

RICHARD WILSON

RT 1 BOX 174

LAFAYETTE TN

37083

Voice of Baptists

"The Voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." *Isaiah 40:3*

VOL. 8

HUNTINGDON, TENN.

SEPT., 1986

NO. 11



THE ESTABLISHMENT & MISSION OF THE CHURCH FORETOLD

by W.T. Russell
Nashville, TN.

That an All-wise God had in mind from eternity the establishment of his church and kingdom on earth is without question. Just one verse of scripture will be sufficient to establish this fact. "Known unto God are all his works from the beginning of the world." Acts 15:18. Not only so, but God revealed to men, through types and shadows and the prophets, that part of his mind that he wanted them to know. The preparation of material and the building of Solomon's Temple provides a beautiful picture foreshadowing the establishment of the church. 1 Kings, beginning with chapter 5.

Through Micah the prophet, the Lord said, "Behold, I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me: and the Lord whom ye seek shall suddenly come to his temple, even the messenger of the covenant, whom ye delight in: behold he shall come, saith the Lord of hosts." Micah 3:1. Also, in Micah 4:5, "Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the Lord: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to the fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."

I realize that some today are looking for Elijah the prophet to come yet but the scriptures make it clear that Micah was talking about John the Baptist. Matt. 11:13-14, "For all the prophets and the law prophesied until John. And if ye will receive it, this is Elias, which was for to come." Luke 1:17 explains in what sense Jesus referred to John as Elijah, "And he shall go before him in the spirit and power of Elias, to turn the hearts of the fathers to the children, and the disobedient to the

wisdom of the just; to make ready a people prepared for the Lord."

We go now to Isaiah 40:3, "The voice of him that crieth in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God." It is easy to establish who this was by Matt. 3:3, "For this is he that was spoken of by the prophet Esaias, saying, The voice of one crying in the wilderness, Prepare ye the way of the Lord, make his paths straight." Also, see Mark 1:1-3.

Of necessity, there must be a beginning for all things created or made, and before there can be the creature, there must be the creator. In every existing form of creation we are able to see the effect of a cause, but before there can be an effect, there must be the great first Cause. That great first Cause is God.

God determined that he would be glorified and created man in his own likeness and image for that purpose. The Godhead united in the creation of man and God said, "Behold the man." Gen. 3:22. When God needed a Baptist, he made one and sent him into the world through Zacharias and Elisabeth. Luke 1:13, "Thy wife Elisabeth shall bear thee a son." Not only this, but the angel said, "and thou shall call his name John."

(Continued on Page 2)

SORRY!
NO AUGUST PAPER
WAS PUBLISHED

OFFERINGS RECEIVED

CHURCHES

Victory B.C. - Hendersonville, TN
Friendship B.C. - Columbus, IN
McFerrin B.C. - Nashville, TN
Bethel B.C. - Corvallis, OR
Old Union B.C. - Bowling Green, KY
Crossroads B.C. - Camden, TN
Pleasant Valley B.C. - Peoria, IL
Clarksburg B.C. - Clarksburg, TN
Old-Time B.C. - Elizabeth, WV
Hauser B.C. - North Bend, OR
Freedom B.C. - Speedway, IN
Bethel B.C. - Toledo, OH
Bible Grove B.C. - Lexington, TN
Anchorage B.M. - Anchorage, AK
Calvary B.C. - Bolivar, MO
Caledonia B.C. - McKenzie, TN

INDIVIDUALS

Mrs. R.N. Richards - Huntingdon
Mrs. Fount Moran - Beech Grove, IN
Elder & Mrs. W.I. House - Nashville
Elder & Mrs. Leon White - Watertown
Mrs. Josie Cook - West Palm Beach, FL
Elder & Mrs. James Shoulders - Greenbrier
Mr. & Mrs. Clyde Lawhorn - Lafayette
Leon Hodgin - Lexington, TN
Obie & Zula Lowe - Indpls., IN
Roy M. Corbitt - Bowling Green, KY
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Payne - Springfield, MO
Tommie Shepherd - Carthage, TN
Mr. & Mrs. Ben Maggart - Gordonsville
Robert & Ruby Jackson - Ochelata, OK
Lewis & Mary Law - Holland, KY
Luther & Lois Jent - Denver, CO



VOICE OF BAPTISTS

(USPS 423-350)

P.O. Box 572

Huntingdon, Tenn. 38344

Kenneth W. Massey, Editor

STAFF WRITERS

James H. Smith, Nashville, TN
 W.T. Russell, Nashville, TN
 F.W. Lambert, Westmoreland, TN
 Harold D. Carver, Buena Vista, TN
 Jerry A. Reynolds, Bowling Green, KY
 Stephen M. Skinner, Springfield, MO
 Keith D. Frieze, Springfield, MO

CIRCULATION STAFF

Glynn and Linda Williams, Huntingdon, TN

POSTMASTER: Return all mail to Voice of Baptists, P.O. Box 572, Huntingdon, TN 38344.

BETHEL BAPTIST ASSOCIATION

Convenes with Bethel Baptist Church September 19-21. The first service begins at 7 p.m. Bethel Church is located at 222 E. Epler Ave. in Indianapolis, IN. The church is very near the intersection of I-465 and U.S. 31.

FREE SONG BOOKS

"To any missionary: Faith Missionary Baptist church, 18000 Glendale, Roseville, MI 48066, has some *used* church hymnal song books. We will be happy to send to you as many as you can use."

REVIVAL

September 14

Peyton Creek Baptist Church of Monoville, TN. Pastor Raymond Smith will be assisted by Elder Kenneth Massey. Services each night at 7:30 p.m. Everyone is invited.

Church Foretold

(Continued from Page 1)

Now, since John's mission was to make ready a people prepared for the Lord, by turning the hearts of the fathers to their children and the disobedient (unbelievers) to the wisdom of the just, we want to see God's plan in accomplishing this. John the Baptist entered in: and closed his ministry not only preaching repentance, but demanding that those who came to be baptized of him bring fruit (evidence) meet (worthy of) for repentance. That he preached Christ unto the people and that they were to believe on him is shown abundantly. Matt 3:11; John 1:15-18; acts 19:4, and others.

If Jesus were to come into the world today to establish his church, he would demand the same preparation for material to set it up. In view of the practice of some churches that operate under the name Baptist today, I am made to wonder if he could find enough proper material in their entire membership to set up his church.

Jesus said in Matt. 16:18 "Upon this rock I will build my church and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Now the church was already set up when he uttered this statement, so Jesus was talking about edifying, building up and strengthening his church. So, it takes the same quality material to continue to build up the Lord's church as it did to set it up to start with. Knowing this, and seeing to it that these principles are kept and continually demanded will keep the churches strong in faith if not in numbers. I am persuaded that God is just as concerned about these things today as in the beginning.

The prophecies, types and shadows previously referred to could not have had their fulfillment in any other than the church or kingdom of heaven. In fact, it is through the fulfillment of these prophecies that we are made to understand that we as Baptists are standing on solid ground, for there are not others that can measure up to these things.

Now, let us take up what Isaiah had to say about the Lord's house, Isaiah 2:2,3 "And it shall come to pass in the last days, that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills; and all nations shall flow unto it. And many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem."

Isaiah said, it would be in the last days when this would come to pass. So this takes us back to John the Baptist for the beginning of the last days, for the law and the prophets were until John, since that time the kingdom

of heaven is preached and all men press into it." Luke 16:16. This shows clearly what days Isaiah was referring to.

He said that which would be established would be the mountain of the Lord's house. Now the word mountain when used in this connection in the scriptures, is figurative of -- kingdom or government. So, with this in mind, I understand Isaiah to teach that in the last days the kingdom of God; (the mountain of the Lord's house) would be set up or established in the top of the mountains. (above all earthly kingdoms).

For perfect harmony in this interpretation, let us go to Micah 4:1, But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. Here you will notice that Micah says "the mountain of the house of the Lord" while Isaiah says "the mountain of the Lord's house." Now, if we interpret the word mountain in its literal sense, we must conclude that the church is a literal mountain. But, when we understand that the word mountain is used in a figurative sense, we can see that it refers to kingdom or government. So, with this in mind, let us be consistent and say that "in the top" of the mountains is also used figuratively, and thus it teaches that the kingdom or government of the church is above all earthly governments or kingdoms. This is certainly my interpretation of this scripture.

The literal interpretation of the word "mountain" has caused some to take the position that in order for this scripture to be fulfilled, the church had to be established on top of a mountain. It could not be proven in a thousand years that Jesus and his disciples were on top of a mountain when he chose the twelve apostles as recorded in Luke 6. This says that he went out into a mountain. All of us can understand how one can go into the hills and never reach the top, and the same applies to mountains.

Next, let us consider the prophesy of Daniel when speaking of the stone cut out of the mountain, without hands, that smote the image which the king had seen in his dream, which stone became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. Now this stone was figurative of the beginning of the church, and "without hands" simply means that this was done without human agency. In order to have harmony, we must treat this word "mountain" with the same meaning as in Isaiah and Micah. Therefore, this mountain had reference to the kingdom of Israel, for all members of the first church were Jews. Dan. 2:35. Now in verse 44, Daniel is interpreting the king's dream and this is what he says regarding this stone. "And in the days of these kings shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed and the king-

dom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, (the afore mentioned kingdoms represented in the image) and it shall stand forever." Now, in verse 45, Daniel said, "the great God hath made known to the king what shall come to pass hereafter: and the dream is certain and the interpretation sure."

In this image, kingdoms were represented. The image had a head of Gold and Daniel said Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, was that head of gold. The breast and arms of this image was of silver, and Daniel said this was another kingdom inferior to Babylon. (Medes and Persians) Note the two arms. The belly and thighs of the image were of brass. (Note the decline of prominence and glory) This represented the Grecian kingdom. The legs and the feet of the image was partly iron and part of clay; This represented the Roman kingdom which Daniel said would be strong as iron and would subdue and break up the former kingdoms, but he said the kingdom shall be divided. (note the legs as well as the ten toes) As for the mixture of the iron and clay, Daniel said the kingdom would be partly strong and partly broken. (brittle)

In view of the above, we are able to understand the time of the establishment of the Lord's church or kingdom. The last kingdom represented was that of Rome over which the Caesars ruled. So when Daniel said that the setting up of the kingdom of God would be *in the days of these kings*, he was unmistakably talking about the Roman Caesars. In Luke 2:1, we learn that Claudius was Caesar when John the Baptist was born, but in Luke 3, we learn that Tiberius had reigned 15 years when John the Baptist began his ministry.

Daniel said that the stone that was cut out of the mountain without hands smote the image upon its feet that were of iron and clay, and brake them to pieces, and then was the iron, the clay, the brass, the silver, and the gold, broken to pieces together and became like the chaff of the summer threshing floors; and the wind carried them away that no place was found for them; and the stone that smote the image became a great mountain and filled the whole earth. It has been argued that the stone was Jesus Christ, if so, He instead of his kingdom became a great kingdom and filled the whole earth. The certainty of the expansion of the Lord's kingdom is taught here. This expansion was to be accomplished through the preaching of the gospel, and Jesus said, This gospel shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations, and then shall the end come." The end will not come until every nation at one time or another has heard the gospel through the true witnesses of Christ.

Daniel said, the kingdom which the God of heaven would set up would never be destroyed, so down goes every reformer that

ever made the claim that the Lord's church apostatized, came to an end, and had to be reestablished. He also said this kingdom would not be left to other people. So, it matters not who today may claim identity with the kingdom of God, the only people that have ever possessed the kingdom are Baptists. They are the ones he gave it to and Daniel said it would not be left or entrusted to anybody else. He also said this kingdom would break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms. Now, I hope none of you will ever make the mistake of preaching that the church will break in pieces. This has never happened and will never happen. I have heard Baptist preachers preach this, and I have some on paper where they said this in writing. It is the church brethren that will be the instrument, which has already been used, to break in pieces and consume all the kingdoms represented in the image. All these kingdoms have been broken in pieces and consumed. Daniel also said this kingdom would stand forever. This assures us brethren that the same kingdom instituted by Christ is still with us today, and will be here, contending for the same faith and principles when Jesus comes in the air.

The church is referred to in prophesy symbolically, as the tabernacle of David. In Amos 9:11 we read, "In that day will I raise up the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old: that they may possess the remnant of Edom, and of all the heathen, which are called my name, "saith the Lord that doeth this." Now in order for us to be certain that Amos is talking about the church, we have only to go to Acts 15:10-18, which I hope you will give your special attention. This was the occasion when Peter was called in question by the church at Jerusalem for carrying the gospel to the household of Cornelius. The church at Jerusalem to consider this matter, and while they were discussing the matter pro and con, James, who was, no doubt, pastor of the church at that time, called on the brethren to hearken to what he had to say. Let us listen to him, "Simeon (Peter hath declared how God at the first did visit the Gentiles, to take out of them a people for his name. Now notice: And to this agree the words of the prophets; as it is written, after this I will build again the tabernacle of David, which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up; that the residue of men might seek after the Lord, and all the Gentiles, upon whom my name is called." Notice that James says, "to this agree the words of the prophets."

Here I want to introduce another prophesy recorded in Psalms 72:16 "There shall be an handful of corn in the earth upon the top of the mountains; the fruit thereof shall shake like Lebanon: and they of the city shall

flourish like grass of the earth." Here we have: "upon the top of the mountains" used again. If the top of a literal mountain is meant here, it is strange that the plural is used again. This shows that this is again referring to governments or kingdoms. Also notice the 3rd verse of this chapter, "The mountains shall bring peace to the people, and the little hills, by righteousness." These are the words of Solomon, not David, and he is referring to the government of his kingdom. The word "handful" in the original Hebrew means expansion—superabundance. This has been interpreted by some to mean the small beginning of the church, but instead it shows expansion and greatness.

In the midst of prophecies concerning the setting up of the Lord's church, the same prophets tell us about churches so-called set up by man assuming and claiming Christ for their head but willing to eat their own bread and wear their own apparel. See Isaiah 4:1, "And in that day seven women shall take hold of one man, saying, we will eat our own bread, and wear our own apparel: only let us be called by thy name, to take away our reproach." All false churches take the liberty, without permission, to affix the name of Christ to their movements with one objective, to take away their reproach. They know they are not entitled to it, but strange as it seems, many have been willingly deceived into believing theirs is as much the church as the one Jesus established. The devil is the author of this propaganda.

Now, let me introduce another warning to all who love the church and the truth for which she stands. "Woe unto them that join house to house, that lay field to field, till there be no place that they may be placed alone in the midst of the earth." This teaches the danger of affiliation and union with false churches and becoming contaminated with their false doctrines and practices. Unlimited fellowship with false churches is spiritual adultery. I say unlimited, because I can unite in prayer with anyone. I can sing praises to God with all that praise him. I can join in the testimony of His goodness and mercy, but when it comes to church matters, her ordinances, her mission and her doctrines, here is where I must draw the line.

Whosoever transgresseth and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. "If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed. For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds." John 1:9-11.

Let us all take due notice and not be found guilty of advancing in any way the false teachings that dishonor God and rob Christ of his glory.

A BAPTIST SOLDIER

This is a brief biographical sketch of Elder Elijah Autry.

The subject of this sketch was born in Montgomery County, North Carolina, August 15, 1813, and was married to Miss Mary Parish, November 14, 1832, died September 22, 1858. The circumstances connected with his death were sad and painful to his family and numerous friends. He had been holding a protracted meeting at Oak Grove Baptist Church (Henderson Co., Tenn.) a week before his death. When he returned home from the meeting he learned through a neighbor that cattle were destroying his crop. He immediately started to turn them out, and was persuaded by his nephew to take a small deringer pistol to scare the cattle with. But he positively refused to do so. His nephew slipped it into his pocket without his knowledge. After awhile he felt something in his pocket, and in trying to get it out, the breech being down, and in pulling it out, drew the hammer back and caused it to fire and lodged the contents in his side, under the ribs; from the effect of which he died the next day, in the full triumph of a living faith, about twenty-four hours after the accident occurred.

Elder Autry had only a common English education, such as could be procured in the common district school in his day. Yet, by untiring energy and industry, he acquired a very fair knowledge of the Scriptures and was a sound Bible teacher, and successful preacher.

Elder Autry professed faith in Christ and joined the Hopewell Baptist Church, Henderson County, Tenn., in the year of our Lord 1836, and was baptized by Elder Clark Martin, in July, 1938. E. Autry, in connection with other brothers and sisters, were organized into the church at Mt. Comfort, Carroll County, Tenn., being seven or eight miles northeast of Hopewell Church.

Elder Autry was ordained in May, 1840. Clark Martin and James Senter, acting as presbytery. He was pastor at Mt. Comfort Church for a number of years; beginning his labors with said church in December, 1840. Elder Autry was pastor of the following churches at different times during his life: Union Church, in Benton County; Prospect Church, Carroll County; Oak Grove Church, Hopewell Church, Pleasant Hill Church, New Prospect Church, Holly Springs Church, Mt. Pisgah Church, and Chalk Hill Church. At his death he was pastor of Mt. Comfort, Oak Grove and Concord. These churches, together with others and their ministers, originally belonged to the Western District Association.

At the annual session of said body in 1844, some sixteen or eighteen churches were dismissed by letter to form the Southern District Association. These churches met in convention at Elder Autry's church (Mt. Comfort) for the above named purpose, on Saturday before the fourth Lord's Day in July, 1845. Elder Autry preached the introductory sermon from the 73rd division of the Psalms and 1st verse. It was an excellent doctrinal and practical sermon; after which the delegates from fourteen churches were called to order by Elder Autry, who was appointed temporary moderator and the writer clerk. After the organization Elder Autry was elected the first moderator; which position he held during his life, with the exception of one year; hence he was moderator for the term of eleven years, of the Southern District Association (same as Southwestern District). As a presiding officer, he was affable, courteous and kind to all; preponderating on the lax side of good order, and when the writer would often appeal to him in behalf of "good order," he would turn in his bland way smiling and reply, "Oh, Brother Arnold, I cannot be too hard on the brethren." Our beloved, departed brother, though he was compelled to work for the support of his large family, for he had twelve children, eight boys and four girls - boys all died but three, three girls living - gave a large part of his time to preaching and building up the Redeemer's cause and strengthening the association: and it can truthfully be said, that he was one of the main pillars of the association, and he and the writer labored heart and hand together in this glorious work.

Elder Autry was a sound Bible minister, (sometimes called Baptist ministers, but to be a Bible minister is to be a Baptist minister), always earnestly contending for the faith once delivered to the saints.

He was of fair complexion; black hair and blue eyes; was about five feet ten inches high, and weighed about one hundred and forty pounds; possessed of untiring energy and indomitable courage in prosecuting any enterprise that he might be engaged in, whether secular or religious; consequently he succeeded in winning many souls to Christ, and numbers will rise up in glory and call him blessed, as being the instrument in the hands of God of bringing them to Christ. In the year 1843 the writer became acquainted with him, and from that time until the day of his death, it might be said that like David and Jonathan, their souls were knit together, and though designing men tried to separate them they never succeeded, and he said that he wished the writer to take his place as moderator, which was the case. Our dear brother had but few enemies, though he had some, and why? Because his holy walk reproved their wicked ways. But he has gone to his

glorious reward, and they have gone to reap the reward of their doings.

Elder Autry belonged to the order of Free Masons, and was buried with Masonic honors by the order of which he had long been a worthy and consistent member. In his death the church and community, as well as the fraternity, sustained a heavy loss. His funeral was preached by Elders Thos. A. Morrison and M.H. Neal, attended by a very large procession. The death of Elder E. Autry not only cast a gloom over his friends and family but over the entire community, and especially in the association where he was so generally known and beloved. Suitable preamble and resolutions were passed by the body, expressive of their feelings and views in regard to him and the sad event, at the next subsequent meeting, 1858.

Thus lived and labored our beloved brother

"Servant of God, well done:
Rest from thy loved employ;
The battle fought, the victory won;
Enter thy Master's joy."

Contributed by Elder J.P. Arnold and first published in *Tennessee Baptist Ministers* by Joseph Borum.

The Big and the Small Soul

The great soul prays, "Lord, make me as big as my problem." The little soul prays, "Lord, let me off easy."

The giant soul asks, "Lord give me strength sufficient for a hard day," while the small soul begs, "Lord, let me have a lighter load."

The busy soul prays, "Lord, stand with me until I finish my task," while the weak soul says, "I got tired and quit."

We Need To Know Him

It is not that we do not believe in a living Christ. Proofs of the Resurrection are not what we need. In fact there is scarcely anything we need to *know* about Him. We just need to know Him.

Leslie Weatherhead

Tell me and I forget
Teach me and I remember
Involve me and I learn.

Ben Franklin