

## THE NEW COVENANT

(Discourse by Leon H. Norby. Given in October, 1974, at Antioch Convention, and to the Seattle Ecclesia of Berean Bible Students, and Bellingham Ecclesia. Transcribed from a tape by Sister Barbara Tanta, a member of the Seattle Ecclesia.)

I am happy to be here to discuss with you what we think is a very timely and important topic. The New Covenant. We will use as our text Jeremiah 30:31-34. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah: Not according to the covenant that I made with their fathers in the day that I took them by the hand to bring them out of the land of Egypt; which my covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord: But this shall be the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel; 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 meoy pple. And they shall teach no more every man his neighbour, and every man his brother, saying, Know the Lord: for they shall all know me, from the least of them unto the greatest of them, saith the Lord: for I will forgive their iniquity, and I will remember their sin no more."

Now, I think it should be clear from this passage that the New Covenant will be made with the nation of Israel, the natural descendants of Abraham. It is to be made with the descendants of the ones who broke the first covenant. I think that is very clear. To start with we think it might be well to establish the fact that Israel has a right to a homeland in Palestine. That is for the base of operation. If they are to be a leading nation of the world they are going to have to establish their right to that land. And, incidentally, we will be perhaps answering one of the most sticky questions before the United Nations today as to really who has the title to that land. And does Israel, having been out of there so long, still have a right to claim that as their homeland? I think that there are many hang-ups on this subject. I think that as the Lord's people, as spiritual Israel, so closely related to fleshly Israel, we should clear our minds of that which has prejudiced so many on this subject.

At the very beginning God indicated what branch of Abraham's descendants would be recognized as the "seed of Abraham" and to inherit the promises. Now you see what makes this question so sticky for the United Nations and for the world in general is the fact that the Arabs are also descendants of Abraham and they lay claim to the land partly on that basis. Now it's hard for outsiders to get in on a family squabble and so it is really necessary to recognize which branch of Abraham's descendants God had in mind when he spoke of the "seed of Abraham" and the promises to them. In the 15th Chapter of Genesis beginning with the 5th verse: "And he brought him forth abroad, and said, Look now toward heaven, and tell the stars, if thou be able to number them: and he said unto him, So shall thy seed be. And he believed in the Lord; and he counted it to him for

righteousness. And he said unto him, I am the Lord that brought thee out of Ur of the Chaldees, to give thee this land to inherit it. And he said, Lord God, whereby shall I know that I shall inherit it? And he said unto him, Take me an heifer of three years old, and a she goat of three years old, and a ram of three years old, and a turtledove and a young pigeon.” He was to sacrifice these animals and these fowl.

If you look in your Comment Bible you will see that the Pastor says that the aggregate ages of these sacrifices should be 11 years. A fowl is considered mature at one year and still young. So the three animals at three years each should be a total of nine years and the two fowl would make it 11 years. In symbolic time of 360 days to the year, a day representing a year, the Pastor shows that those 11 times or years in symbolic reckoning would end in 1915. Now we know that the Times of the Gentiles ran until 1914. After the Times of the Gentiles end what would you have? You see there are only two alternatives. You are either a Jew or a Gentile. And if the Times of the Gentiles end then we would again revert to the Times of Israel just as it was before the four universal empires began. “You only have I known of all the families of earth,” the Lord said through Amos. Then he turned dominion of earth over to the Gentiles, and the lease to the Gentiles expired in 1914. So actually after 1914 we had the Times of Israel again. An interesting sidelight on that is that there is a magazine out now called *The Times of Israel*. It is published every month. I don’t know if it is out here or not, but it is on the newsstands in the New York area. Now someone would say how could we call that the Times of Israel and how can we say that Abraham was inheriting the land through his descendants after 1915? In fact, our Lord said Jerusalem was going to be trodden down of the Gentiles until the Times of the Gentiles be fulfilled. Some brethren have difficulty there. They say Jerusalem was still trodden down by the Gentiles in 1914. How can you say that the Times of the Gentiles ended? Actually, you see, according to a lease, you can’t move in until the lease expires. There must be a legal eviction take place if the tenant is not ready to move. And so the Lord began to move in on the behalf of Israel in 1914.

In World War I the massed armies were in Europe and they went back and forth over Northern France. They churned up the terrain, wrecked it for decades and a tremendous number of lives were lost and many were wounded and tremendous sums of money were spent in World War I and they wound up just about where they started geographically. There was really not anything accomplished and they certainly didn’t settle anything with the Versailles Treaty. They just set the stage for another war, really. But the important things were happening over in the middle east. General Allenby starting from Egypt marched into Palestine and he seemed to have the Bible in one hand and the military maps in the other, because he used many of the routes and many of the passes and some of the strategy which was outlined in the Bible to defeat the Turks. Now the Turks are Mohammedans. They were implacable enemies of the Jews. Even Arabs didn’t have a hook in as long as the Turks had control. And the stranglehold that Turkey had held on

that territory was broken in World War I. General Allenby went on from one success to another. He captured Jerusalem Christmas-time 1917 without firing a shot. We can see the Lord's hand in that. You know the Mohammedans had the tradition and expectation that Allah would return and that he would be riding on a white horse. Now here General Allenby came riding on a white horse. And the similarity of the name, you see. Allenby and Allah struck the superstitious Mohammedans and the troops wouldn't resist. The officers, of course, who knew what it was all about couldn't do anything with them. They had to retreat. They had to abandon the city without firing a shot. Now that really is providential, too, isn't it? That they should not destroy the city by siege. Then he went on. He marched from one success to another up through the mountains of Judea and of old Israel and just when he had driven the Turks across the farthest limits of the Davidic-Solomon border up near Damascus, the armistice was signed. The only thing that was really accomplished in World War I was to clear Palestine of the Turks, these implacable enemies of Israel. Now that satisfies me that 1915 marked the beginning of the return of that land to the natural descendants of Abraham according to the promise.

We might just inject another thought in this connection. You know the Gentile Times is reckoned on the prophetic year. Now we find that only in the Bible, particularly in the Book of Revelation. That a prophetic year, which is God's official reckoning, is 360 days long. But you don't find that in dictionaries or encyclopedias. But the Lord made two other years. He made the lunar year when he put the moon in orbit around the earth. Twelve circuits of the moon around the earth constitutes a lunar year, and it is relatively short—354 $\frac{1}{3}$  days. God also made the solar year when he put the earth in orbit around the sun. Don't let anybody say Brother Norby has manufactured some new years or ideas. I don't take credit for putting the moon in orbit around the earth or the earth in orbit around the sun. God made these years, too. Now this does not in any way interfere with the other, which is God's official time, the prophetic year. If you figure 7 times on the basis of the lunar year, 354 $\frac{1}{3}$ , and starting from the same time, 606 BC, you come to 1874. Now that is significant, especially to Israel. The Jews are on lunar time, you see. So in a sense 7 times would end in 1874. You remember the prophet told Zedekiah, "Remove the diadem, take off the crown. It shall be no more until he come whose right it is and I will give it to him." You might say the Lord inherited the crown of Israel when He returned in 1874. He began taking steps to re-establish the nation. 1878 was the first outward evidence of that. During the Berlin Congress the Jews got the right to own real estate in Palestine. You know, the nation of Israel recognizes the importance of that event. The Pastor predicted it in advance, really. But the Jews have backed into it. They have printed two stamps commemorating the purchase of the two large tracts of land in Israel. That is they printed the stamps on the 70th anniversary of those purchases. In fact, I have a copy of that and I get a lot of mileage on that when talking to my Jewish friends. They think it is remarkable that I would be so interested in that and that I would have these stamps. But they backed into that, you see, recognizing that that was really the beginning of their nation—the right to purchase and own real estate in Palestine.

Now 7 times on the basis of solar reckoning which is the Gentile times. We've all learned that in school, that a year is  $365\frac{1}{4}$  days. That is the solar year. And 7 times on that basis ends up  $1950\frac{3}{4}$ . In other words, 1951. And you know, I think it is more than coincidence that in 1951 the eviction process of the Gentile powers was stepped up many-fold. I have a list of things that happened in 1951 that shows how the eviction of the Gentiles was really stepped up. For instance, China entered the war in Korea defying the United Nations. Iran threw the British out and no nation up to that time had ever twisted the British lion's tail and gotten away with it. The United States made a favorable treaty with Franco because they could see the hand of Russia in the fact that China defied the United Nations. They could see that they must have had Russian backing and what assurance did they have that Russia just wouldn't overrun Europe? So they made a treaty with Franco to get the security of the Pyrenees Mountains as one barrier. The United States set up seven air bases in French Morocco across the Straits of Gibraltar. They set up the Early Warning System up in the Arctic, and any number of things. You would be amazed. That is when France got into all the trouble in Indochina. It shows that the Gentile powers began to lose their colonies at an accelerated pace. They lost the grip on their colonies. And now 100 years after the Lord's return, colonialism is practically dead. The last colony in Africa was lost by Portugal just this year. 100 years is significant in the judgment cycle even as individuals—"the sinner being 100 years old shall be accursed." These things I think are more than a coincidence. Incidentally, that interval between the ending of 7 times lunar reckoning and 7 times solar reckoning covers the period of the rise of Israel from oblivion to an independent nation. The Jews, you see, reconciled the lunar year with the solar. They are 11 days short of the solar year and the seasons would soon get out of order if they just went on and on. So they added an extra month on an average of less than three years to keep the seasons straight with solar time. Solar time naturally is dominant. Now I offer these suggestions not as anything contrary to what we mentioned, but just as additional thought.

Now to those that have difficulty with the fact that Jerusalem was still in Gentile hands and still trodden down of the Gentiles in 1914. That cannot be said after the ending of 7 times by solar reckoning; because in November 1949, which was really 1950 Jewish reckoning, Jerusalem became the capital of Israel. Jerusalem was the capital of only one nation. Even though Jordan had control of the old city, Israel had control of nine-tenths of the geographical area of greater Jerusalem. Jerusalem was a large city of over a million population at times. That population spilled over onto the west side of the city. They couldn't build down in the valleys down by Jericho, etc. They built west of the city and Israel took that over in November 1949. They established the capital in Jerusalem. So you see from that point of view, Jerusalem was not trodden down of the Gentiles by the time the 7 times ended by Gentile reckoning.

I rationalize that difference between 1914 and 1950 in this way. Suppose a man was renting some rooms and he said he wanted to rent these rooms for a month. The landlord rented the rooms by the week. So a month with him would be four weeks and that would be the legal aspect of it. But the renter had in mind the calendar month. So when his four weeks were up the landlord said your lease is up. This man said how come, I rented for a month and this month has 31 days. The landlord said of course I can show you where legally I rent this by the week. But he would have to agree that the tenant had a point. So they would have to come to an understanding. He'd say, "Well, you know, I have to prepare the premises for the next tenant. You can stay here if you want to put up with the inconvenience because we are going to tear up the place somewhat. But you can actually stay here until the end of the calendar month." Now when the calendar month ended the tenant didn't have a leg to stand on, did he? By any kind of reckoning his time had expired. So I would rationalize it that way. Officially the lease ended in 1914 and the Lord started to move in and evict these powers but at a rather slow pace so far as colonialism was concerned. But when the 7 times according to Gentile reckoning, the longest year that you can make, had expired, then the eviction began in earnest. And, incidentally, Jerusalem was back in the hands of Israel. As I say, I don't need this other reckoning as far as I am concerned. I think that the very fact that the war began which cleared Palestine of the implacable Turks was a good enough beginning so far as turning the land back to Abraham and his descendants. But if this other thought helps, we would be glad for that too. But that is purely a secondary consideration. This in no way infringes upon the calculations on God's official time, prophetic time, 360 days to the year, which ended the Gentile Times in 1914. You will find this in your Comment Bible about the 11 years ending in 1915.

"And he said unto Abraham know of a surety that thy seed shall be a stranger in a land that is not theirs and shall serve them and afflict them 400 years." Here is where he is identifying the seed of Abraham that he is going to recognize. This clearly refers to the branch of Abraham's descendants that went into Egypt and later became slaves, came under that oppression, doesn't it? "And also that nation whom they shall serve will I judge: and afterward shall they come out with great substance." That is describing the Exodus, isn't it? Verse 16. "But in the fourth generation they shall come hither again:..." Now we are coming to a very important point. There is a lot of propaganda going around against Israel. They say that originally they moved into the land, they destroyed nations which were there, drove them out, and here they come again. They are moving in again, and they are moving the rightful inhabitants of the land out. They know that with the prejudice there is that catches on. Even among Christian people who should know better. They should know about this passage. They should know that according to the Bible, according to their Bible, the Catholic Bible, the Protestant Bible, and the Hebrew Bible. This passage is in all of the Bibles almost word for word. As a matter of fact, in 1967 when Israel was hauled before the General Assembly of the United Nations because of the aggression which was charged to her at that time, I called up the Israeli Consulate in

New York and I asked to talk to someone who had the ear of Abba Eban who was the Special Foreign minister who was on hand to present Israel's case before the General Assembly. I said, "I don't suppose I would get the chance to talk to him, but I want to talk to somebody that has his ear and let me explain why. If I can show you in the Catholic Bible and the Protestant Bible where Israel has a right to a homeland in Palestine, don't you think that would be useful in dealing with the various nations? Of course, the South American countries are all Catholic as well as several others. Now if there is a passage in their Bibles which would clearly show that Israel has a right to that land or to a homeland there, don't you think that would be important?" His secretary said it certainly would. So she switched me to someone who apparently had the ear of Abba Eban and I explained this to him. I read this passage. I said, "This is in all the Bibles. And if these people believe their Bibles they should agree that it's the descendants of Jacob that definitely have the promise of the homeland in Palestine according to God's original intention in the promise to Abraham."

Now you see the ones then that went into Egyptian bondage are the ones God is referring to. Now this rules out the descendants of Esau, doesn't it? It rules out the descendants of Ishmael. It was actually restricted to the 70 souls in the family of Jacob that went into Egypt and later when the Pharaoh rose that knew not Joseph, they got into the worst kind of slavery. And they were kept in that condition. You think that God played favorites. He kept them in slavery while the people in the land, the Canaanites, were desecrating the land, polluting themselves, until their sins reached unto heaven. Now notice how God explained that to Abraham. Why would they be in this slavery? Why would they be delayed for 400 years? "For the iniquity of the Amorites is not yet full." Now when the iniquity of the Amorites came to the full then they lost rights even to life, let alone the right to occupy the land. I think that it is very important for us to recognize that. When Israel moved in there originally it was open territory. The inhabitants had no right to live. God could have wiped them out as he did with Sodom and Gomorrah. But that wouldn't work out because this was rural area, not cities. If the people were wiped out the land, which was rich land, flowing with milk and honey and very fertile, the Lord said it would speedily go to weeds and wild animals. That is why he appointed Israel as executioners of those wicked people. Now how many people really understand that or pay any attention to it? And yet it is a matter of record. Actually, Israel failed to carry that out, literally. And so these enemies who were very wicked, were not only bad examples, getting them into all kinds of trouble, but they harassed them, altering the history of Israel. Because they neglected to carry out the Lord's instructions. Now why did God cause them to be destroyed? You remember in the case of Saul when God told him to destroy the nation, man, woman and child, and the animals. Now that seems like a barbaric act and, of course, there it is a matter of Israel history right in the Jewish Bible. The enemies of Israel point this out. They say, "Look at these people. They moved into the land and they not only killed off the men, but they killed the women and they killed

the children. Now what is the justification for that?" These nations were becoming so wicked that it would jeopardize their chances of ever being saved in the resurrection.

Apparently a people can get so degenerate that it would be difficult to reclaim them when the Lord would set up his kingdom. To use a crude illustration, it would be like a batter who had two strikes on him. This was not his day. He was defeated physically. He just couldn't face up to the pitcher, he was defeated mentally. He was just going to go up there and the third strike was not going to mean anything to him. Now wouldn't it be a nice provision and wouldn't the batters appreciate it if they were in a slump and they hit a day like that, and the rules permitted them to sit down and come up and take one strike when the slump was over. Well you say, it only takes one to hit it. These nations had two strikes on them. But they didn't strike out, but they were in danger of striking out. Now what about the women and children? It was customary with a conquering nation to kill off the men, take the women for wives and allow the children to grow up. These wives, being of these wicked nations, would quickly have undermined the nation of Israel who were given God's laws to carry out. And what about the children? The innocent ones? In the moral toboggan slide the nations were in, the children would grow up to be worse than their parents. We can't question God's judgment. If He decided that it was best for them to be put into the grave, we can't challenge that. The fact that Israel was the instrument, the executioner, doesn't alter the facts whatever. But you can see how this is used and held against Israel unjustly. As I say, Israel didn't really carry it out to the fullest extent. But it was not necessarily for the good of those nations. That is the point we are making. In Exodus 34:10, 11 and 24, particularly the 11th verse, he said that they were to drive out six nations before them, these wicked nations. Leviticus 18:24 (the context verses 6-23 describes the degenerate condition of the nations that inhabited the land.) And the language describing these conditions is so indelicate that I couldn't read it from this podium. That is how polluted they were, how wicked they were. Verses 25-28 more or less repeats the same thing.

Leviticus 20:23. Again the context, verses 1-21, describes some very disgusting conditions.

Deut. 7:1—He said they would drive out seven nations that were greater than Israel, but the Lord would give them the victory. Now Deut. 7:22 is that verse that shows that they were to gradually drive out the inhabitants as they occupied the land so as to prevent it going over to weeds and wild animals.

Deut. 9:4, 5. He points out that it isn't that Israel is so righteous, but because the nations were so wicked that he was sending them in there to execute God's judgment.

Deut. 12:2, 3. He said they were to destroy the altars to the strange Gods. These were wicked people and they had set up idol worship all over the land. But there was also

moral degeneracy that defies description. They were jeopardizing their hopes of ever being recovered. You know God is an economist, too. Maybe he could save them when they got into a worse condition, but it would have been so difficult for them, that it was better, actually, that they should have gone into the tomb at that stage.

Now we come to some other hang-ups about Israel and that is the relationship of Jacob and Esau. They were twins. The record shows that God told the mother, Rebekah, before the twins were born that the elder should serve the younger. Now, apparently, Isaac didn't know that. Esau was the man's man. A rugged outdoorsman and hunter and this appealed to his father. Technically he was the first-born. It was a strong tradition that the first-born was to have the birthright, to manage the estate. And remember how Jacob, and particularly his mother, contrived so that Jacob would get the birthright and get the blessing. Now in the first place we want to recognize that they were living under different standards than the Christians. A Christian should not use any of those examples and live down to Old Testament standards. God, in the days of ignorance winked at those conditions more or less. But He expects a lot more of spiritual Israel. We have separate instructions of a very high order in the New Testament, and we are not to go back there and justify our actions by what God seemingly overlooked in the dealings with fleshly Israel. Now I can imagine there was no other way out. I am not sure that Rebekah even told Isaac about this dream. You know the woman's opinion didn't account for much in those times. Incidentally, we are living in a time now when sex distinctions are being obliterated in so many ways. You see in barbershops "unisex haircuts," etc. In other words, it is amazing the trends of these things. This is what we should have expected, really, that sex distinctions would cease. But at that time even if Rebekah had mentioned it to Isaac, I don't think that it would have made much of an imprint on him. He probably would have said, "Oh, in your condition, you have these hallucinations, etc. Forget about it." So she had to contrive some way for Jacob to get the blessing because she knew that God had intended that Jacob should get the blessing. "The elder should serve the younger." Of course, they hold that against the Jews, the descendants of Jacob. There they are schemers and tricksters. Actually, this was overruled and the Lord recognized that arrangement.

Now I want to point out a very important fact that has a bearing on this whole situation. Esau had forfeited his right to carry on the faith seed before he made this deal to sell his birthright for a mess of pottage. Now even that was legal transaction. He was hungry, that is true, and he was tired, but he was still in his right mind, and it showed how little he appreciated the birthright. He probably figured this wouldn't be a valid arrangement, anyway. He probably figured when it was time for the blessing that Isaac would bless him anyway as the firstborn. Whatever his consideration, he frittered away that precious heritage. Now that was bad enough, but he did something worse than that and prior to that. He went out and picked up a couple of wicked women of the land for wives. That is where he forfeited his right to carry on. We all recognize the laws of heredity. Esau

knew that Abraham had forbidden Eliezer to take a wife for Isaac from the wicked women of the land. He sent him back to his own family, to that faith seed. See how important it was to maintain that strain. He had found in Abraham a man with such an intense faith that he could portray the almighty God in the offering of His son. Abraham represented God and Isaac represented the only-begotten Son of the Father and Abraham was able to carry out that wonderful drama. That shows the kind of faith he had. My thought is that God couldn't create a being like Abraham with that amount of faith. Could God create a man with that amount of faith and then leave so many with practically no faith? But when he followed the natural laws of heredity and the genes happened to fall a certain way which endowed Abraham with that tremendous faculty of faith. When God found that, why it is just like the animal breeders. I'm telling you when they find a good strain, they hang onto it. They protect it. That is what God did with the descendants of Abraham. That is why he forbade them to intermarry down through the age. But particularly there at the beginning, how highly important that was.

Esau disqualified himself. How could he bring children into the world that would have the faith of Abraham when he married the wicked women of the land? He was outnumbered to start with. You know, this distressed Isaac and Rebekah. So when it was time for Jacob to marry, we read in Genesis 27:46 "And Rebekah said to Isaac, I am weary of my life because of the daughters of Heth: if Jacob take a wife of the daughters of Heth, such as these which are of the daughters of the land, what good shall my life do me?" She put it pretty strong and her idea prevailed. So Jacob was sent back to the same family with that strain of faith that God had found to get his wives. So that, of course, qualified him again to carry on this faith seed, didn't it? And he had respect unto these things. Jacob got his wealth elsewhere. He left everything, all the material assets of Isaac, who was very rich, to Esau. Esau, remember, was ready to kill him because he had gotten the birthright. When the Lord told Jacob to go back to the land, the promised land, Jacob was reluctant to do that. But the Lord indicated what he should do. So what he did as he approached the land, he sent presents ahead. 580 animals. I think probably in about five herds. And he instructed the herdsmen that when they met Esau and he inquired what these were, he was to say, "these are a present from your servant Jacob." Now notice that. Not from your Lord. Jacob had not been constituted the Lord of Esau, you see. Jacob in relation to Esau represents spiritual Israel, Esau as fleshly Israel. It shows how Jacob there, at least he portrayed, the Law of the New Creation. "Let him who is chief among you, let him be your servant." Now imagine the effect

this had on Esau. And then these other herdsmen came along, probably five different herds, and they were all instructed to say the same thing. "These are presents from your servant Jacob." This completely allayed the fears of Esau that Jacob was coming back to claim Isaac's possessions, which he had a right to. He knew that Jacob knew that Esau was a very rich man, and he thought if he is giving me presents, he must be fabulously rich. So to the surprise and delight of Jacob when they met, he ran to meet him and threw

his arms around him and it says they “fell on each other’s neck and they wept.” Now this has a high significance to us. That portrays the proper attitude of spiritual Israel towards fleshly Israel. There is going to be enough for both. When we sing about “Zion stands with hills surrounded,” that applies primarily to spiritual Israel, you know, but there is enough left over for fleshly Israel, too. This applies to both the houses of Israel. It says that they were both fabulously rich. They were so rich (and wealth was figured in terms of the number of animals they had) that they couldn’t exist in the same area. They had to separate in order that there would be food for the herds. That shows how fleshly Israel is going to inherit some rich promises, too. Now more than that Jacob super-added to the inheritance of Esau. Esau said, “I don’t need these animals.” But Jacob said, “Yes, I want you to have them.” Now he didn’t have to ask him twice. Esau had his heart set on those things. So he kept them. Esau became the beneficiary of Jacob in the end, anyway, didn’t he, in the acceptance of those presents? And yet Jacob was extremely rich. If we appreciate the spiritual inheritance that we have we are not going to be stingy with fleshly Israel.

Now the fact that the New Covenant will be made with Israel is very dramatically shown in other places. It is also shown in the type. But we don’t use the type to teach a doctrine, but only to illustrate what is clearly shown in the word of God plainly stated. Truths. And we think that our text makes it plain enough that the New Covenant is to be made with the descendants of the ones that broke the old Covenant. Notice how it is portrayed elsewhere. In Hosea 1:2, the Lord instructed Hosea to go out and marry a disreputable woman. My what the Lord asks some of his servants to do. But you know, he never asked anybody to do anything that he was not willing to do himself. In fact, what he wasn’t already doing himself. When he asked Abraham to go and offer his son on that altar, he was only asking Abraham to do what he had already done, because Christ was the “Lamb slain from the foundation of the world.” And when he asked Hosea to go out and marry a disreputable woman, as he explains, it was because that was what he was doing. He was remarrying his unfaithful wife. That could only mean one nation—Israel. The only one that was ever in covenant relationship. As Jeremiah says, “Although I was an husband unto them.”

Then in the 2nd Chapter. Again we come into language here that is describing the unfaithfulness of this wife. And the language again is just too indelicate to read in public. The Lord is fully aware of the transgressions of Israel. But, incidentally, the reason Israel got into so much trouble was because of the bad example of their neighbors. That is something the people do not take into account. “You only have I known of all the families of the earth; therefore, will I punish you for all your transgressions.” It is like a good father who disciplines his children. He doesn’t bother the neighbor’s children who may be a bad example to his own children until conditions get so bad and he has to call the police or something like that. But he doesn’t discipline the others. They are not in relationship with him. So let’s take this into account. The reason Israel got into all this

trouble with the Lord was because of the bad example of their neighbors. And it wasn't because Israel was so wicked, really, as because they were influenced by their neighbors; and you can be sure that the devil was behind that, too. He has always been harassing God's people trying to entice them away. Now in spite of all the transgressions of Israel that he lists here in the intervening verses, you come over to the 13th verse in the 2nd Chapter of Hosea, "And I will visit upon her the days of Baalim, wherein she burned incense to them, and she decked herself with her earrings and her jewels, and she went after her lovers, and forgot me, saith the Lord. Therefore, behold, I will allure her, and bring her into the wilderness, and speak comfortably unto her." Now imagine that. Verse 19, "And I will betroth thee unto me forever; yea, I will betroth thee unto me in righteousness, and in judgment and in lovingkindness, and in mercies. And I will betroth thee unto me. I will even betroth thee unto me in faithfulness: and thou shalt know the Lord." Isn't that the New Covenant? He is going to remarry his unfaithful wife. That could apply to only one nation. We have the same thing in Ezekiel 16:2. "Son of man, cause Jerusalem to know her abominations." This, incidentally, has an application to spiritual Israel. Spiritual Israel has made the same mistakes as fleshly Israel. Babylon can be described in the same language that God describes his unfaithful wife back there—the nation of Israel. Here you find 58 verses of some of the most indelicate language that you will find in the Bible, too indelicate to read in public. It shows how wicked Israel was, and yet, listen to this. Verse 60, "Nevertheless, I will remember my covenant with thee in the days of thy youth, and I will establish unto thee an everlasting covenant. Then thou shalt remember thy ways and be ashamed, when thou shalt receive thy sisters, thine elder and thy younger: and I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant." Now what do you think of that? Israel will be something of a second mother to the nations of the world. The primary mother, of course, is spiritual—the bride of Christ. But here God says that he will give her former sisters (nations) as daughters. Doesn't that imply that Israel is going to be very useful in nurturing the other nations, instrumental in passing on the blessings to the nations in general?

When we say that this New Covenant will be made exclusively with the nation of Israel, that does not mean that it is exclusive so far as salvation is concerned. Under the Mosaic Law, which is identical with the New Law, except for the mediatorship, any stranger that came into the land and conformed to the laws of Moses was considered as though he were born in the land. No discrimination. That is the way it will be under the New Law Covenant. Rather than say the whole world is going to be Israel. Well that is true, they will all become Israelites. I don't object to that at all, that is certainly going to be true. What I object to is the claim that they are to become Israelites without becoming Israelites. The Lord is not going to set up a separate covenant with the United States, with England, or with France or Germany or Italy. He is not going to set up independent capitals in these places. He says, "The nation that will not come up to worship at Jerusalem, upon that nation shall be no rain." And if they don't come up then, with rain sanctions, then he says there will be a plague. This is going to be the iron rule that is

going into effect. The Lord is going to demand equal time. He'll say, "Let's do it my way now. I don't want to have any interference." It will be the iron rule for awhile until he has had a chance to demonstrate what he can do. After man has failed in every conceivable way, man's extremity will be God's opportunity.

Like one of our brethren said, "you know, as long as a man is standing on his feet, he doesn't look up very much. It isn't very easy to look up. But if he gets knocked flat on his back then he looks up." That is the hope of the world. Man's extremity will be God's opportunity. God has known all the time just when this point would be reached, and he is ready to step in. He has got a new order going, the new heavens being set up very rapidly on the other side of the veil—spiritual Israel. Then we have something we can actually see. Here is fleshly Israel being set up, too, in preparation for these wonderful operations.

I didn't finish the passage in Ezekiel. Listen to this. "...I will give them unto thee for daughters, but not by thy covenant." I take that to mean they are not going to have a separate, independent covenant, but it will have to come in under Israel's covenant. "And I will establish my covenant with thee and thou shalt know that I am the Lord." Now this is a very important point. Israel is going to be very easy to get along with. Israel is going to undergo tremendous change. Now there are brethren that are stumbled by that. They say the Jews don't accept Christ. They point out all the failings. They hold these things against Israel, not understanding what we have been trying to point out here; that Israel is only carrying out God's orders. That they have suffered down through the age because of the very fact that they are descendants of Abraham and God wouldn't allow them to be assimilated. Now you can't tell me that God would be so cruel as to keep them separate and a special target of persecution and oppression for all these centuries and not have some special reason for keeping them separate. He has kept them separate for a very definite purpose, because they are to be regathered and they are going to get the very rich blessings, too. Spiritual Israel will inherit the heavenly phase of the kingdom. That leaves the earth wide open for fleshly Israel to be chief among the nations. But now lest you fear that they are going to take advantage of the Gentiles, (you know they have had to in self-defense, they have had to be pretty shrewd), they have been discriminated against; they can't go to a lot of hotels, etc. So that is sort of a consolation that they dig into business and get money. They say if money talks, ok let's get money. Let's put it this way, wouldn't it be nice to have them on our side instead of working against us? And that is exactly what is going to happen.

Zech. 12:9-14. "And it shall come to pass in that day, that I will destroy all the nations that come against Jerusalem." (You see this is right down in our time.) "And I will pour upon the house of David, and upon the inhabitants of Jerusalem, the spirit of grace and of supplications: and they shall look upon me whom they have pierced, and they shall

mourn for him, as one mourneth for his only son, and shall be in bitterness for him, as one that is in bitterness for his firstborn.”

Now you see this is an elementary truth. It is something that is unique with the Truth. It is that God makes the first move. Now nobody seems to agree with the Lord on this subject. They all say that you have to turn to the Lord. You are a free moral agent, you can actually cast aside all these hindrances and you can come to the Lord if you want to. And if you don't—you are out. It is either “bliss or blisters” in the nominal church. The JW's have fallen to the same level. You either join up with them now and get life. Get into the ark in order to be saved or you go down in Armageddon and never be resurrected. You don't have the torture in there, but they are hopelessly lost in both cases, aren't they? All because they do not find their way to the Lord now. It is like talking to somebody lying in the gutter, wounded, weak, and telling them to come on over here and I will pick you up. The Lord doesn't do that. The Lord pours out his spirit upon whatever class he intends to save. He did that with the Church. He did that even with the Ancient Worthies. He worked with them. When it was time for the Church at Pentecost, he poured out his spirit upon the Church. He accomplished what he wanted to do. He saved the Church down through the Gospel Age. That is all he intended to do and he accomplished that. Then the servants and handmaids. And then he is going to pour out his spirit upon all flesh. And when he does that he is going to save the world. He is going to save them for at least 100 years. He will thoroughly saturate them with the Truth. “The knowledge of the Lord will cover the earth as the waters cover the deep.” Like somebody said, it will be as difficult to live in the Millennium without knowing the Lord as to be in the bottom of the ocean without getting wet.

Now this is the way the Lord is going to do it. He is going to pour out his spirit upon the whole world, but he is going to pour out his spirit on Israel first. That is what we are talking about here. “And I will pour upon the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem the spirit of grace and supplication: and then they shall look upon him whom they pierced and mourn for him...” “In that day there shall be a great mourning in Jerusalem, as the mourning of Hadadrimmon in the valley of Megiddon. And the land shall mourn, every family apart; the family of the house of David apart, and their wives apart; the family of the house of Nathan apart, and their wives apart.” This was the symbol of deep religious conviction and devotion to the Lord. The Orthodox Jews, I understand, now have the women on one side and the men on the other in their most sacred services. And when they go to the walls of Jerusalem, the women are on one side of the wall and the men on the other side of the wall.

Anyway, it shows they are going to recognize the one whom they pierced and mourn for him. They have a Messianic complex. They realize that it is their mission to help the world. I know that. I have contact with the Jews. My relationship with the Jews is very well expressed in Jacob and Esau when they met. That is my relationship with the Jews.

And it is because I go along with the Pastor's approach. We have a special message to the Jews. Brethren say you have to preach Christ to the Jews every time you meet one, every time you witness. Well, they hear about Christ all the time. We are not the only ones. Many church denominations are fully aware of the many prophecies that were fulfilled at Christ's first advent and they keep pointing this out to the Jews. And our tracts, our radio witness; our television witness goes to the Jews as well as to the Gentiles. So we are preaching Christ to the Jews. When you speak with them specifically and individually you are supposed to do it the way Brother Russell did in the Hippodrome meeting. That is a message of comfort, directing them to their prophecies and showing them how they will be regathered and will eventually be used of the Lord in the blessing of others. When you approach them that way, you convince them that you are not trying to convert them. They are used to all kinds of bait, you know. They are looking for the hook right away. And it takes quite awhile to break down that fear, to give them your assurance that you are interested in them as Jews not as prospective Christians. We all know that will happen when he pours out the spirit upon them. They are not going to seek Jesus until then. That is a blind spot and the Lord removes blindness. No blind man ever cures his own blindness. So when you try to convert the Jews to Christ, you make them more uncomfortable than in any other way. So that is not the message of comfort. Isaiah 41:2 shows the message of real comfort to the Jews.

Now I would like to touch briefly on the type. The type, you know, is not to teach a doctrine. But a type, just like with Tabernacle Shadows, can point up the truth so that you can grasp it almost clearer than otherwise. And this type is the giving of the Law through Moses. Moses went up to the mount and spent forty days and forty nights up there recorded in Exodus 24:18. That represents the Jewish Age. Now what I am presenting here is in harmony with the Pastor's Comments and the Bible. In the meantime, you will remember, the Israelites got tired of waiting for him and they set up a golden calf and there they were dancing around like people of the land, so to speak. Moses came down and in righteous indignation he cast those tables of the Law down and broke them all to pieces. Now those tables were written with the finger of God. That was the trouble. There was no actual mediatorship. Moses was not an adequate mediator. There was nothing wrong with the Law, but the Law was written with the finger of God. Exodus 31:18 and Exodus 32:15, 16. Now those tables were broken as shown in verses 19-25. Also, you can see the Pastor's comment on verse 19. However, after these tables were broken, the Levites were gathered to Moses. Now the Levites in the final picture represent the spiritual class. They had no inheritance in the land. So it shows that after the Law had failed, the Levites were gathered unto Moses. The Levites were a tribe. So I think that shows a turning point in where the Lord was turning to spiritual Israel. Then Moses went up on the mount. Exodus 32:30-32. Note Brother Russell's comments on these verses. And Moses asked the Lord if he could forgive Israel. He said, "If you can't forgive them, blot me out." Here we have Moses turning into a type of the "greater than Moses"—Christ who offered himself. And the will was

taken for the deed in the case of Moses. This is a significant thing. Not only did Moses save the lives of the Israelites, but he also redeemed their Covenant. God told him to go ahead and lead the people into the promised land. This is as though nothing had happened. Now what does that mean? It means that Christ redeemed Israel's right to the New Covenant. Read Reprint 5047, column 2. It has some of the most profound truth on this subject that I have encountered. I had failed to fully appreciate it. "Cursed is every man that hangeth upon a tree." Now Paul makes it very plain that that was for the Jews, for all the Jews. Now one might first think he hung on the tree to redeem the criminal Jews, the ones who had actually been hanged on a tree. But that isn't a valid thought. As Paul says, "If you keep the whole law and yet offend in one, you are guilty of all." So you can't make that distinction. The Jews were guilty of all the violations of the Law and the whole nation was guilty. They had to be redeemed as a nation. The Pastor shows that they are going to be redeemed. The only way they can escape from the penalties of the Law Covenant is to be brought over into the New Covenant. Which means that the New Covenant will have to be made with them. Right? God told Moses to bring two blank tables like the first and he would dictate and Moses was to do the writing. Here is a mediatorship. Here is where the "greater than Moses," Christ and His Church, will become a mediator of the New Law Covenant. That is why it will be successful. So Moses brought the two tables down after forty days and forty nights. Here is the Gospel Age now. The counterpart, the parallel dispensations. The Jewish Age and the Gospel Age are the same length. After forty days he brought the second tables down. And now notice. He gave the second tables to the same ones that had broken the first tables. Isn't that exactly what our text says? Now there is a generation gap. There wasn't a generation gap back there. It was only a matter of forty days. They were given to the same individuals who had broken the first tables. In the antitype they are going to be given to the descendants of the ones who had broken the first tables. That is the only difference. They were given to Israel.

The face of Moses shown when he came down. Here is Christ in glory. Remember the rich young ruler who was turned away sorrowful because he couldn't give up his many possessions? Peter says, "Behold we have forsaken all to follow thee; what shall we have therefore?" Matthew. 19:27-28. "Verily I say unto you that ye which have followed me, in the regeneration when the Son of man shall sit in the throne of His glory, ye also shall sit upon thrones judging the twelve tribes of Israel." How come the twelve tribes of Israel? It will be the twelve tribes of Israel that they will be judging under the New Covenant and the other nations will come in under that arrangement. It encompasses the whole world. No problem about that. They can come in just as fast as they want to. But it will be under this New Covenant arrangement with Israel.

I would just like to mention something. I talked with Brother Newell on the phone in between planes in Chicago and we had a very nice chat. He said they have found subterranean lakes under the Sinai Desert and under the Negev Desert. He said these

lakes are in one case about 1000 feet below the surface and that they have about 500 cubic miles of water. This is enough to last 100 years or more. Do you think Israel has to be told what to do with the water down there in the desert? Incidentally, I think we have all heard that there is water under the Sahara Desert. The Lord made provision, you see. He stored the water there because those deserts are supposed to blossom as a rose. Now things like that are thrilling, aren't they?

I think Kissinger is the counterpart of Disraeli. Disraeli was the first and only Jewish Prime Minister in Great Britain. The most powerful nation of the world at that time. He was the one who negotiated the deal to get the homeland for the Jews, or at least they could buy real estate over there. He opened the Suez Canal in 1875. Now Kissinger is the first Jewish Secretary of State of the United States. Now the most powerful nation of the world. He has negotiated treaties over there that have been a marvel to the diplomats of the world. They just can't figure it out. He is another man of destiny no doubt. He has established borders there and buffer zones that is of tremendous good and of benefit to Israel. And don't be surprised if he reopens the Suez Canal just 100 years later, in 1975. Little tidbits like that all seem to fall into place, don't they? If we are looking for the right things we are not going to be disappointed.

May the Lord add His blessing.

#### Humble Pastor

“I suppose I will continue to learn as long as I live. We try to be careful about every word that goes into the Watch Tower, but we do not claim to be infallible; we are doing the best we can. It was a mistake to publish that article, but it should not worry anyone, for it is not very important anyway. What difference to you and me? It is not of sufficient importance to say that such a brother, having that view, does not belong to the Lord; it is not a part of the Truth. My suggestion to any Pilgrim brother along the line of this question, or any other such question, is that it would be better to leave them alone. There is nothing to be gained by the agitation of such questions.” (1910 Convention Report, page 165, col. 2, par. 1 and 2.)

“Question 133.—In Gen. 6:3, we read: ‘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.’ When will the Lord’s spirit cease to strive with man?

Answer.—I have a thought in my mind respecting this verse which is a little different from what I once had, and the two are still struggling, and I don't know yet just what I think.” (1909 Convention Report, page 176, column 2.)