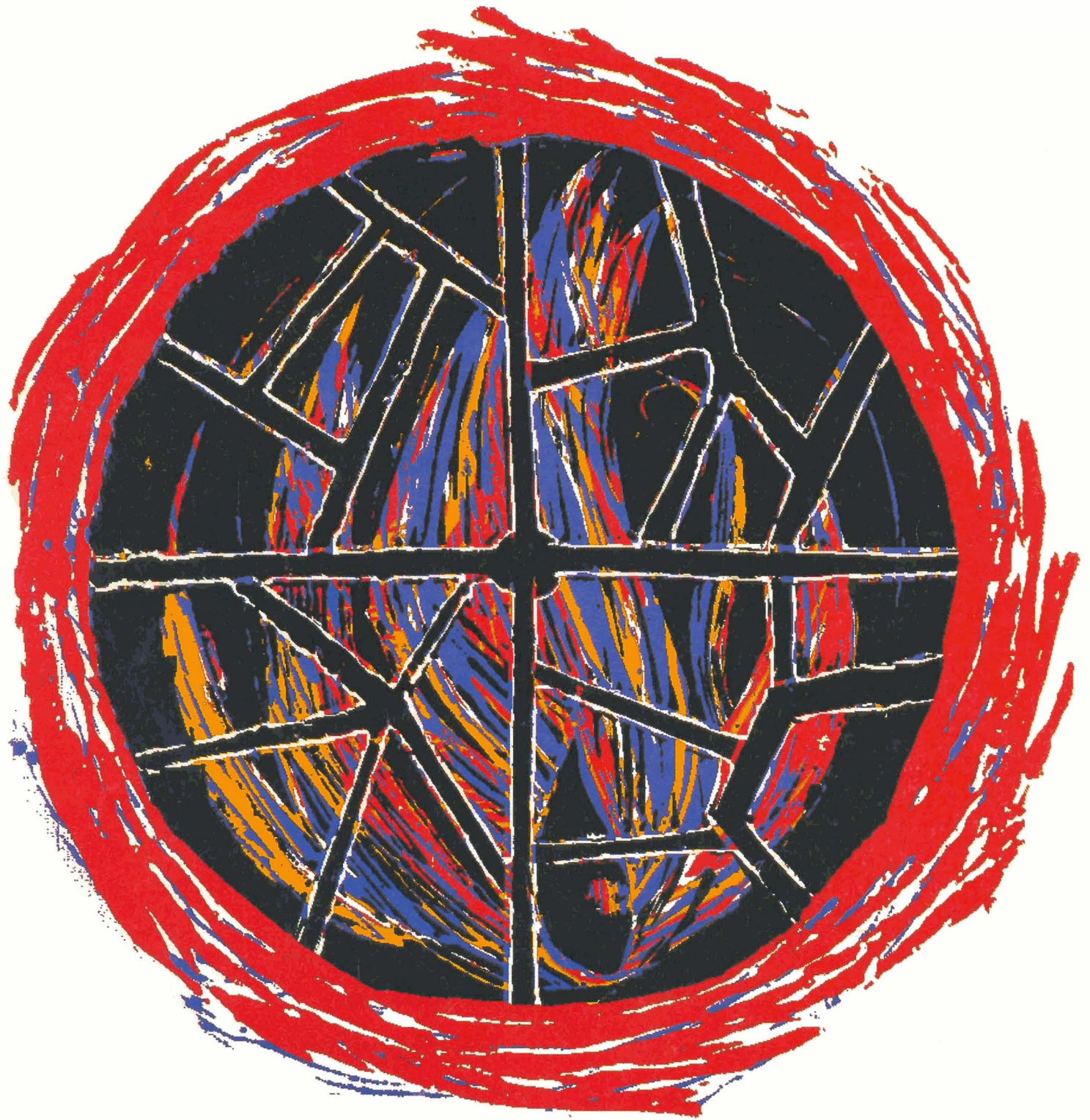


Latter Rain

Magazine of the Christian Israelite Church June 1992



PENTECOST

Why "Latter Rain"?

"One shall say I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel." Isaiah 44:5

Christians (those who say I am the Lord's) believe in Jesus as their saviour and are looking for life after death. They believe it is no longer necessary to keep all the Old Testament laws given by God.

The Jews (those who go by the name of Jacob) do not accept Jesus as their saviour. They have only the law and the justification that it brings for a life after death.

Christian Israelites (those who subscribe with their hand unto the Lord and surname themselves by the name of Israel) try to combine the two. Jesus, our example lived by the Old Testament laws but he tempered them with love. He showed us a new way to live them. With the help of

the latter rain, that is Christ and the Holy Ghost, we can achieve life without death.

"Be glad then, ye children of Zion, and rejoice in the Lord your God: for he hath given you the former rain moderately, and he will cause to come down for you the rain, the former rain, and the latter rain in the first month." Joel 2:23

The moderate early rain came in autumn. It was needed to prepare the ground for ploughing and planting the crops. It is symbolic of the first gift of the Holy Ghost, needed for the preparation and establishment of the early church. The heavier latter rain came in spring to help the crops mature for the harvest. We, like the plants, must grow spiritually before we have the strength to receive our latter rain. This second gift of the God's Spirits will prepare us for maturation in preparation for our harvest at Jesus' return.

This new production "Latter Rain" has evolved from what many readers have come to know as "Notes From Our Church Organ". The "Church Organ" will still exist but its function will be that of an internal newsletter for members and friends. It will come out more often than the quarterly "Latter Rain".

"Latter Rain" is the outreach magazine of the Christian Israelite Church, published quarterly. It is compiled on a Macintosh 2FX using QuarkXPress and Adobe Illustrator and Photoshop.

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Articles contained in this magazine are not all doctrinal but rather seek to include thoughts and interesting facts which may assist in bringing the reader to a greater understanding of God.

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To become a regular recipient of "Latter Rain", or place a friend on our mailing list please contact our distribution centre.

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Change! Is it good or bad?

Life is forever changing, developing. Should we hold onto the past with a firm grip because it is known and familiar, or rather because by God's standards it is right?

What is the safe way to go? What is the way Jesus would have us behave?

Lots of questions like this come to mind as we respond to society around us, as we try to assimilate its changes into our own lives. Many such questions have been raised in the production of this new magazine, but in the ladder of life we must go up or down rungs to get anywhere, we just can't stay in the same place.

Often people are afraid of change because they feel that by changing they are admitting that the past was wrong. But do they need to?

Change that is the result of trying to improve our relationship with God must be good. God is the same, he never changes, but at times our understanding of Him does. Look at Jesus. To the people of His day he "turned the world upside down", He was an innovator - but his foundation was sure!

With any change let us consider the world's great constant God and ask for his guidance.

In this issue we look at the Holy Ghost the spirit that descended on Jesus at His baptism and fired his ministry; at our celebration of Pentecost, its history and significance to our spiritual life; at Pentecost as a time of dedication; and at the Holy Ghost, first given at Pentecost, and the work she will do to make us "sons of God". Why not ask for this power to change us and overcome the evil influence in our life.

I Never Knew Him	2
Religion Isn't God	4
Expand your Bible: Proverbs	5
Harvest	6
Shavuot: The Feast of Firstfruits	8
Jesus Showed Us Life	9
Was it Crucifixion or Suffocation?	12
Vows	14
Debug your Bible: Light Proves Creation	16
All Round Health:Food	19
Essence of Whitsuntide	20
Pentecost	22
12 Apostles:Peter	24
Bible Puzzler	28

As he began to speak the crowd stilled. The haranguing stopped, the laughing and sniping from the back rows ceased. He could feel the power going out as he spoke, going from him, and yet from beyond him. Welling up inside like an eternal spring it came. He could feel the closeness of his beloved master.....

But it hadn't always been like this.

Seven long weeks ago he was in the depths of despair. The rough powerful fisherman from Galilee had been the first to truly recognise the master's true

just yesterday?" "Not me. Must have been someone else." "I know you support Jesus". "I don't even know who he is," he had said. The awful truth had struck home and he had wept, ashamed of his cowardice, ashamed of his weakness, and belittled by his desertion.

In the depths of his despair Jesus had come to him. "Peter do you love me?... Feed my sheep." But of course he loved him. Right from the first day he had met him he knew Jesus was special, he knew he would have to follow him anywhere he was asked to go. He knew this man had

I Never Knew Him ...

mission, the first to swear lasting allegiance to him, the only one to fight... that dreadful scene in the garden where he had drawn his sword against the angry crowd, where he had struck out with all his might smiting off the ear of that despicable servant of the High Priest. His blow for freedom met only with the Master's gentle rebuke and the miracle of healing. It still struck him as incredible how easily the mob fell back at Jesus' word just like feathers in the wind. But He'd shown that power before, that night in the boat where the roaring wind, the pounding waves and that feeling of helplessness before the elements had all stilled at His simple command. But they had taken Him in the end, not in their strength but in His surrender because He had laid down his power.

Peter remembered then his feelings of terror, hopelessness and dejection. He followed at the edge of the seething crowd, not daring to come any closer lest he was recognised. Then slowly, almost imperceptibly, the denial came....."aren't you one of those Galileans?" they asked. "Who me? Had nothing to do with people like that!". "But didn't I see you with them

the words, the understanding of eternal life. But this big powerful man who had always had the strength to pull in the heaviest fishing net, handle the biggest obstacles in his life had failed miserably this time. Well might Jesus ask if Peter loved him, and well might he ask him to teach others what he had learned during his time with Him.

He had said "Lord you know I love you", he loved him as much as he loved himself..... but had he? He had denied Jesus to save his own skin, as if they would have wanted it anyway. What sort of friend was he? Big and powerful, hiding behind lies. But it wouldn't happen again.

Jesus had asked the question again, and it had cut to the quick. He'd been through enough hadn't he. Surely Jesus knew it was just human weakness that caused him to run and hide.

But he asked the third time. Before Jesus had left He had promised He would send a comforter, a spiritual power to help them. And what a power it was.

Cowering and frightened they had locked

James
and Kerry Harrison

themselves away in an out of the way place to celebrate Pentecost. Praying for strength and guidance to take Jesus' message of the loving God out to the world.... not only a God of rules and regulations, of pious prayers and temple services, but a God of love and caring, a god you could dance with after harvest, or cuddle on a lonely and desolate night, or even share a joke with on the sabbath.

Then it came with a roar like a hurricane, tongues of fire rolling and dancing, and the strength and power of the Comforting spirit of God. There was no question of

until..

how or what to do, they stood up and taught the people. Peter transformed by the power of the Spirit stood up and addressed the crowds. "Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Repent and be baptised every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive of the Holy Ghost." "Those who accepted his message were baptised, and about three thousand were added to their number that day" (Acts 2:37-38,41).

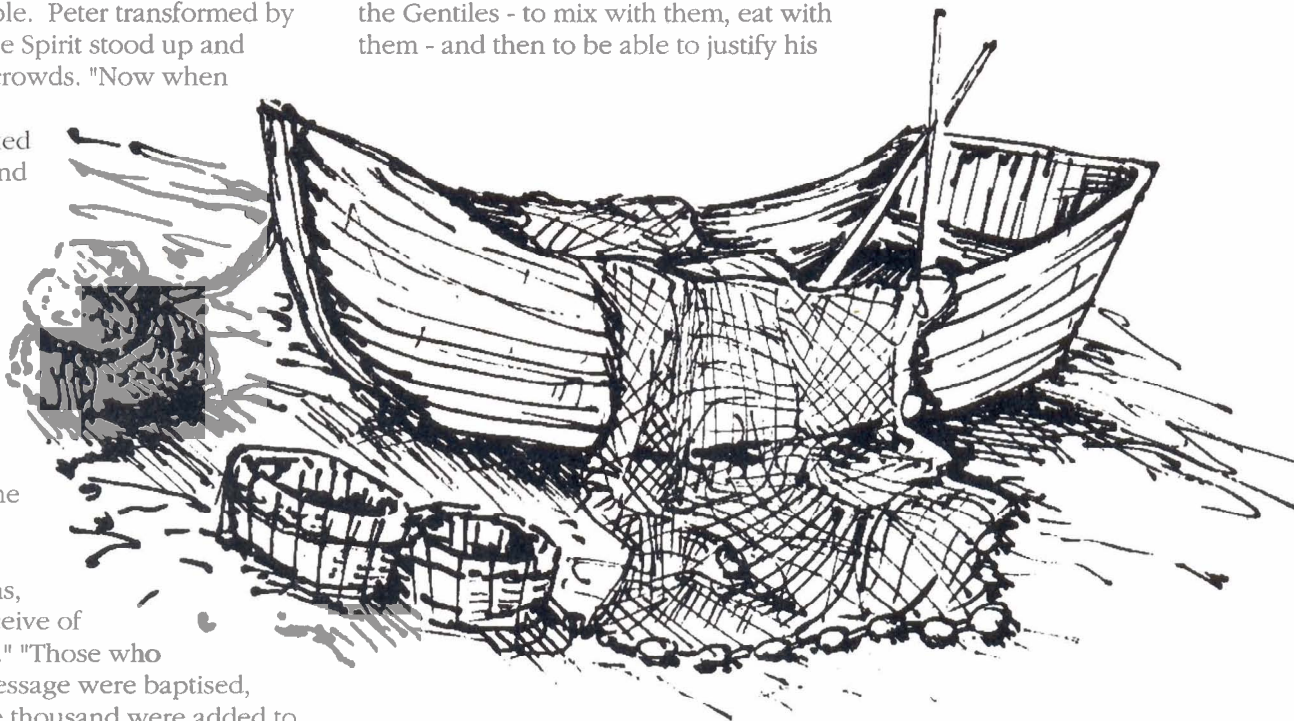
Peter, transformed by the power of the Spirit was indeed the big fisherman. Never again would he cower and be frightened.

Jesus had given him a commission - had told him to feed His sheep, and that was what He would do in boldness...

The Comforting Spirit worked wonders through Peter that amazed him..that reinforced him... why even his shadow healed. Jesus had known before He died - He had known that wonderful morning on the beach - no never again would he deny. He had been commissioned to do a special job and he would do it - now in power but with an inner humility as his master would have had.

Oh when he looked back at the time since Pentecost he was awed. Twice he had been saved by the wonderful intervention of God. That night he had been escorted out of the prison by the angel - had it really happened to him? He had known then that there was more work to do.

Now he had to face a new task - to go to the Gentiles - to mix with them, eat with them - and then to be able to justify his



Not to be used again the fishing boat stood lonely and silent on the sand.

actions to the disciples. It took a certain strength of character to break with tradition - to follow God. The solid devout Peter was the one to do it.

It never ceased to amaze him how the simple story could reach into the hearts of men, change their lives, the power in the story that the Master had passed on with his comforting spirit.

Peter went from town to town, from task to task - he had grown from the saddened, broken man who had left Jerusalem after the crucifixion to one empowered with an inner burning, a devoutness rarely equalled - to a man upon which God

could place much of the responsibility for taking his love and teachings out to the world - feed my sheep was His commission.

Would he have been as suitable a worker if he had not been humbled by his initial failure? Would he have become as strong and yet so humble as to refuse a similar death to his master without his trial?

Never should we feel that a hole is too deep to climb out of and go on from - the power of God, in the form of the Holy Ghost, as seen in the first Pentecost is still available and can work in your life if you will but seek it.

Religion Isn't God

It's humiliating to reflect that
I loved more when I knew less.
It's hard to admit that years of
thinking, praying, preaching,
counselling and doing
all the hundred and one tasks of the christian life,
do not add up to
greater love
for You, Lord.

I remember the early days of discipleship
when my boats were burned and I was standing on a new shore,
this side of my Jordan-
the days when
You were all in all.
The days when nimble-witted critics
and sardonic cynics could
shatter my defences
but couldn't touch my heart.

Now, when the mind is secure,
it's the heart that's uncertain.
Now when I can, from long experience, shatter the attack of the critic,
I've lost the purity of heart, that inner fire.

Touch me again, Lord.
Let me not prefer theology to You.
Let me not love religion: rather let me love You.
Let me not feel secure in my sound doctrine: rather let me feel secure in
Your service.

Author unknown

Expand your Bible: Proverbs

Read any good books lately? I have - the Book of Proverbs. If you haven't read it lately I suggest you give it a look. I was reading it the other day and found it had lots of good advice; like work hard, spend your time with good people, hold your mind rather than speaking it in haste, and do good today not tomorrow. Its sort of like a life D.I.Y. manual.

One phrase, however, echoes through the pages of Proverbs. Get wisdom and understanding. Get wisdom and understanding. These two attributes are mentioned again and again. What exactly are they, and what's so special about them?

Of course we all know what they are but we turn to our dictionary anyway to tease out their distinct meanings. Wisdom is described as having or showing experience, knowledge or good judgement.

Understanding, on the other hand is defined as the power of clear thought, of being able to see something from another point of view.

In our everyday life we recognise wisdom when we stumble across it. We are talking or listening to someone and all of a sudden what they are saying gels with us. It makes us stop and take notice. Often wisdom says something we know deep down but have not been able to articulate. Other times wisdom gives us a totally new perspective and our thoughts turn around. We are told to incline our ear to this wisdom (Proverbs.2:2) so that we may learn from it.

The flip side of the coin is understanding. When we seek to understand we rid ourselves of 'I' and replace it with "you". Understanding is related to compassion and empathy. It has been suggested that one of the highest goals of man is to be

able to walk in the shoes of another. When we seek to understand we need to kick off our own shoes and stand in another's so that we can see the world from their viewpoint.

Well they sound good but where do we get them? Unfortunately they are not sold straight off the shelf. Its up to each of us to pick them up along the way. Proverbs has some good ideas on how and where to get them. Its a pretty good book isn't it! It says that we should enjoy knowledge, appreciate reproof and learn from instruction. It tells us to learn from our parents. It also tells us that fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge and that his laws and commands are our guides. It is up to each of us to be ready to learn with open hearts and open minds.

Life's like climbing a very high mountain. When we turn and look at where we've been we have increased in wisdom. For some this mountain is harder to climb than others. Others forget to look down when they reach a plateau and in doing so miss out on wisdom. Understanding is when we take a climb with another.

Proverbs tells us to make wisdom and understanding our constant companions. Keep them in your pocket, your briefcase, your satchel. "Say unto wisdom thou art my sister and call understanding they kinswoman" Proverbs 7:4 They are the sort of friends who won't let you down, especially on the mountain climb, why not look them up?

Harvest

ORIGIN OF PENTECOST The trumpet's sound grew louder and louder, and it was heard in all parts of the camp. The mountain belched forth smoke and there was much thunder. For the past three days the people had been preparing and cleansing themselves and their camp for this day- the day on which their God was to reveal Himself to them and give them a code of living and government. This code would enable them to become a great nation- a code which would last as long as men lived.

These people, a few short weeks earlier, had been slaves under the Egyptians. The Egyptians had thrust them out when their God had shown His power by many plagues which culminated in the death of all the first-born of Egypt. The power of God was invincible and he had chosen these slaves as His special emissaries. How exalting- yet how humbling! This nation was yet ill prepared for God's revelation and became terrified at this manifestation of His power. God therefore passed on His instructions to them through their leader Moses, and these formed the basis of what is known today as the teachings of the Law, or the Torah.

This heralded a new era into the world. Since that time the event has been commemorated by believers fifty days after the escape from Egypt- the time of the Passover. The Passover marked the beginning of the harvest which was to be concluded at the Feast of Weeks- Pentecost. The Passover had been the betrothal of Israel to God- the giving of the Law is referred to today as the wedding contract God gave His people, and the day of Pentecost as "Israel's Wedding Day". Pentecost or Shavuot concludes what Passover began.

"Pentecost" comes from the Greek word for 50 -PENTA- as the celebration of a "week of weeks" or fifty days after Passover. The feast marked the completion of the wheat harvest and the first fruits of the trees. The harvest festival began by bringing into the Temple two sheaves of first fruits of the barley harvest as a waive offering. Even today two loaves of wheat are made with butter or milk for a waive offering, and are not to be eaten with meat, while the Synagogues are decorated with greens and flowers to mark the first fruits. The Ten Commandments are read in the Synagogue as a celebration of the supremacy of Moral Law, and God is proclaimed Lawgiver by His revelation to Moses on Sinai. Pentecost day is the season of the giving of the Torah, or Law, and is celebrated by the Jewish calendar 50 days after the 14th Nisan (March) which brings it to the 6th Sivan (May).

It was in England that the feasts of Passover and Pentecost became known as Easter and Whitsuntide. Up to the present day, churches in parts of England hold street parades and children wear new white clothes to celebrate White-sunday.

God through Moses commanded His people to keep three convocations or feasts each year- Passover, Pentecost and Tabernacles. Each represented an important event as well as having great spiritual and prophetic significance.

To the Israelites these feasts had great temporal significance but to us today it is more a spiritual significance. Jesus' death on the cross fulfilled many of the prophecies associated with the Passover. He sent His apostles out to begin the harvest of mankind in accordance with His words "I am not come to call the righteous



Gregorian Month	Hebrew Month
March	ADAR
April	NISAN
May	IYYAR
June	SIVAN
July	TAMMUZ
August	AB
September	ELUL
October	TISHRI
November	MARCHESVAN
December	CHISLEV
January	TEBETH
February	SHEBAT

Dry

Passover

Pentecost

Cold

Tabernacles

but sinners to repentance" and "the fields are white already to harvest". This harvest will end and its end is seen in the prophecies of Pentecost. To Israel of old it was the giving of the law. To Israel today it is the realisation of the New Covenant when God will put His presence in their hearts and minds.

For this to happen the evil in us must be overcome and we must prepare. As with ancient Israel today we should still consider this day as a marriage. Just as a married couple, through association, love

and joy in each other's company grow closer together in action and thought, so today those who seek for God's presence in their life will become as the good wheat and separated from the tares (typifying the evil) and grow closer to being as our Lord Jesus Christ.

It is at this time we should offer ourselves, reaffirming the vow of ancient Israel "all that the Lord hath said we will do" and seek for the ever abiding presence of the Spirit with us.

Shavuot - the Feast of Firstfruits

Cheese and Apple Cake The Hebrew tradition at this time is to eat a lot of dried fruit, nuts and also cook with soft white cheese (eg. cheesecakes, cheese omelettes, blinches (pancakes filled with soft white cheese))

Try this recipe (taken from Oogot le Kol Et (Cakes for all Times), by Nira Shoker)

Short Crust Pastry Base

1 1/4 cups flour
1/4 cup sugar
1 egg yolk
2 tbspn milk or orange juice
1/2 tsp. vanilla essence
1/2 tsp grated lemon rind
pinch salt
100g cold unsalted butter

Cut butter.

Mix all ingredients in mixer on slow speed till mixture just sticks together.

Allow to rest in fridge for 30 minutes.

Press into 26cm diameter spring form cake tin.

Hint: Replace egg yolks and liquid with 1 1/2 tbs sour cream or yoghurt and 1 tbspn lemon juice.

Filling

1/2 kg apples cored
sugar
cinnamon
1/2 kg soft white cheese (ricotta or similar)
4 yolks
50g soft butter
1 tsp grated lemon rind
1 tsp vanilla
pinch salt

1/2 cup cornflour
1/2 cup sugar
4 egg whites

Preheat oven to 220°C

Slice and arrange apples on base

Sprinkle sugar & cinnamon over apples

Blend all but last 3 ingredients in mixer until smooth and creamy.

Add cornflour. Do not overmix.

Beat egg whites till stiff. Gradually add sugar. Fold egg mixture into cream with a rubber scraper and spread over apples.

Cook for 10 minutes on high (220°C) then for 25 minutes or until brown on moderate (150°C)

Turn oven off and allow to cool in oven (approx. 20-30 mins)

Remove from tin when completely cooled.

Ron Gruber

Jesus Showed Us Life

Have you ever wished that you could be like Jesus? Have you ever wished that you only did good things, nothing angry or hurtful, that you could heal and help people as He did? Have you ever wanted to be a peacemaker? Well Jesus Himself tells us that "he that believeth on me the works that I do shall ye do also, and greater works than these shall ye do" John 14:12. So it is not a vain hope to strive to be like Jesus. God wants to help us to be like Him, all we have to do is ask.

Jesus knew why He was born, what He had to do with His life. He was aware that God would require Him to die unjustly to save mankind and win the battle against Satan. The courage it took to face His death was wonderful. Can you, knowing in your heart that God wants you to live a certain way and do certain tasks for Him, walk away and say I don't want to do this? Jesus not only died for us He showed us how to live. Day by day we must follow in His footsteps and that includes following God's instructions to us. To many they seem hard but if they are done with the love that Jesus taught and for the reason of love to one another then the task no longer seems as hard.

Jesus' Part in God's Plan:

Thrown into a sudden enmity between God and Satan, much of the Spirit creation did not know which way to turn. Some stayed with God, others willingly followed Satan, while the remainder deceived by his subtlety fell prey to the crafty devil. When God's physical creation (Adam and Eve) also fell prey to Satan the plan for our salvation was laid. God said to Satan, "I will put enmity between thee and the woman, and between thy seed and her seed (Jesus); it shall bruise thy head (ultimately causing death) and thou shalt bruise his heel" Genesis 3:15. So it was determined that Jesus Christ was to be the adversary of Satan.

Step One - Turn from Sin:

Jesus Christ is the one mediator between God and man, and mankind ever stand in need of this mediator, whilst our thoughts and our ways, manifest such a variance from the will of God. God said through Isaiah "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways", Isaiah 55:8.

The love of God toward us is shown in many parts of the Holy Bible. God is all-righteous. He does not change. Rather it is man that changes, often wandering from the instruction and ways of God. This wandering from or transgression of God's law is sin - and sin is the cause of physical death (Romans 6:23). Thus, our God desires that we avoid the consequences of sin by turning to Him - and observing His ways. "Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make a new heart and a new spirit: for why will ye die, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye." Ezekial 18:31-32. How do we do this? By living as Jesus did, by following in his footsteps.

Redeeming our Souls:

We read that God so loved the world, He sent His Son to reveal His will to mankind and to redeem the souls of sinners, (John 3:16 and 1 Corinthians 15:22,23). If anyone repent of their past sins, and believes in the efficacy of the shedding of Jesus' blood; that is "if thou confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved" Romans 10:9. Your soul will be forgiven and should you die, you will be revived at the first resurrection, and rise from the grave incorruptible: It was for this that "the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the world." (1 John 4:14).

Based on an article by the late John Knight which appeared in "Notes from Our Church Organ", 1971.

The shedding of the blood of Jesus upon the cross to take away the sin of the world, was all part of God's plan to win us back from Satan. If it never happened there would be no redemption of human souls.

In line with His strategy it was God who provided the pure and sinless sacrifice, without blemish, as represented by the Passover Lamb, Exodus 12:5. None other was good enough to pay the price of sin, either before or since. As yet, He alone is without sin (1 John 3:5). Jesus knew what would be involved in His sacrifice, nevertheless, He voluntarily undertook to fulfil what was required; and "for the joy that was before Him endured the cross, despising the shame" Hebrews 12:2.

Suffering Foretold

Jesus knew Judas would betray Him (John 13:26), He knew of Isaiah's prophecy that He should not defend Himself at His trial "and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all...he is brought as a lamb to the slaughter, and as a sheep before her shearers is dumb, so he openeth not his mouth." Isaiah 53:6,7, (Acts 8:32). He told Pilate that "Thou couldest have no power at all against me, except it were given thee from above: therefore he that delivered me unto thee hath the greater sin", John 19:11. He "drank the cup" for He knew that this situation was from God.. How often do we refuse to drink the cup because we doubt, because we do not believe that we can be like Jesus as the scripture says?

After questioning Him, Pilate realised that He had not done any crime - he found no fault in Him, and he was determined to let Him go (Acts 3:13). But had there been no crucifixion there wouldn't have been redemption of the souls of mankind and consequently no resurrection! So, despite his personal feelings, Pilate delivered Him to be crucified. When upon the cross, His first words were "Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do", Luke 23:34.

Some time before the crucifixion, while on their way to Jerusalem, Jesus told His disciples plainly what was in store for Him.

Taking them aside he revealed, "the Son of man shall be betrayed unto the chief priests and scribes, and they shall condemn him to death, and shall deliver him to the Gentiles to mock and to scourge, and to crucify him", Matthew 20:18-19. Again, after His crucifixion he reminded His disciples that they should have been ready for what had happened, not only had He told them, but the prophets had as well. What truth He revealed to them in His words!

"O fools, and slow of heart, to believe all that the prophets have spoken: Ought not Christ to have suffered these things?" Luke 24:25-26.

Twofold Teachings: Salvation of the Soul

Jesus, in His teachings revealed a salvation that pertains to the soul after physical death (1 Peter 1:9), and also, the preservation of the physical body without death (John 8:51). He also showed that neither is achieved by the efforts of man without power from God.

To those who die, He is the resurrection, (John 11:25) raising the soul from the grave (Dan. 12:2) to everlasting life in a spiritual form in the heavens (1 Corinthians 15:44).

Redemption of the Body

To those who are not dead at His return and who have sought to be purified as He was, then the giving of His body showed that Satan had no power over a perfect and sinless man. In a few short days He showed Himself alive and well with the same nail marked body that had been crucified. Thus Jesus made the way to redeem both the souls and the bodies of those God has chosen if they are but willing to strive for the goal set before them, the goal of being joint-heirs with him (see Romans 8:17). Paul says "for whom he did foreknow, he also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of his son, that he might be the firstborn of many brethren", Romans 8:29. Jesus instructed His disciples that if they were to become perfect, not serving sin, then they would become as He is - alive for evermore.

How can we ignore God when he says in Matthew 5:48 "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect"? Luke 6:40 again shows us that it is not wrong to strive to be as Jesus, to live as Jesus "The disciple is not above his master: but every one that is perfect shall be as his master".

Jesus outlines the mechanism of redemption in His discourse in John 14 where He speaks of His being "In the Father, and Ye in me, and I in You". If the spirit of Christ, the father, be within us, and dwells and reigns in our hearts, then the Kingdom of God is within us, and we cannot sin (Luke 17:21; 1 John 3:9). We are born again (Proverbs 12:28, John 3:5).

Jesus said in John 6:54 "Whosoever eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life" (Verses 48-58). Developing the symbols we find that drinking His

blood is believing in the efficacy of the shedding of His blood for the life of the soul, and the eating of His flesh is doing His will. "If a man keep my saying, he shall never see death", John 8:51, Luke 6:46.

So we think of Passover or Easter, and we think of Jesus' sacrifice and the cleansing power of His blood. But Jesus has a relevance to our lives everyday beyond His sacrifice. His life is our example, our vision, and where there is no vision the people perish. As we learn by the anointing of the Spirit to live as He did and love God as He did, then there is little need of repentance and we can go on to perfection (Hebrews 6:1-6) to become perfect Sons of God, and we can believe that "when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is", 1 John 3:2.

Spirit "anointing" us:
The Spirit comes and goes, as it did on the disciples, depending on our relationship with God.



Spirit "Abiding":
Like in a spiritual womb, we are brought from being imperfect to a perfect son as the spirit dwells on us more permanently, as it did on Jesus.



We then have the potential to become sons of God, and joint-heirs with Jesus.

Back in the days of the Roman Empire crucifixion was a science - it was almost an art form. Scientists and biologists today had to experiment to find out how crucifixion actually works. I mean, it sounds easy enough - a couple of nails through the hand, couple through the feet - but did you know that there is only one very precise point in the wrist that can actually hold the body's weight? (The Romans must have had a good idea of anatomy.)

your legs so you couldn't lift yourself up to get a decent breath, your lungs would remain restricted, and you would suffocate. Now you may well ask "why is he telling us all this?". Well apart from being a lesson on posture, it also tells us something remarkable about Jesus' crucifixion. Now Jesus was crucified on the day before a special Jewish

OK, now I know you're going to say "the nails were put through the palm!", and you're exactly right because in those days the meaning of palm actually included the wrist. Anyway, a couple of years ago there was a gentleman touring the world giving talks on the "Shroud of Turin" (you remember the stir that caused). As part of his seminar he explained the whole business, or art, of crucifixion. Without getting too gruesome, apparently when you're in the crucified position - arms out, feet together - the body slouches forward restricting the amount of air you can breathe in. The only way you can get a decent breath is to lift yourself up by placing all of your weight on the nails through your feet. Crucifixion was as much a humiliation as it was a slow death because if you were left in this position you could survive for ages! On the other hand, if they wanted you to die quickly they would break

sabbath. John 19:31 says that it was the day of preparation and the next day was to be a special sabbath. Because the Jews did not want the bodies left on the crosses during the Sabbath they asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken down. So they went along in the afternoon, to break their legs, suffocate them, and pull them down before the evening. But when they got to Jesus he was already dead - which was peculiar since crucifixion was supposed to be a lingering process. So they didn't need to break a bone in Jesus' body - hence fulfilling the prophecy of the Passover lamb. In Exodus 12:46 and Numbers 9:12 it says that no bones of the passover lamb were to be broken. In Psalms 34:20 it also says "He keepeth all his bones, not one of them is broken." So there you go. Perhaps you can understand a new angle to Jesus' crucifixion - a new remarkable angle. So crucifixion is just a slow suffocation. If he was unwillingly killed by man wouldn't the glory of his sacrifice be taken from him? As we go through many pre-messianic prophecies they don't appear very 'remarkable' at all, at least by today's standards. But what we need to realise is that in the context of the day, the prophecies were remarkable, just as the one above. But here's the rub, Jesus didn't die by suffocation - by all rights he should have - the gift of his sacrifice was purely voluntary.

So, was it
Crucifixion
or Suffocation?

Vows

"Wilt thou have this woman to thy wedded wife, to live together according to God's law in the holy estate of matrimony? Wilt thou love her, comfort her, honour and keep her, in sickness and in health? and, forsaking all other, keep thee only unto her, so long as ye both shall live?"

When a man is asked these questions he is being asked to make a vow, a lifelong commitment of devotion and love to last through the bad times as well as the good. The habit of making verbal vows or "covenants" is not practiced much today, but in times past, when a person's word was their bond, it was the custom to make vows either before the priest or before the elders of the town. This vow then became an obligation on the person making it, Ecclesiastes 5:4, Numbers 30:2. If there was any doubt in being able to fulfil it, it was better not to vow. Ecclesiastes. 5:5-7

Have you ever been part of a crowd, caught up in the moment of excitement? Remember being at a football or baseball match, feeling the excitement of the game and then feeling empty afterwards? Were God's Israel like this in this instance?

When God called Israel out of Egypt, and led them by Moses to Mt. Sinai, he gave them a code of living, His law and commands, which were to be the foundation of a lasting partnership between them as a nation and Him as their God. He offered to extend His promise which He previously made with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob to their

descendants, this Israelite nation. He set out on tables of stone the basic ten commandments, and then he explained through the many statutes of the law of Moses the way he wanted them to live. Did they get caught up in the excitement of the moment when God gave the commands? They cried "All that the Lord has said we will do, and be obedient". Exodus 24:7 Why did they fall flat afterwards and drift away from the vow they had made?

Today's world gives clauses, conditions or other functional type reasons why it is legitimate to break a vow, but in the Bible the only reason given for breaking a vow was that the outcome was to be evil, or that the person making the vow was not able to commit what they said. A vow or covenant then, which was a promise made to or before God of doing some good thing, was a sacred and binding commitment before men and before God. Many in their own lives have one code of conduct for our sabbath and one for workdays. Each and everyone of us need God's spiritual strength to help us keep to our faith. As the spectators can feel empty after the game is over so too can the players.

Paul Gray

Now this newborn nation missed on asking for God to guide and lead them, just as you and I do in our lives today. They heard the commandment, they listened to the promises but they failed in realising their own shortcomings and their need for spiritual help. Spiritual help is the building up of the individual within so that their actions, and their thoughts are in line with their vow or covenant.

We need to tune out from the devil and tune in to God's calling and spiritual presence. If we ask for help we will receive it, but not always in the way we expect. It's not enough to believe God exists, the devils believe too. It isn't even enough to accept that he looks after all your material needs. You need to come to see that He, through His spiritual help, can change your inward man - can provide an inner peace and fortitude that will enable you to exist while the world around is crumbling.

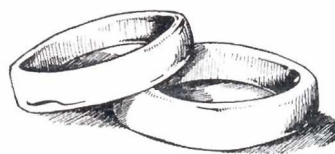
God has not cancelled his covenant with His Israelite people. He still wants them to accept His standards of goodness as Jesus Christ did.

Many of the prophets spoke of Israel as a bride "For as a young man marryeth a virgin, so shall thy sons marry thee: and as the Bridegroom rejoiceth over the Bride, so shall thy God rejoice over thee." Isaiah 62:5 ".Thou shalt call me Ishi (my husband); and shall call me no more Baali (my Lord);" Hosea 2:16 also Rev.21:2,9.

Like the bride and bridegroom in the wedding service we must have a desire to be bound together for ever, to work together through good and bad times. God has stated His willingness to make such a vow with His people, with you. Are you ready to undertake this step of faith and if so remember that it is your sincerity in the vow that you make and keep with God that prepares you for what is to come. God has promised spiritual help to all who sincerely seek him.

In the marriage service we wait for the answer, "I do". In this world Almighty God is waiting for individuals who will make up His bride to respond, "I do", and then to continue in their vow, with spiritual help to fulfil his promise in Jeremiah 31:33.

"I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people."



Debug your Bible

For 100's of years there has been a battle between the Theologist and the Scientist. These two have contradicted and disproved each other for so long, it was never possible for their ideologies to merge - each thought the other was heretical.

But guess what dear readers? This battle is undergoing a revolution!

I, like many others, have always been scientifically minded. You can take things on faith, it's hard sometimes but isn't it nice to know that what you've believed so fervently for years has just become scientific fact! What I'm saying is that science is coming around - there are facts appearing now that prove the Bible's validity!

I've come across a few facts on different issues that you might like to hear about. Take for instance the first article in this section - How science has recently discovered that the biblical date of creation is correct! This fact hasn't been heralded as the greatest discovery of the century, although it has been published and some of you may have heard of it. Now, where do I stand on this? A lot of these 'facts' are hidden in scientific jargon - the facts are stated, but scientists are cautious of interpreting the facts to tell you what it all means. I have generalised a lot and taken out a lot of the jargon. I'll try to deal with the "what does it mean" side.

There is a problem with this approach. Have I taken out too much science so the scientific are still sceptical? Have I left in too much science so the reader is bamboozled? Well if you want to know more (or less), or if you have any discrepancy with what is written, please write me a letter, "Darren" , c/- PO. Box 127, Singleton, NSW, Australia, 2330.

Light Itself Proves the Date of Creation

I was going to call this article "The Velocity of Light and the Age of the Universe", which is the title of the thesis the article is based on, but I didn't want to scare you.

So how exactly does light prove the date of Creation? Let me start by saying a bit about light.

We all see light - it travels to us from the sun, or a light bulb, or a fire, or any number of sources - but it is actually a minuscule particle that has no mass and no volume (yes the realms of particle physics are somewhat obscure).

Anyway what this particle does have is speed! Light travels to us at an immense speed - around 300,000,000 metres per second or 1,080,000,000 kilometres per hour. Even though this is such a huge number, scientists have been able to measure it, and measure it very accurately for hundreds of years. A fellow by the name of Romer made a calculation in 1675 using the eclipses of Jupiter's moons - please don't ask me to

explain that now - and since then there have been many progressively more accurate measurements made.

"That's all very well and good" you might say "but what's that prove?" Well, the interesting thing is, they have found that the speed of light has been systematically decreasing!! This has rocked the world of physics - light has always been assumed to be constant! (it's probably the first thing you're ever told about light!). Now I know some of you out there are sceptical about this. I mean it does seem to undermine the world of physics. Einstein himself said in his theory of relativity that light is constant! Which is completely correct. Light IS constant AT ANY GIVEN TIME. Suffice it to say that all the theories in physics that base themselves on a constant value for light are still valid. The team which made this discovery went through and painstakingly proved each one! (I can tell you - that is definitely HEAVY reading!)

Darren Gray

$$c = A \cos^2(kt)$$

The research group headed by Barry Setterfield from Flinders University in South Australia decided to plug all of the measurements of light that have been made over the years into the great DEC10 Super computer and told the computer to find out if there is any noticeable trend in the rate at which light is slowing. Well, this is what the computer found. It found that the rate at which light is slowing is described by a very simple equation, which fits all of the observed measurements, I'll write it down:

$$c = A \cos^2(kt)$$

where c = speed of light

t = time after the origin

k = transforms t into degrees

A = a constant (299792.445)

Don't bust yourself trying to understand this equation, there is a picture over the page to make things a bit clearer (please read the explanation under the picture).

Now comes the interesting bit! There are, as I see it, three major ramifications that come from this

Firstly: Carbon Dating

You've no doubt heard of this method of determining how old things are.

Unfortunately (or fortunately) carbon dating relies on a constant value of the speed of light, but now we know that light has been slowing! I'll just quickly say something about how carbon dating works. When a material is formed it contains many substances including radioactive substances. The radioactive substances decay and by seeing how much is left we can see how old the material is. Since the decay constants for the radioactive material are proportional to particle velocity, and this particle velocity is proportional to the velocity of light, then this carbon dating business varies with the speed of light.

Using the "old" carbon dating techniques scientists have dated moon rocks to be 2.3 to 8 billion years old, and the theoretical age of the universe is quoted as 10 to 12 billion years. BUT if we use the fact that the speed of light has been slowing this corresponds to about 6000 years or 4000BC!

Secondly: Since light travelled so fast and then slowed down, light has had time to reach us from the other side of the Universe in the past 6000 years - HENCE all astronomical science is completely correct!

Thirdly: They asked the computer "what was the date of creation?" The answer was 4082BC!!! which interestingly enough corresponds precisely to biblical and scriptural dates of creation!! So there you have it! It took 100's of years to happen - but suddenly 'scientific discovery' has caught up with what we all knew from reading the Bible! There has been a range of papers published since 1982 dealing with this discovery and its implications, particularly dealing with Scriptural Chronology. So, now that we've established the idea of

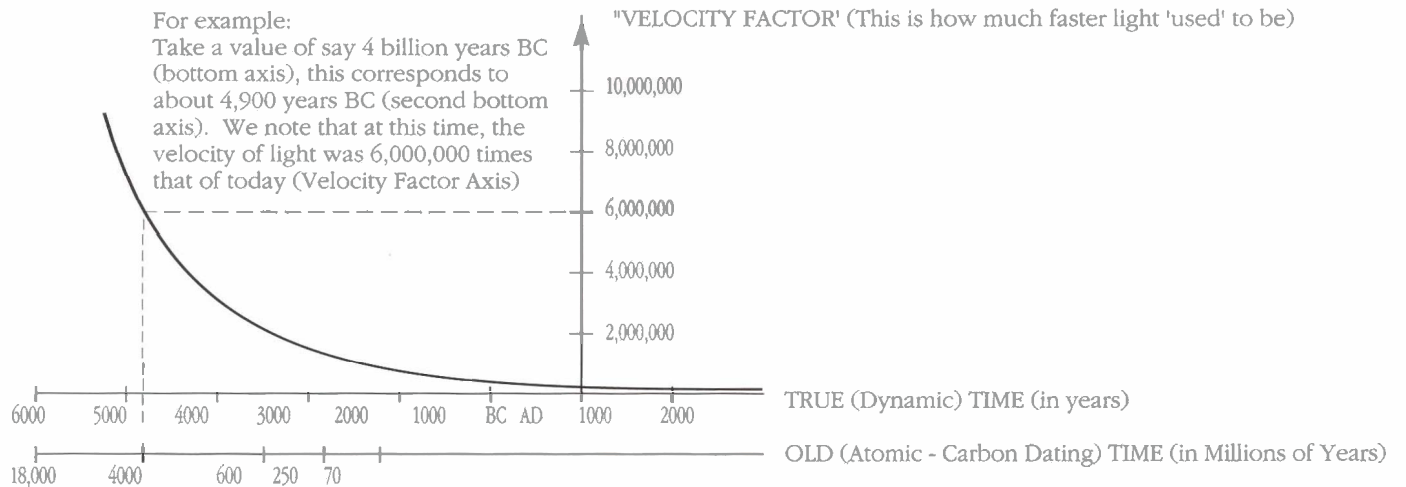
creation to be 'scientifically valid', in future let's see how our bible and science compare on other subjects.

DOUBTER'S REVENGE

In all fairness, I should point out that an anti-thesis has been compiled by an American University that supposedly disproves the validity of this discovery. I have not yet obtained a copy of this, but I will keep you informed when I do see it!

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On this (greatly reduced) scale, the velocity of light has remained relatively constant since 2000BC.

Prior to 2000 BC we notice the increasing change in velocity. By relating the "OLD TIME" (or Carbon Dating time) on the bottom axis to the "TRUE TIME" (or Dynamic time) on the axis above, we can see how the "millions or billions of years" translates directly to the "thousands of years" of the Bible.

By drawing a vertical line from the year axis to the curve, and from the curve a horizontal line to the "VELOCITY FACTOR" axis, we can see what value the Velocity of light had at that time.

We should note that the "VELOCITY FACTOR" axis is in millions, telling us that the velocity has changed immensely over this period. This also explains why we don't notice the more recent changes in velocity since they don't show up on this huge scale.

All Round Health

We are often asked "what is good food". There are many right answers depending on the person asking the question.

In the western diet there is a great variety of foodstuff available. We have an abundance of fresh fruit, vegetables, nuts and seeds and a great variety of meats available. Much is not left natural but rather carefully processed for ease of preparation or tantalising taste. Chemical additives are used to make cooking more predictable, to make food last longer and to reduce the effects of pests. Despite our chemically dominated world there are products which are free from chemical additives and pesticides. There are others which are free from dietary "baddies" such as cholesterol and fats, refined grains, or nutrient processing of almost any type.

Amid the confusion of dietary choice and advice does the Bible have anything to offer?

Obviously it does not have anything to say about natural (or "health") foods versus supermarket foods, or about chemical additives, or food irradiation. Those options simply did not exist when the Bible was written.

When we read the Bible we find that it has three basic commands about what we should eat and what we should not. These commands were given at different times and apply to different groups of people.

Vegetarian When Adam was put into the Garden of Eden God said "I have given you every herb bearing seed..and every tree, in which is the fruit of the tree yielding seed, to you it shall be for meat." Genesis 1:29. From this it is obvious that God intended man to eat only plant life in the perfect creation, very likely a diet consisting of a few vegetables, seeds, fruit and nuts.

Meat After the flood God said to Noah "Every moving thing shall be meat for you; even as the green herb have I given you all things. But flesh with the life thereof, which is the blood thereof, shall ye not eat." Genesis 9:3,4

Thus God allowed meat to be eaten as long as the blood was taken out. Even so, it is obvious that those who followed God, closely observed the commands which were later formalised on Mt. Sinai.

The Clean and Unclean. With the giving of the Law to Moses God divided animals into two groups, the "clean", which could be eaten, and the "unclean" which could not. The definition is given in Leviticus 11:1-23

He also commanded that the fat be discarded; "ye shall eat no manner of fat, of ox, or of sheep, or of goat" Leviticus 7:23, and certain organs (Leviticus 7:4) likewise. Leviticus 3:17 sums it up "that ye shall eat neither fat nor blood". It should be noted that this command was only given to the Israelites.

It is becoming common knowledge that diet can be the underlying cause of many diseases. For example eating fat can increase blood cholesterol and in turn lead to a hardening and blocking of the arteries in the body (arteriosclerosis and atherosclerosis). This condition affects about 40% of the western population leaving them at greater risk of stroke, heart attack, angina pectoris, intestinal and peripheral gangrene and certain kidney diseases.

How can we avoid such diseases? Well the first thing that may help is to take the Bible's advice and try to avoid the eating of animal fat.

The Return of the Vegetarian diet. As God prepares some for immortality they will begin to loathe eating animal flesh and return to a diet of vegetables, fruit, seeds and nuts.

James and
Kerry Harrison

The Essence of Whitsuntide

The Christian Israelite Church of the 1850's played a key role in the religious history of Australia.

Whitsuntide in 1856 saw a large number of members take the covenant. 33 males and females made a further commitment to their faith on Whitsunday 1856 at Sydney Christian Israelite church. This would be the largest number of people to commit themselves to Israelitism in a single day in Christian Israelite history.

The Christian Israelite Church in the 1850's played a key role in the religious history of Australia. Churches were located in New South Wales, South Australia, Victoria, Tasmania and New Zealand. John Cartwright, a major influence on the early church in Australia migrated to New Zealand and further expanded our church there.

In NSW there were bodies at Sydney, Mittagong, McDonald's River, Wollombi, Maitland, Pitt Town, Dural, Goulburn, Paddys River, Liverpool, Wilberforce, Kempsey. Families such as the Roses, descendants of the first free settlers to migrate to Australia were members of our church.

The Gould, Harman, Payne, Wicks, Wiltshires, Jarvis and Eastes families joined at West Maitland (known as Bolwarra) from 1848 through to the late 1800's.

The Payne family were members from Wollombi in the mid 1800's.

The Gould's were also a part of the Kempsey church, and this interest was followed by Horace Gray and still maintained today by his descendants.

Tasmania was the introduction to our church for many families such as the Hertels, Floods, Hills and Perrys, many of whose descendants are still believers today.

Adelaide body had families such as the Kearneys (some of whom intermarried with Victorian members).

Victoria had major churches at Melbourne in Fitzroy, Geelong and Ballarat. These bodies were large, the largest of which between 1850 & 1900 being Melbourne church. Located in Fitzroy, this church would have been full to bursting point. Family names still familiar today are recorded in the various registers of the time. Fellowes, Clark, Perry, Tulk, Knight, Stoneham, Hannaford, Bulley, Underwood, Wright, to name but a few of the myriad of families who were members at this time.

Members have often spoken of their feeling of unitedness and kindredship at Whitsuntide, knowing that all other Christian Israelites worldwide are celebrating Whitsuntide with them in spirit, no matter where they are. Whitsuntide has been celebrated by Christian Israelites in the same manner in Australia for at least 145 years. Families would come from far and wide to spend the weekend in celebration and thanksgiving.

We find in early church magazines, descriptions of the various bodies activities at Whitsuntide and very little has changed in the basic format today. Church attendances, discussions, feasting, christian interaction and fellowship are all an integral part of this celebration originally known as Pentecost.

As an example, the Whitsuntide of 1945, in a report published in the magazine, 'Our Church', shows that little has changed in our church where Whitsuntide is concerned.

Singleton *"This Whitsuntide was one of the most outstanding and successful ever held in Singleton, and the celebrations were enjoyed by the one hundred and*

Lynne Gray

twenty including the three youngest babies, who attended the feast. Members came from all over NSW, as well as from Victoria and Queensland, to celebrate the occasion."

Kempsey *"The Kempsey folk were all present at the Singleton Whitsuntide celebrations."*

Sydney *"Most of the Sydney members went to Singleton."*

Melbourne *"Another Whitsuntide has once more come and gone. We in Melbourne had a comparatively smaller attendance than in previous years, in all 64 persons being present on the Sunday evening."*

Today, 47 years later, the Kempsey folk still journey to Singleton to reunite with their families and friends. The Sydney folk, with the greater accessibility to Singleton made through our road system, split their Whitsuntide between Singleton and Sydney, firm foundations having been laid in both towns.

For those of us whose ancestors have belonged to our church since its commencement in Australia, Whitsuntide fills us with a great feeling of sentimentality and reconfirms our links with our past. Knowing that our ancestors celebrated in the same way at the same time every year for 140 years or more gives one a great feeling of belonging. The guiding spirits of these old members providing guidance to their children, grandchildren and further on down the descendant chain. Newer members of course get their fulfillment, which is no less than the hereditary one, from Whitsuntide or Pentecost. It is a time for spiritual renewal, to reinforce one's faith and make a further commitment to live a good and honest life in the light of God's love.

It could also be called the Christian Israelite new year, for it is the day on which the original Israelites celebrated

having brought in a successful season of crops - thus its various names are Pentecost, Feast of Ingathering, Feast of Firstfruits, Feast of Harvest and Feast of Weeks.

Of equal importance, Pentecost is also the birthday of the christian church, which officially commenced with the outpouring of the Holy Ghost on the disciples at their Pentecostal feast after the ascension of Jesus.

It is a time when one can wipe their spiritual slate clean and start again with the renewed strength gained from our belief in and celebration to God. If you like, one can plant the seeds for a better crop after realising the mistakes and the lack of yield of the last.

Any reader who has an interest in Family History and would like any information on any of the abovementioned families, as well as many more (surname indexes will be published intermittently in this magazine), please don't hesitate to contact:

Lynne Gray,
28 Clergy Road,
Wilberforce, Australia. 2756
Phone: (045) 751 745

There is now a computer listing of all members of the Christian Israelite church in England, Scotland, Ireland, America, Australia and New Zealand. All church registers have been compiled and indexed giving family historians valuable information on births and marriages, where they lived and where and when they joined the church.



Each year we came to Jerusalem to celebrate the giving of the ten commandments to Moses. It was always an exciting time even though I did not always understand what people said. We were foreigners and I could not speak the language well.

This year it was different. A strange mood hung over the city from when Jesus had been crucified. It was something that seemed to have affected everyone.

Some people said that they had seen him again! Wow! Scary stuff!

He had told his followers that something special was going to happen, and to stay together at this big house and wait for it.

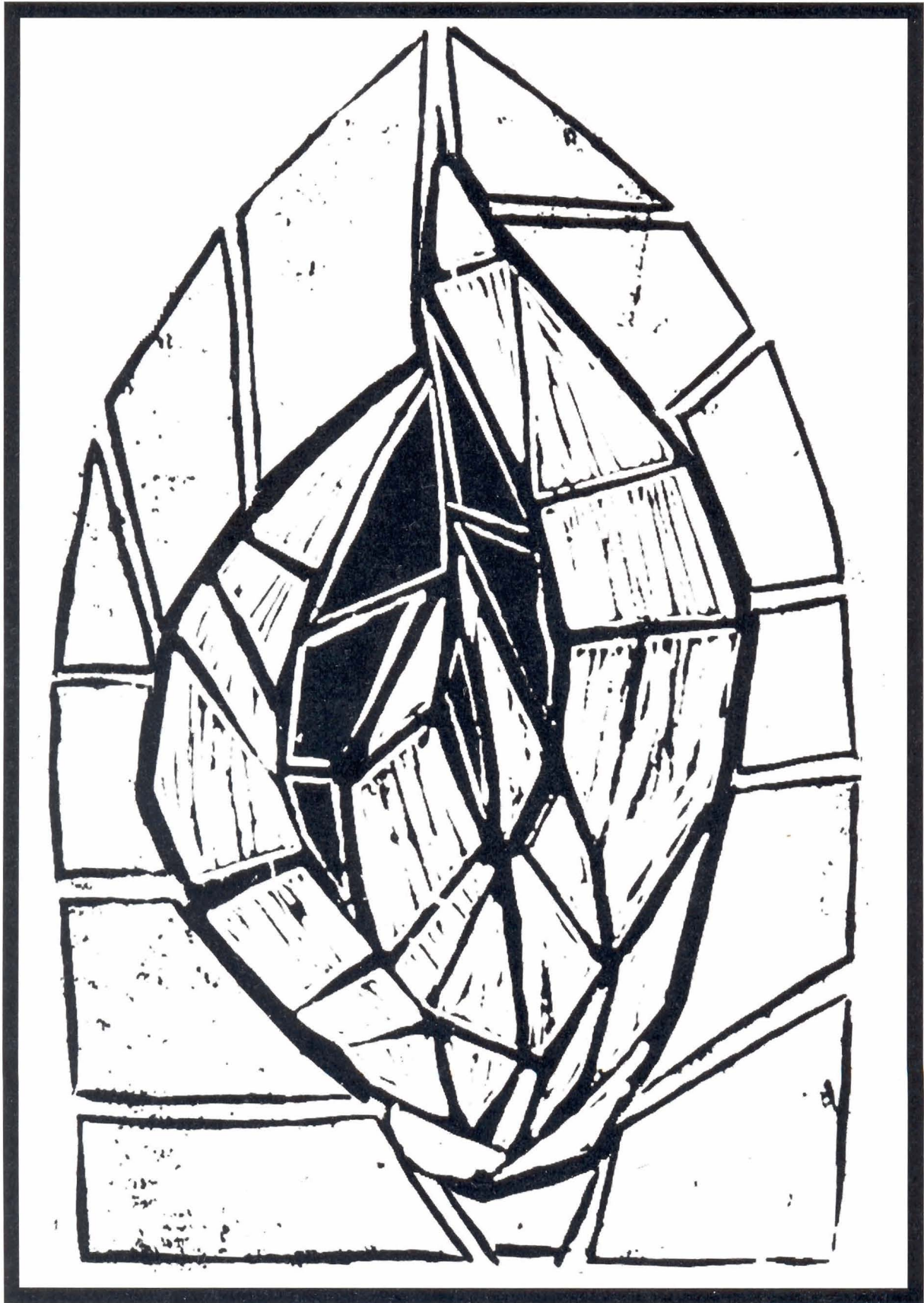
Of course, we weren't in that: we wanted to party. But my dad wanted to see this man that he knew, and he was there, so we were there when it happened.

The room was suddenly filled with fire. Flames sat on people's shoulders and heads. These men started to talk. At first we thought they were drunk, or crazy, or something. My dad's friend started to tell us what they were saying, but then we realised we could understand exactly what they were saying - in our own language!

One man spoke, and everyone heard it in the language they had grown up speaking. Automatic translation! Some magic!

They said it was God's power. Dad was so impressed that he hung around and talked to people for hours. We ended up going in the water: being "baptised" they called it.

Now we are "christians": and we hope for flames to come on us too.



Twelve Apostles



Peter

**Carrier of
the Message
to Christian Israelites**

We have already read of Peter's feelings for Jesus and his denial of Jesus, the heartache this caused him, but what happened to Peter from that point onwards? Secondly, who was Peter? He is mentioned in the new testament more times than any of the other disciples yet what do we really know about this man? I hope to throw some light on Simon Peter in the following article. This will be the first in a series of articles on the twelve disciples, eventually branching off into studies of other people mentioned in the New Testament.

The order of the twelve original apostles was the following:

Simon Peter (Cephas), leader of the apostles, son of Jonas, brother of Andrew.

Andrew, brother of Simon, son of Jonas, brother of Simon Peter.

James, son of Zebedee and brother of John, also called James the Elder.

John, the beloved apostle, son of Zebedee and brother of James the Elder.

Philip, from Bathsaida.

Bartholomew from Cana of Galilee, also known as Nathanael.

Matthew, also called Levi, tax collector, son of Alphaeus, brother of James the Lesser and Judas Lebbaeus.

Thomas Didymus (meaning twin) from Galilee.

Simon the Canaanite, Simon the Zealot, Simon of Zelotes, from Galilee.

James, son of Alphaeus, brother of Matthew and Judas Lebbaeus, James the Lesser (not to be confused with James the brother of Jesus).

Judas Lebbaeus, or Thaddeus, son of Alphaeus, brother of James the Lesser and Matthew.

Judas Iscariot, who betrayed Jesus.

Matthias, Matthew, who was chosen by the apostles to replace Judas (Acts 1:26)

Peter was a native of Bathsaida, but resided in Capernaum. This may have been because of marriage (Mark 1:29-30) or because it was a predominantly Jewish region. He lived with his brother Andrew, and their two families, as well as his mother-in-law. The areas around the Sea of Galilee were sparsely populated which of course led to intermarrying and use of the extended family system. From the Bible we also know that Peter and Andrew were in the fishing business with their father which they left to follow Jesus. They briefly returned to this occupation after the crucifixion only to be regathered and told to spread the word - to literally become "fishers of men" that Jesus had originally asked them to do. Peter and Andrew were followers of John the Baptist, and it is believed that Jesus had met them prior to his visit to Capernaum. Andrew was the one that brought his brother Peter to meet Jesus.

Two miracles were recorded at Peter's house: the healing of his mother-in-law (Mark 1:29) and the healing of the man let down through the roof of his home (Mark 2:1-12). Peter was sent as the Apostle to the Israelites (John 21:15) "Feed my lambs". Peter, of course, also went to the

Lynne Gray

Gentiles, but he was still an adherent to the Old Law as handed down from Moses. Note here the presence of two Christian sects or churches: the church of the circumcision (followers of the old Laws led by Peter) and the church of the non-circumcision (made up of Gentiles led by Paul).

His divine position was also shown in the miracles that he performed which are recorded in the Acts: Dorcas who was raised from the dead (Acts 9:36-41); the lame man in the temple who walked (Acts 3:1-9); the healing of Aeneas, who had palsy and had been bedridden for eight years (Acts 9:32-36); the conversion of the centurion Cornelius (Acts 10:1-7) and for more reading see Acts 5:14-16 and Acts 9:26.

Peter was a member of Jerusalem Council (Acts 15). Peter was with the apostles for the first Pentecost when the Spirit descended upon the Apostles, and explained to the disciples what Pentecost was and its importance to them.

Stephen was martyred, anti-Christian feeling was rampant and along with that, anti-Semitism. The Emperor Claudius had passed an edict banning Christians and Jews from Rome thus leading to an exodus of believers from Rome as well as Jewish non-believers. Those that chose to stay were persecuted, imprisoned, punished, tortured. The Christian mission was further extended at this stage, when Peter, now resident in Joppa, preached in Caesarea to the centurion Cornelius and his household. Thus begins the travels of Peter and the rest of the apostles in the spreading of the Word. Little is documented about these years, but of what there is the following can be gleaned.

We know at this stage Peter preached in Pontus, Galatia, Bithynia, Cappadocia and Asia to the Jews of the Dispersion and finally he was a frequent guest in the land of Britain.



It was at this stage of Roman persecution that Peter made one of his numerous visits to Britain. From the records we see that Peter was preaching in Britain for the Claudian/Caradoc (Caractacus) war (this topic was dealt with in a prior Church magazine and is available upon request). His visits to Britain are substantiated by Eusebius Pamphilis, in AD306 in which he tells us that the first church dedicated to Peter was found by King Lucius, the British King, who was the first by royal decree to proclaim Christianity the national faith of Britain at Winchester AD156. The church, built in AD179 is still known as "St. Peter's of Cornhill" and bears the legend on its age-worn walls relating to facts and dates by the order of King Lucius. We also know from prior articles that Peter was well acquainted with the families of Caractacus and Arviragus (British kings). He knew the Caractacan family before the Roman captivity and visited them frequently at the Palace of the British in Rome.

He made his last visit to Britain just prior to his arrest and death.

Peter first went to Rome twelve years after the death of Jesus in AD44 - this is eight years after Joseph of Arimathea set sail with his entourage to Britain and two years after the Claudian campaign against the Christians. He made his last visit to Britain just prior to his final arrest and imprisonment.

Christian legend also tells us that Peter went and preached in Antioch in a cave high above the city - a cave the Crusaders later decorated. A church is now there and tradition has it that at the back of the church, by the altar, is a spring of fine cold water that Mark the Evangelist used to make his ink when he took dictation from St. Peter, who was relating his experiences in the inner circle of disciples that had surrounded Jesus Christ. This text, it is said, became Mark's gospel. According to Acts 12:12, Mark's mother, Mary had a large house that was used for a meeting place for believers in Jerusalem. Peter

apparently went to this house often because the servant girl recognised his voice at the gate (Acts 12:13-16). Barnabas was Mark's uncle, but Peter was probably the person who led him to Christ (Peter called him "Marcus my son" in 1 Peter 5:13). It was this close association with Peter that lent apostolic authority to Mark's gospel, Peter being the major source of information. The gospel of Mark is also the first of the gospels that was written.

An equally strong tradition also tells us that Peter dictated the gospel to Mark in Rome, and that after Peter's martyrdom Mark travelled to Alexandria where he finished writing a public Gospel and then wrote two "secret" ones which though they are mentioned in second century writings have disappeared.

Peter was also the Bishop of Antioch, Bishop of Chartres, and Bishop of Rome (according to Roman Catholic tradition). The first ordained Bishop of Rome was Linus (2 Timothy 4:21). Peter was never ordained Bishop of Rome but he and Paul are given dual historical responsibility for the Christians (Jew and Gentile) in Rome.

Peter was first arrested by Herod in Jerusalem, but was released from this prison by divine intervention - an angel was sent to free him (Acts 12:7). His second incarceration, at the hands of the Emperor Nero in Rome, did not have the same divine conclusion.

After Peter's return to Rome he was arrested and incarcerated in a prison called the Mamertine (Roman history records this dungeon as also being called the Tullianum or Tullian Keep). The Mamertine is described as a deep cell cut out of solid rock at the foot of the Capitol, consisting of two chambers, one over the other. The only entrance is through an aperture in the ceiling. The lower chamber was the death cell. Light never entered and it was never cleaned. The awful stench and filth generated a poison fatal to the inmates of the dungeon. This dungeon was described by the historian

Sallust in BC50 and being at that stage over three thousand years old.

In this fetid prison, Peter was manacled in an upright position to a post. Unable to lie down he was incarcerated in this position for nine months. People visiting Rome can visit the Mamertine and still see the post where Peter was tied.

In this subterranean rock, the famed King Jugurtha of Numidia was starved and went stark raving mad. The number of Christians that met their death in this cell was uncountable. But again the miracle of Jesus Christ was working, for, in this horrible, uncomfortable environment, not only did Peter accept his fate and survive, but he developed a string of Christian converts. Not only did he convert his gaolers, Processus and Martinianus, but also 47 others. All whilst chained to a post, surrounded by stench and filth!! The charisma of this man - an ignorant fisherman with the power to alter so many lives in such a permanent and substantial way. Peter well and truly repaid his debt to Jesus for his denial in his mission work - but to Peter it was not enough.

Peter was crucified at Nero's circus, and still suffering the guilt from his denial, he refused to be crucified in the same position as his Master saying that he was not good enough. Instead he requested to be crucified upside down - which request of course the Romans with - anything to add to the humiliation of a Christian Jew. Paul met his death at the same time.

Now for the resting place, there is mystery surrounding the resting place of Peter and Paul. The mystery is perhaps answered in a letter written by Pope Vitalian to the British King Oswy, AD656 - the letter states that Pope Vitalian permitted the remains of the bodies of St.Paul and St.Peter, with the remains of the martyrs St.Lawrence, St.John, St.Gregory and St.Pancras, to be removed from Rome to England and reinterred in the great church at Canterbury. The Venerable Bede (AD673-735) also recounts this letter in his

Ecclesiastical History of the English Nation. Thus Peter was removed from the enemy Roman soil to the friendly soil of the British Isles.

As can be seen from the above Peter was the apostle who suffered most for his Master.

The other thing to remember, that with these apostles on their travels were their wives and families (whether in body or spirit), the unnamed early christian brethren of the apostles whose contribution is no less than those that have been named in the New Testament. Their master's trials were shared by all.

After the denial, as can be seen, Peter worked zealously in his spread of The Word, conveying the Love his Master had shown him in life and death to other people, and in doing so, created a following that is now worldwide.

The total writings accredited over the centuries to Peter are :Gospel of Mark (verbal contribution by Peter to Mark); 1 and 2 Peter; Acts of Peter; Preaching of Peter; Revelation of Peter; Gospel of Peter; plus a colour portrait said to have existed and been seen by Peter. All of the writings except 1 Peter have come under question (ie. from the 2nd century to now) as to their authorship and authenticity. - Clement of Alexandria quotes from these writings in his numerous works.

According to the New Testament Peter was the first person to call Jesus the "Christ", the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:17, John 21:15). Peter walked on water, but when he faltered he started to sink (was this first sign of doubt a sign of what was to come for Peter?). The miracles which were outlined earlier highlight his exalted position and he is the apostle mentioned and referred to most in the New Testament. His presence at the first Pentecost after the Resurrection, his position as leader of the apostles and presence at the Jerusalem Council show the respect and following which this man gathered in the name of Jesus Christ.

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Bible Puzzler



ACROSS:

1. celebrated 50 days after Easter
6. A month in the Jewish calendar
7. Look (old language)
8. Daniel was thrown into this.
9. The Pharisees and Sadducees did this
12. They laughed
14. The Bride and Groom..
16. Time when Jesus rose
19. Father (in French)
20. Peter did this to Jesus
21. Eve came from this part of Adam
23. Another name for the sun
24. Not one of these of Jesus was broken

DOWN:

1. He refused to condemn Jesus
2. Say this to deny
3. Judas could be called this name
4. A type of poem
5. The Jewish council which tried Jesus
10. Where we read Jesus ' story
11. Jesus died for.....person
13. By the modern calendar the year Jesus was born
15. Mined from the ground
17. The number of commandments
20. This word used twice in the Golden Rule
21. First two letters of people in power in Jesus time
22. To exist is to.....

The Christian Israelite Church beliefs are fully supported by the scriptures. Here is an outline:

- *Man is a tripartite being of spirit, soul and physical body.
- *God Almighty created man to live, and not to see physical death.
- *The purpose of God is going to be fulfilled in physical people (Israelite descendants) who obey the laws and commands of God.
- *Jesus was the first Christian Israelite, keeping both the Old Testament instructions and having the faith of the Gospel.
- *Jesus Christ is coming again to establish His Kingdom.
- *God has promised spiritual help, the Comforter and Christ, to guide man in the keeping of His instructions.
- *God can and will fulfil what He has promised.

If you will be visiting one of these areas over the next few months or would like to contact our group please feel free to one of the following at the church addresses. All are welcome.

- Melbourne** Regular Service held each Sunday evening 7pm.
Singleton Regular discussions each week with the exception of the first Sunday of the month when there is a service at 7.15pm.
- Terrigal** Discussion second Wednesday evening in the month. Local papers will advertise services.
- Sydney** Services and discussions alternate Sundays at 2.30pm
Windsor We hold a Bible study on the second Sunday of the month at 11.30am, and a public service at 3pm on the fourth Sunday of the month.

For any further information please ring or write to one of the following contacts:

- Melbourne**
Church: 193 Fitzroy Street,
Fitzroy, Victoria., 3065
(03)417 4560
Write: As above
- Singleton**
Church: Cnr Bishopgate Street and
Goulburn Street,
Singleton.
Write: P.O. Box 127,
Singleton, NSW 2330
(065) 72 2741
- Sydney**
Church: 196 Campbell Street,
Darlinghurst, NSW, 2010
(02) 3315625
Write: P.O. Box 50,
Enfield, NSW, 2136.
(02) 642 4555
- Kempsey**
Church: 10 Marsh Street,
Kempsey, NSW, 2440.
Write: 10 Jeffrey's Lane,
Kempsey, NSW, 2440
(065) 62 5562

- Terrigal**
Church: Cnr. Terrigal Drive &
Serpentine Road,
Terrigal, NSW 2260.
(043) 843535
Write: 38 Charles Kay Drive,
Terrigal, NSW 2260
- Windsor**
Church: 340 Macquarie Street,
South Windsor,
Write: 114 Morilla Road,
Wilberforce, NSW 2756
(045) 772190
- U.S.A.**
Write: c/- Mrs. M. Shafer,
4502 Shafer Drive,
Lafayette,
Indiana, U.S.A. 47905
(307) 589 3221
Church Office: 1204N Rural Street,
Indianapolis, U.S.A. 46201.

Jesus said:

"If a man keep my saying,
he shall never see death."

John 8:51

It's true!