



And they that be wise shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars for ever and ever.

—Daniel 12:3.

He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend IS his name.—Psalm 111:9.

## And His Name Shall Be Called Wonderful

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The Mighty God, The everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.—Isaiah 9:6.

Again we are approaching the season of the year when all Christendom will celebrate the great event of the birth of the Saviour. Many will keep the day by feasting and giving of gifts, which is the outcome of the visit of the wise men to see the baby Jesus, and lay at His feet gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. But to the redeemed and ransomed child of God the day will be held in reverence. How wonderful are the words of the prophet Isaiah, for He is indeed Wonderful to the soul who claims Him as his personal Saviour. Blessed is the soul who claims Him as his Counsellor and abides by His teachings.

There were devout souls who were looking for this promised great event and were given the assurance that they would not die until their eyes had seen their Salvation. We read in the Gospels of the aged Simeon, when Joseph and Mary brought the baby Jesus into the temple, he took the Child in his arms and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation, which thou hast prepared before the face of all people; a light to lighten

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## CHRISTMAS

What does the word "Christmas" represent to us? Does it mean Christmas trees and the exchanging of gifts? No, these are only customs and perhaps symbols of something far more valuable. Time passes swiftly and the Christmas season is here

standing and notable event. It is remarkable how the prophecies of God fulfilled themselves by the all-wise foresight and power of God. We read of the shepherds, the wise men, King Herod, Simeon, and others.

First, let us picture the shepherds "in the fields keeping watch over their flocks" by night when the angel "came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them." We read "they were sore afraid." No doubt we too would have been afraid had we been there to witness that glorious scene. It was not long until they overcame their fear, because the angel said, "Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people." Yes, we are happy to believe that joy was handed to us even as unto them, so unto us a Saviour is born which is Christ our Lord.

No doubt many God-fearing men looked forward to the promises already foretold in the prophets. It is remarkable how many of the prophecies have gone into fulfillment and others are yet to be fulfilled; thereby we see the supreme power of God. No wonder we stand amazed as did men of old at the handiwork of God, and yet we read "Heaven and earth shall pass away: but my words shall not pass away."

Let us imagine the joy Simeon experienced when he was permitted to witness with his eyes the young child and even to take him in his arms, thus fulfilling his fondest hope and

### TREASURED VERSES

And he sent them to Bethlehem, and said, Go and search diligently for the young child; and when you have found HIM, bring me word again, that I may come and worship him also.

When they had heard the king, they departed; and, lo, the star, which they saw in the east, went before them, till it came and stood over where the young child was.

When they saw the star, they rejoiced with exceeding great joy.

And when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down and worshipped him: and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto him gifts; gold, and frankincense, and myrrh.

—St. Matthew 2:8-11.

again and once again the wonderful story of Christ our Saviour is heralded throughout the nations. The stories related by Matthew and Luke differ and yet we believe each was inspired to record the various incidents that took place in this out-

ambition, moving him to say, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word: For mine eyes have seen thy salvation." We read he was patiently waiting for the consolation of Israel. We need not despair because of sin and evil in this world. We too can experience peace and consolation and a lasting satisfaction in our departure, even as Simeon, if we believe and trust as he did in the promises of God.

It gives us faith and courage to note how God's promises are sure, and it seems we are especially thankful at this season, even as the wise men long ago, when guided by the star in the east and saw the young Child and Mary His mother. They fell down and worshipped Him and opened their treasures and presented their gifts. Undoubtedly the gift-giving custom originated there, even as we give gifts to our loved ones on this Birthday of Christ and many hearts are made glad. Yet we believe all the exchanging of gifts and our custom of wishing each other a merry Christmas cannot be compared with the wonderful gift of God, the greatest of all gifts, His Son, a saviour and a redeemer, indeed a message of glad tidings to all people. May we ever anew be thankful to Him who first loved us and who "so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Let us read the wonderful story of old which is ever new, for only then can we more fully appreciate God's love toward the children of men.—**Harry Bucher.**

"Young people, life is beautiful, but it is not eternal. Springtime and summers are numerous, but they are not innumerable. Winter comes, night comes, the moment of solitude when, alone on your bed, you face an immortality either frightful or joyous." "Where will you be tomorrow? Today you sing hymns. What kind of songs will you sing tomorrow? Today you mingle with God's children. What will be your contacts tomorrow?"

## AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL

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the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel."

We should be thankful that God could reveal this to the aged prophet. The apostle Peter referred to the prophecies, stating "that no prophecy of the scripture is of any private interpretation. For the prophecy came not in old time by the will of man, but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost."

Isaiah the prophet portrayed Him as He really is: "Wonderful."

It appears that part of the prophecy of Isaiah is still to be fulfilled.

The prophet Micah gives a description of a time to come when He will be the Head of all government, "And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks; nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

"But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make *them* afraid: for the mouth of the LORD of hosts hath spoken *it*. For all people will walk every one in the name of his God, and we will walk in the name of the LORD our God for ever and ever."

This will be a wonderful time for those who are living when this part of the prophecy will be fulfilled. We are living in history-making times, as our generation has lived through two world wars which have claimed the lives of millions of our young men—the property damage almost beyond our comprehension.

These wars were fought to outlaw war so there could be a universal peace. It has been several years since bloodshed has ceased, but the peace is still not won. If our rulers would permit Him, who the prophet said is the Prince of Peace, to sit at their conference tables, there would be hope.

The way it is there does not seem to be a solution to the great problems

that confront our peacemakers and diplomats. The apostle Paul refers to just such a time in his letter to the Thessalonians: "For when they shall say, Peace and safety; then sudden destruction cometh upon them." He also says that to His children the day should not overtake them as a thief.

How necessary it is that we are alert at all times so we will be found at peace with Him and all men, so that when He does appear we can be like Him and live with Him forever.

Many have lived and died since the birth of our Lord, and no doubt many more will be buried in the bosom of the earth before His second coming, to await the resurrection. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first."

Since we live in a temporal and earthly body which is so subject to the ills of this life, it would seem wise to be prepared to meet Him and to be at peace with Him at all times, before whom all must appear, to receive the reward as we will have earned it, whether good or evil.

To those who have found Him He is indeed Wonderful, for we live in constant assurance that whether we live or die, we are in the Lord's hands. I hope there is no one who would go through this life without the hope of such a salvation. Since He was not born to be a Judge, but a Saviour, let us all love and serve Him. By so doing we can save our own souls and possibly in some weak way be a light and an example to our many friends who have not yet made Him their choice.

So to all of us who have hopes of celebrating His blessed birthday, let us in all reverence honor Him, who so loved us that He was willing to send His beloved Son from His beautiful Heavenly Home to dwell upon earth, where He had no place to call His own, to suffer and die for us, that we might be redeemed from eternal doom.

We who are His chosen ones can indeed call Him "WONDERFUL."

—**Theo. Beer.**

"WE ASK YOU TO PRAY and to search your hearts in the face of a perishing world calling, calling, calling in the dark—and the Light can only reach them as you and I determine to get it to them at any cost disregarding our own comfort, or needs."

We believe that all Christian people are beginning to realize that we are coming to the close of this age and that some of the most important prophecies are fulfilling themselves before our very eyes. Have I done my part in carrying out the commands of my Lord Jesus? It is extremely important that every reader will pray earnestly for God's will. "And the gospel must first be published among all nations." (St. Mark 13:10) "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come." (St. Matthew 24:14) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, *even* unto the end of the world. Amen." (St. Matthew 28:19, 20)

"WE MUST HASTEN THE TASK BECAUSE of fleeting opportunities—never were all our fields as ripe as they are today, but never have we seen doors, once wide-open, swinging slowly to a serious closing as we see them today."

"God is giving us plans that will help us, both in our prevailing praying and in our definite systematic sacrificial giving." The way has been left open for every individual to give where they believe necessary.

There are many who will contribute liberally to God's work. "Yes, we have done SOMETHING but so little in comparison to that which has not been done." "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all *men*, especially unto them who are of the household of faith." (Galatians 6:10)

"'Work for the Night Is Coming' is more than a song, it is a warning voice in the actual sunset of our glorious age of gospel opportunity." Let

us go out now on the Jericho road where hundreds of millions lie naked and beaten and dying. Let us go with our pennies and nickels and dimes and dollars for the purchase of Scriptures. AND BECAUSE 'the love of God constrains us.'"

"If there's only one soul in the wide world today,  
That some word I could utter would win;  
If there's only one life on the dark downward way,  
I might turn from the follies of sin;

Let me carol my song for that one lonely heart—  
With its burden of sinning and strife:  
Let me bring but a smile for the tear-drops that start—  
Feed one soul with the true Bread of Life.

For the King did not say, "As to many you've done  
The Divine deeds of kindness and love,"  
But He said, "Inasmuch as you've cared for the one,  
You shall dwell in my Kingdom above."

And I think when I rise to that City of Light,  
And its Master and Maker behold;  
That one gleam of the glory that bursts on my sight,  
Will be one I have led to the fold."

Offerings will be accepted and forwarded for God's work. If you have no definite plan, forward your offering to the Silver Lining or write for further information.

—Silver Lining Staff.

"The meek will he guide in judgment; and the meek will he teach his way." Psalm 25:9.

"Through many tribulations we must enter the Kingdom of God." Acts 14:22. There are no great souls without great sorrows.



### THE BABE OF BETHLEHEM

The blessed story of the Christ,  
The Babe of Bethlehem,  
Is worthy of our song and praise,  
And stirs the hearts of men.

The incarnation of this Child,  
Who came from realms above,  
Is miracle divinely wrought,  
And fills our hearts with love.

This lowly Child of Bethlehem  
Is by the world adored,  
The mortal tongue and heart rejoice,  
And call Him Prince and Lord.

The fullness of God's love divine,  
Surrounds the Christ so mild;  
Alas! how many only know  
The Savior as a child.

Our saving hope is all in vain,  
If here our love should cease,  
For in the Man of Galilee,  
We find the gift of peace.

Somehow the Man of Nazareth,  
Constrains our heart and soul  
To cherish and respect His name;  
'Tis He that makes men whole.

'Tis not the Babe, but Christ, the man  
Who walked in Galilee;  
'Tis not the manger, but the cross,  
That sets the spirit free.

Be not content this Babe to know,  
Nor stay at Bethlehem,  
But go with Christ to Calvary's brow,  
Beyond Jerusalem.

'Tis there men learn to know the Christ,  
For there He bore man's sin.  
Then open wide the door of heart,  
And let the Savior in.

—Henry Beer.

# NEWS

## Bluffton, Indiana

Rev. and Mrs. William Fiechter, Mr. Levi Schwartz, Mr. and Mrs. John Baumgartner, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Steffen, Mr. and Mrs. Emil Steffen, Howard Habegger, and Millard Aschliman spent the week end of November 28 visiting in Alabama.

Rev. and Mrs. Ezra Feller and Mr. and Mrs. William Yergler from Cissna Park, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Ed Freidinger visited us Sunday, November 28.

Mr. Robert Kaehr from Chicago spent the Thanksgiving week end with his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaehr.

Miss Elva Aschliman is recuperating at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Aschliman, after undergoing an operation at Van Wert, Ohio.

Mrs. Martha Heyerly has been returned to the hospital where she is undergoing treatment.

Miss Wava Steffen entertained at a shower Wednesday evening, November 24, in honor of Doris Fiechter and Charles Neuenschwander, who will be married in December.

Mr. and Mrs. Roy Haab spent Sunday, November 28, visiting relatives and friends in Milford, Indiana.

Wedding vows were exchanged on Sunday, November 14, by Lula Schwartz and Harry Baumgartner. A dinner and reception for relatives and friends was held at the bride's home, Mr. and Mrs. Levi Schwartz, following the marriage.

Eugene and Dale Maller arrived home from Los Angeles, California, on October 30, after spending ten days visiting their brother, Wayne, and other relatives.

We had visitors among us Sunday, November 14, from many congregations, among whom were Elder and Mrs. William Stettner from Elgin, Illinois, Misses Irene and Sarah Pulfer from Leo, Indiana, Mr. and Mrs. Perry Zimmerman and Mr. and Mrs. Earl Roth and son from Fairbury, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. Gus Meiss and Mr. and Mrs. Irvin Walters from Cissna Park, Illinois, and Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Web-

ber and daughter from Wayne County, Ohio. We enjoyed their visit very much and welcome them all back.

The Misses Francis and Esther Kipfer accompanied Mr. and Mrs. Herman Manz and family from Junction, Ohio, to Morton and Goodfield, Illinois, over the week-end of Nov. 14.

Elders Philip Beyer and John Bahler and wives visited in our community over the week-end of November 7. Services were conducted Sunday evening, with many present from Latty and Toledo, Ohio, and Milford, Indiana. The day was enjoyed by all and we welcome them all back.

Rev. and Mrs. William Fiechter and Mr. and Mrs. David Fiechter visited the church in West Virginia over the week-end of November 7.

Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Steffen, Mr. and Mrs. Max Steffen, Mr. and Mrs. Obed Steffen, Mr. and Mrs. William Levy, and others spent Sunday, November 7, in Junction, Ohio.

Elder and Mrs. Samuel Aeschliman, Mr. and Mrs. Joel Maller, Mr. and Mrs. Sam Gerber and daughters, Elizabeth, Margaret, and Joan spent Sunday, November 21, in Latty, Ohio.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Dotterer and Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaehr spent the week-end of November 21 in Toledo, Ohio, and Detroit, Michigan.

The engagement of Miss Helen Gerber, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Jehu Gerber, and Mr. Roy Gerber, son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Gerber, was announced Sunday, November 21.

Irene Isch, Justine Fiechter, Alice Troxel, Ruby Moser, Lillian Ringger, Phyllis Gerber, Donald Gerber, Truman Baumgartner, James Moser, Richard Yergler, Hubert Isch, and Robert Gerber spent the week-end of November 21 in Roanoke, Illinois.

## Bremen, Indiana

Mr. and Mrs. John Laidig, Sr., have moved in their new home that was just completed.

On Sunday, November 14, announcement was made of the engagement of Richard Zeltwanger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zeltwanger, and Miss Doris Scharlach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Scharlach of

Remington, Indiana.

On November 5 a son, Charles Paul, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Paul Grise. Mrs. Grise is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ernest German.

Mr. and Mrs. William Leman visited at Roanoke, Illinois, Sunday, November 21.

Thanksgiving services were held Wednesday evening, November 24.

## Burlington, Oklahoma

Those who attended the church conference at Roanoke, Illinois, were Rev. Elias Somerhalder, Rev. Roy Farney, and Rev. Joseph Aberle.

Mrs. Anna Miller accompanied Rev. and Mrs. Elias Somerhalder and son Robert on their trip to Illinois, where she visited her children, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Luttrell and son William of East Peoria, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Noah Domnick have been spending a two week vacation with their son, Mr. Kenneth Domnick and family of Ada, Oklahoma.

There was quite a large group attending the funeral of Mrs. Ernest Schief of Gridley, Kansas. Those who attended were Mr. and Mrs. Sam Ott, Miss Fredreika Scheif, Mr. and Mrs. William Schupbach, Rev. and Mrs. Roy Farney, Mr. and Mrs. Floyd Schupbach, Mr. and Mrs. Issac Diel, Mrs. Anna Miller, Mrs. Fred Otti, Mr. and Mrs. John Brown, Rev. and Mrs. Elias Somerhalder, and Mr. and Mrs. George Miller, Sr.

On Sunday, November 28, our community received a bountiful blessing by the presence of Rev. Joseph Kloetzle of Altadena, California, who delayed his homeward journey to spend the week-end in our midst. Due to the fact that we had an ice-storm and there was no electricity in our church building, we assembled in the Burlington school. There we held our regular church services and evening services. It was a day we shall never forget.

Mr. and Mrs. Dan Miller of Fort Scott, Kansas, spent the week-end of November 28 visiting relatives and friends in this community.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Aeschleman of Wichita, Kansas, spent November 28 with us.

## Chicago, Illinois

Our visitors on Sunday, November

7, were Roy Metz, Joseph Metz, Joseph Honegger, and Ed Zimmerman from Fairbury and Mr. and Mrs. Lester Bittner and others from Peoria.

William Schwartz and Joseph Lorenz of Maywood, California, spent a few weeks visiting relatives and friends in Chicago.

Rev. Joseph Klotzle held services here on Thursday, November 18. We also had visitors from Elgin, Illinois.

Rev. Albert Fisher and family and others from here attended the program at Cissna Park on Sunday, November 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Maibach and Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Schneider of Peoria, Illinois, visited the Chicago church on Sunday, November 21. Rev. Robert Haas of Elgin, Illinois, held the services.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Rauhaus from Oakville, Iowa, were with us on Sunday, November 28. They were here visiting their son.

Mr. and Mrs. Eli Farney from Wolcott, Indiana, were overnight guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Hofer on Wednesday, December 1.

#### Francesville, Indiana

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Ghost, be with you all." II Cor. 13:14.

"As having nothing, and yet possessing all things." II Cor. 6:10. ABUNDANCE was the appropriate theme for our monthly young people's meeting presented the week of Thanksgiving. Visitors from Peoria, Detroit, and Forrest were with us to enjoy the blessings of the day and evening. A potluck supper was served at the church.

A premature daughter was born November 8 to Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Leman. The infant, named Rebecca Sue, died November 9. Surviving are the parents, one brother, and the maternal and paternal grandparents. Short funeral services were held at the Query funeral home with Rev. Philip Gutwein in charge.

"Cast thy burden upon the LORD, and he shall sustain thee; He shall never suffer the righteous to be moved." Psalms 55:22.

November 7. Rev. Harry Bucher and family and a number of folks

from La Crosse, also from Grabill, Roanoke, and Congerville were present to worship with us. They were at the home of Mrs. Mary Wuethrich and family for Sunday dinner.

November 12. Rev. Sam Anliker and Rev. Peter Fankhouser of Kansas ministered here in the evening. Visitors from La Crosse, Remington, and Wolcott were also present.

November 28. Visitors from Detroit worshipped with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Howard Logan of Oak Park, Illinois, are the parents of a daughter. Mrs. Logan was formerly Eileen Pelsy.

Mr. Sam Getz underwent a major operation on November 24.

#### Croghan-Naumberg, New York

Mr. and Mrs. Harold Virkler of Ithaca, New York, are the parents of a son, Robert Harold, born November 6. Mrs. Reuben Farney has been spending several weeks with them.

Mr. and Mrs. Leon Herzig spent several days during the last week of October at Rockville, Connecticut.

Mr. and Mrs. John Schambach and family of Elgin, Illinois, visited with Mr. and Mrs. David Schambach and family the week end of November 8.

Mrs. Kate Steiner has returned from the hospital at Syracuse and is with her son, Leslie Steiner, at Castorland.

Elder and Mrs. Philip Beyer and Mrs. Ralph Beyer toured with Elder and Mrs. John Bahler of Rockville, Connecticut, to Bluffton the week end of November 8. On November 9 they attended the funeral services of Mrs. Emma Nussbaum at Remington; the elders also conducted services there in the evening. Mrs. Ralph Beyer stayed to visit her mother, Mrs. Marie Schieler and family, while the others attended the conference at Roanoke, Illinois. They also visited the various churches in Illinois. On their way home they visited at Bay City, Michigan.

Elder and Mrs. John Bahler were at Croghan for evening services on November 20.

Rev. and Mrs. Will Virkler and Rev. Jonas Virkler attended the conference at Roanoke, Illinois, and also visited Peoria, Fairbury, and Cissna Park, Illinois, and Remington, Wol-

cott, and Milford, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Virkler and son, Wayne, spent a week with Mrs. Marie Schieler and family at Remington, Indiana.

A son, Calvin Lon, has been born to Mr. and Mrs. Leon Ebersoll.

Mr. Fred Yost of Rockville, Connecticut, spent several days with Mr. and Mrs. Theodore Herzig.

#### Cissna Park, Illinois

Rev. Albert Fisher and family of Chicago were with us the evening of our community singing on November 21. We enjoyed their singing very much.

Rev. and Mrs. Conrad Gutwein visited our congregation on Thanksgiving Day.

Ervin Bahler and family were in our midst on Thanksgiving Day.

Miss Loretta Feller became the bride of Kenneth Bauer October 31. The young couple toured the eastern states on their wedding trip.

Miss Marie Bauer became the bride of Robert Hohulin of Peoria, Illinois, November 7.

LaVerne Farney, Jerry and Lynn Feller, Wilmer Kaufman, Lee Eisenman and Marjorie Frey of Remington, Indiana, spent the week-end of November 13 in Toledo, Ohio.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Neuckomm and Jerry Feller spent an enjoyable week-end in Morton November 27.

Mr. and Mrs. Will Yergler and son, Wallace and Mr. and Mrs. Ezra Feller and son, Lynn, spent the week-end of November 27 in Bluffton, Indiana.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Kupferschmid and sons, Robert and Paul, spent the week-end of November 27 in Peoria.

Mrs. Lydia Scharlach has been seriously ill at her home.

Our new church building is progressing very nicely.

#### Fairbury, Illinois

Funeral services were held here Saturday, November 6, for Mrs. Elizabeth Herzog, aged 92 years; Joshua Broquard conducted the services.

To Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Ifft was born a son, Gary James, on November 12; to Mr. and Mrs. Merle Kaisner was born a daughter, Wanda Lou, on November 15.

Elder Philip Beyer of Croghan, New York, and Elder John Bahler of

Rockville, Connecticut, held services here on Tuesday evening, November 15. There were many who congregated to hear the inspiring sermons.

We are happy to have Miss Eileen Honegger with us in the fold of Christ. She was baptised on Sunday, November 21.

#### Fort Scott, Kansas

Rev. and Mrs. Eli Somerhalder, Rev. Roy Farney, and Mrs. Anna Miller, visited here November 5; a blessed evening service was held. On November 16, Mr. and Mrs. William Reber returned home after spending several weeks with their children in Elgin, Illinois, and Oakville, Iowa.

Among the guests at the Raymond Banwart home on November 20 were Mr. and Mrs. Oscar Zaugg and James of West Bend, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Ephraim Strahm, and Miss Evelyn Marti of Sabetha, Kansas.

We enjoyed having Rev. Joseph Kloetzle of Altadena, California, for evening services on November 24. Others present from Gridley, Kansas, were Rev. and Mrs. John Somerhalder, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Somerhalder and daughter, and Mrs. Sarah Braker and family of Lamar, Missouri, and Mr. and Mrs. Arlie Banwart and family, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Zaugg, and Martha Frieden of West Bend, Iowa.

Mr. and Mrs. David Massner, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Miller, Mrs. Wayne Miller, and Mr. and Mrs. Gus Sinn attended the funeral of Carrie Schif of Gridley, Kansas, on November 22.

#### Lamar, Missouri

Mrs. Henry Lehman and Mrs. Lester Braker are both home from the hospital recovering from major operations.

Mrs. Mary Frieden has been on our sick list.

Mrs. Sarah Braker fell in her yard and broke her left arm; she is recovering nicely.

Virgil Friedman and Raymond and Berniece Braker returned from a trip through Iowa, Minnesota, and Indiana. All reported a wonderful time.

Rev. Joseph Kloetzle of Altadena, California, Rev. and Mrs. John Somerhalder, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Somerhalder, and Sarah Lee of Gridley, Kansas, Mrs. Martha Frieden of West

Bend, Iowa, Mr. and Mrs. Raymond Banwart and twins of Ft. Scott, Kansas, and Rev. and Mrs. Gustav Sinn of Fort Scott, Kansas, spent Thanksgiving Day with relatives and were all with us for the evening church. An inspiring sermon was enjoyed.

Mrs. Elizabeth Cordill is making her home with Mr. and Mrs. Louis Marti; she is Mrs. Marti's mother. We welcome her back in our community.

#### Leo (Grabill), Indiana

Mrs. Philip Schlatter, Mrs. David Lantz, and Percida Conrad are on our sick list this month. We all wish them a speedy recovery.

Our Young People's Meeting was held Sunday evening, November 21. The theme of the program was Thanksgiving. The Christmas meeting has been planned for Dec. 18.

Mr. and Mrs. Henry Beer and their little son visited with friends here Sunday evening, November 28.

Willis Ehnle was a Grabill caller Tuesday evening, November 30. Willis had spent some time in Alabama.

Gaylord Widner who is attending Purdue University, Darrell Klopfenstein of Defiance College and Donald Schlatter and Janet Eikenberry of Manchester College were all here on Sunday, November 28, being home for Thanksgiving.

Elder Samuel Aschliman of Bluffton, Indiana, conducted services in Fort Wayne Wednesday, December 1.

#### Lester, Iowa

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Koehl and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Schmidgall of Morris, Minnesota, Rev. and Mrs. Chris Koehl of Peoria, Illinois, Rev. and Mrs. Silas Leuthold of Princeville, Illinois, Mrs. John Schick of Morton Illinois, Rev. and Mrs. Paul Banwart, Edwin, Leona, and Lela, Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Mogler, Mr. and Mrs. Mike Schmidt, Mr. and Mrs. William Metzger and Marie, Florence, and Gladys Banwart, Leah Traub, Mrs. George Sauder and Mildred, all of West Bend, Iowa, and Clara Banwart and Elizabeth Metzger of Elgin, spent Sunday, October 31, with us. Baptismal services were held for Andy Mogler.

Mrs. Ruth Metzger and son Robert from Elgin, Illinois, spent the week of Thanksgiving visiting relatives here.

Also visiting relatives over the holiday were Mr. and Mrs. William Knobloch, James and Rose Ann, and Mrs. Fred Feucht of Princeville, Illinois.

A daughter, Delores Diana, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Virgil Sauder October 31, and a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. Andy Leuthold November 27. He was named John Ernst.

Mr. and Mrs. John Mogler, Andy and Martha, and Miss Louisa Mogler attended a wedding on November 14, at Congerville, Illinois. August Mogler, who was the bridegroom, is the son of Mr. and Mrs. John Mogler.

#### Mansfield, Ohio

Mr. and Mrs. John Dapper of Maywood, California, visited relatives and friends here several days on their way to the Conference in Roanoke, Illinois. Brother Dapper held services Friday evening, November 5, also morning and afternoon services Sunday, November 7, which were very inspiring and very much appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Sabo, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sabo, Mr. Joel Beer, John Fuhrer, Robert Hartzler, and Robert Beer went to Illinois November 9. The brothers attended the conference.

Mr. and Mrs. Lucas Sabo left Illinois to spend the winter in Maywood, California.

Miss Anna Miller left November 15 for her home in Maywood, California.

Mr. and Mrs. Victor Stavenik, Sr., have gone to Indiana to spend some time with their children.

Mrs. Lillian Beery and her son and daughter, Mrs. Emma Maibach, and Mrs. Katharine Hansi of Rittman were visitors here Sunday, Nov. 14.

Elder and Mrs. Elias Dotterer and Mrs. Andrew Dotterer visited us Wednesday evening, November 17. Evening services were conducted by Elder Dotterer, which we enjoyed very much.

Miss Clara Steffen of Fairbury, Illinois, is visiting her sister, Mrs. Henry Sabo.

Mr. Fred Ammon of Akron and Mr. and Mrs. Peter Barna of Medina, Ohio, visited us Sunday, Nov. 21.

Mr. Henry Sabo and Mr. Ben Dotterer visited in Monroe County, Ohio, Sunday, November 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Theo Beer of Milford, Indiana, visited relatives here Sun-

day, November 28. Services were conducted by Rev. Beer, which were very inspiring.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Sauder and children of Bluffton, Indiana, visited relatives and friends here a few days.

#### Morton, Illinois

Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Witzig gave dinner for a group of ministers, their wives, and many other friends the day after the church conference at Roanoke.

Many visiting ministers were also with us for special Thursday evening services and for Sunday and Sunday evening services.

Mrs. Peter Frey was taken into the fold November 21, and on November 28 Elder Emil Schubert of Peoria baptized Russell Rapp. Rev. Joseph Hodel from Roanoke also visited the Morton congregation.

Helen Grimm passed away following an appendicitis operation a few weeks ago.

Elmer Witzig is recovering from a broken leg incurred when struck by an automobile in Chicago.

A group of young members sang for John Steiner, Mrs. Mary Bauman, Rev. Ben Heiniger, and Mrs. Carl Rassi Sunday, November 21.

Mr. and Mrs. Ben Neuckomm visited in Morton Sunday, November 28.

Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Rapp's Sunday evening dinner guests on November 28 included Elder Emil Schubert, Rev. and Mrs. Joseph A. Getz, Rev. and Mrs. Henry Grimm, and Elder and Mrs. Carl Rassi, among other relatives and friends.

Miss Jerry Feller of Cissna Park, Illinois, was the week-end guest of Mary Louise Frintz on November 27 and 28.

#### Oakville, Iowa

Rev. and Mrs. Albert Scheitlin visited our congregation November 7.

Jacob Pfister and Gustav Sinn of Fort Scott, Kansas, and Fred Marti of La Mar, Missouri, were visiting ministers on November 11.

Mr. and Mrs. Matthew Wackerle of Bay City, Michigan, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Honegger of Fairbury, Illinois, and Miss Lillie Kemp of Roanoke, Illinois, were visitors November 14.

Rev. Samuel Anliker and Rev. Peter Fankhouser from Lamont, Kan-

sas, conducted services in the evening of November 15.

Rev. and Mrs. John Dapper of Maywood, California, and Mr. and Mrs. Carl Feucht and daughter of Lester, Iowa, attended evening services on November 17.

Rev. and Mrs. Dapper were in Burlington for evening services on November 18. They left on the train from Fort Madison, homeward bound, later in the evening.

Sunday, November 21, visitors here were from Morton, Peoria, and Tremont, Illinois, and Hancock, Minnesota.

Mr. and Mrs. Herman Kellenberger of Elgin, Illinois, Mr. and Mrs. William Beutel, Mr. and Mrs. Dan Steiner from Tremont, Mr. and Mrs. Alf Eisenmann, Mrs. Ida Eisenmann, Misses Mabel and Grace Eisenmann, and Lee Eisenmann of Cissna Park, Illinois, were Thanksgiving guests.

Mr. and Mrs. William Rauhaus visited their son, Mr. and Mrs. Clarence Rauhaus, in Chicago, Illinois.

John Frank was a patient for two weeks in the hospital suffering from a fractured pelvis. He is home now.

#### Peoria, Illinois

The engagement of Miss Kathryn Menold and Alvin Farney was made known on Sunday, October 31. They plan a January wedding which will take place in Princeville.

A highly esteemed brother, Alfred Siebentahl, passed away at his home here on November 5. Funeral services were conducted by Elders Emil Schubert of Peoria and Frank Woertz of Goodfield. Burial took place in Princeville.

We enjoyed a blessed Sunday on November 7 when Rev. Clarence Yackley and Rev. Barth of Wichita, Kansas, visited us.

Mrs. Michael Weyeneth submitted to an operation recently, but we are glad to report that she is making a good recovery.

Elder John Bahler of Rockville, Connecticut, Elder Beyer of Croghan, New York, Rev. Louis Bahr of Sabetha, Kansas, and Rev. Dan Stoller of Latty, Ohio, are some of the ministers who visited us in the past month. We hope they all can again return soon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Kipfer and son of Grabill, Indiana, spent the Thanksgiving week end with her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Peter Martin and family.

Miss Minnie Haecker visited her sister in La Grange, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Fisher and family, over Thanksgiving.

The wedding of Miss Liola Feucht of Princeville and James Ringger of Gridley will take place Sunday, December 5. They are employed here, and will make Peoria their home.

#### Princeville, Illinois

A number from the Roanoke congregation visited with us Sunday, Oct. 31.

The engagement of Miss Katherine Menold and Mr. Alvin Farney was made known October 31.

Mr. and Mrs. John Elsasser are the proud parents of a son born Nov. 7.

Evening services were held November 8 with the Reverends Somerhalder and Roy Farney of Burlington, Oklahoma, and Clarence Yackley of Wichita, Kansas, conducting the services. On Thursday evening, November 11, another blessed evening was enjoyed when Reverend John Dapper of Maywood, California, and Reverend Sabo of Mansfield, Ohio conducted the service.

George Berchtold had the misfortune to lose part of several fingers on his right hand when he got it caught in a corn picker. He was hospitalized several days but is able to be out again.

Billie, the small son of Mr. and Mrs. William Scholl, is still a hospital patient and is slowly recovering from polio.

Mr. and Mrs. Otto Baer and daughters and Miss Dorothea Kieser returned home November 14 from a six-weeks trip through the western states. They passed through thirteen states, visiting many friends and relatives.

#### Pulaski, Iowa

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Koehl from Morris, Minnesota, spent November 2 with us. Services were held in the evening.

Mr. and Mrs. Silas Banwart and daughter Caroline and son Leslie, Mary Lou Traub, and Rev. Joseph Banwart from West Bend, Iowa, spent November 13 with us.

Rev. and Mrs. Dan Stoller from Latty, Ohio, and Sam Stoller from Peoria, Illinois, spent November 14 with us. Evening services were enjoyed.

Rev. and Mrs. Henry Gerst, Mr. and Mrs. John Heiniger, Mr. and Mrs. William Rauhaus, Elizabeth Frank, and Jesse Eisenman from Oakville, Iowa, spent November 14 with us.

Mr. and Mrs. Reuben Anliker and children Melva, Melvin and Leonard from West Bend, Iowa, and Mr. and Mrs. Robert Wuthrich from Des Moines, Iowa, spent a few days Thanksgiving week with us.

Sunday, November 28, two cars of young folks from Oakville, Iowa, one car from Taylor, Missouri, and Mr. and Mrs. Dannie Endress and Freddie Lee from Princeville, Illinois, spent the day with us. Supper was served at Albert Wuthrich's home.

#### Remington, Indiana

Visitors at church on Sunday, October 31, were Rev. and Mrs. Dan Stoller of Latty, Ohio, and several from Francesville, Elgin, and Morton, Illinois. Services were held again in the evening; Rev. Walter Koehl and others from Fairbury and a number from Francesville and Wolcott were present.

Funeral services were held at 10:30 a.m. on Monday, November 8, for Mrs. Emma Nussbaum, age eighty-five, who passed away at her home in Remington on November 6. She was the widow of Nicholas Nussbaum, who passed away in 1940. She leaves nine children (six daughters and three sons), twenty-three grandchildren, and twenty-three great-grandchildren. The funeral was largely attended. Services were conducted by Elders Philip Beyer and John Bahler.

Services were held again on the evening of November 8 with a large attendance including quite a number from a distance who were on their way to the Roanoke church conference. We had a very pleasant evening. Elders Philip Beyer and John Bahler and the Emch brothers conducted the services.

Mr. and Mrs. Bernard Virkler and Mrs. Ralph Beyer returned home after visiting relatives here.

Services were held on the evening

of November 11 as Rev. and Mrs. Peter Fankhauser and Rev. and Mrs. Sam Anliker of Lamont, Kansas, were present. Also many were present from Francesville, Wolcott, and Fairbury.

On Sunday afternoon, November 14, the engagement was announced of Miss Doris Scharlach, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Ruben Scharlach, to Mr. Richard Zeltwanger, son of Mr. and Mrs. Carl Zeltwanger of Bremen, Indiana. We wish them God's rich blessings.

Rev. William and Rev. Jonas Virkler held services at church; they were on their way home from the conference.

Most of the Remington folks assembled with the Wolcott congregation on Thanksgiving forenoon.

Mr. and Mrs. Ervin Bahler and family visited their daughter and husband at Cissna Park on Thanksgiving Day.

Rev. and Mrs. Philip Gutwein were visitors at church on Sunday, November 28; also several from Peoria, Illinois, were present.

#### Roanoke, Illinois

On October 5, Mr. and Mrs. Chris Hodel were surprisedly welcomed into their new home in Eureka by their new friends and neighbors.

Rev. and Mrs. Dirwachter of Portland, Oregon, visited our community on October 8. They were guests of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schumacher for supper, after which evening services were held at the Roanoke church.

Miss Minnie Bittner of Peoria, Illinois, passed away on October 11. Her funeral, conducted by Elder David Mangold, was held on October 13 at the Roanoke church.

Six girls from Fort Wayne, Indiana, visited us on the week-end of October 16 and 17.

On October 17, Mary Ann Sauder of Goodfield and Carlton Beer of Milford, Indiana, were married by Elder Frank Woertz in the presence of a host of friends and relatives. They plan to make their home in Milford, where the groom is engaged in farming.

We had as our guests on October 24 Rev. and Mrs. Al Fisher of Chicago, Illinois, accompanied by a few others,

also of Chicago.

On November 8, Mr. and Mrs. Howard Sauder became the parents of a daughter, Ann Louise, born on November 8. Mr. and Mrs. Curt Mangold are the parents of a daughter, Ann Louise, born on November 8. A son, Tommy, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Rudy Hoffman on November 29.

The church conference was held on November 9 and 10, all Elders being present. On November 9, services were conducted by Rev. Young of Wichita, Kansas, and Rev. Emck of Girard, Ohio. Rev. Kloetzle of Maywood, California, and Rev. Ritzman of Akron, Ohio, held services on November 10. Rev. Dapper of Maywood, California, and Rev. Sabo of Mansfield, Ohio, held services on November 12. Meals for the meeting were served at the church, nearly 700 being served at one meal.

On Sunday, November 14, Elder and Mrs. John Bahler of Rockville, Connecticut, were our guests in Roanoke, and in the evening Elder and Mrs. Phil Beyer of Castorland, New York, visited us.

Many young people from Francesville, Milford, and La Crosse, Indiana, visited us on Sunday, November 14. They made calls at the homes of Marilyn Weyeneth and Dorothy Martin after church and had supper at Mr. and Mrs. Ben Fehrs.

On November 21, some young people from Bluffton, Indiana, were our guests. On Saturday evening they were guests of Mardell Leman. After church they made a call at the home of Mary Ann Leman, and in the evening and for supper they were at Ann Mingers.

#### Toledo, Ohio

On the week end of November 14 Lee Eisenmann, Lynn Feller, Wilmer Kaufman, LaVerne Farney and Jerry Feller all of Cissna Park, Illinois and Marge Frey of Remington visited in Toledo.

The Sunday school classes had their Fall Program Sunday evening, November 14, which was enjoyed by all.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Price are the proud parents of a son, James Edward, born November 15.



On the week end of Nov. 21st Mr. and Mrs. Sam Kaehr and Mr. and Mrs. Henry Dotterer of Bluffton, Indiana visited in Toledo and Detroit, Michigan. A number of the Toledo folks accompanied them to Detroit for services.

The John Kaehr family all spent Thanksgiving Day at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Ben Schlatter. Thanksgiving Day services were held by Mr. Joseph Klopfenstein of Gridley, Illinois.

Mr. and Mrs. Al Frautschi and son of Grabill, Ind., visited the Jacob Frautschi family on Thanksgiving Day.

On November 28th Mr. and Mrs. Ben Maibach and daughter, Frances, Misses Dorothy Knochel and Audry Freidinger and Dan Knochel, all of Detroit, Michigan, visited in Toledo.

Miss Clara Eisenmann visited relatives in Bay City Michigan a few days during the week of November 28th.

#### Wolcott, Indiana

Rev. Walter Koehl, Mary Koehl, Mrs. Mary Meister, and Mrs. Emma Von Bergen of Fairbury, and Rev. and Mrs. Sam Kilgus and others from Remington visited our congregation October 31.

Rev. and Mrs. John Somerhalder and son Louis of Gridley, Kansas, and a number from Remington were with us for the evening services on November 3.

Mr. and Mrs. Sam Furrer and family, Mr. and Mrs. Winsford Wood, and Mr. and Mrs. Levi Kropp and daughters spent Sunday, November 7, at LaCrosse and were supper guests at the Willard Yergler home.

Mrs. E. J. Gudeman is improving at her home following a major operation recently.

Misses Pauline and Wilma Nussbaum of Bloomington, Illinois, spent the week end of November 21 with their mother, Mrs. Ida Nussbaum.

The Remington congregation assembled with us for services on Thanksgiving Day. Rev. Emil Bahler and others from Fairbury were also present.

## NIGHT SCENES OF THE BIBLE

### Saul's Night at Endor

Our narrative is based on I Samuel 28th chapter. The history of Saul, from his first appearance as king of Israel to his death, reads like an inspired tragedy. His brilliant achievements in war and his melancholy end were celebrated by the greatest of the Hebrew Psalmists, in his own age. Nearly one hundred generations have appeared and passed away from the earth since the beauty of Israel was slain upon the high places of the field. There is so much of good and bad, strength and weakness, success and failure, in the man, that we are drawn to him when we do not like him. We pity him when we feel that he deserves to be punished. Like David, we lament his fall when we know that it would have been a calamity to his people and the world if he had continued to reign. We go back and read the history of his call to the kingdom time and again with something like hope that he will fulfill the fair promise of his manly frame and modest deportment. We close the record with the same repeated disappointment, that one on whom Nature and Providence had conferred all gifts and graces to make "a king of men" should fail through his fault and die in dishonor for his own transgression. His character combined the most opposite qualities, and his life abounded in startling contradictions. At times he exhibited rustic simplicity, unnatural sternness, clemency and cruelty, superstition and jealousy, irresolution and remorse. He was rash in danger and cautious in safety. He had the courage of a hero and the timidity of a coward. He spared his worst enemy and he would have put to death his best friend. He prophesied himself and he destroyed the prophets of the Lord. He cut off the diviners and necromancers out of the land, and on the last night of his life he traveled many miles, in great peril and fatigue and distress of mind, to inquire for himself of a woman that had a familiar spirit. He named his own children just as the mood of faith, superstition or mockery happened to move him at the

time—Jonathan from Jehovah, Melchishua from Moloch, Eshbaal from Baal, Mephibosheth from contempt of all faith. When brought under influence of sacred music and song and religious worship, he would catch the spirit of devotion and pour forth the most fervid expressions of praise and prayer. He would become so carried away as to give himself neither rest nor food, day or night, until his strength failed and he fell to the ground exhausted. And then, when the stormy zeal had passed, his old disposition would break out with greater violence than ever. He would pursue the object of his jealousy with the hate and fury of a demon, and then he would melt into tenderness and weep like a child when some act of generosity had touched his heart. Thus kindness and cruelty, manliness and meanness, superstition and faith, firmness and indecision, were combined with fearful extremes in this one man.

And so this mad monarch of Israel, with the good and evil angel ever struggling in his soul, was swept on in his stormy reign to the dark day when he was encamped with three hundred thousand men upon the northern ridge of Gilboa, with the greater host of the Philistines in sight at Shunem, five miles away on the other side of the valley. It was a place of great historic interest to the tribes of Israel. It overlooked and bordered upon the great plain of Esdraelon, the most fertile and famous plain in all Palestine, even then, as it has been ever since for three thousand years—from Joshua to Napoleon—the battlefield of nations. On the same bleak ridge where Saul was encamped, Gideon had hidden his three hundred men among the rocks two hundred years before, when the Midianites filled the valley beneath, as grasshoppers and as the sand of the sea for multitude. Down the face of those dark cliffs Gideon and his servant Phurah had slid silently by night and crept stealthily through the wild grass "unto the outside of the armed men" and then had overheard a wakeful soldier telling his

companion the dream of a barley loaf rolling into the camp of the host and overturning a tent. In that valley, on that same night, the brave three hundred, divided into three companies, broke their pitchers, making a sound like the clash of arms, brandishing their lamps like the signal lights of a great army, blew their trumpets and cried, "*The sword of the Lord and of Gideon*" until the heights echoed with the peal. From that spot the countless host of the Midianites rushed in disorderly rout and wild dismay toward the passes of the Jordan, while Gideon and his chosen three hundred chased and cut them down from behind. Saul was encamped by the very spring of Harod where Gideon's band drank hastily, lifting the water to their lips in the hollow of their hands. Saul had a thousand times as many men as Gideon, better armed and disciplined for war, and the place was one to inspire hope and courage. But the unhappy king was not in a state of mind to secure the advantage or meet the peril of the hour. Misfortunes had multiplied upon him in consequence of his perverse and passionate temper, and the gloomy clouds that had long lowered upon his guilty path were now ready to burst forth in one final and destructive storm. The tribes were weary of his turbulent reign. Increasing numbers were daily turning their faces toward the rising star of David. Samuel was dead, and his last words to Saul were words of threatening. The prophets and priests were slain. The oracle of the Lord gave him no answer. There was no voice nor sound of harp that could charm away the tormenting demon from the dark soul of the king. With the heart of a hero in his bosom, he looked across the valley to the camp of his enemies, and his mighty frame trembled with fear. In an age when physical strength was the best title to sovereignty, there was no man in all the host of Israel to be compared with him for the greatness and beauty of his stature. Above them all he stood. With three hundred thousand warriors entrenched around him upon heights that the chariots and horses of the Philistines could not climb,

Saul felt himself to be defenseless and alone, because God had forsaken him. Alas! there is no path so dark and desolate for human feet to tread as that chosen by the man who resists and grieves away all holy influences from his heart until he feels God has given him up. The sun went down behind the ridge of Carmel, and the shadows of the evening covered the great battle plain, while the sleepless king watched the kindling of the camp fires, and heard the murmur of the mighty host of the Philistines on the other side of the valley. His distress of mind increased as the darkness deepened around him, and he *bitterly thought of the morrow*. He needed rest but he could not sleep. He needed counsel of God, but he had so often rejected it when given that it was no longer offered. When men give up their faith in God, God gives them up to believe a lie. So this unhappy king, having shut his eyes to the light that shines from heaven to guide all in the safe way, resolved to seek counsel from beneath. He took off his royal robes. He laid aside his buckler and his battle-spear. He put on the garments of a common peasant, took two trusty men with him and stole silently out of the camp. They pass silently down the steep sides of Gilboa into the valley to the east of the Philistines, watching every moment lest they should fall upon some outpost of the enemy. After traveling some ten or twelve miles across the plain, they come to a cluster of mud huts or cabins, hanging on the northern declivity of one of the peaks of Little Hermon. One of these wretched cabins, forming the entrance of a rocky cavern on the mountain side, Saul and his attendants seek out in the darkness and enter. In that dark den at midnight, they find a solitary hag, who receives their intrusion with terror and fear. Her fears are allayed by a promise of secrecy and a rich reward. Her suspicions are doubtless awakened as to the character of the intruders, both by the value of the present offered, and by the fact, generally known, that there was but one man in all the land of such gigantic and kingly stature as

now stands before her. In this wretched hamlet of Endor, this outcast woman of Israel has hidden herself away that she may the more safely practice the profane imposture of divination. She pretends to the power of calling back the spirits of the departed and wresting the secrets from the unknown future. But she has no power over the spirits of the dead nor any more knowledge of the future, than any fortune-teller who pretends to read the lines of the hand. Her magical arts are wicked and forbidden, not because they have any power over spiritual agencies, good or evil, but because they are lies, and lead men to withdraw their confidence from truth and from God. And it is to consult this low cunning creature under cover of midnight in a cavern in the mountains, that the anointed king of Israel comes in his great extremity. Trust in God and obedience to every word from the mouth of the Lord was the first article in the constitution of his kingdom and the first condition of his continuing to reign. And here he is, on the night of imminent and terrible destiny to himself and his people, ten miles away from his army, in the den of a sorceress seeking light from a confederate of darkness. The hours of the night are swiftly passing; and when the dawn appears, the hills will shake with the battle-cry and thundering charge of thousands of warriors. The consecrated king of Israel, who should rule the destinies of that day in the name of Jehovah, is away from camp, wasting his strength and unnerving his heart by consulting with this wicked and worthless woman of Endor. And the woman said to Saul, "Whom shall I bring up unto thee? And Saul said, Bring me up Samuel." And before the woman had time to practice her arts for the deception of the king, behold, at the command of God, Samuel actually appeared. The woman herself had the least expectation of any such thing. She was so startled and terrified that she cried out with a shriek of horror. She was well fitted by the long practice of imposition to turn any unexpected occurrence to her credit; but the actual

appearance of a living man from the spirit world was too much for her courage and self-possession. Her magical arts had no power to compel the great prophet to leave the society of Abraham and Moses and appear in that den of sorcery. The spirits of the mighty dead have something better to do than to answer the call of conjurors and clairvoyants in any age in any land. And if they were to come down from their high seats in bliss, they would bring better messages and wiser counsels than the mediums of modern times have reported in their name. It was by the power and appointment of the infinite God that Samuel appeared to confound the arts of the sorcerer and again rebuke the rebellious king because he had not obeyed the voice of the Lord. It was no semblance or shadow. It was the same majestic and awful look that Samuel wore when Saul saw him at Ramah for the last time; the same voice which commanded the thunder and rain in the day of wheat harvest; the same mantle that Saul rent when Samuel told him that the Lord had rent the kingdom from him twenty-three years before. The same words of doom came again from the prophet's voice with the addition that tomorrow all will be fulfilled. And peradventure, too, this last sharp and terrible warning was sent in mercy that the blinded and maddened monarch might have one more opportunity to repent for his fearful impiety in seeking the witch, when he should have called and prayed with tears if need be all that night to the Lord, the God of Israel, for help. The unhappy king saw and heard but no words of penitence or of hope came from his lips. Hungry, weary, terrified, conscience-stricken, he lay like one dead, with the full length of his giant frame on the ground. When he revived, he went back to his army, a despairing man. When the morning came, the host of the Philistines swept across the valley from Shunem and up the heights of Gilboa. The ranks of Israel were broken. The trampled grass of the plain and the rocky steep of Gilboa were piled with countless slain. Amid the discomfiture of the scattered host, the despairing Saul

### THE IMAGE OF GOLD IN THE PLAIN OF DURA (Cont. 3)

(Dan. 3:1-5)

In previous articles we have classified Man's activities as falling into THREE basic groups: POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS and ECONOMIC. All three are God appointed and have a lawful and proper place in God's present program for Man; they are lawful and GOOD but subject to perversion, corruption and EVIL, in "this present evil world."

We have endeavored to trace this THREEFOLD activity through Revelation 13, appearing here in the final stages of their perverted and EVIL form, the leaven of which will eventually involve all peoples and Nations in the "time of the end." Partly because we find this THREEFOLD division in this chapter, we feel that such grouping can be accepted as scriptural.

But not only can we trace this

fell by his own hand. And this is the last sad memorial which the sacred chronicler writes of Israel's first king: "So Saul died for his transgression which he committed against the LORD, *even* against the word of the LORD, which he kept not, and also for asking *counsel* of *one that had* a familiar spirit, to inquire of it; And inquired not of the LORD." So also were fulfilled Samuel's last words, "Moreover the LORD will also deliver Israel with thee into the hand of the Philistines: and tomorrow shalt thou and thy sons be with me: the LORD also shall deliver the host of Israel into the hand of the Philistines."

And out of this dark cave of Endor and down from the blood-stained heights of Gilboa comes a voice of warning and instruction even to us. It is this. In all trials, perplexities, and conflicts of life seek counsel first of God. The path of obedience to God is as the shining light that shineth more and more unto the perfect day. God has a special work for every one to do, just as truly as He had for Saul in calling him to the kingdom of Israel. It is the wisdom and glory of the life of everyone to do the work given him by God and to do it well.

THREEFOLD human activity in their evil and perverted forms, we can discern them in their goodness in the Lord's Prayer, which looks forward to the coming *Kingdom Age*, where Truth and Righteousness shall be the essence of every human activity. Quite notably, however, the Lord places first: RELIGIOUS WORSHIP: "Our Father which art in heaven, *hallowed be thy name.*"

Second: POLITICAL—"Thy Kingdom come."

Third: ECONOMIC:—"Give us this day *our daily bread.*"

"For thine is *the Kingdom, and the Power and the glory for ever.*"

Israel, the natural seed of Abraham and the "children of the kingdom," having been thoroughly disqualified by Satan the adversary, to become the channel for the blessing of all nations, at least for the time being, God, the most High "who ruleth in the kingdom of men, and giveth it to whomsoever he will, and setteth up over it the basest of men" (Dan. 4:17),—even "the God of heaven" now turns to the GENTILES and gives to Nebuchadnezzar, "a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory. And wheresoever the children of men dwell. . . . He . . . hath made thee ruler over them all." (Dan. 2:37-38).

This giving of a Kingdom to Nebuchadnezzar and delegation of POLITICAL POWER to him by the Most High, to "bear rule over all the earth," is looked upon as the beginning of *Gentile Rule or Dominion*; it will end with the appearance of Christ, "the King of the Jews" upon the earth, and the *restoration again of the Kingdom TO ISRAEL*. (Acts 1:6), at the beginning of the Millennium. We are still living in the "times of the Gentiles," and when Daniel speaks of the "time of the END" (Dan. 12:9) or the Lord Jesus: "and then shall the END come" (Matt. 24:14), reference is always made to the END OF GENTILE DOMINION over the earth.

We like to point to the vast POLITICAL ORGANIZATION for the centralizing of POWER TO RULE, in the Kingdom and Person of Nebuchadnezzar, and others that followed, in the line of "Gentile Rule," be-

cause in the "time of the END" a comparable Political Organization will be created with even more centralized POWER TO RULE, not only POLITICALLY, as Nebuchadnezzar did, and RELIGIOUSLY, which, he almost did, save for the defiance of three Jews, who would not *serve his gods, nor WORSHIP THE GOLDEN IMAGE*, and "changed the king's word" (Dan. 3:28), but also to RULE even ECONOMICALLY, as set forth in Rev. 13, adding a third control and a third 6 to Nebuchadnezzar's two.

It should be observed here, however, that while Nebuchadnezzar's great centralized POWER was God-delegated, the like POWER of the end-time "Beast" will be usurped,—dragon-delegated Power (Rev. 13:2). For since the rejection and crucifixion of "the King of the Jews," ALL POWER (centralized) in heaven and in earth is given unto Him, Christ, and it is His sole prerogative to be the next "King over all the earth." (Zech. 14:9).

Especially since the Cross, limited national Governments receive limited God-delegated Power and such as have sought world-wide dominion have always come to grief. For great "Power and Glory" corrupts and Nebuchadnezzar, though partly enlightened and a "head of Gold," did not escape. And so we read:

"O thou king, the most high God gave Nebuchadnezzar thy father a kingdom, and majesty, and glory, and honour:

And for the majesty that he gave him, all people, nations, and languages, trembled and feared before him: whom he would he slew; and whom he would he kept alive; and whom he would he set up; and whom he would he put down.

But when his heart was lifted up, and his mind hardened in PRIDE, he was deposed from his kingly throne, and they took his glory from him." (Dan. 5:18-20).

PRIDE is the essence of original sin and "goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall." (Prov. 16:18). A heart lifted up and a mind hardened in pride, soon robs God of the "things that are God's," and exalting itself into the place of God, soon covets the praise and wor-

ship of men;—not always openly and directly for self,—for even pride likes to wear the robe of humility,—but preferably for something great which he made, or organized or sponsored.

Such was the background against which Nebuchadnezzar, the king, made an IMAGE OF GOLD and set it up and used his GOVERNMENTAL POWER to command and to force the "people, and nations and languages," that they fall down and WORSHIP IT.

The use of Political or Governmental Power to enforce "State Religions" has been a rather common practice throughout the past centuries, and true worshippers here and there, and now and then, were indeed exposed to the terror of sword and fire, but it was not universal "over all the earth" and those persecuted in one place, could flee into another, like America. But Nebuchadnezzar's enforced IDOLATRY reached to "wheresoever the children of men dwell," and the record in the book of the Prophet Daniel, concerning this king and the Image he made, and its dimensions of 60 and 6 cubits or 66, is not merely historical, but like the book of Revelation, it is highly prophetic in its language and symbolism. For these two books are supplementary one to the other and foreshadow *THE END OF* (certain) *THINGS* in "THE TIME OF THE END." Daniel's words of prophecy were uttered at the beginning of *Gentile Dominion* and he was told to "SHUT UP THE WORDS" and "SEAL THE BOOK" even to "THE TIME OF THE END." (Dan. 12:4, 8-9). While in Revelation "the words of this prophecy" DO REVEAL, although in symbolic language, "things which must shortly come to pass; for THE TIME IS AT HAND." (Rev. 1:1 and 3).

If almost two thousand years ago the time was "at hand" that certain things must shortly come to pass, then that time,—even "THE TIME OF THE END,"—is much closer at hand NOW. And as "we have also a more sure word of prophecy" in Daniel and Revelation and other Scriptures, *whereunto we do well that we do take heed, as unto a light that shineth in a dark place, UNTIL THE*

DAY DAWN. (2 Pet. 1:19) and prove the momentous developments of our days in the light of these prophetic utterances,—lest "THAT DAY" should overtake us as a thief in the night.

I am fully aware of the fact that many interpretations have been given to the mystical "number of the beast" of 666, involving the Pope, Mussolini, false religions, church traditions, etc. I claim no special wisdom to decipher it and would not be presumptuous to attach any degree of finality to the viewpoint suggested in these articles. The "children of light, and the children of the day" (1 Thess. 5) will, when the time is upon them, know men by their fruit and things by their nature rather than by literal figures of arithmetic. But this we do know now, that we are in the midst of forces,—POLITICAL, RELIGIOUS, and last but not least, ECONOMIC,—tremendously at work in our very time, shifting mightily for positions of survival and dominance for the final setting. The trend even now clearly forecasts, that these forces will crystallize in the negative and FALSE, bring about the "great tribulation" and lead with compelling necessity to the FINAL FORM of TOTALITARIAN GENTILE WORLD DICTATORSHIP, headed up by the Anti-Christian "beast" of Rev. 13, the fatefully pregnant and symbolic number of which is 666.

Philip Gutwein, Jr.

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#### OUR CONTRIBUTORS

##### SAUL'S NIGHT AT ENDOR

Philip Beyer, Pastor and Elder  
From the Book NIGHT SCENES IN THE BIBLE with added thoughts  
Castorland, New York

##### CHRISTMAS

Harry Bucher, Pastor  
Valparaiso, Indiana

##### THE IMAGE OF GOLD IN THE PLAIN OF DURO (Cont. 3) (Daniel 3:1-5)

Philip Gutwein, Pastor  
Francesville, Indiana

##### AND HIS NAME SHALL BE CALLED WONDERFUL

Theo. Beer, Pastor  
Milford, Indiana

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#### THE SILVER LINING

Published by  
The Apostolic Christian Church  
and Sunday School  
Grabill, Indiana