

Baptist Banner

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Thou hast given a banner to them that fear thee, that it may be displayed because of the truth. Psalms 60:4

VOLUME 15

GOODLETTSVILLE, TENN. 37072

AUGUST, 1980

NUMBER 3

The Invisible And True Church Ideas Compared

Continued from Last Issue

BY

ELDER W. T. RUSSELL

WHEN WAS THE KINGDOM SET UP?

I give you a quotation from D. B. Ray: "We answer, that the setting up of the kingdom, with its laws and ordinances, was not an instantaneous but a gradual work."

John the Baptist was sent before Christ "to make ready a people prepared for the Lord." Luke 1:17 John did not set up the kingdom; but he preached the gospel and prepared materials for the setting up of the kingdom. (John was visible and the materials prepared by him were visible)

Jesus Christ was the God of heaven manifest in the flesh; and in fulfillment of the prediction of Daniel, he did set up the kingdom of heaven. He delegated this work to no man or group of men. He set up his own kingdom. Soon after his baptism in the Jordan river, the Saviour chose the first members of the organization called Church or kingdom of God. Soon after this seventy others were chosen as his disciples, and in Luke 12:32 the Saviour said, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

It must be remembered that the 12 who were chosen from the company of the disciples and ordained apostles as recorded in Luke 6, were first chosen disciples and were later placed in the office of Apostle. I concur that the 12 apostles were the first chosen members of the church, but they were members of the church together with others at the time they were chosen from the rest to the office of Apostle.

As Moses came down from the mount after he had fasted forty days, so Christ, after he had fasted forty days during his temptation in the wilderness by the devil, commenced to deliver the laws for his kingdom, for the government of spiritual Israel. The Saviour continued to deliver these laws to his called out company till the night he was betrayed. After the Supper was instituted, which was the last institution given, then he delivered the kingdom, as now a complete organization, to the disciples in the following words: "And I appoint unto you a kingdom as my Father hath appointed unto me, that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom. Now, soon after, in the dedication prayer, he said: "I have finished the work which thou gavest me to do." John 17:4

I want to emphasize here that the called out company was visible, the bread and wine of the Supper was visible, the Head and Founder of the kingdom, Jesus Christ, was visible, which is so plain a fact that to deny that the kingdom was a visible organization, to me is the very essence of stupidity. Let us go further: It had a visible king in the person of the Messiah, visible subjects, visible laws, visible ordinances. The essential elements of the kingdom so existing, to talk of it being invisible is sheer nonsense. The Saviour confessed before Pilate that he was king, and had a kingdom before his death. "Pilate, therefore, said unto him, Art thou a king then? Jesus answered, thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world, that I should bear witness unto the

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Church To Be Organized In Colorado

Elder Ottis L. Jones has been conducting the Colorado Missionary Baptist Mission, 5900 So. Parker Rd., Denver Col. for several months. The Mission is an extended arm of Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church, Lafayette, Tenn. of which Elder Jones is a member.

At the time of this report, the tentative plans are to have an organizational service for the purpose of organizing the Mission into a Missionary Baptist Church on Sunday, September 28, 1980. Our churches will be given the final plans, or definite arrangements in the September issue of the BANNER. Those who will be able to go and assist in this work are invited to do so. Watch for our next issue!

Polk County Missionary Baptist Association To Meet

The Polk County Missionary Baptist Association of Missouri, will be meeting in their 113th Annual session on August 12-13, 1980, with the Walnut Ridge Missionary Baptist Church, Halfway, Missouri. Services will be at 10:00 A.M.

Officers elected last year were Elder Austin McGinnis, moderator; Elder Stephen Skinner, Asst. Mod.; Bro. David Gallivan, Clerk and Treas. and Bro. Marvin Ashlock, Asst. Clerk and Treas. In addition to the sermons preached, a number of reports will be given on various subjects.

Holy Bible Published In 1,631 Languages

NEW YORK (AP) - At least one book of the Bible had been published in 1,631 of the world's languages and distinct dialects by the end of 1977, according to the American Bible Society.



Jacob's Well in Sychar (Shechem - Nablus) (above) It was here that Jesus, "being wearied with his journey" asked the Samaritan woman for a drink of water (John 4:5-12). The ancient stone well curb is covered today by an uncompleted chapel, successor to several ancient ones that protected the site.

Baptist History



Special Meeting Of Separate And Regular Baptists

November 18, 1842
Rutland's Meeting House
Wilson County, Tennessee

In compliance with a decision of Concord Association of United Baptists, and of the Concord Association of the Separate Baptists, at their last annual meetings, they met by their delegates on Friday, the 18th of November, 1842, at Rutland's Meeting House, Wilson County, Tennessee.

The meeting was opened with prayer by Elder John Bond. Elder R. W. January was

chosen Moderator, and R. A. Blair, Clerk.

The meeting being organized, the delegates from the different Associations were recognized. From the United Baptist Association, Elders John Harris, John Landrum, Wm. F. Luck, Rutherford Barton, and John Gambrell.

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Missionary Report From Japan

June 3, 1980
 Hiroshima, Japan

Dear Elder H. C. Vanderpool,
 Greetings in the name of our Lord
 Jesus Christ from Japan.

We hope you and your family are well
 and enjoy the blessings from above. We do
 remember you in our prayer from time to
 time, which is our joy. I haven't written
 you for some time. I am sorry. I am still
 preaching the words of God and keep busy
 in carrying out Lord's business out in this
 land by the grace of the Lord Jesus, for
 which I am thankful.

For nearly 20 months I haven't
 written you for the Banner, and many of
 our Baptist friends in States wondered
 what I was doing. Some of them called me
 by the phone at each different time from
 different places. We really appreciate

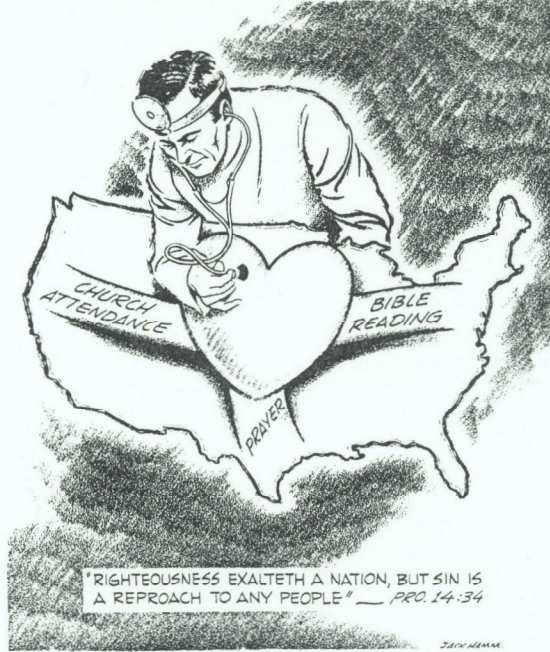


Eld. & Mrs. Koji Tajima

them all for their concern in us with love.
 My family and I are just all right and are
 doing all right for the glory of God, for
 which we are thankful. We had some
 difficulties in the work, so I worked all
 night to make money at a trucking
 company, and did work both in the day
 time and evening time in the Lord's
 business until last January. My health was
 almost ruined. It has been a constant
 combating with Satan, but we have
 overcome many of difficulties by the faith

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No Heart Failure - If Vital Blood Feeds Through



"RIGHTEOUSNESS EXALTETH A NATION, BUT SIN IS
 A REPROACH TO ANY PEOPLE" - PRO. 14:34



THE WICKEDNESS OF THE WORLD

By H.C. Vanderpool

Genesis 6:1-13

1. And it came to pass, when men began to multiply on the face of the earth, and daughters were born unto them,
2. That the sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all which they chose.
3. And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years.
4. There were giants in the earth in those days; and also after that, when the sons of God came in unto the daughters of men, and they bare children to them, the same became mighty men which were of old, men of renown.
5. And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually.
6. And it repented the Lord that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him at his heart.
7. And the Lord said, I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth; both man, and beast, and all the creeping thing, and the fowls of the air; for it repenteth me that I have made them.
8. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord.
9. These are the generations of Noah: Noah was a just man and perfect in his generations, and Noah walked with God.
10. And Noah begat three sons, Shem, Ham, and Ja-pheth.
11. The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence.

12. And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth.

13. And God said unto Noah, The end of all flesh is come before me; for the earth is filled with violence through them; and, behold, I will destroy them with the earth.

POPULATION INCREASE

Evidently, several hundred years had passed by. Each generation was said to have lived several hundred years, and there had been ten generations from Noah's sons back to Adam, (Luke 3:37-38). With this reasoning, several centuries had passed and the population had increased upon the earth. Marriages had already become different from the first one which God instituted. Marriages had become ill-assorted, there seems to have been inter-marrying of believers and unbelievers in those days. According to verse 2 of the lesson text, polygamy was already a way of life. Note the expression, "all that they chose."

"The sons of God saw the daughters of men that they were fair; and they took them wives of all they chose." The sons of God are here understood to mean the family of Seth, and the daughters of men to be the descendants of Cain. The former being considered the religious of that day and the latter, the daughters of men, or descendants of Cain, being unbelievers and given to corrupt practices of life. Mixed marriages of opposite principles and practice were necessarily sources of extensive sin and corruption. The women, irreligious themselves, would as wives and mothers exert an influence fatal to the existence of religion in their household, and consequently the people of that later age sank to the lowest depravity.

THE DAYS WERE NUMBERED

"And the Lord said, My spirit shall not always strive with man, for that he also is flesh: yet his days shall be an hundred and twenty years." I have heard a number of ministers use this verse of scripture in preaching to sinners, saying, if you put off salvation from time to time, God will finally quit striving with you through the Spirit. This is a misapplication of the scripture. God meant that he was not going to go on forever and put up with the world sinning

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Church Ideas Compared

(Continued from Page 1)

truth." Yes, Jesus bore witness to the truth that he was a king in that gloomy hour of trial, though this confession cost him his life. Will anyone presume to say that Jesus assumed the title of king before he was king in truth? He also claims a kingdom at this same time; for he says, "My kingdom is not of this world." In this he certainly did not leave the impression that his kingdom was invisible, but simply that it was not of the world, even though it was in the world.

The Jewish temple was a type of the church or kingdom of Christ. The temple was not reared in one day or night; the work progressed gradually. First, the materials were prepared and collected on the ground; and then the temple was reared and completely arranged for the service of God before it was dedicated, or set apart to the service of God by prayer and the shedding of blood. And in like manner the materials for the kingdom were first prepared by John; and Christ received his work, and in person set up the kingdom, completed the organization, before he dedicated it to its glorious work by prayer and the shedding of his own blood.

In the erection of the Jewish temple, the stones from the quarry must have been visible material for each stone was hewn to exact dimension so as to fit perfectly in the foundation structure of the building. The timber from the forest of Lebanon was cut down, trimmed and hewn, and cut to exact proportion before it was delivered to the place of erection, so that there was no need of the use of an axe or hammer or any instrument in putting it together. All materials were visible on the site, and the temple was a visible building when erected, as everyone must admit. It was completely erected before the blood was shed for its dedication, and the prayer of Solomon at its dedication. Not only so, but it was not until its complete erection that the cloud filled the temple. Likewise, the church was completely set up when Jesus offered the prayer of dedication in John 14. It was completely set up when Jesus shed his blood on the cross of Calvary. It was in all respects the visible kingdom of God when the Spirit came on the Day of Pentecost, which was the anointing of the most holy place.

CAN ANYTHING ORGANIC BE INVISIBLE?

The kingdom of God is either organic or inorganic. The American Heritage Dictionary of the English language defines "Organic" as, "likened to an organism in organization and development." What is an organism? Definition: "Any living individual, plant, animal, etc. These are all individualistic, fixed, organized and local, developed and visible."

Paul in Romans 12:4, 5, likens the church to a living human body (organism). "For as we have many members in one body, and all members have not the same office: so we, being many, are one body in Christ, and every one members one of another." Therefore, just as the human body is visible and organic, so is the church. We therefore conclude that if the church were invisible, it would of necessity possess neither organic life nor the products of organic life. It would be artificial, lacking system or structure.

If the church was an invisible something, it would of necessity be inorganic and lack the ability of movement in operation; therefore, incapable of development in growth which could result in no other way than through carrying out the commission of carrying the gospel to the nations of the world according to the authority of Christ.

Jesus said of the church, "Ye are the light of the world, a city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." How can anything that cannot be hid become invisible?

Jesus gave the rules of discipline to his visible church. Just for simple example let us consider this one. "If thy brother have ought against thee, go and tell him of his fault; if he hears you you have gained your brother." If he

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Bible Lands Pilgrimage



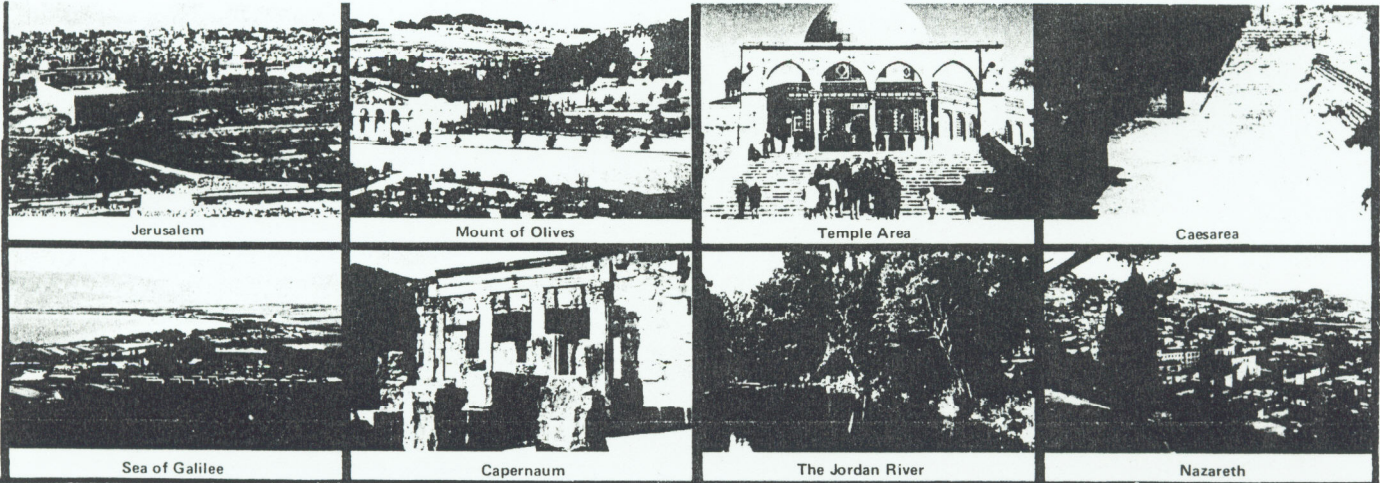
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YOUR TOUR HOST
Pastor H. C. Vanderpool
104 Hasty Drive, Goodlettsville, Tn 37072
PHONE 615/859-5780

The Lord willing, my wife and I with several more, will be making another BIBLE LANDS PILGRIMAGE to the Holy Land and Greece. This will be my 7th Tour of Bible Lands. Pictured on this page are a few of the places we will be visiting.

You may write to my address above, or call me to receive your brochure with full details including daily travels, accommodations, price, etc.



Missionary Report

(Continued from Page 2)

in the Lord. Lord has blessed our work for the Lord even in the hardest time.

Our work is gradually growing in the situation we never had before. Lord has blessed our Sunday School for children and services for adults. New people are coming. We would like for you to keep praying for us. Last March two women got saved beautifully who had come to our meeting for nearly a year. They are Mrs. Masae Tanaka, age 44, and Mrs. Atsuko Nagaishi, age 47. They are doing very fine. We would like for you to know you have a part in their conversion. Please pray for others who are under conviction.

Some time ago I got \$15.00 from SS Class No. 2 of New Bethel to buy Bibles, for which we appreciated the class. I added my \$20.00 to the money and bought 4 Bibles in Japanese language and 1 song

book. And I presented them to our new born believers. I would like for you to tell the class how and where their money went. It is pleasing the Lord.

There are a lot of blessed testimonies we love to share with you. Some day we like to do. Remember we are happy in the Lord and in His service. Let me write you again soon.

We will keep praying for all of you.

Yours truly in His name,
Koji Tajima and Family

"My great concern is not whether God is on our side; my great concern is to be on God's side."

—Abraham Lincoln.

THE IMAGE OF GOD

"God said, let us make man in our image, after our likeness." The first thing that we wish to give attention to will be the plural pronouns "us" and "our" as listed in the above scripture. We speak, write, and preach of the "One true and living God." We do not teach as Baptists that there are three Gods as some uninformed people accuse us of doing. We believe and teach that there is one true God, and that the three persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit are manifested as the one God. (John 10:29-30; Acts 5:3-4). Also, in the same scripture above with the plural pronouns, the word "God" in Hebrew is "Elohim" and is in the plural, denoting one God but three persons.

When God created man in His image, we do not understand that this meant in the size, form, appearance, etc., but rather other attributes. Not the physical, but rather the spiritual nature of man was in the image

Tomorrow's Opportunity

If we might have a second chance

To live the days once more,
And rectify mistakes we've made
To even up the score;

If we might have a second chance

To use the knowledge gained,
Perhaps we might become at last
As fine as God ordained.

But though we can't retrace our steps,

However stands the score,
Tomorrow brings another chance
For us to try once more.

"Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. He saith not, And to seeds, as of many; but as of one, And to thy seed, which is Christ." (Galatians 3:16).

Baptist History

(Continued from Page 1)

On motion: RESOLVED, That Brothers John Bond, John Landrum, W. F. Luck, Micajah Peacock, and Wm. Bilbro, with the Moderator and Clerk, be a committee to prepare Articles of Union, and present them on tomorrow.

Saturday: Met according to adjournment. Prayer by Elder John Harris.

The committee presented their report, which was read and received, and after being discussed, article by article, it was unanimously adopted.

CONSTITUTION OF CONCORD ASSOCIATION OF UNITED BAPTISTS

ARTICLE 1. We believe that the Holy Bible is the Word of God; that it was written by men divinely inspired; that it is the only sufficient rule of faith and practice; and that, among others, it teaches the following important truths:

That there is only one true and living God, infinite in every perfection, and that he has revealed himself as the Father, Son, and Holy Ghost. (See I John 5:7.)

ARTICLE 2. That man was created holy, but by wilfully violating the law of his Maker, he fell from that state; that by nature there is no holiness in man; that we are all inclined to evil, all have sinned and are the children of wrath, justly exposed to death, temporal, spiritual and eternal. (Eph. 2:3.)

ARTICLE 3. That the only way of salvation or deliverance from this state of guilt and condemnation, is through the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, who assumed our nature, and whom God has set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, having so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish but have everlasting life. (John 3:15-16; Romans 3:25-25.)

ARTICLE 4. That the election taught in the scriptures is through sanctification of the Spirit unto obedience, and sprinkling of the blood of Jesus Christ, and that none are authorized to consider themselves elected to salvation until they repent and believe the gospel. (I Peter 1:2; II Thessalonians 2:18.)

ARTICLE 5. That Jesus Christ, by the grace of God, tasted death for every man; that he is the savior of all men, especially of those that believe, and that, based on the provisions of the Atonement, all men, everywhere, are commanded to repent of their sins and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ. (Hebrews 2:9; Acts 17:30.)

ARTICLE 6. We believe in the perseverance of the saints through grace, being kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready to be revealed at the last time.

ARTICLE 7. That baptism and the Lord's Supper are ordinances of Jesus Christ; that Baptism is immersion in water; that believers are the only proper subjects; and that none have a right to the Lord's Supper until they are baptized. (Matthew 28:19-20; Acts 2:37-42.)

ARTICLE 8. We believe that ministers have no right to administer the ordinances, but such as have been baptized, called, and come under the imposition of hands by a presbytery.

ARTICLE 9. That according to the example of the Apostles and early Christians, sanctioned by the repeated presence of Christ himself after his resurrection, the first day of the week is to be observed as the Lord's day, or Christian Sabbath.

ARTICLE 10. That there will be a general resurrection and final judgment, and that the wicked shall go away into everlasting punishment, but the righteous into life eternal. (Matthew 25:45; Acts 17:31.)

After the reading and adoption of the constitution, the following resolutions were passed:

1. RESOLVED: That this Association recommend the foregoing constitution to the churches, for their consideration and adoption as to their constitution.

2. RESOLVED: That this Association, in future, be known by the name "UNITED EFFORT BAPTISTS."

NOTE: Some of the churches did adopt the constitution, but the Association never would relinquish her old name, Concord.

R. W. January, Moderator

R. A. Blair, Clerk

(This article of history was taken from

Church Ideas Compared

(Continued from Page 2)

will not hear you, take with you one or two more that in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word may be established. If he will not hear them, take it to the church." If the theory of Christ's kingdom being invisible be true just how could this rule of discipline be carried out?

Paul in Hebrews 10:24, 25, said, "And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good words: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is; but exhorting one another: and so much the more, as ye see the day approaching." How could an invisible church assemble? How could provocation to brotherly love be accomplished in an invisible church?

Now if the local church is a visible institution and the local institutions make up the kingdom of God, how could the kingdom of God be invisible?

THE SEVEN CHURCHES OF ASIA

A man would have to be blind and lack any sense of direction or location not to be able to see that the churches Christ directed John to write to were local, and each church was independent of the other. Not only so, but no two of these churches had the same problems altogether, which proves that each several church was responsible to God as a unit or institution. Simply speaking, the church at Ephesus could not answer for the church at Sardis, neither was she responsible for the errors of Sardis but only for herself.

More than the above, how could a letter be sent to an invisible something? How could a letter be received and the contents examined by an invisible pastor. And where can we find seven invisible churches with seven invisible pastors, with seven groups of invisible members. Even the angels that John saw which represented the pastors of the seven churches, I am sure appeared in some form visible to John.

Even at the presentation of the bride (Christ's kingdom) each church will have to answer for herself to the bridegroom before the marriage. All scripture dealing with this subject bears this out. Paul in 2 Cor. 11:2 said, I am jealous over you with a godly jealousy: for I have espoused (engaged) you to one husband, that I may present you as a chaste virgin to Christ." If the church at Corinth (a local body) is to be presented to Christ, then every church from the church at Jerusalem til the end will be presented to Him individually, and when each one has been measured by the standard of the principles of the doctrine of Christ, those that are worthy within these churches will make up the general assembly—the Kingdom of Jesus Christ—and he will be married to her. Even then, she will be visible as Jesus was visible on earth.

Let us not become confused between the family of God and the Church as an institution. All the regenerated and born-again have their names recorded on the Lambs book of life, but only such as follow their Master in that which he has commanded belong to the Lord's church and have the chance to be in the bride. I am persuaded that not all who have been saved and even scripturally baptized and have eaten at the Lord's table will be in the Bride, but this is another subject.

History of the Baptist Concord Association of Middle Tennessee and North Alabama, pp. 58-61. By Elder John Bond.) NOTE: The old Rutland Baptist Meeting House is where the Old Fashioned Gospel Hour Telecast Studios are located today.

ON RECORD BOOK OF NEW BETHEL BAPTIST CHURCH Goodlettsville, Tennessee

Saturday before the First Lord's Day in November, 1845.

"On motion the Constitution of the church was taken into consideration, and amended by striking out the Fourth and Fifth Articles; and inserting in their stead the Fourth and Fifth Articles of the Constitution, adopted by Concord Association when it met at Rutland's Meeting House in Wilson County, Tennessee.

R. Cunningham, Clerk

Revivals

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3

Lafayette Missionary Baptist Church, 306 College St., Lafayette, Tenn. Pastor D. C. Barton is to be assisted by Elder Tom Armstrong. Services each evening at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

White Hill Missionary Baptist Church, Louisville Highway, Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor C. B. Massey is to be assisted by Elder C. L. Russell. Everyone is invited to attend the services which will be each night at 7:30 P.M.

Faith Missionary Baptist Church, 921 East 10th St., Bowling Green, Ky. Pastor C. B. Huddleston is to be assisted by Elder J. E. Suttle. Services each evening at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 8

Fairview Missionary Baptist Church, Highway 240, Woodburn, Ky. Pastor Bernard M. Skaggs is to be assisted by Elder Junior Farley. Bro. W. G. Massey is to direct the singing. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. The public has an invitation to attend.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

Baptist Mission, Smyrna, Tenn. Elder Gail Snoddy and Elder James Shoulders will be preaching, with services daily at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

Bethlehem Missionary Baptist Church, 1401 Lischey Ave., Nashville, Tenn. Pastor Bobby G. Sutton is to be assisted by Elder A. G. Gregory. Services nightly at 7:00 P.M. Everyone is invited to attend.

FRIDAY, AUGUST 15

Jackson County Fair Grounds, two miles west of Gainsboro, Tenn. on Highway 85. Elder Bobby Gann and Elder Charles Patterson doing the preaching. Services nightly at 7:30 P.M. Everyone is invited.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 17

New Zion Missionary Baptist Church, Macon County, Tenn. Pastor J. B. Shoulders is to be assisted by Elder Junior Farley and Bro. Willie Petty will be in charge of the singing. Services each night at 7:30 P.M. You are invited to attend.

New Bethel Missionary Baptist Church, 1088 Old Dickerson Pike, Goodlettsville, Tenn. Pastor H. C. Vanderpool is to be assisted by Elder Henry Smith. Services each night at 7:15 P.M. The public is invited to attend.

WICKEDNESS OF THE WORLD

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and living ungodly as they were. The hundred and twenty years did not mean this was to be the allotted days of each generation, or life span of an individual, but rather the time he would allow before destroying the world.

It is probable that the corruption of the world, which had now reached its height, had been long and gradually increasing, and the hundred and twenty years respite reflects that idea. God was still manifesting his mercy and giving the sinful world another chance.

The offspring of those days seemed to have gone the way thought of as being after "the daughters of men." They were full of ambition, becoming "mighty men, men of renown." Military glory and worldly fame was their god. In this way the source of gaining recruits for God was cut off. When the olde people who were living for God died there were no younger ones to take their place. So the salt diminished in quantity until Noah was left alone.

In the meantime some of the sons of Cain had become giants, that is (Nephilim) or men of unbridled violence and lawlessness. Human life and property were no longer safe from these murders and freebooters. Cain's murder had generated a brood of vipers.

The idea of Nephilim, or giants, means putting physical developments foremost.

Descendants of Seth intermarried with women of this race, and from this union sprang men distinguished for like character and conduct. Thus the whole race of man became corrupt. We read the papers, listen to the news on T V and radio, we learn the stories of murder, drunkenness, theft, divorce, child abuse, gambling, hatred, selfishness, prostitution, homosexuality, vile affections, reprobate minds, etc. Is this telling us something? Are we listening? What are we doing about it? Are we taking the advantage in our churches and Sunday School, on the radio, through Baptist publications, in our preaching to warn the lost and ungodly to "flee the wrath to come?"

WICKEDNESS WAS GREAT

As we have just finished the last paragraph above, we noticed that sin had so increased in the world during the days of Noah, that every thought and imagination of the hearts of mankind were continually evil. It repented God that he had made man on the earth, and he was grieved in heart. We are warned in the New Testament not to grieve God. We as God's people should so live and conduct ourselves as not to grieve the Lord and his Spirit whereby we are sealed. Paul wrote to the brethren at the church of Ephesus, "And grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption." (Ephesians 4:30).

In verse seven of our lesson God said, "I will destroy man whom I have created from the face of the earth;" As we read a little further we notice a ray of hope for humanity, "But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord."

NOAH, A RIGHTEOUS MAN

Noah was a righteous man. He found grace in the eyes of the Lord. The scripture says he was a just man and perfect in his generations, walking with God. The word "just" in the Hebrew is (tsaddig) meaning to be right, righteous, just, rigid. The word "perfect" in the Hebrew is (tamin) meaning perfect, plain, whole, complete. Noah was this kind of man, or possessed these characteristics. Amos asked the question, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?" Looking at these scriptures together, we can understand why it was said, "And Noah walked with God."

When we read the roll of faith's heroes in Hebrews, 11th Chapter, we find Noah on the list. Noah was a faithful man during his life, Hebrews 11:7, he died a faithful man, Hebrews 11:39. However, his perfection did not mean he was without sin. No person since Adam has been sinless on earth except Jesus Christ. Noah made mistakes in his life, and to mention one, see Genesis 9:20-25.

What an awful state of things when one man, or one family of piety and virtue was now existing among the professed sons of God! In the absence of any well-regulated government it is easy to imagine what evils would rise. Men did what was right in their own eyes, and having no fear of God, destruction and misery was to come upon them. Only if this sinful, ungodly world of today could learn from the mistakes of the antediluvians.

How startling must have been the announcement of the threatened destruction! There was no outward indication it would take place. The course of nature and experience seemed against the probability of its occurrence. The public opinion of mankind would ridicule it. Yet, Noah, persuaded by his communication with God, had enough faith to set about to prepare for the impending calamity, Hebrews 11:7.