glory is departed from Israel; for the ark of God is taken." (1 Sam. 4:22) Concerning this same disaster that fell upon the Israelites it is further written: "And all the house of Israel lamented." (1 Sam. 7:2) "And Samuel spake unto all the house of Israel, saying, If ye do return unto the Lord with all your hearts, then put away the strange gods and Ashtaroth from among you, and prepare your hearts unto the Lord, and serve him only; and he will deliver you out of the hand of the Philistines." (1 Sam. 7:3) That terrible disaster that befell the Israelites was very strange to them, seeing that God had permitted the enemies of his typical people to prevail and the ark to be taken by the enemy. It was not strange to the prophet Samuel, however, because Samuel was faithful to the Lord. That disaster marked the end of Eli's line of the priesthood, which had served at the tabernacle at Shiloh. (1 Sam. 2:27-36) "So Selomon thrust out Abiathar [of Eli's line] from being priest unto the Lord; that he might fulfil the word of the Lord, which he spake concerning the house of Eli in Shiloh." (1 Ki. 2:27) The ark of the covenant was never brought back to Shiloh, and even the tabernacle and the altar were later removed from Shiloh and sent to Gibeon.—1 Chron. 16:39, 40.

³² Why did Jehovah thus afflict the Israelites with such a great disaster? and why did the same appear to them to be so very strange? The Lord's answer is found in these words: "For the wickedness of my people." (Jer. 7:12) Furthermore the answer is given by the psalmist: "Yet they tempted and provoked the most high God, and kept not his testimonies; but turned back, and dealt unfaithfully like their fathers: they were turned aside like a deceitful bow. For they provoked him to anger with their high places, and moved him to jealousy with their graven images. When God heard this, he was wroth, and greatly abhorred Israel: so that he forsook the tabernacle of Shiloh, the tent which he placed among men."—Ps. 78:56-60.

³³ The question may here be properly propounded: Why did God permit the record of that strange act concerning the affliction of his covenant people to be made? The Scriptures answer in 1 Corinthians 10:11: "Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition,

upon whom the ends of the world are come." The Israelites were Jehovah's covenant and typical people, and today "Christendom" assumes to be the people of God and boastfully claims to represent God on earth; and therefore what befell the Israelites, the typical people, foretells what shall befall "Christendom", the latter being the counterpart of the former. Having brought to the attention of the Israelites what befell Shiloh, and citing that as a warning, God said to them: 'I will do unto this house what I have done unto Shiloh.' The words of warning apply with greater force and effect to the professed followers of Christ Jesus who today practice what they call the "Christian religion". "And now, because ye have done all these works, saith the Lord, and I spake unto you, rising up early and speaking, but ye heard not; and I called you, but ye answered not; therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh."—Jer. 7:13, 14.

³⁴ By his manner of dealing with the unfaithful people at Jerusalem Jehovah makes known his fixed rule that covenant-breakers shall certainly suffer punishment at his hands. What is today called "Christendom" consists of those nations that wrongfully claim to be Christians and that practice what is improperly called the "Christian religion". All the wicked works mentioned by the Lord at the mouth of his prophet, and, furthermore, the wicked works of the Israelites done up to the time that Shiloh fell, have been done and are now being done by the practitioners of so-called "Christian religion" and by the people, and particularly the clergy, who use the name of Jehovah and his King for selfish and wrongful purposes. It is certain therefore that what befell Shiloh is but a sample of what shall befall "Christendom" in the very near future.

³⁵ Jehovah spoke to the people by his prophets, (and he says) "rising up early and speaking." It was early in the day of his dealing with his covenant people that God began to instruct them. His prophets rose up early in the day and there began to preach to the people, and there was much complaint against his prophets for so doing. Even today complaint is made by the religionists against Jehovah's witnesses, objection being made that these witnesses come early and ring their doorbells and wake them up and speak to them about the Lord; and then the clergy induces the officers to arrest them and hail them into court. Jehovah caused his message of warning to be given a sufficient length of time before the day of his wrath in order to give ample time to have it heard.

³⁶ Jeremiah was ordered and was sent to deliver the warning to Jerusalem forty years before its destruction. Ezekiel was sent forth to preach the warning seven years before Jerusalem fell. Says the Lord:

"I called you, but ye answered not." Now mark that the Lord came to his temple in 1918, and for forty years prior to that date the Lord caused the Elijah work to be done amongst the people. *The Watchtower*, first published in 1879, from the very first issue called attention to the "last days", and the time of trouble with which the world would pass away. This work was foreshadowed by the work of Elijah and also the work of John the Baptist, and which work failed to 'turn the hearts of God's typical people back to him'. (Mal. 4:5, 6; Luke 1:13-17) Likewise the Elijah work failed to turn "Christendom" to the right way. It was the religionists calling themselves "Christians" or "organized Christian religion" that assaulted God's faithful servants in 1918, because those servants were engaged in the Elijah work. They killed the Elijah work and brought about its end. Since that time the religionists, instead of reforming and doing what is right, continue to persecute the faithful witnesses of Jehovah whom he has sent forth to give warning to the people and a witness to his name. What, therefore, is to be expected in the line of such conduct?

³⁷ Jehovah by his prophet answers the foregoing question in these words: "Therefore will I do unto this house, which is called by my name, wherein ye trust, and unto the place which I gave to you and to your fathers, as I have done to Shiloh." (Jer. 7:14) The material temple built during the reign of King Solomon and dedicated to the worship of Jehovah God had, in Jeremiah's day, become defiled and been made "a den of robbers". The leaders in Israel, the clergy, had forsaken the commandment of God and followed the traditions of men, teaching the doctrines of Satan which were proclaimed by men. The common people of Israel concluded that because "the house" had been built by the commandment of Almighty God and his name had been put there, and such was the place of worship, therefore God would never permit the enemy to destroy that house or the city of Jerusalem, the place where the temple stood, even though the clergy and the people broke God's covenant, of which covenant the temple was a symbol. Because they believed that the temple was invulnerable to the attacks of any foe, that was their ground for making and believing in a "covenant with death" and an "agreement with hell", as though the material temple was a charm against all evil. The temple had been built, and their faith was in it and not in God.

³⁸ What came to pass upon Jerusalem is duplicated by and upon "Christendom", except, as to "Christendom", upon a far greater scale. In these "last days" the Roman Catholic Hierarchy, being the chiefest among all organized religionists and being the leaders of organized religion called "Christendom", assume the name of God and presumptuously claim to be the visible representatives of God on earth. Thereby they have created the impression and belief

amongst the common people, and particularly the "Catholic population", that 'the Catholic church is invulnerable to the attacks of any opponents'. The Catholic clergy have for centuries boldly said before all the people words to this effect: "The Catholic church is the church of God, and the gates of hell shall never prevail against it, come what may." Jehovah's prophet, furthermore, foretold that they would say (and they do say): "We have made a covenant with death, and with hell are we at agreement; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, it shall not come [nigh] unto us." (Isa. 28: 15) Many sincere persons have been induced to believe that the Catholic church, composed of and ruled by a few men, is a charm against all ills and therefore that to be in the Catholic organization means to be safe. Those religious leaders have defamed the name of Jehovah God and have made void his Word by teaching and inducing the people to believe the traditions of men and to give honor and glory to men, and have thus turned them away from God. Jehovah God therefore declares his purpose to destroy that religious organization completely. To hypocritical "Christendom", and particularly to the clergy thereof, Jehovah says: "The hail shall sweep away the refuge of lies, . . . And your covenant with death shall be disannulled, and your agreement with hell shall not stand; when the overflowing scourge shall pass through, then ye shall be trodden down by it."—Isa. 28: 17, 18.

³³ But before Jehovah executes his judgment against "Christendom" he calls out a "people for his name" and sends that people as his witnesses amongst the nations to declare his name and to give a warning to "Christendom". His witnesses collectively are pictured under the symbol of the "man . . . clothed with linen, with a writer's inkhorn by his side". (Ezek. 9: 2-11) This company of faithful witnesses receives from the Lord his command to go throughout "Christendom" and to put a mark on the forehead of the sincere ones in "Christendom" that sigh and cry because of the hypocritical practices and wickedness done in "Christendom" by the religionists. Thus the Lord by his witnesses puts the mark in the forehead of such by giving the people information from God's Word, that they may intelligently get an understanding of Jehovah's purposes, which will enable them to flee out of the wicked religious organization and find refuge under God's King. The commission is given to Jehovah's witnesses, and the duty and obligation is laid upon them; and they must, in order to maintain their integrity toward God, "rise up against her in battle," that is, they must vigorously, boldly, and fearlessly declare the name and purpose of Jehovah God regardless of the opposition and attacks upon them by the enemy. It means a war, which is now in progress; and that is a war of righteousness carried on by proclaiming the truth against a crowd of wicked hypocrites, the truth exposing the

latter to the view of honest persons. In obedience to God's commandment his witnesses engage in this work, and the work seems very strange to professed Christian people, because God's witnesses speak the truth and the clergy say to the people: "What these Jehovah's witnesses say shocks our religious susceptibilities, and that should not be permitted." The work of Jehovah is not strange, however, to those who love and serve God, because God has commanded them to declare the day of his vengeance, and this they must do and will do. That "strange work" is now in progress, and those who love the Lord are having a part in it. When that strange work is done, will "Christendom" fall never to rise again?

(To be continued)

QUESTIONS FOR STUDY

- ¶ 1. To whom will Jehovah do 'as he did to Shiloh', and why? Why is what came to pass at Shiloh now of peculiar interest to those who are devoted to Jehovah God?
- ¶ 2. How is it shown that the message of warning proclaimed by Jeremiah was from Jehovah, and that it foreshadowed a work now to be done before Armageddon?
- ¶ 3. How and to whom is Jehovah now making available an understanding of his prophecies? For what purpose is this done?
- ¶ 4. What facts show that Jehovah selected and ordained Jeremiah to do a specific work?
- ¶ 5, 6. What is meant by "meekness"? Why is it so important? Show that Jeremiah in his course of action well pictured those who are now of the remnant and continue faithful unto death.
- ¶ 7. How did the work committed to Jeremiah (1: 10) foreshadow and foretell the work of Jehovah's servant class now on earth?
- ¶ 8-10. Point out the importance, (a) to Jeremiah, and (b) to those whom he pictured, of Jehovah's instruction recorded at Jeremiah 1: 16, 17. At verse 18. At verse 19.
- ¶ 11, 12. How did Jeremiah carry out the command of Jehovah, "Stand in the gate of the Lord's house"?
- ¶ 13-15. Apply (a) the fact that Jeremiah was not instructed to first ask permission from the priests of the temple. (b) The command "Hear the word of the Lord". (c) The designation "all ye of Judah".
- ¶ 16, 17. Of whom does "Christendom" consist? To whom in Jeremiah's day was the message of warning to be given, and for what purpose? Compare therewith the situation in "Christendom" today.
- ¶ 18, 19. Describe the occasion for the words of the prophet at Jeremiah 7: 4, (a) as spoken to typical Israel, (b) As applied to the time of fulfillment thereof.
- ¶ 20, 21. Explain the conditional promise given to the Israelites by Jehovah through his prophet as recorded at Jeremiah 7: 6, 7. Show that this was prophetic. Justify the charge recorded at verse 8 as addressed to Israel. As addressed to "Christendom".
- ¶ 22. How had the Israelites done as indicated at verses 9, 10? Show that therein was foretold the procedure of those today who profess and practice the so-called "Christian religion".
- ¶ 23, 24. Compare the condition disclosed at Jeremiah 7: 11, John 2: 13-16 and Matthew 21: 12, 13 with that of "organized religion" today.
- ¶ 25, 26. With scriptures, account for the apparently confident procedure of the clergy in their wicked work, and for their having so long continued therein.
- ¶ 27. How had God set his name at Shiloh? What wickedness did Israel commit there?
- ¶ 28-31. How did God show that he had forsaken the tabernacle at Shiloh?
- ¶ 32, 33. Why did Jehovah thus afflict the Israelites with great disaster? Why did this appear to them to be so strange? Why has Jehovah provided the record of that strange act?
- ¶ 34-36. How did the Lord do as declared at Jeremiah 7: 13, with the result as recorded? How does this have fulfillment?

What is to be expected in line of such conduct?
¶ 37, 38. Compare the deflection by the leaders of Israel, and the outcome thereof, with that of the leaders of "organized religion" in "Christendom".

¶ 39. How is the 'setting a mark' accomplished as commanded at Ezekiel 9: 4? Why is this procedure also prophetically referred to as 'rising up against her in battle'? Who will engage therein, and with what result?

THE GREATEST RESURRECTION

NISAN was the beginning of months in the Jewish year, and corresponded to about the month of April. The fourteenth day of Nisan, in the year A.D. 33, found Jesus of Nazareth dead and in the tomb. The hopes of his followers were dashed to the ground. Looking back to the promises made by Jehovah God to their forefather, faithful Abraham, the disciples and other associates had believed Jesus to be the promised Messiah and trusted that he would be the deliverer of the nation of Israel from Roman bondage, and that he would also be the instrument for the blessing, through Israel, of all the nations of the earth. But now he who they had hoped would redeem Israel (Luke 24: 21) was dead. They were perplexed and overwhelmed. Seemingly they did not expect him to be raised from the dead, nor did they know at that time that Jehovah would not suffer the flesh of his Holy One to corrupt. The conduct of the disciples at that time, as well as that of those who were in full sympathy with them, shows that they did not expect his resurrection.

The body of Jesus had been carefully wrapped and placed in the tomb with myrrh, aloes, and spices, evidently to prevent decomposition. The subsequent great sorrow of the faithful Jewish women at the tomb and their belief that the body of Jesus had been wrongfully removed and hid elsewhere, also the perplexity of the disciples, all tend to show that they did not have any hope or expectation of the resurrection of Jesus. Then, also, we have the positive statement in John's gospel, chapter twenty, verse nine: "For as yet they knew not the scripture, that he must rise again from the dead."

The disciples were Jews, and it might be supposed that they were somewhat acquainted with the Scriptures. We remember, however, that they were not learned men; and even if they had been acquainted with the text of the Scriptures they could not have had a very clear understanding of them at that time; just as we now see there are many wonderful truths in the Bible which have been there for centuries and which Christians never understood until recently. Now as we look at the inspired Word of God we can see some texts in Hebrew prophecies which clearly refer to the resurrection of Jesus, and which texts must have been familiar to many Jews at the time Jesus was crucified. For information we note some of these texts here.

The prophet Job pointed to the time of redemption and deliverance when he said: "For I know that my Redeemer liveth, and that he shall stand at the latter

day upon the earth." (Job 19: 25) If the Redeemer was to stand at the latter day upon the earth, then he must be raised from the dead after he had provided the redemptive price by his death; hence this scripture must foreshadow his resurrection. The psalmist David wrote prophetically concerning Jesus' resurrection, when he said: "For thou wilt not leave my soul in hell; neither wilt thou suffer thine Holy One to see corruption. Thou wilt shew me the path of life; in thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore." (Ps. 16: 10, 11) We have the inspired testimony of the apostle Peter that the prophet David did there refer to the resurrection of Jesus.—Acts 2: 27-31; 13: 35-37.

Again, the prophet David wrote concerning Jesus, the Savior of the world, these words: "For thou hast delivered my soul from death, mine eyes from tears, and my feet from falling." (Ps. 116: 8, 9) This deliverance clearly includes the awakening out of death. Jesus was awakened out of death in the express image of the Father, according to the third verse of the first chapter of the book of Hebrews. Again, the psalmist wrote these words: "Thou [Jesus] hast ascended on high, thou hast led captivity captive: thou hast received gifts for men." (Ps. 68: 18) Clearly the apostle Paul refers to this same scripture in his letter to the Ephesians, chapter four, verses 8-10, showing that the psalmist referred to the resurrection of Jesus.

The prophet Isaiah (9: 6, 7) wrote: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, and the government shall be upon his shoulder; and his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end, upon the throne of David, and upon his kingdom, to order it, and to establish it with judgment and with justice, from henceforth even for ever." Here it is clearly stated that the One who would hold this exalted position, the Messiah or Christ, is to be the everlasting Father. The term "father" means life-giver, and it would be impossible for Jesus to be the great Life-giver to man unless he were raised from the dead.

Again, the prophet Isaiah described the sufferings of Jesus and his death and subsequent resurrection, when he wrote these words: "The Lord [Jehovah God] hath laid on him [Jesus] the iniquity of us all. . . . He is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, . . . He was taken from prison and from judgment: . . . he was cut off out of the land of the

living: for the transgression of my people was he stricken. And he made his grave with the wicked, and with the rich in his death; . . . when thou shalt make his soul an offering for sin, he shall see his seed, . . . He shall see of the travail of his soul, and shall be satisfied: by his knowledge shall my righteous servant justify many." (Isa. 53: 6-11) He could not have poured out his soul unto death and afterward see the travail of his soul and be satisfied unless he should be raised from the dead.

These scriptures clearly foretell the resurrection of Jesus. Besides this, Jesus had told his disciples while in the land of Galilee that he would be put to death and would be raised from the dead. (Luke 24: 6, 7) The apostle Matthew (17: 22, 23) writes: "And while they abode in Galilee, Jesus said unto them, The Son of man shall be betrayed into the hands of men; and they shall kill him, and the third day he shall be raised again. And they were exceedingly sorry." But it may not be expected of the disciples that they should understand the meaning of these ancient prophetic scriptures as referring to the resurrection of the Lord. They were not men of great learning. They were poor and followed humble occupations. They had doubtless not had the advantage of a great amount of education; but a stronger reason why they did not understand is that the holy spirit had not then been given and their minds had not been illuminated, and it is not to be expected that they would understand then the "deep things" of God's Word. (1 Cor. 2: 14) Nor is it at all surprising that they had forgotten some of the sayings of Jesus concerning his betrayal, his death and resurrection. We must remember that they loved Jesus very devotedly; and uppermost in their minds was the hope that he would be the deliverer of Israel. Only five days before his death they had joined in his triumphant entry into Jerusalem, when the common people hailed him with gladness and joy. (Matt. 21: 1-11) His death was so sudden, so cruel, the shock from it so terrible, that the minds of these faithful disciples and others who loved him dearly were stunned. They were truly overwhelmed with sorrow and grief. He had been rudely snatched from them; unjustly tried, brutally condemned, and then subjected to the most ignominious death known to man, the death of the accursed tree.

Clearly in fulfillment of the prophecy of Isaiah aforementioned, Jesus was put to death as a wicked one, thereby making his grave with the wicked; and he was laid in the sepulchre of a rich man of Arimathea, named Joseph.—Matt. 27: 57.

Little is said as to the doings of the disciples and their associates immediately following the killing of Jesus when he was laid away in the tomb. The good women went and "beheld where he was laid". No doubt little else was done at the time of the burial. After six o'clock in the evening of that day was the

beginning of the Jewish sabbath day, and under the law the Jews must rest; hence we are not to expect that they did much of anything. Nor could it have been a day of much rest to them. It was a day of great sorrow. They could not do any work to divert their minds from the terrible shock caused by the hanging of the Lord on the tree. The rest period must have been one merely of cessation from labor. Surely they had little rest of body or peace of mind. For them it was a day of sorrowful waiting, because tomorrow they would go to the tomb. The sabbath ended at six o'clock that evening, but the night followed, which prevented them from visiting the tomb then.

The morning following was the first day of the week; and early that morning, before it became very light, Mary Magdalene and other good women who had followed Jesus from Galilee and had ministered unto him hastened to the Savior's tomb. When they reached there the angel of the Lord appeared unto them, saying: "Fear not ye: for I know that ye seek Jesus, which was crucified. He is not here; for he is risen, as he said. Come, see the place where the Lord lay. And go quickly, and tell his disciples that he is risen from the dead; and, behold, he goeth before you into Galilee; there shall ye see him: lo, I have told you. And they departed quickly from the sepulchre, with fear and great joy, and did run to bring his disciples word." (Matt. 28: 5-8) This news to these faithful women sounded too good to be true. They were dazed and bewildered; yet with joy they hurried away to deliver the message to others who loved the Lord.

Here we have the proof that the resurrection of Jesus is one of the strings upon the doctrinal harp of God, yielding great joy to those who hear its blessed sound. The first human creature who heard of the resurrection rejoiced. How much more joy there must have been in heaven at that hour!

The term "angel" means "messenger"; that is, one who is sent on a mission as a representative or deputy, or messenger of God. These holy messengers or angels always have access to the Father, Jehovah God. (Matt. 18: 10) We should expect, of course, that these holy ones of the heavenly host would sing praise and give utterance to joy before the Lord God at every progressive step of the outworking of his purpose. These angels inhabit the heavens, the high place. And so the psalmist writes of them: "Praise ye the Lord. Praise ye the Lord from the heavens: praise him in the heights. Praise ye him, all his angels: praise ye him, all his hosts."—Ps. 148: 1, 2.

There can be no question that these beloved angels rejoiced greatly at the marvelous demonstration of Jehovah God's almighty power in raising up his only-begotten Son from the dead and clothing him upon with the divine life and immortality. That was and is the greatest resurrection.

ABOMINATIONS

JEHOVAH'S servant Ezekiel began to prophesy in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity, which corresponded with A.D. 1919, the fifth year from 1914. It was one year and two months later that the events in the eighth chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy came to pass. This marks the beginning of a new vision and series of prophecies by Ezekiel. At the time when this prophecy began to have its fulfillment the Lord Jesus Christ was in the temple of Jehovah. He inspects the defiled "organized Christianity", so called, and points out to the "faithful servant" class of today (pictured by Ezekiel) the conditions there found, and the "servant" class is enabled to understand and appreciate the same as never before. As the vision appeared to Ezekiel, so the "faithful servant" class in every instance has seen that there is and has been the worship of the creature rather than the Creator. Such is Devil worship, the Devil's method of fraudulently claiming to worship God, the purpose being to turn man away from Jehovah.

A spirit, an officer of Jehovah, appeared in the name and by the power of Jehovah God and lifted Ezekiel up and showed him how the temple at Jerusalem had been defiled. The fulfillment of this is that God through his duly constituted officers lifted up the "faithful servant" class, and showed that class how Satan had reproached and defamed God's name. "And he [Jehovah's officer] put forth the form of an hand, and took me by a lock of mine head; and the spirit lifted me up between the earth and the heaven, and brought me in the visions of God to Jerusalem, to the door of the inner gate that looketh toward the north, where was the seat of the image of jealousy, which provoketh to jealousy. And, behold, the glory of the God of Israel was there, according to the vision that I saw in the plain. Then said he unto me, Son of man, lift up thine eyes now the way toward the north. So I lifted up mine eyes the way toward the north, and behold, northward at the gate of the altar, this image of jealousy in the entry." (Ezek. 8:3-5) Thus the Lord lifted up the faithful anointed "servant" class between earth and heaven and brought them in vision to Jerusalem, the heavenly organization, to the door of the inner gate of the temple that looks toward the north, from which divine authority and judgment proceed; and there appeared the image of jealousy.

The Devil is the very image or personification of jealousy and envy. He was jealous and envious of the worship given by man to Jehovah and coveted the same. Therefore Satan said: "I will be like the Most High." Everything that God has done for human salvation the Devil has tried to imitate, out of jealousy and for the purpose of deceit, to draw men away from Jehovah God. The Devil is the mimic god and vigorously endeavors to turn all creatures away from Jehovah and from the truth. This mimic, or "image", provokes to jealousy. In giving his law to Israel God

said: "Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, . . . I the Lord thy God am a jealous God." (Ex. 20:3-5) That law was not given for Jehovah's benefit, but was declared for the benefit of Israel and all who thereafter should come to a knowledge of God.

All life proceeds from Jehovah; whereas Satan is the one who has unrighteously taken life. Envyng the honor and glory that is properly bestowed upon Jehovah by his creatures, and coveting that honor and glory for himself, Satan has resorted to all manner of crime to turn creatures away from God. For the benefit of creation and for his own honor and glory, and that his creatures might know him and live, Jehovah God must in his own due time vindicate his name against this jealous one. All the images that have been reared up for the purpose of being worshiped were reared up by the Devil, and therefore the Devil is "the image of jealousy". The truth discloses the true situation that man may have the opportunity to know God and to know the way to life.

As the image of jealousy seen by Ezekiel depicted the Devil, so the organization of the Devil on the earth is the true image of the Devil, morally, mentally, and in practice. Today God's "faithful servant" class sees "the abomination that maketh desolate", spoken of by Daniel the prophet and by the Lord Jesus Christ, standing in the holy place. (Matt. 24:15) It is the Devil's product, his organization, and it is "the image of the beast", the League of Nations. It has its seat in the 'holy place' of "organized religion", which calls itself by the holy name of God and which claims to be the favored one of Jehovah God; and thus the name of Jehovah is reproached and desecrated. Its prime promoters and chief supporters are the nations which call themselves "Christian nations". "The image of jealousy" and the League of Nations, the product and offspring of the Devil, is anti-kingdom-of-God. All who support it, either actively or passively, put themselves in a position antagonistic to the kingdom of God.

Those who profess to be consecrated to God and who hold that "the higher powers" (Rom. 13:1) means the ruling powers of this world deceive themselves and deceive others. Many of the former elders of the ecclesias or Bible classes insist that "the higher powers", described by the apostle in Romans thirteen, means the ruling powers of this world. Being selfish, they have become blind to the revelation of God's truth. "God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie." (2 Thess. 2:11) These also fail to see the organization of Jehovah, and therefore fail to appreciate the fact that the kingdom is at hand. They do not see the kingdom of God, and therefore refuse to take a stand for it. They insist on treading softly so far as the Devil and his organization are concerned, and are led in the way of outer darkness; and, as the Scriptures declare, the same fate awaits

them as God has provided for the Devil. They are anti-kingdom-of-God.

The elders, leaders, or clergymen of "Christendom", practically as a unit support the League of Nations and falsely claim that the abominable thing is 'the political expression of God's kingdom on earth', and these likewise insist that "the powers that be" are the kingdoms of this world, which the Lord plainly declares constitute the visible organization of the Devil. Anyone who is devoted to the Lord and who receives the Lord's approval must take his stand unequivocally on Jehovah's side and speak the truth concerning Satan's organization and Jehovah's organization, to the end that he may have some part in the vindication of Jehovah's name.

Then the officer of the Lord in charge of Ezekiel continues the inspection, and Ezekiel sees more abominations. "And he brought me to the door of the court [of the temple]; and when I looked, behold a hole in the wall. Then said he unto me, Son of man, dig now in the wall; and when I had digged in the wall, behold a door. And he said unto me, Go in, and behold the wicked abominations that they do here. So I went in and saw; and behold, every form of creeping things, and abominable beasts, and all the idols of the house of Israel, portrayed upon the wall round about. And there stood before them seventy men of the ancients [elders] of the house of Israel, and in the midst of them stood Jaazaniah the son of Shaphan, with every man his censer in his hand; and a thick cloud of incense went up." (Ezek. 8: 7-11) The abominable beasts and idols portrayed upon the wall of the house or temple of the Israelites foreshadowed the abominable things that have been brought into professed "Christianity" which claims to be the temple of the Lord.

The modernist clergy, while claiming to be ministers of God, are the leaders and teachers of evolution and are guilty of ancestor worship, in this, that they claim that "every form of creeping things" or "abominable beasts" preceded man on earth and that these are man's ancestors or blood relatives. These clergy-

men hold on to their jobs and draw their pay from the people on the pretext of being interpreters of the Word of God, and they occupy so-called "Christian pulpits". In their discourses they take a Bible text as a pretext to teach evolution. They read their text and get away from it immediately. These elders or leaders, otherwise called "clergymen" of "organized Christianity", burn incense in the house which they call the house of the Lord, their church, while they busy themselves in turning the people away from God and from the Bible. Therefore in the picture each one is shown with a censer in his hand with incense round about. They deny the existence of the supreme, all-wise God, the Creator of heaven and earth. They are so wise in their own conceits that they believe they can teach what they will, and that the people will not understand them and that 'no one will see them'. Therefore says the Lord to Ezekiel: "Son of man, hast thou seen what the ancients [elders] of the house of Israel do in the dark, every man in the chambers of his imagery? for they say, The Lord seeth us not; the Lord hath forsaken the earth."—Ezek. 8: 12.

These distinguished clergymen, wise in their own conceits, are, in the language of God's Word, fools. They say, 'There is nothing to show that God made the earth and its creatures,' and they tell the people that the Bible account thereof is mere nonsense and imaginations of unlearned men. They laugh at the statement, 'Your Father in heaven seeth in secret.' (Matt. 6: 6, 18) They are hypocrites of the worst kind, because they claim to represent God and yet they deny God, and in fact represent the Devil and defame and desecrate God's name.

Anyone who is a child of the Lord and in the covenant for the kingdom, and who would put on the "soft pedal" concerning such men and fail to point out that they are the Devil's servants, would be unfaithful to God and to his covenant. The "faithful servant" class, each one of which will do his duty, will tell the truth, that God's truth may sweep away these hiding places of lies, that the glory of the Lord may be seen by those who love righteousness.

JEHOVAH'S PROVISION TIMELY

DEAR BROTHER RUTHERFORD:

Pardon the encroachment from a heart overflowing with unrestrainable expression of appreciation to Jehovah for an appreciation and understanding of his explanation of Proverbs 4: 7 (May 15 *Watchtower*), the repeated study of which bows one's head in awe and humility as we realize, vividly, our relationship as children and the accrued responsibility connected therewith.

The explanation of how one may know, if of the family of God (paragraphs 16-19), surely should enable all to ascertain their respective relationship. How timely is our God! With brethren here and there asking just such questions in an effort to learn their relative positions and responsibilities, Jehovah, providing timely "food convenient", makes it possible that none need be in ignorance or doubt.

How can anyone question the guidance, care and supervision of His people through the Society and its authorized publications. The fact that the procedure of the Society for years relative to the selection of servants for positions of responsibility has been identical with that outlined in Deuteronomy

1: 12, 13, as explained in May 15 *Watchtower* (paragraphs 7, 8), reveals clearly that although companies recommend, *Jehovah appoints*.

That one fact alone should cause the cessation of all murmuring, strife, contention and selfishness; and it does in the mind and heart of all faithfully maintaining their integrity. Surely the infamous attempt of Satan through false brethren (high or low in previous positions of service) will only entrench the faithful in renewed activity as commanded by Jehovah and directed through His authorized and manifested media, viz., the Society and its publications.

Please be assured, dear brother, that, although loving you dearly and delighting in working with you in obedience to the 'commandments of our Father and the law of our mother', all honor and praise must and does go to Jehovah and Christ Jesus.

Praying His blessing upon you in your position of responsibility, I hope to remain

Your brother and servant,
D. W. ALDEN, Kansas.