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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**

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NEHEMIAH

MISSIONARY OF RECONSTRUCTION

by Jerry A. Reynolds
Bowling Green, KY

There is much in our country today to remind us of that perilous period surrounding the Babylonian captivity of the Jews. Ours is a nation which was once largely evangelized with that form of doctrine which was consistent with the Spirit of Jesus Christ. We have since seen a great and terrible apostasy, occurring gradually over the period of a century, in which the fear of God has all but vanished from the religious scene rendering repentance an increasingly strange phenomenon. Love is preached to the impenitent in place of wrath and religious bodies are largely made up of unregenerated sinners, having only a facade of righteousness. Tolerance of sin and worldiness has steadily increased among professing Christians until the salt of the earth seems to have lost its savour and is unable to season a degenerating society which is now greatly in danger of becoming so unpalatable to its Creator that destruction is imminent. The church has become as the "Daughter of Zion" was in a similar period under the Law of Moses, "left as a cottage in a vineyard, as a lodge in a garden of cucumbers, as a besieged city." As then, the country is full of false prophets and false worshippers of God who do as they please and expect the Lord to approve of their form of godliness while they reject His power and presence. They view with scorn and contempt the condemning voice of that "very small remnant" worthy to be called "Zion" which is all that has until now kept their society from being "as Sodom" and "like unto Gomorrah." (Isaiah 1:8-9).

Separation from the world was an indispensable ingredient in the survival of the

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MINE EYE AFFECTETH MINE HEART

by Vernon Roark
North Bend, OR

"Mine eye runneth down with rivers of water for the destruction of the daughter of my people." Lam. 3:48.

This phrase of scripture was no doubt written by Jeremiah, the weeping prophet. Jeremiah was the last great prophet during the final four decades of the kingdom of Judah, prior to the fall of Jerusalem to the Babylonian captivity in 586 B.C. What he saw concerning the spiritual condition of God's people, cause him to be deeply troubled, and moved him to tears.

In Jeremiah 2:13 God says "For my people have committed two evils; they have forsaken Me the fountain of living waters, and hewed them out cisterns, broken cisterns that can hold no water." Now a cistern, unlike a fountain or well, is a means of storing up water for future use, but a broken cistern will let the water run out. It is a medical fact that a person can live longer without food than he can without water. In the fourth (4) chapter of Matthew we hear the Lord saying that man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God, (the Fountain of living water).

In John 7:38-39 Jesus said: "He that believeth on Me, as the scripture hath said, "out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water." (But this spake He of the Spirit which they that believeth on Him should receive, for the Holy Ghost was not yet given because that Jesus was not yet Glorified [read Joel 2:28-29]). The rivers of living waters were no doubt in reference to the spiritual power that his Church would receive at pentecost. Acts 1:8 "But ye shall receive power after that the

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Mine Eye (continued from Page 1)

Holy Ghost is come unto you, and ye shall be witness unto Me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Let us ask ourselves, where is the spiritual power in our Church today? Could it be that we, like Isreal, have committed two evils? Have we turned from God, the foundation of living water, and are trying to draw spiritual power from our Baptist heritage? My heart grows heavy and tears fill my eyes when I see so many who are at ease in Zion and are not truly concerned about the lost of this world. Is it any wonder that the lost are not concerned about their welfare? Many go to great lengths to be called Missionary Baptist, not knowing what our forefathers stood for, or what it means to be Missionary. WE remember times past when great numbers were being saved, but we forget that those Baptist people were totally committed to God, and His cause. Preachers and laymembers alike were ready to follow the Lord whenever and wherever He would lead. We believe that God calls preachers and places them in His churches according to His will. Why then are there so many churches without pastors? Is there not an abundance of preachers with no field to labor in? Are we not very zealous for God's cause when we are worked up to a spiritual and emotional high and then grow cold and forget?

We had better open our eyes, that our hearts may be affected by what we see concerning the spiritual condition of God's people, and commit our love and our lives to God and His cause. Remember we are not our own, but He bought us with so great a price. To him belongs all the Glory and Honor.

EXPOSITION OF JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES



by Kenneth W. Massey

This group had their beginning from a small Bible study in the year, 1872. The man who began this movement was Charles Taze Russell. He was born in Allegheny, Pennsylvania in 1852. His parents raised him up in the Congregational denomination. So at the age of 20 he began what is known today as Jehovah's Witnesses. The main reason he left his parents' religion was due to his disbelief for the doctrine of eternal punishment.

I have given you the bare facts in that first paragraph. Now, let's critique its contents.

The true church started 18 centuries before JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES began.

Jesus said, "I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt 16:18.

Did Jesus start the church or did Charles Taze Russell start it?

I MUST BELIEVE JESUS
OVER RUSSELL!

I MUST BELIEVE JESUS
OVER ALL MEN!

FALSE PREDICTIONS

Russell taught that Christ's return was invisible instead of visible ("Behold, he cometh with clouds, and every eye shall see him" - Rev. 1:7), and that it occurred in 1874. He also taught that 1914 would bring the "end of the Gentiles and the Battle of Armageddon." HE WAS WRONG AGAIN! Russell died in 1916.

The Watchtower Bible and Tract Society has been the organization behind the Jehovah's Witnesses. After Russell died, J.F. Rutherford was elected to lead them on. He had joined the group in 1906.

Rutherford predicted the world would end in 1925. This he wrote in his book "Millions Now Living Will Never Die." HE WAS WRONG!

Since that prediction the society has been more discreet about mentioning specific dates. The Watchtower did set the date of 1975 as the date for Armageddon, but the society denies it. The actual name "Jehovah's Witnesses" was given by Rutherford in 1931 while in convention in Ohio. The name was taken from Isaiah 43:10. Rutherford died in 1942, and Nathan Homer Knorr was elected the new leader just five days later.

I think the most notable contribution

made to the society during Knorr's administration was the Watchtower published their own Bible translation. Knorr died in 1977. So the prediction for 1975 failed, and he like Russell and Rutherford missed living to see the end of the age.

TEACHINGS OF THE WITNESSES The Government

They do not participate in any elections. Jehovah's Witnesses will not salute the U.S. flag. It is against their beliefs to serve in the armed forces. Paul said, "Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers." Rom. 13:1. He was speaking of governments. These people are willing to be protected by our nation's armies, and they use our highways (funded by government), but are unwilling to help shoulder any burden or expense.

Holidays

The Witnesses claim that since Christmas and Easter fall on what used to be pagan holidays, they must also be pagan. That's nonsense. I doubt if you could find any day that is free from some pagan celebration, either of the past or present.

I usually ask the Witness to talk to me about the Bible's teachings of God, mankind and salvation. These are the things that really count. We need to inform them of the truth. The most of these people haven't been saved, and they need our help. Give them the gospel of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

DOCTRINES OF THE WITNESSES

According to this group there is no Trinity, Jesus is a created being, His resurrection was only as a spirit, the Holy Spirit is not God and is not personal, man ceases to exist spiritually at death, there is no eternal punishment for the unsaved, and salvation is by works instead of grace alone.

These folks claim to put total dependence upon the Bible as their rule and faith. However, in actual practice, Jehovah's Witnesses understand everything in the Bible according to preconceived Watchtower interpretations. Witnesses don't really know what's in the Scriptures because they are required to spend so much time with Watchtower publications.

Their Bible translation is the New World Translation. Don't ever agree to discuss the Scriptures using their Bible. Their Bible is full of twisted translations that deny the essential doctrines of the Bible and promote the unbiblical doctrines of the Watchtower.

TRINITY

The Witnesses say, "Neither the word nor the idea of Trinity is in God's Word, the Bible. The doctrine did not originate with God" (The Truth That Leads to Eternal Life, page 25).

The word "trinity" is not mentioned in the Bible, but it is widely used term that accurately describes a Biblical teaching con-

cerning the nature of God.

The Bible teaches us that within the nature of the one true God are three eternal, distinct, Divine Persons - the Father, the Word (Son), and the Holy Spirit. Most Jehovah's Witnesses do not understand the doctrine of the Trinity. They are confused and further confuse themselves by misdefining the Trinity, and then proving such definition is unreasonable. For example, they accuse us of believing that Jesus is the Father. Then, they argue, if Jesus is the Father, how did Jesus pray to himself in the Garden of Gethsemane, or 2) when Jesus said that the Father sent him, how could he send himself? **DON'T LET HIM TELL YOU WHAT YOU BELIEVE.** We do not believe that the Person of Jesus is the Person of the Father. We believe, Jesus, the second Person of the Trinity, prayed to the Father, the first Person of the Trinity.

They will accuse us of believing in three gods. The argument goes, "if the Father is God, and the Son is God, and the Holy Spirit is God, then you must have three gods! Remember our original definition and answer them by saying, "We believe that within the nature of the one God there are three divine Persons. We do not believe in three gods, but in one God who exists as three divine Persons." They also accuse us of having a fractured God - that the Father is one-third of God, and the Son is one-third of God, and the Holy Spirit is one-third of God. We don't believe any such ridiculous thing. We believe that each Person of the Trinity is fully God, and that all three Persons partake fully of the one nature of God. They also love to accuse us that belief in the Trinity is pagan. They say this because the Hindus, Egyptians and Babylonians all believe in the Trinity. This argument is neither logical nor true. Pagans believe in the existence of God. Does this mean that God cannot exist? The so-called "trinities" cited by the Witnesses from other religions are not like the Biblical Trinity at all. They are actually some form of *tritheism*, or belief in three gods.

They love to down play our belief in the Trinity by saying it is not reasonable. They will ask, how can you really believe there are three Persons and only one divine nature? He'll say, "if I can't understand all about it, it isn't reasonable and therefore it can't be right." They will then quote Isaiah 1:18, "come now, let us reason together?" That Scripture is referring to *salvation* and not to the infinite nature of the Almighty.

THE DOCTRINE OF THE TRINITY IS NEITHER ILLOGICAL NOR UNREASONABLE, BUT ITS COMPLETE COMPREHENSION IS BEYOND OUR FINITE LOGIC AND REASON.

YOUR COMMENTS

Received our "Voice of Baptists" for December and noticed that you are short of funds. We want to help keep the paper going out to both saint and sinner. Enjoy the paper very much. It is great spiritual food.

Mr. & Mrs. V.L. Lillard
Bowling Green, KY

May God bless your work there. We enjoy reading "Voice of Baptists" each month. This is a great little paper. Keep it up. Enclosed is a small offering from our church.

Colorado Baptist Church
Denver, CO
Luther Jent, Treas.

Please accept the attached donation from our church. We look forward to getting the "Voice of Baptists."

Kokomo Baptist Church
Kokomo, IN
James Herron, Treas.

Enclosed is a small donation to help cover the expenses of your efforts.

Mrs. Ron L. McCurry
Fair Grove, MO

Enclosed is a donation to help keep "Voice of Baptists" going out to help spread the truth. God bless the work!

Mr. & Mrs. W.R. Carmen
Poplar Bluff, MO

I enjoy the paper very much. Since I've been alone for some ten years, the paper is a great joy to me.

Mrs. Ruth Apple
White House, TN

Sending you a small donation on your paper. We really enjoy the paper.

Mrs. Buie J. Massey
Pleasant Shade, TN

I am enclosing a donation to help with publishing the "Voice of Baptists." Enjoy the paper very much. May God bless the work.

Frances Morgan
Scottsville, KY

I enjoy the paper very much and read everything in it. Think every Baptist should have one in their home instead of watching some of the trash that comes on television. Enclosed is a donation.

Mrs. Fred Carr
Westmoreland, TN

"PREACHER LAMBERT AND SISTER TENNIE"

Each of us has a beginning
As you can see,
Brother Lambert's was in
December 1903.

God saved his soul in
The Church at Siloam;
Later God called him to preach,
The greatest honor known.

Such fine people are these two,
As they've tried to be;
They traveled together over
The road of life since 1923.

A well respected couple near and far
Are this man and his wife;
For many love them dearly because
They've touched their life.

His pastoral work has been here and there,
And not very far from home;
Through it all they've held their membership
With us here at Siloam.

As he walked this road of life,
He sought to do God's will;
He's done the Master's work from
Union Camp to Pleasant Hill.

An ambassador for God he has been
In this world of survival;
When times were rough,
He looked back to that August Revival.

We've heard him tell of the sheep in the cold
That wouldn't listen to a voice so keen;
But when their master came home and called,
They were all there to be seen.

He says he can't sing too good,
Although he has a favorite song;
We all know its Amazing Grace;
And has been all along.

His labors have been filled with
Both joy and tears;
But he's labored in the Master's vineyard
For over fifty years.

This honor to them today comes from
All of us who know them well,
But most of all we praise the name
of the Holy One of Israel.

If you're here today unsaved,
And your sins abound;
This Preacher's message is still
Seek the Lord while He may be found.

After we've left here today,
And said our goodbyes;
We thank God who through Jesus made it possible
That we all are "Traveling Toward the Sunrise."
Siloam Missionary Baptist Church
December 17, 1983

By: Jimmy F. Stinson

(This poem was compiled in honor of Elder & Mrs. F. W. Lambert)

Nehemiah

(continued from Page 1)

Jewish nation. Failure to heed God's warning in this regard resulted in the leaven of idolatry spreading throughout the land until God would say "from the sole of the foot even unto the head there is no soundness in it, but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores." (Isaiah 1:6).

The very meaning of "the church" is a separate people, called out and separated from the world. All such words as holy, sanctified, consecrated, and saints have the same root meaning. The apostle warned the early Corinthian church regarding toleration of sin, "a little leaven leaveneth the whole lump." This land of many churches is now a land of many leavened churches from which Jesus has long ago divorced himself. Few and far between are the remnants of the faithful bride in a land full of worldly religion and idolatry which maintains a form of godliness that denies His power.

Judgement must come. A righteous God, though longsuffering, cannot continue to bear such sin and impenitence. Many signs indicate that this impending judgement may be the final one, but of that day and hour knoweth no man. We can hope that for the benefit of lost sinners God might send another revival which would purge and revitalize the Christian faith.

The judgement of the Babylonian captivity of the Jews may have "caused the ears to tingle" in all who heard the report, and the loss of lives and of souls may have been an unspeakable loss, but it gave a new lease on life to a sin-stricken world by purging God's elect of the last dregs of idolatry.

In the wake of the soul-rendering judgement there arose certain exiled saints who "preferred Jerusalem above their chief joy" even while it lay waste without inhabitant and they languished in bondage. (Psalm 137:6). In due time God called out of that faithful and mournful remnant of exiled Zion some missionaries of reconstruction. The Almighty so easily opened the door of opportunity for them by turning the heart of a worldly king in their favor when He finally got them ready for the task of rebuilding the City of God. In this is the great lesson for us that God does not find it difficult to break down any barriers except those which exist in our own hearts. These are the time-consuming, yea, sometimes impossible ones for us, and the Almighty, to overcome. Although He could rule us by force and power He works to obtain our willing consent, and even our vehement desire, to be used as instruments of His will. This attitude He had in those whose captivity He turned, whose mourning was turned into unspeakable joy "like them

that dream," whose mouths were "filled with laughter" and whose tongues were "filled with singing." (Psalm 126).

God sent Zerubbabel and Jeshua to lead 42,360 Jews to their homeland after 70 years in captivity. Most of them had been born in exile and could not remember any of the glory of David and Solomon's kingdom which the sins of their fathers had brought to an inglorious end. To resurrect Jerusalem out of rubble was no easy task, but God was with them. The first priority was the rebuilding of the Lord's house. there was great rejoicing at the laying of the temple foundation among the zealous and spiritual young Jews. They rejoiced, while the old men who remembered the splendor of Solomon's temple which their sins had destroyed, wept because of the inferiority of the new temple to that of the former. What loss our sins cost us! If only we could see that loss before it occurs! (Ezra 3:12).

These missionaries of reconstruction refused the assistance offered them by the corrupted people of the land who said, "Let us build with you; for we seek your God, as ye do; and we do sacrifice unto him..." This is an offer which will always be made by those who have mixed true worship of God with idolatrous practices; But these missionaries had learned their lesson well in having borne the iniquities of their fathers who had succumbed to the doctrine of Balaam and mixed with the people of the world to the corruption of their faith in God. They quickly refused such help, saying, "ye have nothing to do with us to build an house unto our God." (Ezra 4:3). Predictably, the people of the land were offended by this refusal and "weakened the hands of the people of Judah, and troubled them in building, and hired counsellors against them, to frustrate their purpose." So it is that Satan resists the establishing of the Lord's true temple with great effort, and religious people are always the greatest opposers. Those religious opposers who are most vehemently against God's cause are those who appear to be most like God's people, whose first offer is always to form a union with God's people. These opposers were able to cause the work on the temple to cease for many years until God raised up the prophets Zechariah and Haggai to inspire the faith of Zerubbabel and Jeshua to continue the work. In spite of the opposers "The eye of the Lord was upon the elders of the Jews that they could not cause them to cease." In the course of this continued effort, Darius, King of Persia, made decrees in favor of the Jews and against their opposers which allowed the temple to be finished.

Some sixty or so years later God sent Ezra the scribe and priest from Babylon with

the consent of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, with a burden to teach God's Law and establish government in Jerusalem. Ezra found God's people again mixing with the people of the land, and through his ministry this error was brought to an end.

A few years following Ezra's arrival in Jerusalem from Babylon, Nehemiah's heart was burdened for the city of Jerusalem as he abode in the palace of the king of Persia in Shushan. While fasting, mourning, and praying over the burden which fell on him as a report was brought to him from Jerusalem, "the remnant that are left of the captivity there in the province are in great affliction and reproach: the wall of Jerusalem, also is broken down, and the gates thereof are burned with fire." (Neh. 1:3), he sought relief from God for this cause and mercy in the sight of King Artaxerxes to pursue this cause to completion. Nearly a century had gone by since the beginning of this ministry of reconstruction and yet the walls of Jerusalem lay in ruin. How painfully slow does the work of God often proceed! Nehemiah was the Persian King's servant, his cupbearer; but finding mercy because of his burden in the sight of the king, he was given a leave of absence which amounted to twelve years, and the authority to be governor of Judah during this period. Nehemiah said, "And the king granted me according to the good hand of my God upon me." Again we see the lesson that God has power to give us the favor of worldly powers when we come aright before Him.

BIBLE STUDY

West End Baptist Church of Gallatin, Tenn. is having their annual winter Bible Study beginning Tuesday, Feb. 11, 1986 at 7 p.m. Elder W.T. Russell will teach from the book of Luke. These studies will continue for five weeks which is through Thursday, March 13. Pastor W.E. Massey extends a cordial welcome to all ministers, deacons and lay members.

MINISTERS SCHOOL

The Old Union Baptist Ministers School will convene March 26-28. A number of wonderful subjects will be taught again this year. For further information you should write: Elder Jerry A. Reynolds, 289 Meadow Hill Drive, Bowling Green, KY 42101.