



Bible Student's Notebook™

The Herald of His Grace

Presenting every man perfect in Christ Jesus. Colossians 1:28

Volume 31
Issue 761

The Restoration of the Davidic Scene

by — John C. Ribbens

One of the least understood questions relating to the future restoration of the nation of Israel is found in Acts 1:6. The Apostles came to Jesus and asked Him,

Lord, wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel?

There can be no doubt but that the burden upon their hearts was concerned with those myriad prophecies spoken of by the prophets of old: a time when Israel would command a position of recognition among the nations; a time when the ancient promises first communicated by God to Abraham and subsequently to his son Isaac, and to Jacob his son, would be fulfilled. Beyond all doubt, this question envisioned the fulfillment of that glorious and magnificent covenant that God made with David: in short, the restoration of the Davidic scene.

A proper appreciation of these great promises God made with Abraham is not possible without carefully reading and believing Genesis 12:2-3; 13:14-17; 17:6-8. The enormity of these blessings and the scope of these unilateral covenants defy description.

Consider statements such as these:

... and I will make of thee a great nation ... I will bless thee, and make thy name great ... in thee shall all the families of the Earth be blessed ... all the land which thou seest, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed eonian ... I will make thy seed as the dust of the Earth: so that

if a man can number the dust of the Earth, then shall thy seed be numbered ... I will establish My covenant between Me and thee and thy seed after thee in their generations for an eonian covenant ... (Genesis 12:2-3; 13:15-16; 17:7).

The mere contemplation of these blessings is mind-boggling. Think of the enormous wealth, the riches, the honor and glory which God has determined upon that nation of Israel. There is no nation today, nor has any nation existed in the annals of history, that has been the recipient of such a vast array of physical, material or spiritual blessings.

The inescapable conclusion is that at this point in time these promises simply have not been fulfilled. Many well-meaning Christians have been led to believe that these blessings have not and never will materialize because of Israel's unbelief. Conclusions such as these fail to recognize that no sin in Israel's national life could possibly make null and void these awesome covenants.

Hebrews 6:13-20 speaks of the "... immutability of His counsel." God, determined to show the unchangeableness of His resolve, *i.e.*, the divine purpose, interposed an oath between the promise

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and the fulfillment showing that it was impossible for God to lie. Thus by "... *two immutable things,*" *i.e.,* His promise and His oath, God provided for the consolation of these first century A.D. believers. This passage points to the anchor of soul, namely our Lord Jesus Christ, upon whom these promises remain unshakeable, inviolable and secure.

Consider the facts pertaining to Israel's future glory as set forth in the Davidic covenant. I Chronicles 17:7-14 reveals the substance of this covenant. Note these definitive statements:

... also I will ordain a place for my people Israel, and will plant them, and they shall dwell in their place, and shall be moved no more ... Moreover I will subdue all thine enemies. ... I will raise up thy seed after thee, which shall be of thy sons; and I will establish his kingdom. He shall build me an house, and I will establish his throne eonian.

These words spoken by God to David were His promise that He would exercise His sovereign power to establish the Davidic throne (Note also II Samuel

7:10-13). David will yet one day be resurrected from the dead and assume the position of King over Israel. The authority and power that David will exercise will be the direct result of Jesus Christ in Heaven exercising His right to govern (note Ezekiel 34:22-31).

The absolute guarantee of that divine purpose can be clearly seen in such passages as Psalm 89:34-36.

My covenant will I not break, nor alter the thing that is gone out of My lips. Once have I sworn by My holiness that I will not lie unto David. His seed shall endure eonian, and his throne as the sun before Me.

Consider Jeremiah 33:20-22, 25-26. In those oft-ignored but most important prophecies the Lord provides the most positive truth to be found anywhere in Scripture confirming His intention to multiply the seed of David.

These words were spoken some fifteen hundred years after the death of Abraham, some four hundred sixty years after David's death. Yet they are as irrevocable

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Paul Our Guide – Christ Our Goal

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Scripture education in a weekly format!

This free electronic publication is dedicated to:

- the absolute sovereignty and deity of God (Romans 11:36);
- the proclamation of the riches of God's abundant, exceeding grace (Romans 5:20; 11:6; Ephesians 1:7);
- the affirmation that God will save all through the death, burial and resurrection of Christ (I Timothy 2:3, 4; 4:10; Titus 2:11);
- the "*preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery, which was kept secret in ages past*" (Romans 16:25);
- true freedom and liberty apart from law (Galatians 5:1);
- the organic nature of the Body of Christ (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the Secret Administration, being the operational revelation for today (Ephesians 3:9);
- the unprophesied, Celestial hope and calling of the Body of Christ (Colossians 3:4);
- the distinct message and ministry of Paul, the apostle to the nations (Ephesians 3:1-3);
- the importance of receiving all whom Christ has received (Romans 14-15);
- the recovery of rich Biblical truth that has too long remained hidden under the veils of traditionalism, prejudice, misunderstanding and fear (Mark 7:7, 13);
- the completeness of the believer in Christ (Colossians 2:10), with:
 - total freedom from sins (Colossians 1:14);

- union in His death, burial and resurrection (Romans 6);
- adult sonship position (Galatians 4).

This publication is the product of humble efforts of ordinary men intended to stimulate the earnest study of Scripture. We do not claim infallibility for the contents of this publication, thus they are not meant to imply finality on any subject discussed, or that further research would not add further light from the Word of God. God's storehouse of truth is inexhaustible, so draw on its wealth by prayerful study. Our readers are asked to be as the Bereans and search the Scriptures (Acts 17:10-11; I Thessalonians 5:21).

This publication is not connected with any "church," "denomination," "movement," "organization," "mission," "creed," "meeting," "school," "conference" or "fellowship."

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For definitions of abbreviations/acronyms, see index after the order form.

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as when God first spoke them. The Davidic covenant speaks of a time when God will appoint a place for His people Israel and plant them in the Earth (See I Chronicles 17:9).

Many believe that the recognition given by the United Nations in 1946 of Israel giving her sovereignty marks the fulfillment of these blessings. Nothing could be further from the truth. There is absolutely no correlation whatever between that little land of Palestine occupied by the Israelis today and the borders of that land as revealed in Ezekiel 47.

Israel's borders as specified in Ezekiel describe the land of promise extending from the River Nile on the west to the River Euphrates on the east. It encompasses the land from the Mediterranean Sea on the north to the Persian Gulf on the south. Any modern map would show that this great land of promise includes present day Syria, Jordan, Iraq, Saudi Arabia and a significant portion of Egypt.

Title to this land belongs to Abraham and his descendants. It is this land and not this tiny country of Palestine that is the subject of the great prophecies of Jeremiah and Ezekiel (Read Ezekiel 11:17-20; 20:33-42; 34:11-16, 23-28; 37:21-22; 39:27-28; Jeremiah 32:37-41; 33:12-14.)

Language would be absolutely futile if God did not mean what He has said. God says repeatedly "I will" in affirmation of His Holy Word. As a man of faith, I believe that God will fulfill His Word to the very letter. It cannot be denied that, since the days of Solomon when the nation became divided into the ten northern tribes and the two tribes in Judah, the

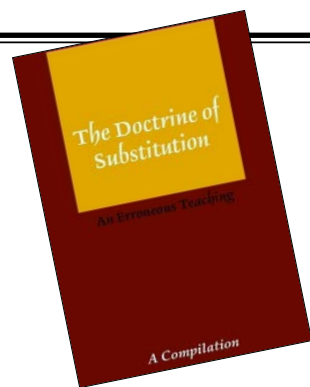
nation as a whole has been scattered, not lost. Any suggestion of the ten lost tribes of Israel is foreign to the Word of God.

Israel's sin in departing from God and her involvement with idolatry caused God to punish her severely. God's indictment of that nation is clearly set forth in Isaiah 1:1-4. Within the space of one hundred years from the time that those words were spoken, Jerusalem was sacked, the palaces were gutted by fire and the goodly vessels destroyed (note II Chronicles 36:15-21; II Kings 21:12-13). These passages make abundantly clear the extent of destruction which God permitted Nebuchadnezzar to heap on Jerusalem and her people.

For seventy years Judah would be in servitude to the king of Babylon (note Jeremiah 25:11-12). Following this captivity, Israel was once again allowed to return to her land; the fact remains, though, that Palestine would not be the physical home of the majority of Jews. Streams of Jews would migrate into Egypt and other countries outside of the land of Palestine. By the time of the birth of Christ the number of Jews living abroad would far exceed the number remaining at home.

In spite of those deportations into Babylon and her exile from the land of promise, Israel has a great future. God in His sovereign wisdom will yet act openly and manifestly to regather that nation. Hearts hardened through unbelief will yet turn to God. In the momentous words of Jeremiah the prophet God declares,

"Behold the days come," saith the Lord, "that



The Doctrine of Substitution: An Erroneous Teaching *A Compilation*

This is an exposé of Christianity's erroneous doctrine of "Substitution." Though it is widely accepted, it is not the teaching of Scripture. This is a compilation of authors, including: *A.P. Adams, Vladimir Gelesnoff, Andrew J. Jukes, A.E. Knoch.*

70 pp., PB

See order form.

"The best book I've read in ten years." – Richard Kirsch

I will make a new covenant with the House of Israel, and with the House of Judah ... After those days," saith the Lord, "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" (31:31-33).

The fulfillment of this promise will result in a great reawakening of the heart and mind of every Israelite. Those long dead will respond to the divine call when God speaks and declares,

Behold, O my people, I will open your graves ... and bring you into the land of Israel ... and shall put My Spirit in you, and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land (Ezekiel 37:12-14).

Israel, long scattered, will be regathered (note Ezekiel 20:33-42).

... I will bring you out from the people and will gather you out of the countries wherein ye are scattered ...

This passage describes, in the clearest language possible, God's intention to denationalize the nation of Israel and return her

into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up Mine hand to give it to your fathers.

It is nothing less than this majestic scene that filled the mind of the Apostle James as he spoke in Acts 15:13-17. Note :16.

... After this I will return, and build again the Tabernacle of David [the Davidic scene] which is fallen down; and I will build again the ruins thereof, and I will set it up.

These words were spoken almost two thousand years ago. To this day they remain unfulfilled. This long delay was neither understood nor contemplated as the prophets spoke; for while their eyes were allowed to see "... the sufferings of Christ, and the glory that should follow" (I Peter 1:11), they could not comprehend the secret hidden in God, that long display of grace which has characterized God's dealings with mankind for the past two thousand years of human history.

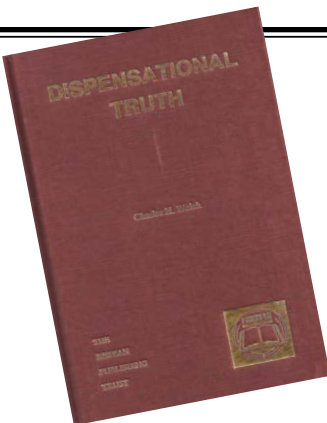
Next is the divine manifestation of sovereignty, God speaking from Heaven and causing the great river of prophecy to flow once again. When that happens, every promise of God and every prophetic utterance relating to the future of Israel and the restoration of the Davidic scene will come to pass. At long last, God will fulfill to the very letter every promise and every word He spoke to the nation of Israel. In the words of the prophet Amos,

... "I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them," saith the Lord thy God (Amos 9:11-15). BSN

— *Seed & Bread*, Issue 203
March 20, 1995

Topics:

Major: Prophecy, Pre-Millennial Kingdom; Israel; David
Minor: Lost Tribes



Dispensational Truth or *The Place of Israel & the Church Which Is His Body in the Purpose of the Ages*

by — Charles H. Welch (1880-1967)

First published in 1912, this was the author's first full length book. The author exhibits how the Bible reveals the purposes of God, which are seen to have earthly as well as heavenly implications, and need to be carefully compared with traditional doctrines.

263 pp., HB

See order form.



Editor's Desk

A Personal Word about Doctrine and Fellowship

Though some seem to believe that it should be otherwise, I doubt any two honest, active, thorough, independent students of Scripture have ever seen everything eye-to-eye. It's important for me that you understand that I am perfectly fine with God positioning us all at different places in our journeys, as well as that I do *not* see differences as hindrances to fellowship. What we have in Christ is unity – *not* uniformity. We're not wall-builders but bridge-builders.

I determined long ago, through the guidance of a dear aged teacher of God's truths, that if there were going to be walls of separation between me and others, it would be others who would have to build them. There has ever been only one divinely-built wall dividing humanity, and God Himself tore it down (Ephesians 2:14). Ours is a ministry of conciliation (II Corinthians 5:18-20). We, like God Himself, are conciliatory to all.

In fact, not only do I *not* see our doctrinal differences as any hindrance to fellowship, it is quite the opposite: I am thankful to God for them, and I see them as quite a gift, because they provide the greater context of the Spirit's operation of love and grace. "... We know that

we all have knowledge. Knowledge puffs up, but love edifies" (I Corinthians 8:1).

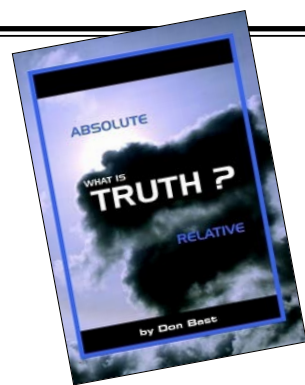
All too often the fruit of God's Spirit is associated with doctrinal agreement, but even the world – without God's Spirit – manages to get along with only those with whom they agree *most*. To be "*likeminded*" is not to be in doctrinal agreement but rather to have the "*same mind*," and that's the "*the mind of Christ*." As Paul says, "*Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus*." Then the apostle to the Nations speaks of Christ's humility. Our *likemindedness* is the spiritual-mind of Christ's humility, service and self-sacrifice (Philippians 2:5-8).

Thankfully, we've been called to "*receive one another, as Christ also received us to the glory of God*" (Romans 15:7), while at the same time each of us has been granted the freedom to "*be fully persuaded in his own mind*" (Romans 14:5). Though we may not be able to have a "meeting of the minds," we can certainly realize that we have been given the "*the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace*," for which we have been called to *endeavor to keep* (Ephesians 4:3).

Clyde L. Pilkington, Jr.
Pilkington Abbey
Windber, PA

TOPICS:

Major: Doctrine; Fellowship; Unity
Minor: Attitude; Division



216 pp., PB.

See order form.

What Is Truth? Absolute and Relative

by — Don Bast

High above the storm clouds the sun is always shining. When we get a glimpse of God's perspective we are able to experience the Son of His love shining through the darkest storms of life.

Dean Hough of the *Concordant Publishing Concern* and the *Saviour of All Fellowship* writes to Don concerning his book:

"Your book is full of important truth and a good aid to understanding Scripture."



Temperance and Alcohol

by — C.S. Lewis (1898-1963)

Temperance is, unfortunately, one of those words that has changed its meaning. It now usually means teetotalism. But in the days when the second Cardinal virtue was christened “Temperance,” it meant nothing of the sort.

Temperance referred not specially to drink, but to all pleasures; and it meant not abstaining but going the right length and no further.

It is a mistake to think that Christians ought all to be teetotalers; Mohammedanism, not Christianity, is the teetotal religion. Of course it may be the duty of a particular Christian, or of any Christian, at a particular time, to abstain from strong drink, either because he is the sort of man who cannot drink at all without drinking too much, or because he is with people who are inclined to drunkenness and must not encourage them by drinking himself.

But the whole point is that he is abstaining, for a good reason, from something which he does not condemn and which he likes to see other people enjoying.

One of the marks of a certain type of bad man is that he cannot give up a thing himself without wanting everyone else to give it up.



That is not the Christian way.

An individual Christian may see fit to give up all sorts of things for special reasons – marriage, or meat, or beer, or the cinema; but the moment he starts saying the things are bad in themselves, or looking down his nose at other people who do use them, he has taken the wrong turning.

One great piece of mischief has been done by the modern restriction of the word “temperance” to the question of drink. It helps people to forget that you can be just as intemperate about lots of other things. A man who makes his golf or his motorcycle the center of his life, or a woman who devotes all her thoughts to clothes or bridge or her dog, is being just as “intemperate” as someone who gets drunk every evening.

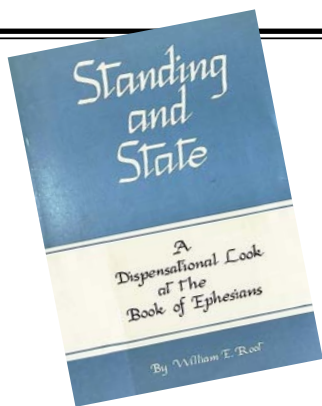
Of course, it does not show on the outside so easily: bridge-mania or golf-mania do not make you fall down in the middle of the road. But God is not deceived by externals. **BSN**

Mere Christianity

TOPICS:

Major: Alcohol; Freedom; Judgement

Minor: Believer's Walk; Legalism



140 pp., PB

Standing and State: A Dispensational Look at the Book of Ephesians

by — William E. Root

The Book of Ephesians is divided into “doctrinal” and “practical” sections. The first three chapters are “doctrinal,” while the last three chapters contain “applied” doctrine. In the first three chapters we have not only “doctrine,” but a particular kind of doctrine. This doctrine contains our position in the heavenlies in Christ. How important this is for us to know!

See order form.



Thanks again for Aaron Welch's book [Was Jesus Christ Alive Before His Life on Earth Began?](#) I feel that your Logos appendix helped to make Aaron's understanding of Logos better. I reread the whole book and I now have no doubts that you and Aaron are correct. This understanding blows the Trinity to bits. I feel that the pre-existence of Christ doctrine is like removing the last bits of the cancer of apostate Christendom from my understanding of how wonderful God and Christ *truly* are. I thank you for publishing such a fantastically insightful well thought out book. Wonderful. Could not have been better. – **GA**

I must admit that sometimes I feel really lonely being the only one in this area who believes in the *reconciliation of all*. This very small county is a very religious one. There are over 40 churches of many denominations serving only 8 thousand people and not one of the assemblies even teaches a close resemblance to a grace message let alone recognizes the Apostle Paul as the Apostle to the gentiles. Thank you for the books, they have been an early taste of the coming Heavenly positions we will all have. Thank you for the help along my path to understanding the true love of God and His message of the reconciliation for all. – **IL**

I very much liked this article [*"The End Is Not Yet"* by – Melvin E. Johnson (1897–1979) – [Bible Student's Notebook #752](#)]. For my ears, it was probably the best summation of the prophesied sequence of events – and makes the Unveiling significantly easier to grasp. I'm thus very glad you're including it in *Bible Students Notebook*. – **PA**

I really like the [compilation books](#) you have produced. I'm currently working through three of them: *The Divine Reconciliation of the Universe*, *The Creation of Evil*, and *The Absolute Sovereignty of God*. Most every morning I read a chapter out of each and they give me a variety of things to ponder during the

day. Thanks for all that you folks are doing in getting the truth out. – **SC**

I ordered 10 copies of your book [Being OK With Not Being OK](#) and I set them out on a table where I live so those who may be curious or moved towards what is contained within the book may pick one up and perhaps read it. Well, all the books have been taken. Even though only one person has told me that the book and the words contained within have given her a better outlook on life, I think that is fantastic. I have just ordered 10 copies of your book [Ultimate Liberation](#) to set out on the table. What a wonderful, easy-to-read- and [understandable] book.

Of course I realize that many have their eyes blinded by God to the truth; but I do hope, by the use of the Scriptures you use in the book, perhaps God will give some the faith to open their hearts and minds to His wonderful truth that we are not just forgiven, but justified and given the gift of righteousness. I have read that many times over and over and it has taken God so many years to finally sink into my mind the idea behind Romans 5:16-18.

I do get very lonely at times here where I live, for God did make us sociable creatures with a desire to be with and make contact with others. The building where I live has about 30 plus residents of many varied church history and beliefs, and I do realize you can't force-feed a person that has had her or his eyes blinded by God as far as the truth of His Word is concerned, so I am trying my best to be patient and kind towards those who don't know the truth of God's Word rightly divided and properly translated – after all, it took God 30 plus years to bring me to a realization that I did have a Savior in the Lord Jesus Christ and then another 15-odd years to bring me to the knowledge that God had a plan for the Earth and the nations using a future Israel, and a plan for the Body of Christ using Jew and Gentile as one, and then it took Him another 15 years or so to wake me up to the fact that He was going to save *all* mankind through the death of His Son.

God used you all. Yes you, Clyde, and your desire to get out of the religious system and realize what you had given up was replaced by something (even though it may have been a hard road you had to trav-

(see *MAILBOX*, page 6512)

Love Wherever Your Feet Are

by — Dan Sheridan

Where are your feet right now? Love on that very spot. When you move from that spot to another, love there. Repeat every step. The Apostle Paul encouraged us to,



Walk in love **as** Christ **loves** you and **gives himself** for us.

Love is defined by giving of yourself for others!

Walk in love ... (Ephesians 5:2).

Love isn't a religious exercise; it's a way of life.

BSN

The Greek word for “walk” is *peripateō*. It's a verb which means, “to tread all around,”¹ “to walk about.”² It refers to every sphere of life you occupy at any given moment. So wherever your feet are, love. Every square inch of human life was designed for love.

What is love? The Greek word is *agapē*. It's a noun which means, “a complex emotion arousing appreciation or delight in and desire for the presence of its object, as well as to please and promote its welfare.”³ This word is to be distinguished from affection, which is aroused by the qualities of its object, while love may go out to the utterly unworthy.

Paul finishes his statement by saying,

TOPICS:

Major: Believer's Walk; Love

Minor: Fruit of the Spirit

MAILBOX (continued from page 6511)

el at times) by something far greater than what you had before. I have been blessed to have met so many people over the years. Men such as C.R. Stam and Richard Jordan who you had traveled and worked with over the years, who God has used to have an effect on my slow but steady growth in the knowledge of God's real love for all His creation. Thank you, Clyde, and all the others I have learned from over the years. Keep your videos and books going, for they do help fill a lonely life with hope for the future. – **IL**

Thanks for the [Daily Email Goodies](#). There is lots of great information in them – great inspiration, too! – **Mail** **BSN**

1. James Strong, *Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*.
2. E.W. Bullinger, *A Critical Lexicon and Concordance*.
3. A.E. Knoch, *Concordant Keyword Concordance*.

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“I Can” Center
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Host: Kevin Snowden

Teachers: Clyde Pilkington, Stephen Hill Mark Vogt

Further information: *Study Shelf* 814-701-0063