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Israel Today.

(Convention Address)

WE would teach you today one word of the Hebrew language — the beautiful word “Shalom,” which means, “Peace be unto you!” In Israel it is heard a hundred times a day or more, because in the Holy Land they not only use it to say “Hullo,” but also to say “Goodbye.” It is evident that the Master used this word Himself, and when He said, “My peace I give unto you,” and when we read of the “peace of God,” it is the same word “Shalom.” It is a good word to know. One of the most precious things we have is the peace that comes from the heart. It is especially inspiring to hear it used so often in the land of Israel, because if we have the correct interpretation, when peace comes to Israel peace will come to the world also.

Not so long ago a tourist reached Israel, and as he journeyed about the country he was surprised to hear the Israeli using the word “Shalom” so often. He asked, Is your language so poor? Why do you use only the same word as a greeting, and to say goodbye? They told him, “It is not that at all. Only you see, most of the time we do not know whether we are coming or going.” This little bit of Israeli humour illustrates for us the tremendous problems which the tiny state of Israel has had to cope with since May, 1948. If we think we have problems, we have not seen anything yet.

Quite a few Australians, both inside and outside the Truth, have told me about the 11 million people you have taken since the war. But we would like to tell you that Israel has taken in almost that number. But they had only a population of 650,000 to begin with. They have taken well over one million immigrants, and integrated them quite well in eleven years. To give you some idea of what it would involve, it would be as if you had more than doubled your population in eleven years. Can you begin to comprehend what that would involve in this country? We give you these statistics simply by way of comparison.

So we have lived to witness a miracle. First the restoration of the Jewish State after more than two millenniums of desolation, which in itself we believe is one of the greatest miracles of all time. Have you ever considered—sometimes we forget this—what a miracle has been performed by God in the preservation of the Jewish people? When the Romans in the first and second centuries dispersed the Jews into all the then known world, these Jews wandered from one nation to another, so that we have Jews in every land even to this day, all over the face of the earth. They are found in southern India, in China, and to the furthest corners of the earth. Many Jewish communities trace their families back for 2,000 years or more. The Yemenites claim to trace their ancestry for 4,500 years. All this time the Jews have been kept intact, a distinct, homogeneous people in spite of all the Hamans and the Hitlers who have arisen in history. If there is no other tangible proof that there is a God, the Jew is a proof that there is a God.

We would like to read you one passage from Jeremiah; and if we can lay hold on these Scriptures we will be so convinced that we will go on our way rejoicing. Jer. 31:35-37—”Thus saith the Lord, which giveth the sun for a light by day, and the ordinances of the moon and of the stars for a light by night, which divideth the sea when the waves thereof roar ; the Lord of hosts is his name; if those ordinances depart from before me, saith the Lord, then the seed of Israel also shall cease from being a nation before me for ever.” The Lord says it is His responsibility. Has this nation departed from the Lord’s favour? You can answer! You and I have lived to see the redemption of the people of Israel. And what a joy! What does it mean to us to entertain high hopes for natural Israel? It means *we* are reaching a wonderful point in the history of the human race, when not only our redemption will come, and the redemption of Israel, but also that of the whole human race. It is all tied up with the prophetic writings regarding Israel’s restoration. It does not involve just a few people known as the Jews, but embraces the redemption of the whole human family.

So it is very vital; and furthermore, it will be the first consideration of those who shall have the blessed privilege of reigning with the Messiah in glory, to deal with this despised people, the Jews, for the blessings will go through Israel to all the families of the earth, and this is going to be a bitter pill for many people to swallow. We can imagine how the Nazis will react. It will be difficult for some to accept the blessings the way God is going to give them.

In God's arrangements there always have been tests. There were tests to father Adam; to the patriarchs; to the nation of Israel when God chose them as a special people. He dealt with them as He did not deal with any other nation. Because of this great light, a great responsibility fell upon the Jewish people. When they failed to live up to the light granted to them, we know what happened. The bloodiest conflicts in the world took place in Israel. When they were dispersed among the nations, they suffered such as no other people suffered in the history of mankind. But at last we believe the Jewish people, restored in the land, are beginning to see some of God's great mercy and love. They have seen His severity such as no people have seen in history. Today we are happy that the prophecies regarding their uplift are beginning to be fulfilled, in a most remarkable way. We hope we can in some measure impart to you the true events taking place in Israel, the true developments that are welding this people into one. people.

We would like to refer you to Jer. 32. Here we find what God's intention- is regarding this people. He is not going to be harsh with them for ever. God is not a God who delights in punishment, but He is a God of justice and means what He says. If that is true, what is recorded in the 37th verse of this chapter is going to be fulfilled in a glorious way. Note the wording very carefully. There is not a word here that is superfluous. "Behold I will" —God identifies it. "I will gather them out of all countries whither I have driven them in mine anger, and in my fury, and in great wrath"—there is no question but they have experienced the severity, because of their disobedience, but now, "I will bring them again unto this place, and I will cause them to dwell safely; and they shall be my people, and I will be their God; and I will give them one heart, and one way, that they may fear me forever, for the good of them, and of their children after them: and I will make an everlasting covenant with them, that I will not turn away from them, to do them good; but I will put my fear in their hearts, that they shall not depart from me. Yea, I will rejoice over them to do them good, and I will plant them in this land assuredly with my whole heart and with my whole soul. For thus saith the Lord: Like as I have brought all this great evil upon this people, so will I bring upon them all the good that I have promised them."

Isn't that a beautiful passage of Scripture? Can you conceive of anything that could be worded in a more beautiful way, or could we have a more beautiful message to give Abraham's natural seed? Reading these words from Jeremiah would give a tremendous uplift to any one of Israel's posterity.

Not only in Jeremiah, but in so many prophecies the Lord says "I will." When you read it, you come to the conclusion that this is something God takes a very personal interest in, something He is going to do. He uses agencies, we know, but nevertheless God takes the credit for it. "I will do it." We can be just as sure that it is going to happen as anything that could be done. It does not make any difference if all the nations in the world combine against them, they will fail. In Zechariah we are told that God will drastically deal with any nation that endeavours to hamper the work that goes on. So it is not a very pleasant prospect for some nations who want to delay God's programme. What we have before us in the case of Israel's restoration is the fulfilment of vital prophecies.

Turn now to Amos 9:11, where we have another beautiful prophecy regarding Israel's restoration. Maybe you have not noticed a couple of things here. "In that day will I raise up" (again the Lord says He will do it) "the tabernacle of David that is fallen, and close up the breaches thereof; and I will raise up his ruins, and I will build it as in the days of old." Are the Jews doing it? Well, that is what the human mind would say. But the Lord says, "I will do it." Then v. 14, "And I will bring again the captivity of my people of Israel, and they shall build the waste cities, and inhabit them; and they shall plant vineyards and drink the wine thereof; they shall also make gardens, and eat the fruit of them. And I will plant them upon their land, and they shall no more be pulled up out of their land which I have given them, said the Lord thy God."

Has the plan of God ever been beyond human co-operation? No! If so, Moses would have been left out, David would have been left out, the Apostles and you and I would have been entirely left out. The plan of God, as we see it, has always been within the realm of human co-operation. When Nebuchadnezzar responded and turned to the Lord, did God not use that man? He took a man like Cyrus and used him, because he brought to pass the things God desired to be fulfilled. So through the ages God has used men. Some were very intelligent, men of God, the prophets, who knew God was using them and the power of God was outpouring through them. They spoke and wrote the things God inspired them, for the benefit of God's people throughout the centuries since.

So today we can accept the fact that the Jews have gone out to that land entirely on their own initiative. But God has led them to that land; they would plant the gardens and the vineyards, for why should God do something for us which we can do ourselves? If Gabriel came here and did all the work for us, we would always be idle. That is not the way God is operating. God has always in the past and present aided His people and helped them where they could not help

themselves. I am sure but that for the intervention of the Lord I was lost. You may have had similar experiences. The powers that are against us are greater than we can cope with. So with Israel. Except by the power of God, the state of Israel could not have been established in May, 1948.

We talk about miracles in the past ; but we have seen miracles in our time, and the children of Israel have seen miracles. Do we have to think that all that has been foretold is in the future? I feel very strongly that we do not realise how far we are along the stream of time. In Israel today you will hear from the lips of Israeli stories that will give you the chills up and down your spine, because you do not accept it. But it is happening! Before we left Israel, in Jerusalem, my wife and I were entertained in the home of a Mr. Reuben, and we learned that this man was one of the commanding officers in the struggle for Jerusalem. To our amazement, this business man started to relate to us what they experienced in the siege of Jerusalem. The things he said would just have given you the thrill of your life. He referred to the deliverance of Jerusalem as a miracle from God. He was not a Rabbi, did not profess to be an orthodox Jew. There were many sieges of Jerusalem in the past, but this happened in 1948. There is a very large structure, Notre Dame de France, with 140 rooms, which is just outside the old city walls in the new city of Jerusalem, and in Israeli territory today. When the British were about to leave in May, 1948, the commanding British officer told the Jews that the army that captured this building would have control of the place. He told the Arabs the same thing. As soon as the battle began, Jews and Arabs sought to capture this huge building. It **was** in a strategic position. A mere handful of Israeli soldiers got there first. In all Israeli they had only 10,000 rifles, no field guns, no aeroplanes, no navy.

What can you do with 10,000 rifles against aeroplanes, armoured cars and tanks? These Jewish boys had a few guns between them and some home-made bombs which could not do much damage. When they moved into this building, the commanding officer had to think what to do. Wisdom was given ; in order to give the Arabs the impression that they were holding the whole building, shots were fired from one window after the other. They had very little to combat the enemy; it was like one against a thousand. The commanding officer saw the battle was hopeless, and ordered the men to retreat. However, one man did not hear the order. He was busy running from one window to the next, firing from each in turn. He peeped out and saw the first armoured car right up against the building. He dropped a homemade bomb. It did not go off. He dropped another, and it exploded on the Arabs. Now, the Arabs are superstitious.

They thought it was some secret weapon, and they retreated! So the Israeli Army came back. They saw this man still running around; when he realised he had been alone in the building, he fainted. But one man had held back the whole Arab army!

Actually, in some places the Arabs saw thousands when there were no thousands to be seen. There were 200 Jews in a community settlement fighting against thousands of Egyptian soldiers, and suddenly the Egyptians retreated. Some of the prisoners taken by the Jews asked, Where are you all? They were told there were only 200. They said, "We saw thousands." You will hear such stories from commanding officers all over Israel. In 1956 when the Israeli army •moved down the Sinai Peninsula, they expected to have a terrific battle, because there were 2,000 to 3,000 Egyptians there. When they got there, no Egyptians were to be seen. Why? It may be that God showed them in a vision thousands when there were no thousands to be seen. That happened centuries ago. It has apparently happened again in our time. I am sure that if God had not intervened, Israel would not be here today.

So we rejoice in these miracles. It is hard for us sometimes to accept them, because we thought the age of miracles is past. But if you were to have the privilege of going to Israel and hearing these accounts, you would have to believe it. The Israeli do not boast about these things; it is rather, "Since you have asked me I will tell you." We had 13 brethren on a tour of Israel. These Truth brethren asked a Jew in Haifa to tell them anything that happened in 1948 that bordered on a miracle. He said, "I was in the Israeli army in 1948. I was in a contingent fighting on the Lebanese border. Ten of us had three guns. We entrenched ourselves in the hills, and hundreds of the enemy approached. We determined we would fight to the last man. We began to fight, and the Arabs were on the offensive. We kept resisting, but finally it was hopeless. Suddenly we saw hundreds retreating. We took up a wounded Arab and asked him, 'Why is it your men retreated?' The Arab said, 'What do you mean, didn't you see?' We told him that we didn't see anything. He said, 'We saw three men with white flowing hair, fiery eyes and flaming swords approaching.' "The man who told us these things is a Christian, and a very straightforward man. He said, "If I had not heard and seen this thing, I would have doubted it. You asked about it, and I have told you. I experienced it myself."

This happened in 1948. We thought you would like to hear of it. We heard at first-hand from the men involved, and you get it from us. Some of the stories seem miraculous when related, because of the way in which these things were accomplished. It really was a struggle that we believe God had in His hands. So we are happy that He delivered Israel in our time and brought about the establishment of His nation in a miraculous way.

Ben Gurion said he was the most fearful man in the world on 14th May, 1948. The Jewish people in Israel, or Palestine as it was called before that date, felt that maybe the British troops would not pull out. They thought, Who knows? They

have been here for thirty years, maybe they will not go. When the hour came the British did pull out; but the greatest miracle that happened was that on the heels of the British troops a half-million Arabs fled. There were 650,000 Jews in Palestine, and 650,000 Arabs—man for man. When the British troops pulled out, half a million Arabs fled. Why? Because the Jews threw them out? No. In Haifa the Jews were going round broadcasting to the Arabs to stay and live in peace with them, and all would be well. But there were other broadcasts, telling these Arabs that if they remained they would be collaborators, and that when the Arab armies moved in, they would push the Jews into the sea. They were confident that this would be the case; so they fled, with the intention of joining with the Arab armies, hoping to overthrow the Jews and take their possessions. But it did not work out that way. The enemy that was within the camp, within about 48 hours moved out. Not the British troops, but the Arabs. Was it just because their leaders told them to do so? Their leaders had other plans, but those plans were foiled. Behind it all was the hand of God. He brought about in various ways the establishment of Israel. No doubt He used the angelic powers to help bring about the establishment of a Jewish state in our time. That was the miracle of Israel. Let us never credit it to human beings. From the beginning to the end, it is something the Lord will do. Of course He will use various human beings to accomplish His plans and purposes.

We would like to trace a few historical events to show how God is bringing about His plan and purposes regarding Israel. Let us go back to 1878; in that year the Berlin Congress of Nations was held, called after a struggle between the Turks and the Russians, the Ottoman Empire and the Czarist regime. These great powers were shaken by their experiences. The Turks had very stringent terms imposed on them. The treaty was ratified by the great nations of the world. You may recall that a small clause was inserted which changed history; the Turks would maintain their independence, but they were to provide civil and religious rights to the Jews within the Ottoman Empire. In that year in the city of Tel Aviv the first Jewish colony was established — that was in the year 1878.,

So the work began. But notice, it was after a struggle between two great world powers who were badly shaken by it. The Berlin Congress of Nations decreed something which was a small favor to the Jews; they were to have civil and religious rights, at least on paper. But enough Jews got in to settle on their land, and the work began. To the Lord, 70 or 80 years is nothing. What is a thousand years in God's sight? The Lord is not in a big hurry, like we are. He does His job perfectly. In that year 1878 the first step was taken.

Then time moves on, and we come to 1914, when many more great powers of the world were engaged in conflict. We do not have to tell you what a great shaking took place. The outcome of that was the Balfour Declaration, and this declared that there was to be a Homeland created for the Jews. It went beyond civil and religious rights. The British were appointed by the League of Nations to have mandatory control. But it was after another great struggle between the giant nations of the world that this was brought about. Because they loved the Jews? We do not think so. If we were behind the scenes we would *see* that God, in one way or another, brought these things to pass.

Then came World War Two. Another great sifting down of the world powers took place, until today there are only two great powers left. You can name them. All the others are in some way dependent upon these two. The only really tangible thing which came out of this struggle—and many statesmen have declared it—was the creation of a Jewish state. The Gentile powers were sifted down, and the Star of David continued to ascend. Another group of nations convened the United Nations, and on November 27th, 1947, they decreed that there was to be established in the land of Palestine a Jewish State, and they gave the boundaries of it, and the nations voted in favor of this. Did this all just happen? Remember, from 1878 to 1948 when the State was created, was 70 years. From the time when the Jews moved into Palestine until the establishment of the Jewish State was 70 years.

So “the kings have had their day.” They are being sifted down, and the Lord in His providence has seen to it that the nations are extending recognition to Israel step by step. First civil and religious rights were granted, then a Homeland, then a State. On looking back, we can see they were instruments that performed God's purposes.

So we see in our time the redemption of Israel. There are three restorations taking place. First, the restoration of the Jew to his own land, as clearly foretold in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Amos and other prophets. Second, the restoration of the land to the fertility which it formerly enjoyed — and so today the land is being redeemed. Third, the restoration spoken of by God through the prophets when He says they would turn unto Him with their whole hearts. This, we believe, is in the offing. As a matter of fact, we can tell you very safely that it is beginning. How is it beginning? It is happening in a very natural way. We must not think that everything God does is bombastic. Distance lends glamour. We visualise Gideon with his 300; we stood where he met the opposing army. What happened was the natural thing, when you think about it. God gave them the wisdom and instructed them. What is happening today in the spiritual realm? Something we do not dream of. We used to have very hazy ideas of how God enlightened His people. When the Jewish people moved into Palestine, they started to build. They did not know anything about building, but they started to build. The strange thing is that every time they moved to some place and started to construct a settlement or city, they would come across something old. We have seen a bulldozer ram into the earth, and strike an old pillar which stood on some ancient

site. There is a law in Israel that whenever an ancient site is unearthed, building has to stop. The Archaeological Department is called in, and they begin to clear away the debris. So if building is commenced in such a place, it must stop immediately; some other place must be found for the proposed new building. These ancient edifices are to be preserved for posterity. So every year in Israel the archaeologists are uncovering ancient sites. They all confirm the authenticity of the Bible.

We would like to refer to a statement by Nelson Gluck, one of the foremost living Bible archaeologists. This man knows what he is talking about. He has worked extensively in Israel. He says, "The Bible's almost incredibly correct historical summary has many times been validated by the progress of discovery. No archaeological discovery has ever controverted a Bible reference." This man is telling us that there is not a thing that the archaeologists have discovered that has disproved any portion of the Bible. The Bible stands true. How does that affect the Israeli? In Israel archaeology is important. In Israel today there is hardly a Jew who would question the authenticity of the Bible as an historical work. There was a time when they would say, Who knows, Abraham may be a fictitious character. But no more. The spade has turned up so much evidence to prove the historical truthfulness of the Scriptures that there is no questioning it any more. Do you know what a foundation that **is**?

The children in Israel study the Bible four classes a week. Four days a week they have a Bible class in the public schools. A fourteen-year-old girl told us she was going through the Old Testament for the fourth time since she began school. What effect will such study have on this young generation? Their mothers and fathers knew nothing of the Scriptures. They had forgotten the Book. But the young generation today in Israel is steeped in the Bible. They know the Bible is true historically. What is the next step? To accept it prophetically. If it is proved historically, why question its accuracy prophetically? This will

be the next major step in Israel. When you quote a Biblical prophecy to an Israeli and support it with historical evidence, he listens with all his hearing. And what is prophecy? It is history written aforetime. But we would say that prophecy is God's story of human events. Yes, God, writing through these men of old, foretold what is to happen. So Israel is coming up. The people of Israel will be enlightened step by step, and finally there will be a climax in their experiences. When they are brought back from the land of their enemies, the Lord will not leave them in the lurch.

He is bringing about conditions which are opening their eyes gradually to see and understand these wonderful things. When His time comes for them to be fully enlightened, we can be sure it will happen. The land shall be no longer desolate; it shall be like the Garden of Eden. The Word of God is coming alive in the land of Israel today.

“Under His Wings.”

“He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.” (*Psa.* 91:4.)

THE 91st Psalm very clearly applies to the church, and would seem to be especially applicable to the church in the end of this age. But since it is addressed in a personal way, as though to one person, it may be The Christ as a whole that is referred to, from the Head to the last member of the body. Our Lord Jesus had trials and difficulties, and needed protection and care. He went to the heavenly Father and sought the necessary aid. And so with all the Lord’s people continually.

But the Psalmist seems especially to refer to our day : “A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand, but it shall not come nigh thee.” Of course, there have been times in the past when thousands have fallen through persecutions, etc., but the falling away mentioned here seems to be the falling away from God’s people. Many will be turned aside, injured, wounded, if not killed, in the great battle pictured.

This battle, we understand, is at the conclusion of this Gospel Age. The powers of darkness are now specially arraying themselves against the consecrated people of God, and all associated with them. There never was a time when God’s people, as a whole, had so large opportunities or so great success as Christendom has had in the past century. Under the attacks of Satan that have been in progress for the last fifty to one hundred years, many have fallen into unbelief, Higher Criticism, infidelity, the various features of which are represented as a great pestilence. We see that there is a pestilential infidelity abroad in the land. Its votaries are misled by the adversary—quite probably without any such intention on their part.

Very probably in the future, as they see the truth, many of these will acknowledge their error ; but for the time being there is a great drouth in Christendom. Many of the ministers are preaching what they themselves doubt. They have fallen from grace, fallen from divine favor, fallen from an appreciation of the Word of God.

This Scripture points out, too, the “feet” of this Christ class living in our day. “He shall give his angels charge over thee, lest thou dash thy foot against a stone.” All the members have a relationship to the Head and to one another.

These “angels” we understand to represent divine promises and helpful assistances of the saints. These “angels” are represented as bearing up the feet, that they may not stumble over the stone of stumbling at this time. (*Isa.* 8:14.) Instead of stumbling over this stone, they will be lifted up by it to greater appreciation and higher conditions. The feet shall not be moved.

In the figure of our text, these who are to be covered represent all who are of this one class. As a hen gathereth her brood under her Wings, so God will be as a mother-hen to His people, and •will gladly gather them close to Himself and give them the necessary protection—under His wings. They may fully trust that all things shall work together for their good, because they are His, abiding “under the shadow of the Almighty.”

The Almighty here represents Himself as a mother-bird. The patience of the mother-bird with her young is remarkable, and she would sacrifice her own life for her little nestlings. So the Lord represents that He is ready to do anything for the protection of His own, who are under His care. Jesus would have received the Jews thus under His protecting care; but the people as a nation did not appreciate their need, and hence were overthrown in a great time of trouble. Jesus said to them, with weeping, “How often would I have gathered thy children together, even as a hen gathereth her chickens under her wings, and ye would not !”

We might exercise a particularity of inspection of our text, and say that the word feathers might carry a little further thought than the word wings. “He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wings shalt thou trust.” The soft, downy feathers under the mother-hen’s wings serve to keep the little chicks warm and to shield and hide them from enemies that would attack them. Not only the strong sheltering wings, but also the feathers of the mother-hen’s breast are used to protect her young. We have seen alarm on the part of a mother-hen at the approach of danger, and heard her cluck to her little ones. Then they would run to her, nestle under her wings, and seem perfectly satisfied and free from fear in their place of safety. Presently you would see the little heads or eyes peeping out ; but the chicks felt perfectly secure.

And so with us. Our heavenly Father’s love and care and protection are His wings and His feathers, shielding us from all harm, keeping us warm and safe. He is able to make every experience in life work out for our good. We are, however, to remember that the promise that God will make all things work together for our good is a promise to the new creature, not to the old creature. Oftentimes the interests of the new creature and of the old creature are diverse. God has an interest in all that concerns us, but He overrules our temporal affairs for our best spiritual interests. If we

were too prosperous, it might not be of advantage to us as new creatures.

Our temporal affairs may be permitted to go awry. We are not wise enough to know what is for our own best interests as new creatures, and what would help us the most in our fight against the world, the flesh and the devil. We are, therefore, to flee to the Lord and accept whatever experiences may come, as those which will be best for us; and we are to seek to get the designed lessons of faith and obedience from them.

Passover Memorial, 1960

The anniversary of the Memorial of Christ's death falls this year on the evening of Sunday, 10th April. This date will therefore be the appropriate time to observe the celebration in accord with our Lord's request —"This do in remembrance of me."

Friends desiring the unleavened bread and wine may procure these from this office. Early application should be made, preferably by middle of March, stating the number of persons to be served.

Memorial Services.

MELBOURNE.—Sunday, 10th April, at 6.30 p.m., at 1'1.2. sonic Hall, 254 Swan Street, Richmond (near Church Street.)

SYDNEY.—Sunday, 10th April, 7 p.m., at 87 The Boulevarde, South Strathfield. (Visitors should leave Strathfield Station on the left side coming from the city, and 87 is on the right of Boulevarde, only 10 minutes walk, or the 4th bus stop from the station).

PERTH.—Sunday, 10th April, 6 p.m., at 7 Harvest Terrace (opposite Parliament House).

Adelaide Easter Convention.

The Adelaide brethren wish to advise that their Easter Convention is to be held this year (D.V.), from Good Friday to Easter Monday, April 15th to 18th, **in** the Master Builders' Rooms, 17 Waymouth Street, Adelaide. They extend a cordial invitation to all friends able to attend these gatherings in the Lord's name. Further particulars from the secretary, Mrs. H. Bartel, 10 Winston Avenue, Clarence Gardens, South Australia.

A very good Oxford Bible, with References, India paper, thumb index, Brevier clear type, Persian Morocca binding, is now available at 60/-. Same Bible with Concordance and Subject Index at 70/-.

The Mount of Olives - The Kingdom of Blessing.

“And his (Jehovah’s) feet shall stand in that day upon the Mount of Olives, which is before Jerusalem on the east; and the Mount of Olives shall cleave in the midst thereof toward the east and towards the west, and there shall be a very great valley; and half of the mountain shall remove toward the north, and half of it toward the south.”—Zech. 14:4.

THIS text refers to the closing of the day of trouble and the manifestation of God’s power in connection with that trouble. The literal Mount of Olives may have, and probably will have, somewhat to do with the matter. It is referred to here as experiencing a great symbolic earthquake. No doubt the Israelites will be gathered at Jerusalem at this time, and no doubt the Lord’s favor will be manifested to them there. This will be at the close of “Jacob’s trouble,” from which the Lord will deliver them. It would seem that this will be after the church shall have passed into glory. The execution of what is here described seems to be a part of the work of the glorified church.

We understand that the ancient worthies will then appear, and that God’s favor will have returned to the Jews, and that Israel’s temporal blessings will there begin. This would imply that the Jews will then be under the New Covenant arrangement, and hence that the church must have been completed.

Symbolically, a mountain represents a kingdom. The Scriptures elsewhere declare that Jehovah will make the place of His feet glorious. The word olive always associates itself in the minds of the people of the Orient with the thought of light and nourishment. The olive oil they use regularly instead of butter. As the olive furnishes both light and food, the Mount of Olives would represent the kingdom of God. Olive oil was poured upon the head of the Jewish kings and priests, and symbolized thus the holy spirit. God’s kingdom will be for the blessing of mankind. It will be of two phases—the heavenly and the earthly—and all people shall eventually come under its blessed condition.

“Daily Heavenly Manna.”—A new supply of this helpful book is in stock. In good, strong binding, with birthday recording pages, this one dollar edition is priced at 10/

Revised Standard Version.—A new edition of this Bible is now available in strong cloth binding at 26/- post paid.

“The Divine Plan of the Ages”.—A new supply of this wonderful study on the Bible is on hand. Blue cloth binding, handy pocket size. Price 4/6, post paid.

“Israel in History and Prophecy” is the title of a very interesting and informative 64-page booklet now in stock, priced at 1/- per copy, 1/3 post paid.

Books Available.

“Most Holy Faith”—£1.

“Tabernacle Shadows”—6/-.

“Daily Heavenly Manna,” birthday pages-10/6.

“God’s Promises Come True”—£1.

“Emphatic Diaglott” — New Testament —18/-.

“The Book of Books”—Reviewing the Bible as a whole-10/-.

“The Divine Plan of the Ages”—Cloth bound 4/6; paper covers 2/9.

“Our Lord’s Great Prophecy”—1/-.

“Manner of Christ’s Return”—1/-.

“Christ’s Return”—1/- “Some of the Parables”—1/- “Hope Beyond the Grave”—1/-.

“God and Reason”—1/.

FRANK & ERNEST TALKS Geelong, 3GL, 222 M. Sundays 10 a.m.

Sydney, 2KY, 294 M. ,, 8.15 a.m.

Brisbane, 4KQ, 435 M. ,, 9 a.m.

Perth, 6KY, 227 M. ,, 4.45 p.m.

Pride of Heart Abominable.

Pride must take its stand with the other reprehensible qualities of the fallen human mind, character. The Scriptures recognise two conditions of the heart, the right and the wrong. The one that God approves is called Love; the other, the one that He disapproves, is Selfishness. All selfishness is opposed to God's Law. Anything selfish is contrary to the Divine purpose. The quality of pride is specially abominable to the Lord, because there is not a creature in the Universe that has anything of which to be proud. Everything that anyone has is a gift; it is not of his own manufacture or creation. God gives the blessing. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights." (James 1:17.) It is of His fulness that we have received. Everyone, therefore, who is proud, is certainly very reprehensible in God's sight, for he has been only a recipient of favour, blessing. All God's creatures are dependent upon Him.

Worldly pride challenges faith in God and obedience to Him. Only those of the Lord's people who are of good courage and full of confidence in the Lord can overcome this giant of pride. It is necessary that the victory should be made complete. Pride, in its every form, should be so thoroughly humiliated, killed, that it can never rise again to destroy us. This battle each one has to fight; and the only proper weapon with which to overcome is the "Sword of the Spirit," showing us what is pleasing and acceptable in God's sight. "He that exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted."—Luke 18:14.

The Gospel of Christ.

Let us not be ashamed of the true Gospel, nor of any of its agents or agencies. He who is ashamed of the brother or sister, or tract or book through which God was pleased to send him the truth, shows clearly that had he lived in the days of our Lord's humiliation, he would have been ashamed of Him, and of the humble men whom He chose and used to promulgate His Gospel in the beginning. The truth is not intended for the proud or the dishonest. God hides His truth from the worldly wise and prudent, and reveals it unto babes. (Luke 10:21; 1 Cor. 1:19.) By candor and humility and zeal let us keep ourselves in the love of God and continue to walk in the light of His truth.