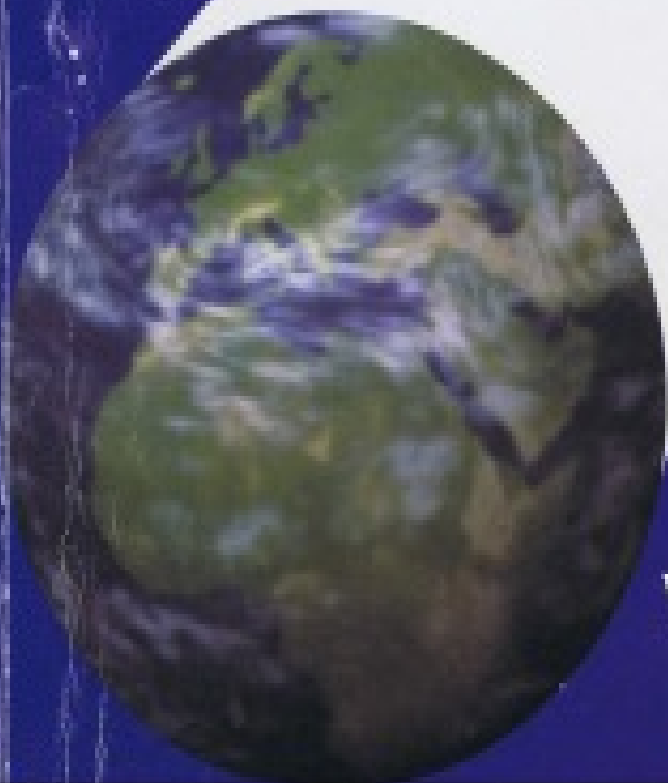


FAR BEYOND THE STARS



WALTER de M. SEAMAN

FAR BEYOND THE STARS

**By
Walter de M. Seaman, ACGI, Bsc**

**With a Foreword by
Canon E. H. Wade, MA**



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DEDICATIONS

"My soul there is a country far beyond the stars"
(Henry Vaughan the Silurist)

This book is dedicated
primarily to
my wife, Elisabeth
without whose encouragement, help and comments
it would not have been written
and to
our three grandchildren
Stuart, Mark and Kate
and to
all the young people
who will inherit the world
in the 21st century
Part I
is dedicated specifically
to the memory of
Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, OBE, LLD, FIAL
and
Sir Albert Howard CIE, MA

FOREWORD

by
Canon E. H. Wade, MA

I AM DELIGHTED TO WRITE A FOREWORD to this book FAR BEYOND THE STARS written by Walter Seaman, a friend of many years.

In the contemporary world, the minds of all thinking people are being stretched as never before in a multitude of directions because almost daily some extension of discovery in so many different 'fields' are knocking at the doors, ruthlessly demanding our attention. The result is that today we are more confused in our thinking than were those who preceded us. There is a story told of two saintly clerics both famed for their intelligence and for their 'other worldliness', but the difference between them was that one of them had his feet firmly on the ground but the other had not. Walter Seaman's FAR BEYOND THE STARS is a highly intelligent attempt to relate the realistic facts of today's world, especially in the realm of what is actually happening, to that which is beyond the scope of purely material understanding but which, deep in our innermost being as thinkers, we are convinced exists in ways we cannot grasp.

The real quest of life is to pursue, and not to give up, in our search for the livingness' of relationship between the material world and the spiritual realm. We are offered Divine assistance but being, as most of us are, hypnotised by the pressures of things material, we decline the Divine gift of the Holy Spirit and allow ourselves to be blinded and imprisoned by the material limits instead of expanding into ever widening vision and experience of the Beyond which is the eventual as well as the present Reality. Because the present reality is so perpetually intrusive for the average man, the eventual Reality remains unexplored unless and until something happens to sound the alarm bells deep in our consciousness, and it is exactly this which FAR BEYOND THE STARS could do for you as it has done for me. I could personally try to explain this experience as an intensifying of a mistily held conviction that TIME and ETERNITY are one unbroken divine process so that as I have been reading FAR BEYOND THE STARS it has come home to me with greater clarity that, in the words of a favourite hymn, 'God is working His purpose out as year succeeds to year' — and that in the present of days of rapid change this process is taking place not only at increasing speed but also with increasing significance for every man and woman in every land in these closing years of the 20th century.

Each of us can choose which of two attitudes to take either the 'I'm alright Jack' which means basically that because I personally can do nothing about these great global issues, I'm not going to worry my head but confine my attention to 'my own little world' - or the attitude that I am one living unit in the magnificent scheme of mankind which is made in the image of God the Supreme Creator. If you choose the latter, then I would go so far as to say to you that FAR BEYOND THE STARS is a must for you to read. It will take a slice of your time and a whole chunk of your concentration - but you will find enrichment of mind and spirit and see more clearly life's meaning. Either 'TIME' and 'ETERNITY' and 'OUR PLANET' (as part of the Creator's Universal Purpose) are related to each other - or there is an unabridged and unbridgeable gap between them. If the former, then we have our feet on the first steps of the ladder which can eventually lead us to the Gateway of Full Understanding without further barriers to our progress. The immediate importance of FAR BEYOND THE STARS is that change is happening so fast 'today' that to ignore it through ignorance or mental sloth is to render ourselves as 'disjointed' members of the human race instead of being living units in the Divine purpose with all that that means. Personally, I can choose no other than to be a 'unit' in the Divine Plan. When Jesus said to His disciples 'abide in Me and let Me abide in you', what else could He have meant?

NOTE

Canon Eustace Wade, father of Virginia - Wimbledon champion in the Queen's Jubilee Year, was formerly Chaplain of Downing College, Cambridge and was later appointed to the University Pastorates of both Cambridge and Oxford where he was also Chaplain to Wadham College. Later he became Chaplain to the British Embassy Church in Paris, now St. Michael's. Later still, he served as officiating Chaplain to the Forces in the South of England, after which he and his family moved to south Africa where he was appointed Rector of the Mother Church of Capetown called St. Saviour's, Claremont. He was then appointed Archdeacon of Durban and Rector of St. Paul's Church and on his return to England he became General Secretary of the United Society for Christian Literature in London. For the last 15 years of his life until his death in 1911 he was President of the CHREST Foundation founded by the author.

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INTRODUCTION

"My soul there is a country far beyond the stars" - (Henry Vaughan the Silurist)

THIS BOOK started as a slim booklet - *THE ENCIRCLING DESERTS*, now PART I of this larger volume. The theme of the larger volume is based on the simple analogy we sometimes refer to as body, soul and spirit. In the context of this book, the 'body' represents the planet Earth's outer covering, referred to in contemporary terms as 'the Environment', and PART I is a diagnosis of its condition and the way we have used or misused it. Although PART I is complete in itself containing proposals for action by individuals and Governments alike, it was felt to be incomplete in relation to the Universe as a whole, and the

role of 'man' within it - not unlike a great mansion with bricks and mortar that have mouldered away over a long period of time while the occupants remain unaware of its imminent collapse.

In Part II, the 'soul' represents the hidden character or psyche of the person or nation and the psychosomatic effects of its motivation on the 'body'. The 'body' is already suffering from malnutrition, starvation and famine, which are accelerating across the planet. The cause of this is described as 'the famine of the Word of God' in the soul of mankind.

In Part III, the 'spirit' is identified as that indefinable but vital root of all our beliefs and aspirations, and the reader is invited to consider the source of true inspiration and the integration of 'body', 'soul' and 'spirit', which alone guarantees a future for mankind in peace, harmony and creativity. Evidence is presented that alongside the darkening skies of mankind's flawed vision and strenuous efforts to convince ourselves that all is well in the end, the Universe is the work of Infinite Beneficent Intelligence and invites our cooperation.

The conclusions at the end of the book in PART IV arise out of this evidence. While individual responsibility to take action is of the utmost importance, the role of a nation's leaders is crucial especially when emergency situations are seen to be developing. Those whom we elect to govern and represent us in the global forum of world affairs must faithfully reflect the ethics and convictions arising out of our history and culture. The scenario suggested by the direction and speed with which these affairs are moving, is not unlike a runaway horse in the wild, and is of such dimensions that only supernatural intervention would seem capable of dealing with it.

What are the grounds for believing that this could happen?

The source of true inspiration and hope, for the survival of mankind and the regeneration of the Earth is clearly identified as the CHRIST, the Light of the World, the JESUS of history, the Word of God Incarnate Who said to St. John on the isle of Patmos -

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the ending . . .
which is, and which was, and which is to come, the Almighty".

PART I - THE ENCIRCLING DESERTS

INTRODUCTION

SINCE PART I WAS WRITTEN, the disastrous floods of Bangladesh have hit the headlines, and BBC new bulletins have stated that these were caused by deforestation on the Himalayan mountains, washing away the fertile soil through the rivers into the Bay of Bengal.

Similar deforestation and floods have been reported from Columbia and other places, including Europe, — apart from the devastation caused by earthquakes and tornadoes.

News bulletins are also reporting that Ethiopia is yet again being threatened with widespread famine (worse than in earlier years) which could cause the death of millions more people.

The events of October 1987, when the hurricane swept over Southern England destroying millions of trees — have brought into sharp relief the value that most of us who live in these islands attach to our tree heritage — from both an aesthetic and economic point of view. To owners of land with centuries old trees, it was a heart rending experience.

And now the dust bowls of American and Canadian prairies are again in the news alter 50 years. No lessons have been learnt, apparently, from the mid-30's disaster which resulted in President Roosevelt setting up the Tennessee Valley authority to deal with it.



While all such traumatic events can be characterised as 'Acts of God' by insurance companies, we can perhaps place such events alongside the far greater destruction of forests which mankind has *deliberately* caused over millennia — and is still actively pursuing in the rain forest areas of the world. It is an irony that hardly bears thinking about.

As recently as August 1994, the *Daily Telegraph* carried a headline "Amazonian destruction continues", i.e — of the rain forests " . . . despite world-wide concern, . . ." The article continues that "seven to eight per cent of Brazil's rainforests have gone," and that "if the destruction continues at that rate, Ecuador will have no trees by 2020."

The 1987 hurricane in Britain was not perhaps as violent as some that take place in other parts of the world, such as on the eastern seaboard of America, but it has awakened in English hearts a new sensitivity to our rich heritage of trees that we have for so long taken for granted. Government finance can repair the damage, but can never replace ancient and noble trees that have adorned the southern countryside for centuries.

Part I is partly a review of the Report issued in 1987 by Dr. Brundtland, Prime minister of Norway and Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and development, entitled OUR COMMON FUTURE, but it also contains information from other sources. The object of this Part is to enable the public to become more aware of the facts that are vital to human survival on this planet within the limited time left to take action.

There is an increasing awareness of these things through the vivid impact of press and TV which brings almost daily evidence across the world that our planet is threatened with catastrophe, including evidence of dangerous effluent in rivers and seas, and air pollution.

There should be international and global commitment on a long term basis by every nation in the world, commensurate with its financial and technical resources, to 'roll back the deserts' of the world by planting trees — re-afforestation on a vast scale.

This would make an enormous contribution towards the reduction of CO2 and the 'greenhouse effect' as well as absorbing other toxic gases in the air, apart from providing a foundation for food production on a massive scale with enormous relevance to Third World countries.

The major part of this task and burden — including immense programmes of reeducation and cultural adjustment as well as the application of the latest technology available — will be inevitable and rightly carried by the developed nations — but governments need the backing of their electorate — those who put them in power, with all the necessary finance.

It is vitally important to stimulate and support the growing public awareness of the need to instigate a 'vast campaign' of public debate and participation recommended in the Brundtland Report — 'OUR COMMON FUTURE', and to maintain pressure on our elected representatives to ensure that such debate continues and is followed by appropriate action.

The conference in Brazil between heads of governments and others is no longer news and rarely recalled in Parliament or the national press. Lip service is far less 'costly' than commitment to take action.

CHAPTER I — WORLD AT THE CROSSROADS

Civilisation is on a race between education and catastrophe" — (Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker)
Clues Written in the Sand

AS WE LOOK AT THE WORLD in which we live — not just our own plot of ground or country — but right across the boundaries of geography and nationality and away from the power confrontation of local, national and world politics — and then with our imagination wide open and supported by the fragmentary help that science provides — we scan the millennial time periods of the past and what do we see? — the evidence of mankind's cumulative destruction of the environment, stark and horrendous.

Unfortunately the pace of this destruction has been so hidden from our unseeing or reluctant sight though now accelerating visibly at an alarming rate that we are refusing to face this danger, like the proverbial ostrich with its head in the sand. Nature and history are now catching up with us and calling us to account for mankind's obscurantism to face the impending penalties of failure.

Let us look for a moment at the deserts of the world and ask ourselves what they tell us about our 'progress' in civilisation. The Earth's green carpet which once richly covered all the land masses, has been steadily stripped of its trees. Man's nomadic habit over perhaps millions of years, to 'slash and burn' the virgin forests and then move on to new areas hunting as he went, was no doubt born of his need for survival, staking his superiority in the food and shelter chain.

He was blind to the ultimate entail of this life style because of the apparently limitless riches of the Earth's creativeness and beauty.

And so the deserts advance relentlessly across the world. The greatest of all, the Sahara of Africa, is so familiar to 20th century man that we assume it has always been there.

But it hasn't! Like all the other deserts, the Sahara appeared only 'yesterday' in relation to the planet's total life span of 15,000 million years or more. It was probably as recent as 12,000 years BC that man first learnt to stop moving on and hunting as his main link in the food chain — and to start learning the arts and skills of fanning — but this took, in contemporary terms, a very long time during which immense damage was done to the environment — as the deserts of the world tell so plainly to those who can read the Earth's warning to mankind.

The Acceleration of Knowledge and Exploitation

Those of us born in the first half of the 20th century tend to forget what happened. In earlier years before the first Great War, while those born since 1950 have no memories only records, of life as it was before that — a time when electric power and telephones were a novelty. Since those days radio communications, television and NOMA him reduced the world to the size of a hack garden.

The cascades of statistics, like an oil-gusher, produced by super-efficient and small computers aided by laser technology, have swamped the mind of the man and the woman in the street. Their children. meanwhile. are learning the marvels of the Internet — as explosive knowledge which is now vital to the operations of business and industry.

Mankind has yet to discover and understand the vital distinction between knowledge. and wisdom. Today. Half-dazed or bemused workaholics manipulate money round the world like gambling at a gaming table - though the comparative leisure of a casino far distant from the speed with which computer buttons are pressed to produce profits for the the money makers. These mostly young men are paying a high price for their financial frenzies by rising blood pressure and over-weight problems. The stress of long hours has not improved their health - when in order to buy or sell securities at the end of a Tokyo day. they have to start work at 5 or 6 a.m. in London or New York quite apart from the vagaries or landslides in the world's financial markets as we saw in the first financial crash in 1929, as well as in October 1987, not to mention the Leeson affair of 1995. 'Yuppies' have come and gone - some of them to a sticky end but stock market variations are now received with more caution.

The frenetic pace of life is not limited to the whiz-kids or money-makers. Everyone is inexorably caught up in the stresses and strains of everyday life - the home, family tensions, the need to survive and compete with life's pressures. Just think for a moment of the millions spent on entertainment, films, records, pop-stars, sport and gadgetry of all kinds apart from the colossal sums spent on national armaments (\$900 billion in 1985 or \$2 1/2 billion a day, rising in 1989 to £1.4 million per minute), the sale of weapons of war to other nations (\$35 billion annually) — and last but not least at a recent 'count' the national debt (in Britain) of £120,000 million (which probably originated from the time of the Napoleonic wars), All these are a grim testament to what some might describe as the lunacy the contemporary world, and these figures are now likely to change much or fast - in spite of same apparent relaxation in East/West tensions.

This life-style inevitably involves, at a later stage, a vast panoply of sedatives of all kinds - to soothe the nerves, to compensate for stress and relieve the tensions of survival in an environment that is beginning to crumble beneath our feet. We seek relaxation or diversion in drink, sex, drugs and even suicide. The suicide rate among doctors is almost twice that of the community – not to mention farmers and other groups which are equally alarming.

Agriculture, Food and Disease

The use of chemicals developed in the first world war to make explosives, produced a momentum that spilled over into agricultural fertilisers, known to some as the NPK syndrome (Nitrogen, Phosphorus and Potassium). These fertilisers produced quantity but began to destroy the quality and fertility of the soil, with the inevitable result that food grown in these soils lacked taste and disease resistance. Mankind fed on such food and, deprived of this resistance, became increasingly prone to disease of all kinds, - especially when the pharmaceutical Industry, spurred on by the use of chemicals on the soil, applied their knowledge to the preservation, colouring and treatment of food to enhance the shelf-life in the supermarkets. These trends continue though the Public are becoming much more aware of the dangers and need to know more about balanced, untreated and whenever possible - uncooked food. What is now known as 'deplete' food is probably the greatest physical cause of all disease.

One of the most common diseases is cancer, and it is ironic that so often the form of its development and spread in the body can best be likened in structure to a tree reaching out into the cells of life - a veritable tree of death. Contrast this with the tree of life — the trees of the world that mankind is destroying at a suicidal rate. The 'Old Book' says that "the tree is the life of man", and international foresters tell us that the woe of the forest is the bridge between life and death through the marvels of the water cycle - a truly umbilical cord - and that without trees, man, animals, plants and environment will die. The tree links 'heaven' and earth, draws water down and brings it up where it still lies for our use in large quantities, below the deserts of the world.

Pioneers

The two men who predominantly focused attention on this vital principle of the 'sphere in the early years of the last century are Sir Albert Howard, soil scientist and nutritional ecologist, and Dr. Richard St. Barbe Baker, who founded **THE MEN OF THE TREES** in Kenya in 1922, now known as the International Tree Foundation.

It was Howard who provided the impetus for the founding of the schools of farming and gardening like the SOIL ASSOCIATION. He farmed in India for many years and was one of the early pioneers to teach the value of composting all waste for house and municipality instead of polluting rivers, beaches and seas with sewage and poisonous effluent. His 'Agricultural Testament' is an eloquent record and comprehensive witness to his success 'as an organic farmer, demonstrating over time, the long term protection from foot and mouth disease', because of the new strength organic methods impart to the bodily immune system - which is also a vital factor in the promotion of is health of mankind.

Dr. Baker was probably the greatest international forester of the last century. He carried through a major work of exploration around the Sahara in 1952 and 1964. His work '*Sahara Conquest*' is a classic record of his 25,000 mile journey around this great desert, advising Heads of Government in 24 African States. His work is still remembered in the West as the one who saved most of the giant Redwoods which tower into the sky along the west coast of Canada and the USA.

UNESCO

It was in 1952, when Dr. Baker began this great exploration of the Sahara, that UNESCO initiated a remarkable project in North Africa called 'MEN AGAINST THE DESERT'. Since then, UNESCO has undertaken research on a vast scale. Our human dilemma and the diagnosis of our condition is clear, precise and on record though the Public as a whole is not aware of it in anything like sufficient detail, if at all. The Senior Environmental Adviser, Mr. Michel Matisse, delivered a keynote speech to The Arid Lands Conference in Tucson, Arizona, over 30 years later in October 1985. He states, when referring to the 30 volumes of scientific reports produced, all still relevant to our problems, that "most of these volumes have become collector's pieces". i.e. they tend to collect dust on our shelves instead of compelling action!

Dr. Bruntland - Chairman of the World Commission on Environment and Development

Still more recently, the Brundtland Report ('Our common Future') produced after or 4 years of intensive public inquiry and study, is a dire and exhaustive record o man's profligate use of the Earth's resources. We are all guilty. No nation is exempt and least of all the nations mainly in the West, but primarily the developed countries who have ruthlessly exploited the nations of the Third World in the tropical zones These nations borrow vast sums to emulate the sophistication of the developed world and can only (attempt?) to service the debt, let alone repay it - by exporting enormous quantities of food while their own people starve and the soil becomes progressively exhausted.

Dr. Brundtland, Prime Minister of Norway when the Report was produced, was Chairman of an International Commission set up by the United Nations in 1983 - as Matter of urgency. Her Commissioners were drawn from 21 different countries around the World including Russia, the USA, China, European States, the Americas and several from Africa. In addition, witness was taken and evidence recorded from more than 1000 individuals. The evidence is impressive and consistent. In the Introduction. Dr Brundtland makes this point:

"We borrow environmental capital from future generations with no intention or prospect of repaying. They may damn us for our spendthrift ways, but they can never collect on our debt to them. We act as we do because we can get away with it: future generations do not vote; they have no political or financial power; they cannot challenge our decisions.

But the results of the present profligacy are rapidly closing the options for future generations. Most of today 's decision-makers will be dead before the planet feels the heavier effects of acid precipitation, global warming, ozone depletion, widespread desertification and species loss. In the Commission's hearings it was the young, those who had most to lose, who were the harshest critics of the planet's management."

In a hard-hitting '**CALL FOR ACTION**' the Commissioners state:

"The change in human attitudes we call for, depend on a vast campaign of education and public participation. This campaign must start now if sustainable human progress is to be achieved . .

We are unanimous in our conviction that the security, well-being and very survival of the planet depends on such changes".

One of Dr. Brundtland's fellow-countrymen stated in a public hearing in Oslo:

"The problems of today do not come with a tag marked energy or economy or CO2 or demography, nor with a label indicating a country or region. The problems are multidisciplinary and transitional or global.

"The problems are not primarily scientific or technological. In science we have the knowledge and in technology the tools. The problems are basically political, economic and cultural".

1986, the *Observer* newspaper published in Britain in collaboration with the Earthlife Foundation, a remarkable supplement entitled 'Paradise Lost'. It was paid for page by page primarily by many concerned citizens of Britain as well as by one or two multinational Companies. The Introduction contained the following:

"This biological holocaust is burning great holes in the web of life that sustains us all. In the short term, it threatens the lives of over a billion people, as their water dries up and their land turns to dust. In the longer term, it will change the world's climate - and the history of the planet..."

"The effects of the death of the rain forests could be as severe as those of nuclear war. In many ways the threat is greater ... ecological Armageddon is already well a advanced".

The Scientific Society of the United States

At a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Chicago in February 1987, Prof. Peter Raven, Director of the Missouri Botanical Gardens in St. Louis, stated that if we continue to destroy our forests at the present rate, "...we are killing our world" and added that "all forests could be lost in 60 years" and the result would be "literally earth shattering".

The Role of the Tree

The role of the tree was referred to earlier in this chapter with particular reference to the marvels of the 'water cycle', and it is worth listening to Dr. Baker ('Green Glory' p 50) on this vital activity:

"The very life of man - the food that he eats, the air that he breathes, and the water that he drinks - is bound up with the forest; he is dependent on the forest, and its cycle must be maintained. The catastrophes that have occurred, such as the dust bowl of the Middle West (America), the flooding of the Mississippi Valley, the famines of China, the droughts of Australia and the march of the deserts of equatorial Africa, have been caused when man has broken this cycle".

Travelling back still further in time he states:

"...the empires of Babylon, Syria, Persia, and Carthage were destroyed by the advance of floods and deserts caused by the increasing clearing of forests for farm land."

He records the medical opinion that if a third of our skin is burnt or lost for any reason, we cannot survive. He states that if a tree loses a third of its bark, it too dies and he says it is not unreasonable to suggest that if a third of the land surface of the world becomes desert, life on the planet cannot survive. Of the 30 billion acres of the land surface of the earth. 9 million are now desert....!

It would seem we are skinning ourselves alive ...!

Is there a remedy? ... Is there Hope for Mankind?

So what is the remedy and what is the stumbling block that is preventing us from applying the knowledge gained from the 20th century expert diagnosis of our malignant disease written in ever increasing sands of time and in the disappearance of the earth's green carpet, leaving us to survive or die on the spreading deserts of the world.

There is a remarkable poem by the English poet Shelley called 'Ozymandias' — a king of kings who erected "mighty works". His vast empire, ruled with tyrannical cruelty, crumbled into dust with the words:

**"Nothing beside remains.
Round the decay of that colossal wreck
Boundless and bare, the lone and level sands stretch far away".**

It may be objected on good grounds that mankind is not ruled by any 20th century tyrant - but perhaps we should look a little deeper and ask ourselves whether or not we have allowed or brought upon ourselves the tyranny of power, selfishness and greed - all of which create the political and social climate that encourages all kinds of human conflict, the most obvious of which is the struggle for world markets and around which international debt threatens to undermine the world economy.

Written in the 19th century, the poem is surprisingly prophetic and strangely appropriate in the light of mankind's potential slide into oblivion — but there is an alternative to cynicism and despair if we do not delay appropriate action.

Chapter asks the deep question facing us relative to the future of the planet and the survival of mankind. It presents an inescapable challenge to individuals as well as to governments across the world. It encapsulates an underlying philosophy that perhaps we have all forgotten. It suggests a financial challenge to Governments in the developed world which cannot be answered unless the communities to whom they are accountable, give them total backing.

You the reader may well ask, 'How can I give backing to my Government unless I know the facts, and if I accept the facts, what can I or my Government do about it?' The writer offers his suggestions.

But first the facts. The next chapter is an attempt to bring into focus what experts are drawing to our attention — as well as what some individuals at the 'sharp end' are observing about the environment in they spend their lives.

CHAPTER II - DIAGNOSIS OF OUR CONDITION

LET US FIRST DELVE deeper into the Brundtland Report and see what it is telling the world, am look at some facts from other sources. The title of the Report is 'OUR COMMON FUTURE' and it begins with a bold statement that its objective was to produce

"A GLOBAL AGENDA FOR CHANGE"

The United Nations Assembly placed upon Dr. Brundtland and her Commissioners the urgent task which would have been daunting if not impossible for any group without the backing, finance, time and personal commitment of those who agreed to do it. In the event, Dr. Brundtland was able to get together a very varied cross-section of people from 21 different countries, all of whom were seconded to the task though holding high Office in their own countries involving scientific, social, political and educational responsibilities. Among such were:

The Deputy Prime Minister of the Sudan
The Secretary General of the Commonwealth
Presidents and Professors of Scientific Academies and Universities
and others concerned with science, law, finance, international trade and foreign policy.

The Commissioners first met in October 1984 and published their findings in April 1987. During that period a number of disasters hit the headlines of the world's Press. Memories in the western world tend to be short so let us look at the list as recorded in the Report -

- ❖ The drought-triggered, environment-development crisis in Africa peaked, putting 35 million people at risk, killing perhaps a million.
- ❖ A leak from a pesticides factory in Bhopal, India, killed more than 3,600 people and blinded and injured 200,000 more.
- ❖ Liquid gas tanks exploded in Mexico city, killing 1000 and leaving thousands more homeless.
- ❖ The Chernobyl nuclear reactor explosion sent nuclear fall-out across Europe increasing the risks of future human cancers. A news item in August 1989 stated that Moscow was planning to move 100,000 people away from the area.
- ❖ Agricultural chemicals, solvents and mercury flowed into the Rhine river during a warehouse fire in Switzerland, killing millions of fish and threatening drinking water in the Federal Republic of Germany and the Netherlands.
- ❖ An estimated 60 million people died of diarrhoeal diseases related to unsafe drinking water and malnutrition; most of the victims were children.

During this period, however, the Commission pursued their task -

"We travelled the world for nearly 3 years, listening. At special Public Hearings organised by the Commission, we heard from Government leaders, scientists and experts from citizens' groups concerned about a wide range of environment and development issues, and from thousands of individuals - farmers, shanty-town residents, young people, industrialists, and indigenous and tribal peoples. We found everywhere deep concern".

In order to focus the global issue, it is helpful to hear a professional voice from Kenya — Maxime Ferrari, (Director of the United Nations Environmental Programme, Regional Office for Africa 1986) -

"The seriousness of the African crisis cannot be overemphasised and in its entirety, it should really engage the whole world. The lives of 400 million people living in Africa today are imperilled. And many more people yet to be born will face a very bleak future unless effective solutions are found and found quickly.

"It requires of course very little imagination to appreciate the fact that it is not only Africa that is in danger. In the long term, the entire world economy could be threatened not only because of the indivisibility of human welfare but because of Africa's crucial position in the global economy as a source of a large number of vital raw materials".

The African continent is a good place to begin. It epitomises the drift of environmental pollution and exploitation that needs to be seen and understood by the general Public in all the developed countries. Let us look for a moment at the potential of the Sahara.

The Sahara

Its size is enormous. Its area is equivalent to 1 1/2 Australias or 5 million square miles. Dr. Baker is on record saying that if —

- * 1 million sq. miles accounts for mountains and rocky places,
- * 2 million sq. miles were re-afforested, then the remaining
- * 2 million could feed the population of the whole world.

But that was in 1964 when the world population was only 3 1/2 billion instead of the 5 billion in 1988/89 and growing fast to say 7 billion in 2020, or much greater . . .



Someone might question where the water is to come from to irrigate the land for trees and crops. The answer is that there is a lake under the Sahara the size of France or one quarter of a million square miles in area. It contains 400 billion cubic feet of water and varies in depth from 300 to 6000 feet. It would take the Rhine 190 years to fill a reservoir of the same capacity. Salinity is not a problem because some trees and crops are saline tolerant like the tamarisk, and in any case desalination plants are available.

The Sahara is also a vast reservoir of materials, petroleum and natural gas. Furthermore, solar energy could make an enormous contribution to the power requirements of development (e.g. pumping water to the surface by a solar powered engine, now available.) All that is needed is international finance on a considerable scale, but well within the developed world's capability to create (as indicated in the next chapter).

But that is looking into the future. What is happening now is that the Sahara is advancing on a 2000 mile front and expands in places at 30 miles a year, destroying villages in the process by the rolling action of wind-blown dunes causing local communities to seek refuge elsewhere — and with it a considerable refugee problem. In Nonakchott, for example, on the Atlantic coast of Mauritania, a population of 20,000 in 1960 grew to 350,000 in 1987 — more than half of whom are refugees. It has been called the largest refugee camp in the world.

As we saw in the first chapter, it all begins with the destruction of trees. Forests covered most of the primeval Earth apart from the mountainous areas thrown up by the movement and collision of the planet's continental 'plates' which ultimately determined the contours of the Earth's continents.

The effects of deforestation can be seen most dramatically in Rondonia, a State in the southern sector of Brazilian Amazonia. Norman Myers, an environmental writer and consultant, reported in the London Daily Telegraph in 1989 that, in 1960, the population of this sector was just over a few thousands. By 1975 it had risen to 110,000 and by 1987 it had soared to 1.3 million. "In 1975," he says, "only 460 of the State's 94,000 square miles of forest had been 'cleared', but by mid-1987 more than 9,200 square miles of forest floor had been cut down. The subsequent burning of at least 20,000 square miles of Brazil's Amazonian forest ejected at least 500 million tons of CO₂ into the skies — roughly three times as much as from all of Britain's vehicles, factories and power plants.

Are we seeing the beginning of another Sahara?

As stated earlier, the deserts are a comparatively recent phenomenon. It has taken perhaps 2000 years or more to create the great Sahara but only 200 years to form the great dust bowl of the American mid-West.

2000 years ago, much of north Africa was developed as the granary of the Roman Empire, (adding fuel to the concept of free 'bread and circuses') much as Babylon was to the ancient world before that, and going back further still, as Egypt was in the days of Joseph (of Biblical fame) nearly 4000 years ago, i.e. all these areas were then still fertile, at least along the banks of the great rivers.

But in due time, the deserts began their march across the wider areas of land and forest. In a special note to me, Dr. Baker set the scene -

"At the time of Mohammed, about 1 million Arabs invaded areas that are now desert. They cleared the high forest for farms and moved on each year making ever deeper inroads and leaving a trail of destruction behind them. On the average, each Arab had a 100 goats. 100 million goats following a million nomadic farmers would not allow the trees to recover. With trees went fertility the water table sank, rivers went

under ground, the water cycle was broken, rainfall was reduced, trees and crops failed, destruction spread at compound interest later and more and more land became desert. The remaining high forest is now rapidly disappearing before the onslaught of cotton farms, cotton having become a cash crop. The advance of the sands of the Sahara has been speeded up of recent years and has now got out of hand."

The Lumber Industry in America

In more contemporary times, those who crossed the Atlantic nearly 400 years ago from London to found the United States of America and the British commonwealth of Nations, followed by the Pilgrim Fathers, landed in Virginia and established themselves at Jamestown. From that time onwards, the forests were there to be exploited, and the settlers waged ruthless war on the trees — fine oak timber for the hulls of Britain's growing navy together with pine and spruce for the masts of her ships. For 100 years, the white pines of New England forests were sacrificed to build the houses of the growing colony. When the white pine was exhausted, the lumbermen waded into the forests of New York, and by 1850, that was the leading lumber State of America. From there the lumbermen moved on remorselessly to Pennsylvania (originally known as Sylvania because of its unrivalled virgin forests) and then on into the enormous resources of white pine around the lake States of Michigan, Wisconsin and Minnesota. Here was wealth on an undreamt of scale where vast fortunes were made by harvesting the "growth of the ages". From there the lumbermen turned to the Northwest. Their Mecca was the rich timber stands of Douglas fir in Washington and Oregon.

"... such exploitation of the soil deprives it of its protective covering. Denuded of trees, scorched by burning, exhausted by overgrazing of the herbage, deprived of its humus by constant cropping without replenishment, the inevitable disaster followed, and the beginnings of a new Sahara were laid. ('*Green Glory*' Dr. Baker).

An event of contemporary history with many parallel characteristics, alerted the world not long before the last war. Entrepreneurs with an eye for a quick 'buck' cut down vast numbers of trees along the banks of the Mississippi. Following this, the same action was taken in the catchment areas at the source of the river. This in turn was followed by the sowing of cotton as a single crop and harvested twice a year. The result was disaster. The top soil began to travel down the river into the Bay of Mexico to the tune of millions of tons each year.

The same story has been repeated in China, and the Yellow River (note the colour) carries the fertile silt into the sea. Every year, 16 billion tons of top soil are washed away, with 80% from the "three north areas" (Northwest, Northeast and North China). For exactly the same reasons, the Ganges discharges its precious top soil from the Himalayas into the Bay of Bengal. 12 billion tons are lost each year, and the Indian States were facing a water crisis and famine before the end of the 20th century.

The American experience alerted President Roosevelt and it was he who initiated the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) to stop further destruction and to undertake re-afforestation; but Dr. Baker drew attention to the fact that the tree surrounded fields of Britain produce 3 times as much wheat per acre as the treeless prairies of the USA and Canada. Sad to relate, thousands of English trees are still being cut down to make bigger fields or to provide land for houses. The length of hedgerows destroyed in the process since 1947 (4000 miles a year in the 1980's) would stretch almost 9 times around the world. In Scotland, nearly half the woodlands have been lost since 1945 (The Woodland Trust, England).

The story of the Sahara is typical of what has been happening in every part of the world where there were trees. The coalfields of the world as well as other archaeological evidence, are eloquent testimony to afforestation in the ancient world.

Globally, the world is being stripped of its trees at the rate of 52 acres a minute. Rain forests are disappearing at the rate of a football pitch a second.

Commenting on this figure in 1982, Dr. Christopher Wilkinson, an entomologist, states that -

'...more vegetation is packed into each cubic metre of tropical rainforest than anywhere else on earth, and so provides more than 32% of the Earth's oxygen'.

He goes on to say -

"60 million years of evolution being converted into worthless paper is unacceptable" ... "and beef export promotions which enable countries to clear vast tracts of forest to set up ranches are questionable".

and finally that —

"The World Bank must also bear its responsibility for the vast sums it has spent in the tropics on forest destruction".

Enormous machines, products of the latest technology, can grasp a tree by 'the scruff of the neck' (trunk, base or bole) and lift it out of the earth much as one might hand weed one's back garden. Compare this with even the early 20th century method, itself ages old, of using an axe or a saw — and reflect on the speed with which late 20th century man was destroying the Earth's natural resources that she has taken centuries if not millennia to produce.

95% of Brazil's Atlantic coastal forest has gone. In Ethiopia, tree cover has been reduced from 40% to 4%, and it is said that there was a time when the capital city had to be moved every few years when they had burned all the trees within cutting and carrying distance. Mrs. Rahab Mwatha, of the Greenbelt Movement in Kenya, told the Commissioners —

"All of us in Africa are slowly waking up to the fact that the African crisis is essentially an environmental problem that has precipitated such adverse symptoms as drought, famine, desertification, overpopulation, environmental refugees, political instability, widespread poverty etc."

"We are waking up to the fact that if Africa is dying it is because her environment has been plundered, over-exploited and neglected".

In March 1987, the Daily Telegraph, London, reported -

"In 1982, The President of the World Wildlife fund (now known as the World Wide Fund for Nature) appealed in Tokyo for Japan to support a campaign to save the tropical forests. 5 years later Japan is still considered the worst culprit".

More than half of the Philippine forest has vanished in the past 10 years and a third of Indonesia's standing forest has been used up, often through illegal logging to supply Japan. The Japanese have been following the same policy in Brazil, developing the forested land for cattle ranching to produce beef for the world's supermarkets.

In Central America, over the last 30 years, two thirds of the rainforests have been destroyed in the interests of cattle ranching.

Turning again to Brundtland, the Commissioners state -

"Many tropical countries with large forest resources have provoked wasteful 'timber booms' by assigning harvesting rights to concessionaires for royalty, rent and tax

payments that are only a small fraction of the net commercial value of the timber harvest..." They have adopted "royalty systems that induce loggers to harvest the best trees while doing enormous damage to the remainder. In response, logging entrepreneurs in several countries have leased virtually the entire productive forest area within a few years and have over-exploited the resource with little concern for future productivity (while unwittingly opening it for clearing by 'slash and burn' cultivators").

It would seem that economics, profit and in the end — greed, are the only criteria by which we live from day to day — ignoring future generations and age-old cultural values. One of the witnesses told the Commission in Jakarta -

"We in Asia want to have an equilibrium between the spiritual and life. I noticed ...that you have tried to separate religion from the technological side. Is that not exactly the mistake in the West in developing technology without ethics, without religion?... should we not pursue a different kind of technology which has as its base not only the rationality but also the spiritual aspect? Is this a dream or is this something we cannot avoid?"

An Echo from China

In the early days of this century, a western diplomat was talking to a French missionary in China who had gathered, over a long period of time, a considerable knowledge and experience of the Chinese people. They spoke together about wars, internal revolutions, eastern culture and meddling interference by foreigners.

Then, much to the diplomat's astonishment the missionary said — "I consider the source of all the trouble in China is the lack of trees. In primitive times, the forests of Siberia came down to the coast to meet the tropical jungles. Nowhere in the world", he continued, "has deforestation been so cruel or so senseless. The old virgin forest has been destroyed. Little is left but tree stumps. The whole of north China has been stripped of its trees and the desert is encroaching even inside the Great Wall. This means droughts, floods and famine ... revolution and civil wars ... all because they have cut down the trees". ('The Temple of Costly Experience' — Daniele Varè).

The Extinction of Species, The Population Explosion and Pollution Our global problem is further compounded by 3 other factors -

- (1) Extinction of animal, plant and insect life,
- (2) The population explosion, and
- (3) Pollution.

Destruction of trees is one thing; extinction of the subhuman creation quite another. Listen to Brundtland -

(1) "Conservation of living natural resources — plants, animals, micro-organisms and the non-living elements of the environment on which they depend — is crucial for development". "Scientists have intensively investigated only one in every 100 of Earth's plant species, and a far smaller proportion of animal species. There is a growing scientific consensus that species are disappearing at rates never before witnessed on the planet".

"In Madagascar, until about the mid-century, there were 12,000 plant species and probably around 190,000 animal species, with at least 60% of them endemic to the Island's eastern strip of forest (found nowhere else on Earth). At least 90% of the original primary forest has been eliminated". "Since 1960, almost all the forests of western Ecuador have been destroyed to make way for banana plantations, oil wells and human settlements. The number of species thus eliminated is difficult to judge, but the total could well number 50,000 or more — all in just 25 years"

"Extinction has been- a fact of life since life first emerged. The present few million species are the modern day survivors of the estimated half-billion species that have ever existed. Almost all past extinctions have occurred by natural processes, but today human activities are overwhelmingly the main cause of extinctions."

"By the end of the century, or shortly thereafter, there could be little virgin tropical forest left outside of the Zaire Basin and the western half of the Brazilian Amazonia".

Prof. Peter Raven, referred to earlier, said in Chicago that -

"We are losing the chance to understand evolution over billions of years since life appeared. We are denying ourselves the chance to use many of the plants, animals and micro-organisms that now exist for our benefit".

(2) World population is increasing at the rate of 3 births every second or more than 86 million a year — more quickly in the Third World than in the more developed regions.

(3) Pollution is now a world problem, referred to in the first chapter. Acid rain is created by spreading industrialisation, causing damage to forests and lakes in America and Canada as well as to those in Europe -

"Too often firms pollute not just through accident or design but through gross ignorance". (Brundtland).

The Swiss national network of air pollution monitoring stations called "NABEL", published a report in 1983 showing that —

"... much of the acid rain is due to nitrogen oxides produced in car exhausts, plus sulphur oxides resulting from heavy industry and burning of fossil fuels" (Daily Telegraph 1985).

The industrial expansion following the 2nd world war greatly accelerated pollution in many parts of the world, as industrial growth, urbanisation and the robotised production of cars flooded the world markets. All this took place with little awareness of the impact on the environment — symbolised by the Los Angeles smog -

"...the proclaimed death of Lake Erie, the progressive pollution of major rivers like the Meuse, Elbe and Rhine — and chemical poisoning by mercury of Minamata". (Brundtland).

Half the Black Forest in Germany has been damaged and air pollution in Austria is taking a dramatic turn —

"The trees are now dying at the rate of 3000 a day and not only the fir and pine trees but also birch, oak, lime and fruit trees ... in northern Bohemia the soil is completely dead — nothing grows there any more ... agricultural fertilisers are contaminating the water reserves ... in Linz, the air is so polluted that the school children have to breathe pure oxygen twice a week. The lung and respiratory tract diseases, as well as all sorts of allergies including cancer, are up by 36%". (Swiss journalist).

The President of the World Wide Fund for Nature was reported in 1987 as saying that —

"If we do not work to prevent future disasters to our natural ecology, we will condemn future generations to live in desert-like conditions in a world of poverty." (London Daily Telegraph).
Preliminary Comments and Conclusions

Much has been done to plant trees in many parts of the world - particularly by Russia and China within their own borders, as well as by smaller States within their own back gardens, like the Israelis and many of the African States.

In Russia, the dangers of the present attitude to global survival are well understood. Listen to a voice from the Moscow State University -

"...our generation lives to a certain extent at expense of coming generations, thoughtlessly drawing on the basic reserves of soil fertility accumulated in the millennia of the biospheric development, instead of living off the current annual increment - causing the increasing concern of scientists dealing with the state of the planetary soil cover". (B.G. Rozanov — Brundtland).

But all this is not enough to stem the tide of the spreading deserts.

Much has been done at least by legislation to purify the air of 20th century industrialisation, but it is not enough.

The change needed in public attitudes is not yet enough to change the political climate of the developed world because the public at large are not aware of all the facts. There is a failure by Governments to communicate these facts to the public to whom they are accountable as a continuing and vital necessity.

This is why 'OUR COMMON FUTURE' (The Brundtland Report), should be read by all public spirited people. Failing this, Governments who were called upon to comment on this Report, should continue to give a lead to their various fellow-countrymen and be seen to take the appropriate share of the financial cost of the vast campaign called for by the Commission, a programme that should continue well into this century.

CHAPTER III - WE MUST FACE THE QUESTION - IS THERE A FUTURE FOR MANKIND?

IF I MAY BE PERMITTED to state a personal view of this immense problem - the rape of the Earth - by mankind's heedless, inexorable and ruthless self-interest, one is faced by a question that most, if not all of us, hardly dare to consider let alone attempt to answer.

The question to be faced in the light of the global survey presented by these experts and more than a thousand individual witnesses, all of whom describe and testify in their various ways, to a 'galloping consumption' of the beauty and the wealth of our Earth's physical resources, must be this — "Are we seeing the nemesis of mankind on the Earth through imminent nuclear holocaust — or by the accelerating deserts that threaten to encircle the globe between the bounds of the oceans and the polar icecaps?" and "Is there any hope that the process will be reversed in the limited time left to us, a period of time that is fast running out?"

Put another way in philosophical or religious terms — "Is the cosmos and this Earth in particular, a colossal accident or not?" If it is, life is a meaningless mockery where all values are relative, and the survival of the strongest is the cruellest mirage imaginable because the end is nemesis and short-lived like the proverbial moth fluttering to its end in the candle's flame — a sudden and final extinction.

Despots or dictators (some good but mostly evil) throughout 5,000 years of history or more — have come and gone or come to a sticky end, but the end is the same — dust and ashes, now threatened on the grand scale through the services of modern technology.

But what if the cosmos is not a colossal accident? It seems to me there can be no half measures in our response. By this I mean that the only rational alternative is that the cosmos is the product of a 'colossal' intelligence, destined not for chaos and suicide by default, neglect, mindless and ruthless sadism or masochism — but for an eventual harmony we can hardly imagine with our darkened sight.

Looking at the heavens on a cloudless night, the cosmos presents a majestic host of pin-point lights untold stars and millions of suns in our own galaxy. It fills us with wonder... but beyond that, we are told, there are yet countless more stars and suns in endless galaxies - all of which stagger the imagination.

Viewed from outer space, our Earth appears as a brilliant jewel of light in many colours — a breathtaking sight of indescribable beauty against the black gem-encrusted back-drop of the Universe.

Can we really believe that this was an accident ?

If the Earth and the cosmos are not a colossal accident, endless questions of a philosophical nature present themselves to the anxieties of our hearts and minds. We would rather not try to answer them. We are loath to make changes in the way we live. We are rather like blind men groping about in the dark. We would rather try and get on with life and get such enjoyment for ourselves as may be possible, come what may - and the devil take the hindmost. Why should we bother about an 'Agenda for Change'.

We have seen the evidence: The great Sahara and other deserts, the dust bowls of America, the impoverished soils of more than half the world — all tell us that we are taking far more out of the Earth than we put back. Widespread and increasing pollution, disease, crime and death tell the same story.

We dope the soils, and our often drooping bodies, with chemicals and drugs to produce bursts of energy and devitalised crops - the main source of disease. We need to recognise that the Earth itself is a larger version of our own bodies. The same laws apply to both. When 'in good heart', both are alkaline, both need rest and restoration, i.e. putting back what we take out or spend.

The ancient Mosaic Law of Sabbatic rest provided every 7th day and every 7th year a complete rest, ensuring recuperation for our bodies and for the soil producing our food. We are not doing this - and while the supply of oxygen is still plentiful, the accumulation of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere (what we breathe out plus the accumulation of this and other gases resulting from the burning fossil fuels in industry, cars and planes, is accelerating (due to the destruction of the forests) and produces what the scientists call "the greenhouse effect". This leads eventually to the melting of the polar ice-caps and changes in the weather and coast lines, quite apart from holes in the ozone layer.

Collective self interest and self love is lethal in the long run — and the long run has now run its course. The figures in the final count are presented to us — and the bottom line is a colossal overdraft of debt with demands for payment without further delay. Our debt is first to Nature herself, and then by implication to fellow human beings - the true brotherhood of mankind and specially to the children and grandchildren that are to inherit our world in the 21st and later centuries.

The philosophers and seers (those who claim to see the unseeable) as well as those trained in scientific disciplines, can only take the problem to a point well out of reach though totally rational. They say there can only be, indeed must be, a 'First Cause' of the Universe: Scientists call it the 'Big Bang', which happened 12 thousand million years ago. So we are back to a 'colossal intelligence' which the Earth's sages call the Almighty. And if indeed the existing wonders and

beauties of planet Earth still left to us are a clue to the nature of the Almighty and of our ultimate destiny, then we are led to the same inevitable conclusion that life on Earth is not an accident and that everything that appears to 'happen' to us is the operation of the law of cause and effect — a process known from the beginning by the Almighty Creator (Omniscient, Omnipotent, Omnipresent) — a process perhaps ultimately over-ruled for our good when human failure has run its course, and when we have become sufficiently scared of the impending dangers, and hurt by the effects of our wrong-doing, to become ready and willing for change.

We are apparently free to operate this law for good or ill, and it may be that it is only as we are presented inescapably, collectively as well as individually, with the results of our choices and the mounting total of our failure to choose according to the rules laid down — that we will have the incentive to take action and thus, as urgent first aid, move to stem the loss of life blood from the Earth as we know it.

This life blood in Earth terms flows primarily in our trees and the soil they nourish. Under their beneficent branches and broad leaves, man, animals, birds, insects, vegetation and all other kinds of wild life flourish profusely for our delight and benefit; but without trees we die, no matter how strenuously we endeavour to reduce pollution.

It is of course essential to study and apply the rules laid down for the efficient and sustainable management of the Earth's resources. If we do this, nemesis will be arrested and a rescue operation on a vast scale put into action. Natural science and research already have a great deal to offer. Put another way, we know what we should do, how to do it and what is good for us. What is lacking is the courage and political will primarily at Government level in the developed world, to initiate collective action in the interest of survival.

A More Precise Personal View

For a more precise personal view of this immense responsibility we share with all mankind, may I suggest that the rules referred to are the 'outer edges' of Divine Law that are the inescapable pre-requisite for human well-being and that of our environment. May I suggest also that Divine Law covers for good or ill, the well-being of our 'psyche' or 'inner world' wherein are the well-springs of motivation. Maybe we have forgotten that these things must be true and that we need to return, study and apply them.

**"There's a divinity that shapes our ends
rough hew them how we will". (Hamlet)**

Is it not possible that Divine Law covers an even wider field than that of the 'psyche' or 'inner world' in the sense that we reap what we sow? Even more precisely, is it not possible that the still spreading deserts reflect the arid and crumbling state of our moral responsibility, lawlessness and failed stewardship of the Earth's resources — as we observe the spread of deserts, pollution, disease and death?

Lines of Action

It is with the utmost sincerity that I make the following proposals for action if you, the reader, are in general agreement with what is contained in the preceding pages.

As Individuals — you and I need:

- (1) To study the evidence of the spreading deserts and the pollution of the soil, rivers and seas by the destruction of trees all over the world, resulting from spreading industrialisation and greed (cf. grain and butter mountains wine lakes etc., though some progress is being made to diminish them).

(2) To ask your MP if the Government is responding to the primary challenge of the Brundtland Report referred to in the first chapter about the need for a "vast campaign of education, debate and public participation" i.e. what steps are being taken to circulate their reactions ("Perspective") to this Report, a Report published by the British Government in July 1988, and what action has already been taken.

(3) To ask your MP to provide you with details of how money is being spent on overseas aid, and how much of this is specifically earmarked for 'rolling back the deserts'.

(4) To support whatever local or national voluntary organisations that have these ends as their objective, and to make sure that suitable representations, verbal or written, are being made to all MPs.

At Government Level

(5) Provide every citizen with the information outlining the rape of the Earth by all countries, Governments and Industry (much as AIDS information was provided).

(6) To inform every citizen as well as the United Nations Clearing House (which already exists) what is being done, and to ensure that progress is regularly reported. (An international fund could be identified for communication costs).

(7) To set up a special training scheme for young men and women (and interested adults including interested unemployed) which will provide skills in forestry and agroforestry — and other relevant fields of knowledge so that such people can be seconded to any part of the world where trained manpower would be welcomed. Finance can be found when the Public are fully and reliably informed.

Finance for Training and Re-forestation

It was proposed by the United Nations Report '**WORLD CONSERVATION STRATEGY**' as long ago as 1980, with the full support of all the organisations concerned with conservation that:

"the funds were seen as coming from enhanced levels of multilateral and bilateral assistance - reinforced if possible by arrangements such as a special antidesertification fund and an international taxation scheme". (Author's underlining) "There is a growing conviction at the lack of implementation of this Plan of Action. The problem therefore is not one of not knowing what to do but of getting agreed action done."

Up to date, the general Public has no idea what response Governments have made to this proposal. As an example, in order to raise finance a mere £1 per year from every wage or salary earner under a special tax scheme could raise £25 million (in Britain) in one year alone. If all the other developed nations did the same, there would be no shortage of finance.

Alternative to a taxation method of raising finance, the current lender countries with an ever increasing debt piling up against Third World nations, may ultimately be compelled to donate the aid (loans which debtor countries cannot even service — let alone repay the capital) and thus stop the food exports from those countries — allowing their nationals to live and not to starve. This is a kind of 'Bob Geldof' in reverse, but the donor countries could then apply a condition that reforestation takes a priority role in their country's environmental policy.

A financial contribution from each host nation (i.e. Third World) may be relevant or not, according to circumstance in the initial stages, but the developed world should carry the main financial costs.

NB: World unemployment would be reduced by such schemes and those who successfully qualify after training could become members of an International Tree Corps.

During the Depression in America in the thirties, President Roosevelt, under the guidance of Dr. Baker, launched a re-afforestation scheme which provided employment for 6 million young men. It is relevant to note that as recently as 1986, at a United Nations meeting on the crisis in Africa, some of the developed world's nations intimated their willingness to write off their loans to Third World countries with or without strings, e.g. -

- The Danes said, for instance, that "they were willing to write off all their debts to it by countries listed by the UN as LDCs (least developed countries)

— The Swedes and the Dutch were also ready to rethink their debts to promote fresh funds for Africa, and

— The Canadians said they were willing, among other proposals, to declare a moratorium on the repayment of ODA (Overseas Development Administration) loans for an initial period of 5 years indicating their willingness "to consider extending this measure in 5 year instalments until the year 2000".

— The Norwegians, who have strong environmental concerns, said that "they would double their aid for the war against desertification to ensure sustainable development — linking it to the debt question".

— "India is endeavouring to contribute to African development" said Natarajan Krishnan, the Indian Ambassador to the UN. "I hope the deeds match the words" and added "When we discuss Africa, it is not our intention to exclude other Third World countries".

The fact remains, as Richard Heller wrote in 'The (British) Mail on Sunday', that -
"The massive burden of debt that is crippling the world's poorest countries, has the potential to destroy its entire financial system."

"The wholesale destruction of tropical rainforest threatens natural resources essential to man's survival."

"The UN has estimated that Third World debt currently standing at \$ 1,000 million, has already cost the West 8 million jobs by forcing poor countries to export their wealth to pay what they owe. It has starved their economies of cash, destroying demands for West's goods and services— and the jobs needed to provide them".

The Young Are Waiting

Now listen to a Canadian student who gave evidence to the Commission in May 1986 —

"... education and communication are vitally important to impress each individual of his or her responsibility regarding the healthy future of the Earth. The best way for students to recognise that their action can make a difference is to have projects organised by the school or community on which the students can work."

"Once convinced they can help, people tend to change both their attitude and their behaviour. New attitudes towards the environment will be reflected in decisions at home and in corporate Boardrooms around the world" and to a young man who spoke to the Commission in Oslo in 1985 -

"I represent an organisation called 'Nature and Youth'. I know that I have full support among our members when I say that we are worried about the future if drastic changes do not take place concerning the world's way of treating our essential condition 'Nature'. We who work with youth, and are youth ourselves in Norway today, know very well how the destroying of Nature leads to an apathetic fear among youth concerning their future and how it will turn out. It is of great importance that the common people get the chance to take part in deciding how Nature should be treated".

Putting the Clock Back

It is perhaps an utterly whimsical and nostalgic thought, divorced from reality, that we could ever put the clock back and remove some of the concrete blocks of towering offices and flats that jut into the sky in ugly conformity to functional convenience (not that these are a howling success in view of the tale of those that fall down or have to be demolished). Still less can we conceive or even desire the removal of the concrete motorways that lace the countryside with such consummate skill — or even imagine (as a countryman once described it) horses galloping down the motorways, transformed in his imagination back into grass, track or country lane! Maybe this flight of fancy occurred to him while sitting in his car at the tail end of a 5 or 10 mile log jam or tailback now becoming ominously common in the growing traffic congestion in and around our cities.

But nostalgia dies hard for the days of gentleness in a world that is deafening itself in a desperate effort to proclaim its virility amid the growing tally of human conflict and wars that sweep across the scene like a series of whirlwinds. Perhaps such gales are an essential element in man's attempt to discover the truth about himself and his fellows - to discover the difference by failure and pain, between a house built on sand and one built on rock. It is our foundations that are at issue, now so forcibly presented to us by the Brundtland Commissioners and other experts, travellers, writers and those who observe what's going on in different parts of the world.

One is inevitably haunted by the sight of the enormous tree-plucking machines now in use - picking up a tree out of the ground in a matter of seconds like an unwanted weed.

Somewhere, somehow, we have got to strike a balance between what is economic, profitable, but also lethal, for future generations — and what is sustainable benefit and enjoyment of the fruits of nature — as dividends of continuity, that do not rob future generations of the irreplaceable capital that the Earth has so richly provided since the beginning of time.

In Conclusion

It is clear that decisive and effective action is called for by every Government in the developed world, all or most of whom are failing in their responsibility to inform the public, although there is a measure of reawakening now discernable in the so-called 'green movement' in many countries. The Third World must also cooperate more closely with the developed nations — as many are beginning to do, resolving internal conflicts by democratic means and laying aside, in the interest of survival, the differences that cause heat and conflict with neighbouring States.

It is clear that a growing number of people in all walks of life across the world are not only becoming aware of the destruction of our physical world (now rather blandly called the 'environment') but are deeply concerned that all Governments must act together more closely.

It is clear that deep in the hearts and souls of the 'common people' — the Public, there is an indestructible hope and belief that no collective problem is insoluble and that sacrifices can be made if the facts are put to them clearly. There could be a grim backlash from the peoples of the world if more effective action — sanctioned by taxpayers involving the cancellation of debt by the developed nations within the constraints of mutual survival — is not forthcoming.

The role of leadership is to lead. The character and nature of true leadership is service to those led and total responsibility for their welfare and for the Earth's resources we all share.

It is the greatest possible temptation in the feverish pace of the modern world for individuals to sit back and wash our hands of problems that appear insuperable, too political or too big for us to understand or to affect — but let us reflect that history is made and adorned by individuals who have the courage to act on their convictions.

What kind of world are we going to hand on to our children and grandchildren?

Further Comments:

"I have read Part I of this book with fascination and horror. It is a terrible indictment of human greed, folly and myopia". — Lord Blake.

"I can do nothing more than endorse whole-heartedly Lord Blake's words, and entreat you (the reader) to read and act in any you can on the contents of this important book". — Katie Boyle.

PART II — THE FAMINE OF THE WORD OF GOD CHAPTER IV — FAMINE OF THE SOUL, AS WELL AS THE SOIL

"Behold the days come, saith the Lord, that I will send a famine in the land, not a famine of bread, nor of thirst for water, but a hearing of the words of the Lord." (Amos 8 v 11)

Famine or Trees — Mankind's Survival in Jeopardy

IT SEEMS NATURAL, having focused the reader's attention in Part I on the encircling deserts, to state the all too evident result of this process (of encirclement) namely the acceleration of famine conditions throughout the world. Mankind is committing suicide on an international scale because famine means 'no food' and the developing or Third World is in the front line of the march of death by starvation. The evidence for this has been stated in Part I, and is being stated again and again by the media and international magazines, publishing the findings of investigative journalists and cameramen. See for example the August 1987 issue of the National Geographic Magazine showing the African Sahel stretching nearly 4,500 miles across northern Africa from West to East in a report on the "high tragedy of land on the way to being desert". This area is 1,000 miles South of the great Saharan desert, referred to in Part I, bordering on the North the thin strips of Mediterranean and Atlantic States where trees and agriculture (as known in the developed world and still existing in temperate zones) is unknown.

Enough has been said to recognise, for those living in the developed world, the physical disease of our environment and mankind's folly and greed in letting the disease spread at such an alarming rate. If folly and greed is the cause of this developing paralysis it cannot be cured by money, chemical fertilisers or any mechanical remedies because the will to change our ways is missing. Like the proverbial ostrich mentioned earlier, we do not want to see or do anything about our selfish ways and outlook. Pressed into a corner, we blame everyone but ourselves — our Government, our leaders, our circumstances, excusing ourselves by emphasising our need to survive an increasingly harsh economic world climate. 'One must look after number one, mustn't one?'

Let us follow our reasoning a little further. If the destruction of trees is the cause of famine, let us recapitulate the intermediate stages. As we said earlier, trees are the bridge of life. They protect the soil, they feed the soil with nutrient drawn from the mineral stores of the Earth's floor as well as depositing on this floor through the leaves the sun's gift of protein and hydrocarbons. The soil thus nurtured produces fertility and profusion of life that is characteristic of the rain forests we

are so busily destroying in our frantic efforts to produce money. It seems puerile and patronising to state the obvious - namely that mankind cannot eat money... also if we continue to destroy the trees and extend the Earth's deserts, we are destroying the capital on which we depend.

No trees, no food — famine, we die. So where and how is the process to be reversed. If trees are the bridge to food and life by which we exist in the physical world, is it not natural to suppose that there is an antecedent process that relates to the metaphysical world, as cause is to effect?

Food and a Medical Testament.

It seems sensible at this point to open for a brief moment the book of medical science. It is becoming increasingly clear to doctors that the physical state of our bodies is conditioned by the metaphysical — or to use a more common expression, the body's well-being (or otherwise) has psychosomatic origins or influences that dominate our health (or ill-health). 'We are what we eat' is at least a useful signpost though we don't need to go overboard along that road. The genes also have to be taken into account.

Reference has been made in Part I to Sir Albert Howard, an earlier pioneer in soil science. His account of his years of research and farming recorded in his 'Agricultural Testament' (a book which appeared many decades ago) is as relevant today as it was then, or more so. Shortly after this book appeared, a panel of Cheshire doctors representing some 600 practitioners, issued a remarkable document entitled 'Medical Testament'. Referring to Howard's work it affirmed that the quality of the soil on which our food is grown is the greatest single factor affecting our health, and that soil is kept in good heart by receiving back everything we take out of it. Forty years ago these ideas were ignored except by a few enlightened gardeners and farmers. In those days, whole wheat bread, fibre diets and organically grown food were laughed at and those who advocated them were written off as cranks. Not so today.

There is a growing public awareness of organic farming even amongst the buyers employed by chain food stores. This awareness, however, does not go far enough, even amongst the food reformers. It is commonplace today to see printed on packaged foods such words as 'No preservatives', 'No colouring', etc., but little or no reference to the soil on which food is grown. Unless the soil receives back all the waste products that are derived from it, it will be degraded, lowering its ability to provide the essential nutrients and trace elements vital to human and animal health.

Furthermore, Howard has demonstrated (as have many others who have followed his example) that soil in good heart (receiving back all waste products) confers on humans and animals through the food grown on it, two essential 'pillars of well-being and delight

(a) Disease resistance through strengthening of the immune system.

(b) great enhancement of taste and, when flowers are produced this way, enrichment of perfume. There are innumerable stories and abundant evidence to justify these conclusions. They can be found in books by Sir Albert Howard, Lady Eve Balfour, Friend Sykes, Dr. Kenneth Vickery and many others. Dr. Vickery's book 'Choose Health, Choose Life', published in 1986, should be mandatory reading in every school. The question might well be asked at this point "What has all this to do with 'Famine of the Word of God'? Bear with the author a little longer.

Metaphysics and 'soul' Science

As we close the books of medical and agricultural science, the point of principle or law that emerges is that the 'metaphysical' precedes and determines the character and forms of the 'physical'. Learned professors of physics, physiology and psychology all agree that 'mental states are motor in their consequences', but we need not rely on these experts. We can check this

principle from our own experience. Take two examples. When we say in the course of normal conversation "I feel I should go for a walk, or ring up a friend", the word 'feel' expresses an emotion, i.e. emotion produces the thought, the thought produces the words and the mouth produces the sound of the words, following which we take action (or not) as the case may be! The second example is not so obvious, though mysteriously intriguing. Consider for a moment that the gentle rise and fall of your lungs and the constant beat of your heart go on almost imperceptibly and subconsciously without any effort or direction from your conscious mind. A hidden knowledge and power within us directs these (and many other) activities and it would be almost impossible to stop them. The body itself is the main healer, and sustains our vitality and health. At best, doctors and surgeons can only assist and cooperate with the body in its beneficent activities of repair and renewal.

We come now to a vital question in our inquiries. What is it in the 'soul' (metaphysical) that corresponds to 'soil in good heart' in the physical world or body of the planet, from which vital health and energy are transmitted to us as we go about our business? Is it indeed possible to think of a 'soul in good heart' as well as the soil? And if so, what are the ingredients on which the soul is to feed, and if we can find them, what is the likely result for the individual, for the nation and for the wider field of international understanding? The first part of the question must be answered before we attempt to answer the second.

The Soul and Its Motivation

We must spend a moment or two on this word 'soul'. In one sense it encapsulates every part of our being that is not physical. We know from experience that reason and emotion play a daily and vital part of our every day lives. Reason we recognise as an intellectual capability. It is the medium of social communication. Emotion, we say, has to do with the heart, our likes, dislikes, love, hate, fear, envy, etc. Both reason and emotion are primarily self-conscious, but there is a hidden power centre that deeply influences both reason and emotion, though barely recognised. Psychologists (Jung, Adler, Freud) tell us this power centre is the sub-conscious, and that it is the long term amalgam of genetics, upbringing, tradition, belief and habits that together motivate imagination and will (choices and decisions). It is very powerful — and one writer, a French medical psychologist who wrote in the earlier years of the last century, suggested that in any conflict between imagination and will, the imagination always wins!

Most of us are aware, if and when we take time out to indulge in a little self-analysis, that most of our inbuilt conflicts centre around reason and emotion, or put another way, tend to focus around sex and money. One has a strong impression, at least, that the scriptwriters of the most popular 'soap operas' assume this to be the case. Dallas, Dynasty, Eastenders, Neighbours, etc., are variations on this theme. So boy meets girl, young man meets young woman, they 'fall in love', marry and live happily ever after!?? We know very well that life doesn't work that way and that our lives are beset by an enormous variety of pleasures and pain, light and darkness. Most of us forge ahead or drift into activities of life styles that give us occasion to regret or rejoice in the decisions we make which either enrich the 'soil' of our soul (if we have really learnt from our mistakes) or impoverish the soul if we have not, following which we shall inevitably repeat our mistakes and increase our frustration and pain, until we are willing to learn the lessons we need.

Those of us who become aware in some measure that the Universe and the Creation itself is subject to law, have begun to learn an important lesson, and it then becomes possible to learn by our mistakes — the waste products of human experience. One mystic writer and student of eastern culture who was also one of the foremost exponents of Biblical Truth, one Adela M. Curtis, has put it this way -

"We shudder with horror at the Necrophagia of India, the carrion-feeders who eat corpses from the grave — but can we detect no mental likeness in the morbid habit

of 'digging up the past' of bitter memories, and 'chewing the cud' of miseries and woes long buried in 'the dust and debris of our days.' "

Extremes of psychoanalysis or excessive introspection are surely familiar forms of this unhealthy tendency. There is, however, a missing ingredient on which all else depends and this leads us inevitably to the third and elusive level of consciousness we have labelled 'spirit'. To be simplistic for a minute, spirit is to soul, what petrol is to a car. The analogy is inadequate, however, because 'spirit' supplies far more than energy or motor-power; it supplies character and, it must be admitted, this character can be termed what we call 'good' or 'bad'.

Along this road we may perhaps look at the human soul (psyche) with its chosen personality (Greek word for mask) that we present to the outside world. The real person lies behind the mask and can be likened to a ship at sea whose captain knows where he is going and has his compass. It gets him through the storms; alternatively, he is a ship at sea with no destination in view, drifting and subject to the elements. It is in this context that we can begin to look at the words "famine of the Word of God" because if the Word of God is the real food of both spirit and soul, its absence by neglect is the cause of our failure to cope successfully with all the problems, turmoil and conflict which is everyman's normal experience. So what difference does it make to become aware of 'The Word of God'? This perhaps is the 'million dollar' question that has haunted mankind through the ages. Failure to answer this question has produced the reckless and irresponsible greed that has resulted in the destruction of trees, the Earth's green carpet — a condition that mirrors the more far-reaching and dangerous disease — the degeneration and destruction in the metaphysical world of man's 'soul', a veritable 'Paradise Lost' in which mankind is rushing headlong towards the abyss.

Not a Counsel of Despair

This view of mankind is not, however, a counsel of despair as expressed by some philosophers and theologians. We are not a herd of 'Gadarene swine' rushing to the lake of 'self-destruct', as in the story recorded in the Gospels when Christ met a man possessed by evil spirits.

Our global condition, however, does pose the two questions referred to earlier, 'What exactly is the famine of the 'Word of God?' and 'What difference can it make to an individual or to a nation and the community of nations?'

CHAPTER V LIGHT IN OUR DARKNESS IS AVAILABLE BUT TIME IS IN SHORT SUPPLY

Individual Well-being

For the individual, there is abundant evidence down the corridors of time that an individual's life is transformed when he or she seeks out the principles of life, the Divine Laws created for a man's well-being, which we are calling the Word of God. There is for most of us (if not all) a long period of search for the truth which is in itself a preparation for meeting in some very personal way, the Lord of Creation, the Infinite Author and Architect of the Universe.

The Apostle Paul was for many years an ardent student of the Truth. His enthusiasm and eloquence knew no bounds and he became a fanatical opponent of all who disagreed with his own view of Truth — until he met Christ on the way to Damascus. He was utterly committed to destroy all those with new fangled ideas who dared to question the accepted nostrums or beliefs of the religious Establishment of his day.

"I am Jesus, whom thou persecutest", were words which held him rigid as a pillar of stone — but also a metaphysical earthquake which changed his life — to become perhaps the foremost communicator of the Christian Church in the first century.

Paul was, however, one of countless others through succeeding centuries who have borne witness to the effect in individual lives of this kind of close encounter.

The letter to the Hebrews in the Biblical New Testament (Hebr. Ch.11) speaks of a "cloud of witnesses" even then, in the first century, and the writer, thought to be St. Paul, proceeded to recall some of the great names of the past 3,000 years or more, some of whom died like martyrs for their faith in the face of violent opposition.

Many of the first disciples and apostles also suffered martyrdom, and Paul was no exception. After a fantastic series of journeys right across the Near East and Europe, even as far as these Islands, he returned eventually to the close Christian fellowship in Rome, where he was eventually put to death for his faith.

While in Rome, he stayed, strange to relate, in the Talatium Britannicum', the British palace where our British King Caradoc, (whom the Romans of those days, and the schoolboys of these days, know as Cara(c)tacus) was held prisoner with his family as hostages (how history repeats itself) for seven years.

The place where Paul is remembered is where a large and impressive Basilica was built called 'St. Paul Without-the Walls', not far from Rome. It was built by Constantine (the famous Roman Emperor who became a Christian) and dates back to the 4th century.

What Inspires a Nation?

But what of the effect of the Word of God on a family or a nation, and how does it affect the concept of nationhood in this 21st century, 2000 years on, when the bounds of nationality and related geography are hard and fast in many parts of the world?. One thing that does emerge from the mists of history is that whereas the direction of an individual's life can be transformed in a 'twinkling of an eye', in an hour or a day, a nation's life and character particularly, takes centuries to change and develop under a great variety of influences. Convulsions such as we have seen in China and in Eastern Europe, are the result of decades of internal and largely hidden social ferment. It is generally accepted by historians that the Adamic race, or more particularly those who followed Abraham, were unique in affirming the unity of Creation, or 'monotheism) in a world that was rife with a multiplicity of gods and goddesses, a veritable pantechnicon of pantheism (from the Greek word 'pan' meaning `all'). The Egyptians for example, had literally thousands of special gods, from the time of the first dynasty, more than 3000 years BC. In the main, such worship in Middle Eastern countries was idolatrous, bestial and cruel, involving the ritual sacrifice of sons and daughters on the blood-stained altars of their ignorance.

Following our line of inquiry concerning the effect of the Word of God on a family or nation, it would be reasonable to ask what happened to that family, the progeny of Abraham. How did it react; did it help them or not, did they learn from their mistakes and was their experience as a nation of value to their contemporaries or to the other nations of the world in succeeding centuries? We have already made reference to the unique and fundamental lesson taught to, and by, this nation to their contemporaries and to the world ever since those days, namely the great truth we call 'monotheism' — the unity of all creation brought into being by Infinite Intelligence, Who has ordered all things under beneficent law — allowing simultaneously complete freedom to individual human beings to choose how they want to live — for good or ill.

The lime Scales of History Led to the Exodus

So what time scale or period are we speaking of? It is well to spend a brief moment on chronology (we shall deal with this in more detail in Part III).

Abraham's grandson, Jacob, had an experience not unlike the one that St. Paul had on the way to Damascus. In his case, it is said that he wrestled with an angel, who nevertheless made very clear to Jacob all the errors of his ways. Yes, it transformed his life and he was given a new name to honour and celebrate his enlightenment — 'Israel' — which means ruling with God, because he then became determined to follow the guidance and laws of Jehovah the Almighty, and to guide his growing family. Jacob had 12 sons and during his lifetime, famine afflicted the land of Palestine, his ancestral home. In consequence, the family moved to Egypt where one of his sons had become famous as the 'Chancellor of the Exchequer' to the Pharaoh of those days. One or two centuries passed and the family's fortunes fell from high privilege to penury and slavery. In the later years of this slavery, a man was born whose name is known throughout today's world Moses. By this time, more than 200 years after Jacob's family moved to Egypt, his progeny in that country had become a multitude, and their delivery from slavery by Moses took place in 1486 BC. This dramatic event was preceded by a series of supernatural phenomena, and history records the event by the name — the Exodus.

This vast family and large numbers of hangers-on, became a nation at that date known to their contemporaries as the Israelites. This great event was celebrated by the nation, with the blessing of the Almighty Jehovah, by His gift to the nation of divine Laws which have stood the test of time throughout the pre-Christian and Christian ages — and are as relevant today as they were then. We call them the Ten Commandments.

Israel's Glory and Infamy

So what happened to this nation in succeeding centuries, you might well ask. The history of those years is both glorious and infamous. At the peak of their fame and wisdom they produced illustrious kings like David and Solomon, but in later centuries they became seduced by idolatrous practices, customs and values of the surrounding nations — departing from the rules, principles and laws they knew to be right. They suffered the consequences of disorder, were invaded in the 'glorious land' venerated today by Christians, Jews and Muslims, and were dispersed throughout the nations of the world. According to Holy Writ, however, Israel's continuity as a nation or group of nations was always guaranteed by the Almighty whatever punishments they had to endure down the corridors of history. (Jeremiah 31 v. 35-37).

The Faithful Remnant Sets the Scene for the Arrival of Jesus Christ

It must also be recalled that there always remained in Palestine a remnant faithful to the ancient laws given to Israel by the Almighty. It was this remnant that set the scene for the arrival of the "desire of all nations" — the Messiah long awaited by the prophets or seers of Israel's past centuries. History knows Him as Jesus, the Christ. The world's history is divided time wise into two parts, before Christ (BC) and after Christ (AD). The Bible itself refers to Him as 'The Word of God'. So we have another 'label', another definition to consider in our inquiries about the metaphysical or spiritual famine afflicting the world's population.

Is it not reasonable to suggest that this famine is caused by ignorance of the identity and work of this mysterious Person who has divided history?; not Just as an historical figure, but as One who has expounded and encapsulated the principles, laws and values without which mankind will starve to death or end up in what has been called MAD (mutual assured destruction)!

Human kind have a soul, so the author believes, that is cosmic in extent. We inherit it from our ancestors and some people call it (more labels!) folk or cosmic memory. Most, if not all of us, are unaware of its existence but reference has already been made to genetics and the mysterious power that makes and repairs our bodies throughout our lives. This soul of ours (the psyche) is

like a little ship launched on a sea of knowledge and yet starving for want of nourishment and operating instructions — and we seem to have lost our bearings if not our compass. This soul, which we share with all other human beings, is wilting for lack of true nourishment or inspiration.

Time is Running Out

But all is not dark. The pattern is one of brilliant light and terrifying darkness.

The time span allowed for terminal illness or rebirth of Paradise is running out, particularly where nations are concerned with their histories and destinies — all of which are utterly dependent in the long term on whether, and the extent to which, they have responded to Divine Law.

The Biblical time span for the resolution of these international conflicts of beliefs and values is 6000 years. The speed with which the destruction of the environment, and the financial maelstrom into which the world is heading through the accumulation of international and national debt, tends to confirm the Biblical time scale, and the belief in many sections of the Public that we, the current representatives of mankind, are almost at the end of our tether (in a global sense). H. G. Wells once said in despair, or perhaps cynicism, "There is no way round, there is no way through, it is the end."

The nuclear age of energy generation or destructive power makes us grateful or nervous, or both, depending on our point of view. The emergence of yet more weapons of destruction under the generic name of electromagnetic devices, (or superconductivity) has rarely broken surface in the national or private press. This is all a bit awesome, is it not, as what hope is there that a Beneficent Intelligence sees beyond this 'swan song' to a new world under new management, where unhindered reconstruction or regeneration is the order of the day.

The certainty (i.e. in our minds) of this turning point in the affairs of mankind is assured and unassailable if it is accepted that the Universe is an integrated whole under the sovereignty of Infinite and Beneficent Intelligence.

In III we look for evidence that this Intelligence has already declared Its Hand and intentions for the future weal and well-being of mankind. The Biblical reference to Christ as the Saviour of the world is well-known in most parts of the world. Arabs, Jews and Muslims alike (as well as Christians) recognise Abraham as one of the greatest prophets of all time — but God Incarnate is quite another matter, and for some this would be, if true, a 'giant leap for mankind'.

So let us look at this evidence not just over 6000 years but in the context of the 15000 million years or more of the Universe's existence. This really cuts us down to size, doesn't it? It was Sir David Attenborough who presented us with a telling perspective relative to man's appearance on this Earth.

He suggested that if we were to take this mega-time span of the Universe (12000 million years) following its initial creation in the 'big bang', and liken it to one revolution of planet Earth, 365 days, then man appeared in the last minute of the last day of December 31st just before midnight! The sub-human world, beginning with water, fish, birds, plants, trees and animals, was all a preparation for man's appearance. In due course, negative influences also appeared which were to be part of the pattern of growth and development — rather like the proverbial oyster producing — through friction and integration of disparate elements - the pearl so highly valued for its beauty. We shall explore this matter later in Part III.

So what is the evidence for Infinite, Beneficent Intelligence? In a Court of law, two witnesses or three are considered necessary and adequate to establish the validity (or otherwise) of facts on which Judgment can be made to determine the truth of a matter. It is proposed to look at three independent witnesses to a consistency of purpose which, taken together, provide incontrovertible

proof of the foreknowledge and intentions of Infinite, Beneficent Intelligence. These are (1) The Zodiac; (2) The Great Pyramid, and (3) The Bible itself.

The twelve signs (roundels) of the Zodiac are interspersed with two dozen others in the floor of the Trinity Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral. The meaning of the twelve signs in their original sequence or order is, therefore, lost. (See page 47.)

**PART III - THE HEAVENS DECLARE
THE EVIDENCE FOR INFINITE BENEFICENT INTELLIGENCE
CHAPTER VI - THE ZODIAC**



The 12 signs (roundels) of the Zodiac are interspersed with 2 dozen others in the floor of the Trinity Chapel in Canterbury Cathedral. The meaning of the 12 signs in their original sequence or order is lost.

.. in the mouth of two or three witnesses every word shall be established" (Matth. 18 v 16) (Deut. 19 v 15) (2 Corinth. 13 v 1)

"The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament showeth his handiwork. Day unto day uttereth speech, and night unto night sheweth knowledge." (Psalm 19 vv 1 & 2)

"He telleth the number of the stars; he calleth them all by their names" (Psalm 147 v 4)

Adam Listens to the Voice of God - ancient astrology

THE ZODIAC, so beloved of the popular Press, is now familiar reading for countless individuals - through its extensive advice and predictions for those born during 12 different periods of the year. This science (literally knowledge) or system of belief (astrology) goes back to the beginning of time when man first emerged out of the subhuman world into self-consciousness and became aware of God and his surroundings.

Whether this happened at the time of Adam or before, is not a matter of great consequence, but we can assume for convenience that Adam symbolised this new awareness. It is certainly recorded that he was intensively curious and gave names to every living thing around him, including the other kind of human being near him, though built somewhat differently, that he called Eve ("the mother of all living") because she could reproduce beings like himself.

So how did the Zodiac make its appearance and the system of belief called 'astrology' (literally, thoughts about the stars from two Greek words 'astra' stars, and 'logos', word). 'Thoughts about the stars' is clearly a different treatment of the heavens as we see them today' from astronomy which deals strictly and scientifically with their observation, and the record of the apparent movement of the sun around the Earth. The pathway of the sun during a year across the heavenly constellations we know as the Zodiac, is called the Ecliptic. (The word Zodiac is derived from a primitive root through Greek, Sanscrit and Hebrew, which means a 'way') *Dr. Bullinger*

Dr. Bullinger, an Anglican clergyman who lived near the close of the of the 19th century, was a direct descendant of the great Bullinger of the Swiss Reformation. He was a man of indefatigable labours and scholarship, and published innumerable books and booklets on themes related to the Bible and history. In a remarkable book written in the 19th century called 'The Witness of the Stars', he makes the following comment-

"The figures (Zodiacal signs) are perfectly arbitrary. There is nothing in the groups of stars to even suggest the figures. This is the first thing which is noticed by everyone who looks at the constellations. Take for example the sign of Virgo, and look at the stars. There is nothing whatever to suggest a human form; still less is there anything to show whether that form is a man or a woman. And so with all the others".

"The picture, therefore, is the original, and must have been drawn around or connected with certain stars, simply in order that it might thus be remembered and handed down to posterity."

This idea irresistibly reminds us of our youth or childhood when we drew pictures by numbers - joining points together and painting in the colours.

Ancient Tradition Handed down from Remote Antiquity — ancient astronomy

So who handed them down and what time scales are we speaking of? The Chinese, Chaldean and Egyptian records go back more than 2,000 years BC, long before the Bible was written, and Nouet, a French astronomer, even suggests that Egyptian astronomy must have arisen around 5,400 BC. This was more than 2,000 years before the first Egyptian dynasty! "Ancient Persian and Arabian traditions" Dr. Bullinger states, "ascribe its invention (astronomy) to Adam, Seth and Enoch", and Josephus, the Jewish historian who lived in the first century AD ascribes the beginning of astronomy to Seth, soon after Adam, around 3,780 BC. Clearly astrology and astronomy go back a very long way in historical terms.

"The largest astrological work of the Babylonians contained seventy tablets, and was compiled by the command of Sargon of Agade, 3800 years before Christ. It was called 'The illumination of Bel'. Their observations were made in towers called 'Ziggurata' and they built observatories in all the great cities.... and reports were regularly sent to the king" (Bullinger).

Dr. Budge of the British Museum (19th century) says—

"It must never be forgotten that the Babylonians were a nation of stargazers, and that they kept a body of men to do nothing else but report eclipses, appearances of the moon, sun-spots, etc., etc."

Isaiah — the great prophet who lived 3,000 years later than Sargon, around the time when Israel was first invaded, lost their land and taken captive to Babylon says to the Babylonians -

"Thou art wearied in the multitude of thy counsels. Let now thy astrologers (marg. 'viewers of the heavens') the stargazers, the monthly prognosticators, stand up."

Dr. Budge observes that the Babylonians "were able to calculate eclipses, and had long lists of them... and found out that "the sun was spotted— and they knew of comets"

But what has all this to do, you might say, with evidence of Infinite, Beneficent Intelligence? The evidence of Intelligence Itself is all around us in the heavens (as well as in the Earth), and is difficult to refute, but what of its being 'Beneficent'?

God Gives 'Pictures' in the Heavens to the 'Stargazers'

I suggest that the ancients, whether stargazers or not, took as 'read', i.e. the very sight and existence of the heavens to be self-evident proof of Intelligence. The seers of those days went a stage further and told their companions that they had received a communication from a supernatural source that the Author and Creator of the heavens cared for His Creation. The communication came in the form of star pictures which were recorded and named accordingly. Bear in mind that evil (or contrary) forces were at work from the very beginning of the Adamic race (or earlier) — when Cain slew Abel, his brother.

The Signs of the Zodiac and Their Message

Now it is a fact, whether or not other explanations can be suggested, that the twelve signs of the Zodiac are the same — both as to the meaning of their names and as to their order or sequence around the circle of the Zodiac — in all the ancient nations of the world, and so described today, each in their own language. It seems obvious and reasonable at this point to ask what was this 'supernatural' communication, given in the form of twelve heavenly configurations, readily identifiable and permanent for all time, to the extent that these signs are still seen and recorded today in astronomical text books — let alone the whimsies of the popular press.

In the temples of Esneh and Dendorah in Egypt, the Zodiac is depicted as a circle, each sign drawn according to its unique name — Virgo (the virgin), Scorpio (the scorpion), Libra (the scales), Leo (the lion), etc., but it will be noticed that between Leo and Virgo, the Sphinx is depicted with a human head and a lion's body. It was Bullinger who asked a question (though as a youth I knew it not as a question but as a mysterious facet of the wonders of Egypt) — 'What is the riddle of the Sphinx?' What did it mean, and why the word 'Sphinx', and why was it placed in the Zodiac between Virgo and Leo?

The Sphinx and the Story in Outline

Bullinger draws attention to the fact that the word 'Sphinx' is derived from a Greek word 'SŌiyw' meaning to 'bind closely together'. It is reasonable to suppose, he says, that the figures on either side of the Sphinx represent the beginning and the end of a story (if such exists) and that the figures in between around the circle tell the rest of the story — or put another way — as many hold that the sphinx has the head of a woman and the body of a lion — this would add weight to the view that the story begins with Virgo and ends with Leo.

So what story is told? Strange to relate, if the star pictures — their names, meanings and sequence — are studied in detail, there emerges to our astonishment, a simple but powerful tale of one born of a woman (Virgo), who during his life fights and conquers an evil one (Scorpio), sacrifices his life, (Libra), pours blessing on mankind (Aquarius) — the water carrier — but returns to rule the world (Leo). This is the summary but the other figures and stars fill out the story in more detail.

To our sophisticated, sceptical (if not cynical) world, this may sound like a fanciful interpretation of the records, imposed on them in hindsight through a bias gained from a passing knowledge of Biblical themes. But if these configurations and their names are looked at with an open mind, the story presented is undoubtedly there and very impressive.

As to the importance and significance of these ancient astronomers there can be no doubt. Clearly there was a cross fertilisation between the ancient Babylonians and the Hebrews through their descendants right down to the beginning of the Christian era.

The Magi

We read in the New Testament of the 'Magi', 'the wise men from the East'. These were in all probability the descendants of the Israelites who had inhabited Ancient Mesopotamia and Babylonia (now Iraq) for five or six centuries since their eight hundred year old home in Palestine was invaded by Nebuchadnezzar (circa 600 BC). They were then deported to Babylonia in exile. These Magi, astronomers or perhaps, at this point in our story, wearing astrologers' hats, were working at the school of Astrology at Sippar on the Euphrates, and were alerted and concerned through their study of the heavens that there was to be a coming event of historic importance to their nation, the Israelites, for whom they held long treasured prophecies promising deliverance and eventual freedom from exile in a foreign land.

What they saw is what we would call today a conjunction of planets. Even more arresting was that the two planets coming together were Jupiter and Saturn. The reason for this (i.e. their concern) was that Jupiter was regarded as the 'royal' star and Saturn was always associated with the protection of Israel; furthermore, the conjunction occurred in the constellation of Pisces, the symbol of Israel 'a Messiah, the great deliverer and, according to the Chaldeans, Pisces was the sign of the West or Mediterranean countries.

The Conjunction of Planets and 'His Star in the East'

The facts are that, according to 20th century astronomy, there was indeed a conjunction of the two planets, not once but no less than three times, in 7 BC — May, October and December (Enc. Brit. 11th Edit. Vol, III, p. 888). The fact that the October conjunction was also in that year the day of Atonement in the Jewish calendar, may have been an added incentive (or admonition) to investigate the matter further. When Mars joined the conjunction in the Spring of the following year, 6 BC, the Magi's sense of impending drama must have been heightened even further.

It is intriguing to discover that the well-known mathematician and astronomer Kepler discovered these conjunctions as early as 1603 in Prague, and he remembered reading in the works of the medieval Jew R. Arbrabanel, that the "conjunction of these particular planets in this particular constellation was to be the sign of Messiah's coming".

Checking his calculations several times, he found that these conjunctions did occur in the year 7 BC.

It is probable that these conjunctions were a general warning and that the Magi then made preparations to undertake the long wearisome journey of 500 miles to Jerusalem through what is known as 'the fertile crescent' of Syria and Palestine and, of course, they knew that the whole journey there and back would be 1,000 miles, not to be undertaken in the unbearable heat of the summer months. Their minds and imagination, however, must have been filled with both excitement and apprehension during the long hours and days of this journey.

Whether 'his star in the East' (Matth. 2 v 2) was the Chinese Super Nova recorded in 5 or 4 BC, or whether the Magi spotted a new star directly over their route due South into Palestine, ('The Bible as History', Dr. Werner Keller) which gave them 'exceeding great joy' is not a matter of great importance. At all events, the Magi completed their long journey and paid homage to their future Messiah soon after His birth, when (according to the Biblical record) they returned to their own country, carefully avoiding any further contact with Herod, who had earlier affected a 'reverent' interest in the 'royal' birth during the discussion with the Magi, but whose real and murderous intentions were revealed later by his slaughter of all babes born in Bethlehem within

a 2-year period prior to the Magi's visit in order to be sure that this 'royal' babe was destroyed! — a macabre and evil event known in history as 'the massacre of the innocents'.

The Birth of Christ — 3rd/4th October BC (Gregorian)

It is generally accepted that the birth of Christ took place in 4 BC., and as the area around Jerusalem is, and invariable has been over long periods of time, in the grip of frost during December, we can be certain that shepherds and sheep would have been under cover. Furthermore it is known that these animals were seldom left out in the open after the middle of October. This pointed to a birth in early October at the latest, which would tally with the gospel narrative. In fact, there is intriguing evidence that the birth took place on 3rd/4th October (Gregorian), a matter we shall look at more closely in the next chapter. The Hebrew calendar day begins in the evening at 6.00 pm. Thus, for example, the Jewish Sabbath begins on a Friday and continues through to 6.00 pm on Saturday.

Now it is a matter of verifiable fact that the 3rd/4th October in 4 BC, was a Jewish Sabbath in that year. It is necessary at this point to draw attention to the centuries old tradition and custom of certain national festivals, going back, in fact, to the time of Israel's Exodus from bondage in Egypt in 1486 BC. There were three or more of these festivals each year, but the one we wish to draw attention to is the Feast of Tabernacles. This will not signify anything to non-Jews, but this Feast celebrates the time when the Israelites were brought out of Egypt under the leadership of Moses and lived for 40 years or more in tents, booths or tabernacles. Strange to relate, it happened that 15th Tisri (the official Hebrew month date for the feast) fell on 3rd/4th October 4 BC, which, as we have said, was a Saturday (Sabbath), (a fact unnoticed by the Christian Churches). Whenever this happened it became a 'High Day' (or double Sabbath) of special rejoicing, and as many people as could manage it journeyed to the temple at Jerusalem, the national shrine, thus bringing many pilgrims to the Holy City. (cf. John 19 v 31)

The Roman Census

But now history records an even stranger but intriguing circumstance. The Roman Emperor, Caesar Augustus, ordained that a census should be taken of all citizens of the Empire, for tax purposes. This was probably the first Roman census and it was to be undertaken in Palestine during the month of October. Families had to go back "everyone to his own city" (Luke 2 v 3). Dr. William M. Ramsey, born in 1851 — a brilliant archaeologist, scholar and traveller, was elected a member of learned societies in Europe and America. From 1880 onwards, he travelled widely in Asia Minor and rapidly became the recognised authority on Christianity in the early Roman Empire. He made this comment about the census -

"We now know that there was in the Roman Empire a system of census taking, regularly every fourteen years, and that the system was inaugurated by the Emperor Augustus ... it was preceded by a proclamation issued by the Governor of the Province ... directing that every person should repair to his place of origin, his proper home, to be counted there ... Augustus, then, formed this great plan of world survey and world registration ... and in the course of doing this, all he succeeded in doing was to bring about the fulfilment of prophecy. The Saviour must be born in Bethlehem". ("The Trustworthiness of the New Testament".)

He also relates that Justin Martyr (2nd century), Chrysostom (4th century) and Augustine (6th century) all refer to the register containing the entry of the Nativity as in existence at Rome in their time, and available for inspection. ('The Great Pyramid — Its Divine Message', p. 466. David Davidson).

Bethlehem — 3rd/4th October 4 BC

Now just imagine the scene — on 3rd/4th October 4 BC. Not only was this day a Sabbath, it was also a 'High Day' (Feast of Tabernacles) and on top of this, the Roman census was under way

when many people from different parts of Herod's kingdom in Palestine would be repairing to their place of birth or ancestors and registering their names at designated centres. It is not hard to imagine scenes of chaos in all the outlying villages of Jerusalem, people looking for bed and breakfast, inns, any accommodation available. Joseph, the husband of Mary, went to Bethlehem, the city of David, his famous royal ancestor. What did he find? The place was flooded out with people looking for a place to lodge. His journey from Nazareth, his home, with Mary, long pregnant, had obviously to be taken with great care. It would have taken at least 3 days to travel the 60 or 70 miles to Bethlehem. All the inn accommodation had been taken but, yes, there was a stable attached to one of them that could be used and made reasonably comfortable — having regard to the lady's condition.

The innkeeper had been very kind, doing everything possible to help on this joyful day. No doubt the village innkeepers were doing very nicely, we might say, with this unaccustomed business though one can also imagine the resentful gossip during the evening hours of many days in many households at this further imposition of Roman interference with their lives, to extract yet more tax for the hated Emperor, whose infamous cruelty and murders were known throughout the Empire.

So no wonder that "there was no room in the inn" (Luke 2 v 7), but the birth on that day, 'The Feast of Tabernacles' throws an interesting light on St. John's record that "The Word became flesh and 'tabernacled' (Greek text) amongst us." (John 1 v 14). Today on the site of this inn is the Church of the Nativity, visited and venerated by pilgrims from all parts of the world.

'Virgo' on the Scroll of History

It should be born in mind that faithful Israelites, a small minority of the whole nation, like the Jewish astrologers, had a 'treasured' knowledge of the ancient prophecies relating to a coming king who would rule the world and restore their nation to its original homeland. The Zodiac is therefore an accurate preview or prediction of what eventually took place nearly 4,000 years after the original revelation was given to Adamic stargazers, scientists and seers.

'Virgo' had now at last appeared on the scroll of history, though no-one had recognised the connection but a few of the devout Jews, men and women, were certainly aware that a 'great birth' had taken place (Luke 2 v 25 & 38). The original Zodiac revelation had by then become a long forgotten piece of ancient lore, especially when the Israelite scriptures (Old Testament) became available to the small group of Hebrew and Greek scholars who produced the Septuagint version in Greek in the 3rd century BC.

The whole story of the Zodiac in its original form is probably unknown to 20th century Christendom — even though its final picture of Leo (the lion) is mirrored by the prophesied Lion of Judah, the Messiah of the Old and New Testaments — who was to come and rule the world, and whose appearance at a climactic period in world history is taught by the Anglican and other churches as the 'Second Coming'.

Over the centuries, as we said earlier, the Zodiac has become the plaything of astrological whimsy and the popular Press, but from the beginning it was not so.

We may think it odd or naive to assign any meaning to an alleged Divine Revelation 5,000 years ago or more but pause for a moment to reflect that the situation is not so different when (and if) we take time out to study the Bible prophecies concerning the present age and future of mankind recorded originally during a period from, say 1,900 to 3,500 years ago! The last Revelation, given to St. John on Patmos, is concerned with the history of the Christian era up to 2,000 AD and beyond. We celebrate the 'First Coming' or Advent of the Christ, the Jesus of history, at Christmas which was originally a pagan feast, called the Saturnalia, antedating the Christian era by centuries of time. The Romans adopted it and called it "Natalie Invicti Solis", the birthday of

the unconquerable sun. This was, of course, the time of the Winter Solstice when the sun was at its lowest point in the heavens at midday. Following the Solstice, the sun's zenith point began to rise higher each day and was therefore 'unconquerable'.

Some centuries into the Christian era, the Roman Church took it over — as a convenient occasion when crowds were celebrating the sun over a whole week — to focus attention on the true 'Son' born to save the world. Adoption of the festival was at a time when many converts from paganism were being received into the fold and it was thought advisable, one writer says, "to sanctify a pagan festival which many of the converts were accustomed to celebrate, and probably would have continued to celebrate, whether the Church had sanctioned it or not". He goes on to say — "this same festival can be identified in Egypt as early as 2,000 BC." (*Davidson*)

But if, as we have shown, the true birth date of the true Son was in October, perhaps the 3rd/4th of that month will one day be truly celebrated by those who know its significance. The razz-matazz of what today we call Christmas will perhaps continue for a long time to come but has it not now, once more, for millions of people in many parts of the world (particularly in the West) reverted to a pagan festival — a time to be 'off' work, to eat, drink, make merry and give presents? How many today know that the giving of presents recalls the time 2,000 years ago when the Magi brought their presents of gold, frankincense and myrrh as an act of homage to the king Messiah who would come a second time into the world? How many know that gold, frankincense and myrrh are symbolic of royalty, divinity and sacrifice (or suffering)?

Christmas Today

Perhaps the one redeeming feature of our pagan Christmas is that it focuses attention on the children and the family — though many children are almost drowned in a plethora of expensive presents that soon become forgotten, or taken for granted.

Father Christmas, a symbol of the whole occasion, is a beloved scapegoat for fathers to beguile their children with a fairy story that admirably suits a child's sense of wonder and mystery. It's all great fun. Who would do without it, but it is not a Christian festival except for those who attend Church on Christmas day. In spite of this the churches are packed on that day and at Easter because beneath the glitter, people know that there is in the Universe a Beneficent Power greater than 'self'!

But where, one might ask, is the articulate and credible witness to the Incarnation and Resurrection of the Christ amongst the higher echelons of the Christian Churches, where confusion is more in evidence than unity? Where is the authentic voice of tradition and experience of the "faith once delivered to the Saints"?

Perhaps Christmas is once again reverting to what it once was in the days of ancient Rome — the Saturnalia, lasting a whole week, and for the non-Churchgoing members of the Public (about 90% or more in Britain) Father Christmas has replaced the 'babe born in a manger'.

We must now press on to the second piece of evidence relative to Infinite Beneficent Intelligence ... the Great Pyramid, known even to universal history as the 'Seventh wonder of the World', the first of the seven but the only one left through the ravages of time.



CHAPTER VII - THE GREAT PYRAMID

"In that day shall be an altar to the Lord in the midst of the land of Egypt, and a pillar at the border thereof to the Lord. And it shall be for a sign and for a witness unto the Lord of hosts in the land of Egypt." (Isaiah 19 vv 19/20).

The mysteries of Egypt

IN MY YOUTH, I had heard of the Great Pyramid, along with the Sphinx, as I recorded earlier. They were slotted into my young mind as tales, stories and pictures of mystery and wonder in much the same way as one might read the tales of the Arabian Nights.

Twentieth century television and air travel has replaced the fantasy with a reality that is both beguiling and awe-inspiring when the 10 mile journey out of Cairo is taken in a south-westerly direction across the Nile to the raised plateau of the Great Pyramid of Gizeh. Beguiling because of its rugged simplicity - just an enormous lump of stone Awe-inspiring because of its size. One visitor records "No-one can imagine the height until they go there."

It is a true pyramid (like the geometrical figure one used to draw at school) built of massive limestone pieces, not unlike a heap of giant leggo' blocks, neatly arranged in the form of a square at the base and then up in decreasing squares to its top platform over 454 feet high, or 3 times the height of the statue of Liberty near New York, from its base to the top of the flaming torch. The area covered at the base is 13 1/2 acres and the building blocks weigh anything from 1 to 70 tons. The limestone came from the Mokkatam hills, about 12 miles away to the South on the other side of the Nile, and the enormous granite blocks used in the interior, from a site 500 miles or so further away. One writer has described the size of the Pyramid in this way -

"If 10-ton trucks, filled to capacity with the stone from the Great Pyramid, were placed bumper to bumper, they would form a line 1000 miles long, or if the stones were built as a wall 2 yards thick and 25 feet high, it would stretch from London to Birmingham".

Mr. Davidson, The Great Pyramid and the Institution of Structural Engineers

Before proceeding to look at the Great Pyramid in more detail as regards both its external and internal features, it is relevant and appropriate to introduce the reader to another of the great unknowns of this century — one David Davidson M.C., M.I.Struct.E. He was a brilliant mathematician, structural engineer, astronomer, historian and mystic, whose personal journey from agnosticism to Christian Faith is told later. This happened solely through his studies of the Great Pyramid in the early years of the last century.

In 1929 and 1930 he delivered a series of lectures to the Institution of Structural Engineers which must surely be of historic importance for those who wish to verify the facts and conclusions of this remarkable man. As so often with men of genius, his talents were spread over many disciplines but unrecognised during his lifetime.

The results of his researches up to 1924 were gathered together in a massive tome entitled "The Great Pyramid: Its Divine Message". His studies have been quoted and used by innumerable writers around the world, and his lectures to the Institution describe' precisely how the Great Pyramid was built and how long it took. From these studies, he states that the monument took 10 years in planning and preparation before any stone was laid, and 12 years to build. It is relevant to ask who designed it. This is not an easy question to answer, but Davidson's evidence is compelling that it was an individual or a group of individuals who were among the early

progenitors of the Adamic race, centuries before Noah's Flood, who were sent on a special mission to erect a monument to Divine foreknowledge of mankind's painful journey through 6000 years of history, on a spot described as the centre of the world's land mass. Ancient writers refer to it as the 'Pillar of Enoch'.

The monument was completed around 2622 BC., and contains in symbolic geometrical form all the basic data of geodetic and gravitational astronomy known only to 20th century science — and therefore by implication, if the Great Pyramid has a Divine message, it is directed to 20th century mankind, i.e. to no century earlier, though its marvels may well be studied well into the next.

In his lectures to the Institution of Structural Engineers (and recorded in their Journal in 1929 and 1930, Mr. Davidson said —

"During a period somewhere around 4000 BC., there flourished a wonderful civilisation that gave impulse and direction to all the known civilisations of the Ancient East ... I adduced the archaeological and geographical reasons for concluding that the parent civilisation was located in what is now known as Chinese Central Asia. I was agreeably surprised to find that the authors of The Cambridge Ancient History make the same identification on grounds quite independent of my own".

Sir Flinders Petrie

Sir Flinders Petrie, the distinguished archaeologist who made an exhaustive survey and study of the Great Pyramid in the 19th century, and whose scientific assembly of data was widely used by Davidson, has recorded the following in his book "Descriptive Sociology" — "To no close student ... can the fact seem strange that Egypt should have been the first country in which Christianity permeated the whole body of the people. The Egyptian could recognise old beliefs in many a Christian theme, and so much did the figure of Christ remind him of Osiris and his son Horus, that to him, Christ became a hero who traversed the Nile valley, even as Horus had done, overcoming his enemies, the evil demons and the wicked. In Egypt, the Osirian faith and dogma were the precursors of Christianity, the foundation upon which it was able to build."

Davidson Again

The Great Pyramid was built by skilled stonemasons and semi-skilled labourers under the direction of an architect from a foreign land who knew exactly what he was required to achieve, even if the intention of the design parameters remained hidden from him. This may account for the fact that the Egyptians in later years gave names to the passage system which merely indicate a Divine authorship, though they had no clues as to their historical significance — a feature referred to later.

It is interesting to record before moving on, that Davidson's studies in Egyptian history, chronology and king lists, were so detailed and authentic that not long after his book was published, the Egyptian Government accepted his dates and chronology of early Egyptian dynasties in their official publications.

Sundial of the Seasons

But now let us take our first look at what is not normally seen. It has been established that when the Great Pyramid was built over 4,500 years ago, it in no way resembled what a visitor sees today, because it was originally covered by limestone facing blocks as smooth as a billiard table, highly polished, almost white in colour and joined together with such incredible skill and accuracy that the joins were almost invisible. The effect of the sun's rays on these enormous polished surfaces must have been dazzling because the rays were reflected over great distances in the clear desert air, unpolluted by the emissions produced by modern civilisation but permeated by

myriads of minute particles in suspension in the air, which accounts for the phenomenal deep blue sky of dry desert atmospheres. For this reason, no doubt, it was called a 'pyramid' which means a 'measure of light'. Such particles are known to be carried by the wind over vast distances and to be deposited, for example, in northern Europe. With this fact in mind, it is easy to understand that the sun's rays not only produced great beams of light but also shadows cast by the surfaces facing away from the sun.

The next thing noticed by careful survey is that the pyramid sides are accurately oriented due North, South, East and West. Evidence here of design and intention is unmistakable because these rays were found to identify precisely the astronomical and agricultural points or seasons, clearly indicating the time for early sowing and harvest.

'All Hallows Eve' — the world context

Sir J. G. Fraser in his 'Golden Bower' has shown that an agricultural festival of sowing on our November 1st is the oldest religious festival in the world. The modern festivals of All Saints and All Souls on November 1st and 2nd, preceded by All Hallows Eve on October 31st, are survivals of this ancient feast of sowing. These dates are clearly indicated by the shape and position of the reflected rays from the Pyramid's surfaces — on November 1st precisely.

All Hallows Eve, celebrated generally throughout the world in both ancient and modern times, is probably associated with 'The Destruction of the World' by traditional accounts in Mexico, Peru, China, Babylonia and Assyria — and reflect the Biblical account of Noah's flood in the Bible. In Persia (now Iran) the month of November was formally called 'the Month of the Angel of Death'.

May we not pause for a moment to consider these two festivals of 'remembrance' in a Biblical context—

'All Hallows Eve' — the Biblical context

Flood — which submerged the widespread corruption in Noah's time, and his rescue out of it with his family and all those who truly worshipped God and obeyed His Laws — recalls in All Saints and All Souls, the historic rescue of Noah and his family (and representatives of the sub-human world — wild life of all kinds) thus symbolically foreshadowing the sowing of Eternal Life in the hearts and souls of mankind, when the time came for the arrival of the Saviour — a wholly new sowing for all time when Jesus, the Christ Messiah, should eventually appear as the central figure in the history of the world.

The Passage of time — as we look inside the Great Pyramid

We must now proceed further and deeper into this ancient monument of design (and sundial of the seasons), to see what bearing it might have in relation to our inquiry into Infinite Benevolent Intelligence.

The Great Pyramid remained intact, as it was originally built, for nearly 3,500 years until after the Mohammedan conquest of Egypt, when the Caliph Al Mamoun — son of Haroun Al Rashid of 'Arabian Nights' fame — came in 820 AD to search for fabulous treasure, said to be hidden away inside. He eventually forced an entrance, assisted by a gang of Mohammedan quarrymen, and discovered one of the lower passages leading down to a subterranean 'deadend' cavity or chamber. It has remained in this state just as the Arabs left it nearly 1,100 years ago in spite of earthquake shocks, except that the smooth and polished facing stones gradually disappeared — re-appearing later to adorn the houses and buildings in Cairo!

The Great Pyramid Was Not Built to be a Tomb

In the long process of time, the inner passages of the Great Pyramid were eventually discovered and surveyed by various explorers, the most famous of which was perhaps Sir Flinders Petrie.

It was not till David Davidson got to work on the data available that the most astonishing discoveries were made in relation to the question — "Why was the Great Pyramid built?" — because it has to be stated at the outset that it was never intended as a tomb. "Why can this be said" one might ask. Because there is an irrefutable constructional and engineering reason that makes this clear.

Davidson explains that as the building progressed upwards, the upward internal passage system (hidden to Mamoun) was deliberately blocked by a granite plug whose dimensions were larger than the passage itself — thus making it impossible for any entrance to be made at a later date. Hence no burial, no treasures or other artifacts common to all other Egyptian tombs. Even the keeper of Egyptian Antiquities at the British Museum has grounds for believing that the Great Pyramid of Cheops was never a tomb. (Daily Telegraph 28.12.87)

So if it was never a tomb, what was it built for? Earlier, we have shown that it was (literally) a brilliant success as a sundial of the seasons — to guide the practices of agriculture. This was especially so in the Nile Delta — because the widest angle made by the reflection of the sun's rays between the North-East and the North-west was exactly 90 degrees on November 1st and February 11th each year and neatly enclosed the quadrant of the Delta where irrigation was readily available for the production of barley and flax, as it is today — the dates indicating the time for sowing and harvest.

The Geometrical Inch

The discoveries referred to below have resulted from the establishment of the 'Geometrical inch'. Sir John Herschel, a distinguished astronomer of the 19th century, has described the 'Geometrical inch' as "the only natural or rational basis for an Earth-commensurable measure", or to use Davidson's terms, "the natural unit measure of astronomy, geodesy and rational metrology". It is defined as one 500 millionth part of the polar axis of the Earth.

One might well ask, or comment in colloquial terms — "so what". The answer is that this unit, when applied to the design parameters of the Great Pyramid (established by accurate survey) unlocks a whole series of astronomical and geodetic data now established by 20th century astronomy, but over 4,500 years after the Pyramid was built. To give one or two examples using this geometrical inch to represent a year -

- (1) The measure of the sum of the base perimeter sides defines in 3 ways the length of the year, including the solar year of 365.2424 days, because the sides of the Pyramid were not flat but concave — a fact verified by aerial photography.
- (2) The sum of the diagonals of the base square defines accurately the precise length of time for the complete precession of the equinoxes (25,628 years).
- (3) The designed height of the Pyramid is the precise radius of a circle whose circumference is equal to the sum of the base square perimeter sides — (a practical example of squaring the circle).

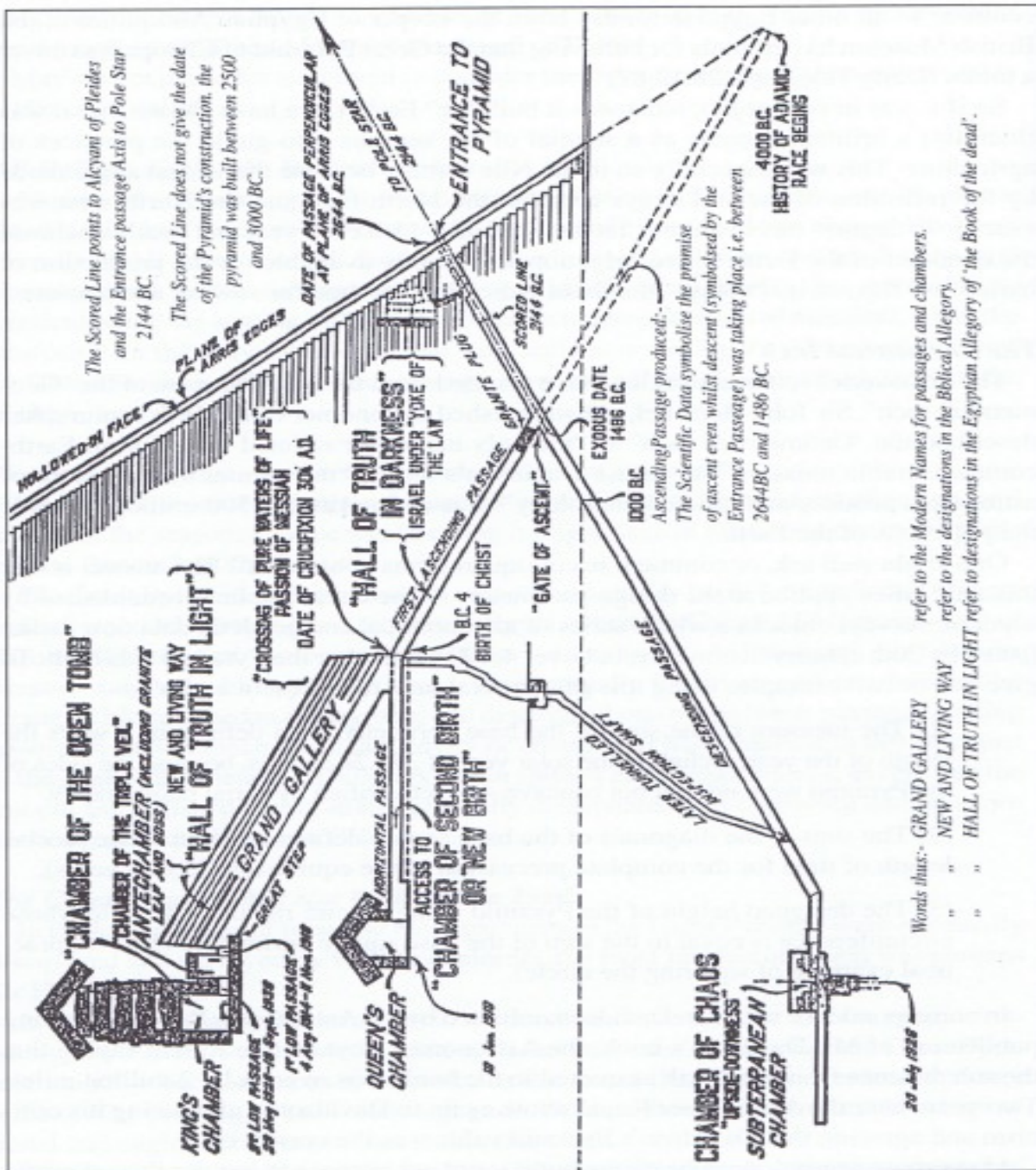
In correspondence with Mr. Davidson, initiated by the Astronomer Royal, following publication of Mr. Davidson's book, the Astronomer Royal wrote to him saying that the sun distance from the Earth as quoted in the book, was in error by 2 million miles. Two years later the Astronomer

Royal wrote again to Davidson withdrawing his criticism and agreeing that Davidson's Pyramid value was the correct one.

Many more examples can be given, but it is not our purpose to itemise this scientific 'miracle', but to move on to the even greater and breathtaking application of this inch - to represent a year of historical time, in more detail. The sceptic with a closed mind need read no further — but I have to record that when this inch is applied to the whole The Geometric Inch as a Symbol of the Solar Year as Applied to the whole design of the internal passage system, a quite extraordinary panorama of historical dates appear, reflecting the date of prime events in Biblical chronology as well as several significant dates in world history.

The Geometric Inch as a Symbol of the Solar Year as Applied to History

Mr. Davidson, in the agnostic phase of his studies of the Great Pyramid, said (primarily to himself) that if the Bible was a Divine Revelation as well as the Pyramid (or vice versa) either the two must agree on fundamental dates or both would have to be discredited. As his studies proceeded, he discovered that there was complete agreement at every point where dates were checked. He discovered that both established a datum (or starting) point at 4000 BC. After that



— the date of the Great flood (Noah), the date of the birth and crucifixion of Christ, and into the 20th century, even the precise date of the beginning and ending of the Great War, and the start of the first great economic depression culminating in the financial crash of 1929 which shook the world — and many other dates of past and present history.

The Great Pyramid's Internal Passage System

Ancient Egyptian prophecy has colourful and intriguing names for the different sections of the internal passage system—

Gate of Ascent Chamber of the Open Tomb
Hall of Truth in Darkness Chamber of the Triple Veil
Crossing of Pure Waters of Life Chamber of Chaos
Chamber of Second Birth Chamber of the Grand Orient
Hall of Truth in Light (or The King's Chamber)

The names are evocative of metaphysical or mystic awareness of revelation going back to the dawn of pre-history. The Messianic idea of a Saviour coming to deliver mankind from evil forces may well date back to the ancient Zodiac 'pictures', while successive generations of special seers or prophets carried through these traditions till the time the great Pyramid was built.

Be that as it may, Mr. Davidson states with great emphasis that the Pyramid's Revelation, both external (scientific) and internal (historical) can only be recognised in retrospect. This reflects an equally salutary approach to the prophetic sections of the Bible (which we shall develop further in the next chapter) — as such revelations are in no sense intended to be a prediction of future events.

"The very purpose of prophecy" Davidson states with equal firmness "is to guide humanity in the understanding of the wisdom of the inscrutable ways of God, and to confirm humanity in their faith and trust in God." This expresses in a contemporary way what the Christ of history said 2,000 years ago -

"I have told you before it come to pass that when it is come to pass, ye might believe"
(John 14 v 29).

The Capstone The Chief Corner Stone'

The top of the Great Pyramid is a platform, a square with sides of about 40 feet. It was clearly designed to accommodate the Capstone, or Apex pyramid with the Chief Corner Stone at the top, symbolised in miniature by the small pyramids placed at the top of all Egyptian obelisks, with polished sides reflecting the sun's light - just as the sides of the Great Pyramid did, so majestically when it was first built. But the Capstone did not fit and was rejected!

What happened is not difficult to imagine. The designed and shaped Capstone was too big (by about 7 feet each side) and had to be discarded. Obviously a small but fundamental error had been made by the builders, and Mr. Davidson describes exactly how it occurred. When speaking about the geometry and design parameters of the Capstone, he said that the "beauty of this design was so great that he had no words to describe it", — and that the mathematics and symbolism of the error clearly indicated Divine foreknowledge of the builders error ... and these are the words of a brilliant mathematician, astronomer and mystic.

Could this be a reference to Psalm 118 v 22 quoted by Jesus himself and referred to in two of the four gospels -

"The stone which the builders rejected is become the head of the corner."

This 'stone' was a clear reference to Himself, not only in this quotation but in many other references to stone symbolism in the Bible, 'The Stone of Destiny', and the stone kingdom of the prophet Daniel, ultimately to replace the kingdom of this world and the chaos that man has inflicted upon himself. And may not St. Paul have had this Kingdom in mind when he wrote to the young and vigorous Church in Ephesus that it was to be - "... built upon the foundation of the Apostles and Prophets, Jesus Christ Himself being the "Chief Corner Stone" (Ephesians 2 v 20).

Take Time Now to Assess the Evidence

We have now reached a point when it is relevant to our main inquiry to make certain observations bearing on the Divine Authorship of the Universe. Put simply, it amounts to this: Prehistoric Divine Revelation of observable facts about the Earth and the heavens — which mankind would become able to achieve in the course of time — is remarkable enough in itself — but revelation of the course of history related to major events of vital importance to mankind, millennia before they occurred, and given to chosen seers who were to record them in a symbolic structure of stone durable for all time — is quite another matter.

It is either the most unlikely accident of all time which stretches our sense of what is reasonable, way beyond our wildest imagination and credibility, or it means Divine Omniscient foreknowledge of all creation, creative forces and interdependent influences, in detail on the grand scale. Put another way, this means that the Divine Author and Architect of the Universe, knows the end from the beginning — and the beginning from the end of all creation. Here is stunning evidence of intelligence — altogether a different 'ball game' for mankind as he so slowly unravels the meaning of life — truly impressive clues that such Intelligence is Beneficent — but the fuller revelation of all was delayed for 1,000 years till the Bible began to be written, when 'everyman' could read for himself the principles and laws that are laid down for the rescue — predetermined and foretold — for mankind in this vale of tears, and for the eventual recovery of 'Paradise' on the Earth, when once more the desert shall "blossom as the rose", and harmony (peace) will prevail among the nations of the world.

The great prophet Isaiah (700 years BC, or over 2,600 years ago) spoke passionately of One —

"... that formed the Earth and made it. He hath established it, he created it not in vain, he formed it to be inhabited." (Isaiah 35 v 18).

And of the same One —

"... declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying — "My counsel shall stand ... I am the Lord." (Isaiah 46 v 9/10).

Here is further evidence — re-assurance of Divine Sovereignty and Authority in the Universe — that God is indeed in control of all the affairs and ultimate destiny of mankind. But let there be no mistake — these records, counsels or prophecies have nothing in common with 'fatalism'. Each one of us is either a negative destructive, or positive and creative force in this process, however little we may be aware of it. There is no neutral ground. There are no passengers!

Final Comments — from David Davidson

"Scholars, who refer to the Great Pyramid as a pagan monument or temple, would therefore do well to understand that it enshrines an accurate system of astronomy; that that system is proved to be the time basis of the science of our visible creation; that the representation thus given is expressed in terms of modern science; and that modern science, as thus expressed, dates from

the days of Kepler and Newton, and was unknown forty-six centuries ago when the Great Pyramid was built."

"Surely due reflection on a work that reveals such accurate foreknowledge of the ways and the idiomatic means of expression in modern thought should enlighten all but the most purblind of adversaries, and should reveal to them the operation of the all-controlling mind of the Great Geometrician of Creation, and the purpose of the Great Architect of the Universe."

"When scholars have divested themselves of their academically acquired conservatism, have shown themselves willing to study matters external to their catalogued academic 'show-cases', and have proved themselves broad-minded enough to survey the structural representation of the Great Pyramid as a whole, then will they be in a position to realise that the Great Pyramid is 'the witness into the Lord of Hosts'. One wonders..." (David Davidson. The Hidden Truth in Myth and Ritual' and in the 'Common Culture Pattern of Ancient Metrology').

CHAPTER VIII — THE BIBLE

THE QUEEN at her coronation was given the Bible to hold, during which time she was told by the Archbishop of Canterbury and the Moderator of the General Assembly of the Church of Scotland — "We present you with this Book, the most valuable thing that this world affords. Here is Wisdom; This is the Royal Law; These are the lively Oracles of God".

Its Composition and World wide Dissemination

The single word 'Bible' is very misleading. When you pick up this book from your bookshelf or bedside, you are really picking up a library of 66 books. Nearly 2000 years have passed, and not until the 20th century has it been possible through miniaturization to reduce, say, the British Museum Library, to a volume you could put in your pocket — or even on a pin-head through the marvels of an electron beam! The Bible is a unique Book. You ask 'Why?'. It is relevant to state a few facts -

- (1) The whole set of writings or books took over 1500 years to complete and has a remarkable unity of theme and design -which centres around the Person of the Messiah or Jesus of history, or the Christ of Israel's hope and mission. All definitions blend into one.
- (2) The oldest extant copies of these manuscripts are closer in time to the original manuscripts than 'the copies of any other secular ancient manuscript — and their contents, although copies of these are more reliable than any copies of the most ancient books in existence. ('The Story of the Bible' Sir Frederick Kenyon, Director and Chief Librarian of the British Museum, 1909 - 1930)
- (3) It is a best seller the world over, and has been for centuries.
- (4) It has been translated into nearly 2000 languages. It is also relevant to state a few facts about the demand for this unique book.
- (5) Nine-tenths of the human race have at least some part of the Bible in a language they can understand.
- (6) The demand for the Bible is increasing all the time from all parts of the world.
- (7) In 1965, The British and Foreign Bible Society (now known as the United Bible Societies) alone had then distributed over 18 million copies of the scriptures. Twenty

years later in the period November 1985 to October 1986, 131/2 million copies were circulated in that one year alone.

(8) In the nearly 200 years' existence of this superb Organisation, no less than 700 million copies of the Bible or Testaments have been distributed all over the world.

Its Authority as a Divine Revelation

It is stated by all the Established Christian Churches that the Bible is the 'Word of God'. This means, by any method of definition, that it carries within it the Divine Authority or Inspiration for what is recorded - called by the Christian Church in later centuries the 'Canon' or accepted body of Divine Revelation. This Canon has a long history and is the result of pre-Christian and post-Christian orthodoxy and scholarship.

A Reliable History

By this standard, it is also a reliable history of the Adamic, Abrahamic and Israelite families. Nearly 50 years ago, Winston Churchill is on record as follows -

"We may be sure that all these things happened just as they are set out according to Holy Writ. We may believe that they happened to people not so very different from ourselves, and the impressions these people received were faithfully recorded and have been transmitted across the centuries with far more accuracy than many of the telegraphed accounts we read of the goings-on of today".

It is also a history, through the pens of St. Luke (the beloved doctor and historian) and St. Paul (peripatetic evangelist extraordinary), of the early Church in Judaea, Asia Minor (Turkey) and parts of Europe. Through the pen also of St. John in Patmos, the book of Revelation is a Divine assessment of the state of the Christian Churches in Asia Minor in the first century' and a preview of world history relative to Divine purposes, through symbols rooted in the book of the prophet Daniel, all of which takes us up to the consummation of the Christian Dispensation, indicated by the Great Pyramid to be the terminal date of 2001 AD., to be followed by a new era lasting another 1,000 years.

Within the context of the main theme of Part III in this book — the concept of the Creator of the Universe being One with Infinite Beneficent Intelligence — it is appropriate to focus attention on two aspects of this Creator -

(1) His foreknowledge and control of the whole pattern of human history, personal and global.

(2) the question in many minds, 'Does the Creator (God) care about His Creation?'

People are understandably worried, if they have the courage to think about it, whether there is indeed a future for mankind (as we asked in Part I), or whether civilisation will just end up as a puff of smoke looking like a mushroom cloud!

Divine Foreknowledge of the Course of Human History

Much has been said about this earlier, from the studies dealing with the Zodiac and the Great Pyramid. We now need to look at one or two examples (among a great many) internal to the Bible that have a bearing on subsequent history but written about, in some cases, centuries before the events referred to reached the history books -

(1) The birth of the Redeemer of Israel and Saviour of the world was recorded by the prophet Isaiah seven centuries before this took place in 4 BC.

(2) Other prophets recorded not only the place — Bethlehem — but also the period of time which would elapse between their prophecies and the event (again nearly 700 years). They foretell His 'official' arrival in Jerusalem — 'riding upon an ass, and upon a colt the foal of an ass', and His betrayal — "So they weighed for my price thirty pieces of silver", which were then "cast to the potter". (Zech. II vv 9, 12, 13).

(3) The New Testament then records over 500 years later, in complete fulfilment of these prophecies, that the priests bought a field, with the cash, which subsequently became known after the crucifixion as predicted as the 'field of blood'. The Christ arrived precisely on the time indicated in the place named.

(4) Jesus Himself prophesied not only His own death and resurrection but also the destruction of the Temple and Jerusalem — and of the Jews in a national sense, but gave no date. History records that this took place in AD 70, causing the final dispersion of the Jewish nation by the Roman armies 40 years after the crucifixion and resurrection.

(5) The release and freedom of Jerusalem from Turkish control in 1917 AD was prophesied by a distinguished Bible student, Dr. Gratten Guinness, in the 19th century, by a study of the prophetic time periods frequently found in the writings of the prophets. On December 9th, in that year, Field Marshall Edmund Allenby walked into Jerusalem to take over control of the city, without a shot being fired. This was to be done "as birds flying" — an intriguing phrase, bearing in mind the role of the RAF's 14th (Bomber) Squadron which played a decisive part in the 'run-up' to the surrender of the city (though no bombs were dropped) — a remarkable fulfilment of a prophecy recorded by Isaiah 7 centuries before Christ.

"As birds flying, so will the Lord of Hosts defend Jerusalem; defending also He will deliver it; and passing over He will preserve it." (Isaiah 31 v 5).

From the Schofield Bible, notes on II Peter I v 19:

"We have also a more sure word of prophecy ; whereunto ye do well that ye take heed..."

That is, made more sure by fulfilment in part. Fulfilled prophecy is a proof of inspiration because the Scripture predictions of future events were uttered so long before the events transpired that no merely human sagacity or foresight could have anticipated them, and these predictions are so detailed, minute, and specific, as to exclude the possibility that they were mere fortunate guesses.

Hundreds of predictions concerning Israel, the land of Canaan, Babylon, Assyria, Egypt, and numerous personages - so ancient, so singular, so seemingly improbable, as well as so detailed and definite that no mortal could have anticipated them - have been fulfilled by the elements, and by men who were ignorant of them, or who utterly disbelieved them, or who struggled with frantic desperation to avoid their fulfilment. It is certain, therefore, that the Scriptures that contain them are inspired.

"Prophecy came not in olden time by the will of man; but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." (II Peter I v 21).

Perhaps the most striking aspect of the Bible relative to our main line of inquiry is that the Bible tells the same basic story as the Zodiac and the Pyramid. Here are indeed three independent witnesses to a central truth giving their record over a period of nearly 4,000 years.

Does The Creator (God) Care About His Creation?



Encircled are two people to the left of the Sphinx, which serves to illustrate the enormous size of the Great Pyramid some distance away in the background

Both the Zodiac and the Great Pyramid contain the same central theme — that the Saviour (Messiah) would make His appearance in history to overcome evil forces, releasing mankind from the coils of lawlessness into a new freedom and a new understanding of the meaning of life with attendant endless benefits and fruitfulness. Each of these two witnesses emphasise and illuminate different parts of this story at different times in world history to different groups or families — though many of these families had a common ancestry. Consider, for example, the twelve Arab princes born to Abraham through his Egyptian wife Hagar, and their separate development from his other progeny through Sarah and Rebecca.

Each age had its own guardians, men and women, of the Adamic family's traditions and wisdom. Originally, these would have been heads of families; later came seers or prophets, and then priests. The histories and personalities involved are described primarily in the Bible itself — in great detail. When these things became recorded is not so important to us now in this 21st century after the birth of Christ, but there clearly had to come a time when mankind in their vast numbers across the world would need to read for themselves the records of history and wisdom derived from Divine revelation.

To summarise the matter, one could say that while the Zodiac, through its seers, set forth the Plan and Counsel of the Almighty through the symbolism of human and subhuman beings (creatures) familiar to man's natural experience (the woman, the child, the water carrier, the lion, the serpent, etc.), the Great Pyramid provided the Divine time clock marking the signal events in the history of mankind. The Adamic race and their progeny had the task of teaching all other nations the great truth of monotheism in contrast to innumerable myths, gods and goddesses. (In the time of the early Egyptian dynasties, there were about 2,000 of these). The Pyramid also indicates much of the timing and character of world history up to the end of the Christian

dispensation, but this reading of the Pyramid's revelation was not possible until the precise sciences of the 20th century became available — suggesting strongly that this 21st century is to see the end of an era and the beginning of another.

It is not overstating the matter, however, to say that the Bible alone emphasises that Infinite Intelligence (the Creator) is Beneficent. The key words through all its pages are law, mercy, compassion and love, and in the reflections and conclusions that follow this chapter, I shall attempt to suggest what might be a vital preparation for mankind's entry into the 21st century.

PART IV - REFLECTIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

CHAPTER IX - REFLECTIONS

EVIDENCE OF THE HAND OF GOD IN PAST AND PRESENT HISTORY

IN PART II of this book, we have been looking at the Zodiac, the Great Pyramid and the Bible. It is fair to say that very few people are aware of the Zodiac's original meaning brought to light by the devoted studies of Dr. Bullinger. The story told to our ancestors in the dawn of historical time, became hidden as the centuries rolled by — and human nature being what it is, the simple truths became distorted and corrupted in the hands of unscrupulous men.

Corrupt priestcraft reared its ugly head — but there were always a few that remained faithful to the original inspiration and were 'spoken to' by the Almighty. Present day echoes of this original inspiration can still be seen in Cathedrals like Canterbury and many churches throughout the land in which the Zodiac is clearly depicted on the floor or the walls.

It is probably shown in many other Churches and Cathedrals throughout the world as, for example, in the 'Church of the Dormition Abbey' in Jerusalem, where it is depicted on the circular floor of the Church, together with the emblems of the four Gospels.

Some aspects of the story obviously 'rubbed off' on the Egyptians at the time the Great Pyramid was built, when an architect and his staff visited and stayed in Egypt to perform this prodigious task. The influence of this 'foreign' group and their families had a profound effect on Egyptian culture through their beliefs and nobility of life. This influence waxed and waned as the years rolled on, but was greatly strengthened by the visit of Abraham's great grandson. His integrity and wisdom so impressed the Pharaoh of his day, that he became second in the land, the Grand Vizier — or as we might say, the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

The Great Pyramid however, is not, and can hardly be, the subject of study for the general public of today — though it can be of interest to students with some knowledge of mathematics, geometry — and perhaps astronomy. From a practical point of view in the 21st century, it is replaced by the Bible itself — though its evidence is of invaluable importance as a guide to Biblical chronology and Divine foreknowledge of human history, which has a bearing on our main line of inquiry. Such Divine foreknowledge, thus presented, also provides immense scientific and intellectual strengthening of our faith —

"faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude v. 3).

CHAPTER X - CONCLUSIONS

IF WE LOOK at ourselves, our present 'make-up', we may perhaps discern three planes or levels of life or consciousness. One level (physical) we see all too clearly, the second (mind or soul) not so clearly but undeniably powerful through emotion and motivation, and the third (spirit) only dimly if at all.

To put labels on these levels of consciousness may only confuse — though we do it almost subconsciously. It is an endearing though seductive habit from which few, if any of us, escape. If we can label a person or a point of view, we feel a little more secure if not perhaps a little superior in the belief that such knowledge enhances our 'image' (or self-esteem) — but by doing so, we may belittle that person or belief and miss a nugget of truth that we need — to correct, adjust or enhance our own understanding of life.

The implications of looking at our lives in this way is somewhat arresting because it provides us not only with dire warning — so much needed in our sense saturated world of frenzied activity — but also with hope that there is light at the end of the dark tunnel through which the world is now groping its way with pain, despair and— a cacophony of voices! WE ARE STEWARDS OF OUR ASSETS —AND ACCOUNTABLE TO OTHERS.

And to the Almighty too! It may well be objected at this point that as television brings into most homes across the world the appalling results of drugs, cruelty, rape, child abuse, violence, terrorism and war (at least 150-200 wars are on record since 1945), it is difficult if not impossible to believe in any Beneficent Intelligence. Put another way, it is the age old cry of humanity 'Why does God allow war and famine'?

This is not the place to discuss the concept or philosophy of free will — but to be thoroughly practical, all the suffering of mankind should compel us to take responsibility for our actions (individually and collectively) — to tend the sick and to feed the destitute or starving in the world — which many nations are attempting to do in the face of many difficulties. But who is asking what the real causes are of the suffering of mankind?

The deserts represent the end result of mankind's collective ignorance, irresponsibility and greed — but in true compassion, these are the places where food and medicine must first be provided to heal the wounds we inflict on others and inexorably, in the long run, on ourselves.

One of the most compelling sayings in the New Testament is "To whom much is given, much shall be required"

and a close 'runner-up' might well be -

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul"?

Those nations who have the power and are beginning to help with money, skills, food and medicine, must now deeply ask themselves if they are really dealing with the root causes of human suffering — alongside all our efforts to send food to the Third World, let alone nations decimated by genocide, war and famine.

If we look across at the Eastern countries, as well as back into long ages past, we find a name given to the effects of the decisions we make in our lives. It is called 'the law of Karma'. There are some aspects of this that need not concern us but there is nothing new about the central principle which can be traced back 6000 years to Adam as well as being defined scientifically today as 'the law of cause and effect' ! Put another way familiar to readers of Holy Writ — 'we reap what we sow', and this doctrine from the East or West, ancient or contemporary, is that what we reap we have to live with in this life as well as in the 'next' because all creation is governed by law.

Science has grown and blossomed by observing this principle — but clearly the mind and soul of mankind, suffering from arrested development, has not accepted this great truth, thus incurring the inevitable entail of disaster in the physical and apparent world of the planet and its inhabitants. But the 'Light' in the sense of radiation from Beneficent Intelligence has always shone on the lives of mankind, and we have attempted to show a picture — some of it starkly visible (Part I)

, some of it familiar or recognisable in perhaps a 'deja vu' sense and the rest as a search for truth through symbols and the word forms that are in common use (Parts II and III). In the immortal words of Francis Thompson in his poem The Hound of Heaven -

I fled Him down the nights and down the days;
I fled Him down the arches of the years;
I fled Him down the labyrinthine ways of my own mind;
and in the midst of tears
I hid from Him....

For those with a scientific turn of mind, the words of Professor Lakhovski, the Russian scientist, are relevant and intriguing -

"Life is created by cosmic radiation, it is maintained by cosmic radiation, but it is destroyed by oscillatory disequilibrium"

In this quest, attention has been drawn to the almost timeless but solidly tangible clues (Zodiac and Great Pyramid) to the real meaning of our existence, and the central purpose of our life on Earth within the unimaginable vastness of the space around us. The Bible is surely the last word on this subject, a still largely unexplored treasure house of Truth and delight.

Put another way — the Zodiac tells, in its simplest form, the Gospel story from the New Testament; The Great Pyramid tells the 'story' of Israel in all history mainly through the dates of its key crises; and the Bible spells out in fine detail the complete Revelation of the Almighty's Plan — through the Incarnation, Death (Atonement), Resurrection and Return of Jesus the Christ Messiah of history, the Son of God — to rescue (save) mankind from suicide and the vicious machinations of Satanic forces to destroy the world as we know it.

It is the author's deep conviction that the individual human being remains supremely important within a Divine Sovereignty that is in control — not only of the Universe but of all creation, and of the seeming unpredictability of history — to an eventual consummation of order and beauty in the affairs of mankind. One writer has put it this way -

"Christianity is only definable in terms of a continuity of intentional action through history" (Prof. John MacMurray).

If this view is correct, then the survival of mankind is assured and it follows that the Author, and Architect of the Universe has much more in store for us in spite of all appearances to the contrary. We are encouraged to glimpse at a world transformed by the removal of violence and fear; where indeed, the deserts will once again 'blossom as the rose', and the subhuman world will be weaned away from mutual destruction in perpetuation of the food chain, and where man and animals will learn to live together in harmony the Earth itself producing all the necessary food to sustain life — in beauty and profusion beyond our imagination (Genesis 1 vv 29 and 30).

How is This to Come About?

How is this to happen? Only through a complete change in the spiritual and moral climate brought about by the study, acceptance and practice of Divine Law. This Law is totally comprehensive, intelligible and practical as set out in both the Old and New Testaments of our Bible.

Sometimes comment is made that the Bible is 'difficult'. It reminds me of the man who said 'It wasn't the difficult bits that worried him but the bits he did understand' ! The reason is that the Bible challenges the roots of man's selfishness and greed. So we're back full circle except that the way to break out of it is clearly shown.

This way opens up, once mankind is deeply convinced of the need to change his ways (repent) and to come to Christ to receive a new 'nature' (born again) with wholly new motivation in all his relationships.

Countless individuals are finding this new and living way with its exciting vision (perception) of a new hope for the world — an assured future and an indestructible peace based on Divine Authority and Control.

In Reg Hales' book 'The Magnificent Gael', he writes of the great Columba, the founder of the monastery at Iona in the 6th century, who also inspired fresh springs of Celtic Christianity that flowed through Ireland into Scotland -

"Above all else he was engrossed in caring for people. His method of remaking the world, of changing the system, was to make bad men good and good men better. This was the continuous outcome of his work wherever he went. The impossible became possible when the hearts of men were changed."

Each individual and each generation have to work this out for themselves. There is no short cut. When Shall These Things Be — in a Global Sense?

Such studies inevitably prompt the question 'When is a rescued or restored Earth likely to appear?'

One is reminded of an almost identical question put to the Christ of history nearly 2,000 years ago. Similar questions were put to the Almighty centuries earlier by Daniel (of lion's den fame) and the prophet Malachi — to mention only a few. The answers given were practical, consistent and precise but the fullest understanding of them was hidden till the time appointed and then revealed only to those who had studied the clues given. It is the author's conviction that the consummation of this world's trauma is now upon us, when the fulfilment of the destiny of mankind is to be brought into focus prior to a long period of restoration or regeneration which could last a thousand years.

The Rule and Role of Divine Law

This book is an invitation to the reader to look through and beyond the dark corridors of our laboured 'civilisation', the arid contours of stresses, strains and pains of our own making - pictured starkly and often violently in our daily newspapers. We need to draw fresh inspiration from a "country far beyond the stars". This is not some idealists' dream of Utopia, nor some other worldly concept divorced from this travailing Earth, so dear to theological whimsy, but an Earth rescued from man's murderous maltreatment and from man's inhumanity to man.

This book is an assertion that a restored world is Divinely ordained and will begin to appear when man has learnt through suffering the effects of his lawlessness; that he is himself responsible for all the ills that are our natural heritage. When this self-knowledge dawns sufficiently deeply, we shall stop blaming 'other people' and other nations for our distresses and begin to learn the Divine Laws that are the harbingers and guardians of the 'Kingdom of God' on Earth. This is the Divinely ordained heritage for mankind — real freedom from fear for individuals going about their ordinary business — and freedom from the fear of international confrontation and conflict — when indeed "the lion shall lie down with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them". (Isaiah 11 v 6-9).

This book is a window on the meaning of life on this planet. Make no mistake — it is one of many windows through which to view not only the planet but the Universe. This view or vision is of one Universe, as the word implies, not one of many. The central thought here is that life on this planet, as in the Universe, is all of one piece. It is an integrated whole composed of an infinite number of pieces of great complexity and beauty — and all is governed by law.

Each person that has ever lived, is living now, or is yet to be born, has this window in their 'make-up', but for the great majority of mankind, it is a window darkened by neglect or blindness with the result that we are absorbed in any one or more of innumerable pieces of the whole that obscure the unity of all creation, or to use a contemporary phrase — 'the name of the game is specialisation'. This is the Achilles heel of University education. In consequence, we see life "through a glass darkly", as the great Apostle Paul has said, and the darker we allow the glass to become, the more we generate disharmony, disease, violence and death so familiar to us as we look at our world through the eyes of our television and newspapers.

All the evidence points to an underlying unity in all creation. The same laws govern the flight of a butterfly or a jet-plane, the size, design and colour of a rose or of the giant Redwoods - and the genetic contours and patterns of the DNA structures in all human and sub-human life forms. The same laws govern the flight of a condor, the graceful elegance of a dolphin in motion, the metabolism of birds on the wing or the maintenance of mechanical or electronic equipment. All need energy, rest, repair and replacement. Even metals get tired!

Although the Almighty is, and always has been, in control of His Universe and man's role and destiny within it (how could it be otherwise?), each person has to find their own way towards the light described and defined by the Bible as 'The Light of the World' incarnate as Jesus the Christ of history, the 'desire of all nations' — because the Almighty never violates the sovereignty of the individual will and personality to choose his way of life.

There comes a point, however, in most people's lives, sooner or later, of what one might call the crisis of belief — not blind intellectual belief but the courage and willingness to act on the evidence of other people's experience — those who have trod this path and found it to be true. For countless lives through time and across all nations, this has been the turning point when healing (wholeness) has been achieved — called 'salvation' in the Bible. But each generation has to find its way through the glamour, glitter, realities or illusions — in the context of the environment created by their fathers and forefathers. There are no short cuts for the individual. Each of us has to prove for himself what is true or false.

What is the Role of a Nation?

It would be inadequate if not an obvious omission when we have focused attention rightly on the primary role of the individual, not to consider the role of the family, community or nation in the world scene. We have already referred earlier to the great contribution made by Hebrew and Israelite families, recorded in the Old Testament, through their teaching of monotheism in earlier ages of world history. The prosperity and well being of these families and dynasties, crystallising into national entities in the course of time, waxed and waned in proportion to their observance of the Divine Laws. Israel's notorious departure into idolatry is held up in the Bible as a lesson, to all nations for all time, on the results of broken or neglected Divine Law. There has always been, however, a faithful remnant to carry the torch of truth to all who were willing to see and to listen.

The Light of the world

Over nearly 2,000 years, this light and torch of Truth has been identified by Christendom as 'Christ, the Light of the World'. It was carried as a life-transforming experience by a growing number of individuals to North Africa, through Asia Minor, Italy, France and finally to Britain, all in the 1st century AD, and took root in these Islands nationally in the 2nd century. This historical fact is recorded on a brass plate (which survived the Great Fire of London in 1666 AD) in the Church of St. Peters-upon-Cornhill in the City of London, the site of which is directly over the site of the second largest basilica in Europe during the Roman era. The great antiquity of the Faith in Britain is also attested by all the ancient Celtic Traditions in Wales and the West of England. This light has never been put out in Europe ever since those days in spite of many and

painful vicissitudes and crimes committed in the name of religion. It is a verifiable fact that in the past 300 years, the Christian Faith has been carried to all parts of the world by the dedicated efforts of British and American missionaries from all the 'established' Churches.

The Years Since the End of the Great War in 1918 AD

The words spoken by Archbishop Davidson of Canterbury, who held the See from 1913-1928 AD, are still perhaps true -

"Do we realise that we alone today are those whom God has chosen in the world's history as a people to whom is given incomparably the greatest trust and decision for the world's safety which has been laid upon a great company of people? This trust is laid upon the English speaking peoples, but primarily upon Britain and America".

He was the first Archbishop of Canterbury to pay an official visit to Canada and the United States of America. This was spoken during the aftermath of what we call 'The Great War' when Britain first stood alone to defy the threats of an ambitious and authoritarian regime in its bid to rule the world. In the last war, things were not so very different, when Britain stood alone a second time and the western world was faced by, yet again, a vicious dictatorship with similar ambitions and from the same country.

America's isolationism in the Great War gave way towards the end of it, but in the last war when Hitler threatened to rule Europe and the world, America, spurred on by the naval massacre of Pearl Harbour, soon supported the European Allies to defend mankind's freedom of choice, culture and nation status. Perhaps this is what we mean by patriotism as distinct from 'nationalism' or 'racism' which characterises aggressive one-Party states.

Since the end of the last war in 1945, a specious and false freedom has pervaded mankind. Moral standards and values that had hitherto held communities together, slipped away. In hindsight, we have produced labels like 'the swinging sixties' and 'the permissive sixties and seventies' which have obscured our vision of what is happening. All the ills described earlier are now world wide, some with increased intensity like the international drug traffic, terrorism and AIDS.

And yet the lights have not gone out in Europe or other parts of the world. There is a noticeable sea change or ground swell moving across the globe. Nations are looking for some way out of impending holocaust, something better, a better freedom than the old with feet of clay — perhaps a new 'Exodus' from our materialistic civilisation built on sand — into one built on rock.

Each nation has a special and individual role or contribution to make to the tapestry of international variety and beauty. None of the great masterpieces by any of the great classical painters were made in monochrome. Like Nature, the reality is a profusion of an almost infinite variety of colour. These contributions must not be lost but rather protected, treasured and encouraged.

What of the Future? — Into the 21st Century

Is it an abyss or rescue? Is it a rebirth of the spirit of man or steady decline? Is it famine in accelerating desert areas of the world or re-afforestation? The 'witness of the stars', the Great Pyramid and the Bible are crystal clear that rescue is ordained. Perhaps this is the meaning and purpose of what is recorded as the 'Second Coming' of Christ. Perhaps without this Divine help and authority man is incapable of rolling back the tide that threatens to engulf us. In the meantime, those of us who have seen this light brightly or ever so dimly have a responsibility to serve and minister to our fellow men, exerting ourselves to exercise the stewardship of our gifts and talents in their service. Anything less is immoral and unacceptable. In His final words to St. John in the Isle of Patmos, the Risen Christ speaks to him as follows -

"I am Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end, the first and the last. Blessed are they that do His commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city." (Rev. 22 v 13,14)

This 'city' must surely be in the 'country' that our great Christian and classical scholar Professor C .S. Lewis wrote about in his last Narnia book for children - 'The Last Battle'. He describes it beautifully and simply, calling our present world 'The Shadowlands' where all our experiences and adventures here, are -

"only the cover and the title page" and "now at last they were beginning Chapter One of the Great Story which no-one of Earth has read..."

But let there be no misunderstanding of the context.

Lewis's children were moving with wonder and excitement into what we might call 'the next world' — the real world of their dreams. In one sense, this has always been the true country foreshadowed in Lewis's books, but the Risen Christ in His 'Revelation' to John in Patmos, gives us the final and authoritative picture of the city referred to in the Book of Revelation where all is Light and shadows are no more.

He makes it plain to John that far from mankind living ultimately in a world of dreams, or some 'other world' beyond death, His City is to transform this present world, bringing into reality the 'Kingdom of God' on this Earth. Put another way, the perfect world of God's original creation is now set to interpenetrate this travailing Earth. Our preparation to take part in it should be our prevailing concern.

All this was beautifully expressed in one of the most ancient prophecies of all time called 'The Marriage of Heaven and Earth' in circulation 13 centuries before the Great Pyramid was built! (David Davidson, quoting 'The Dawn of Conscience' translated by Dr. J. H. Breasted). But perhaps the last word on this matter should be that of the great prophet Isaiah referring to the days that are now so close upon us -

"They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the Earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord as the waters cover the sea". (Isaiah 11 v 9).

The Current Battle Between Good and Evil

In the meantime the fight is on, the 'gloves are off' in this age-old fight between good and evil. The end result is assured to us by many witnesses (referred to earlier) and by the Risen Christ Himself in the Book of Revelation, but the casualties are likely to be very high. It is a fight for the heart and soul of mankind. Men and women are longing with hope deferred for the appearance of a new and secure world. The search for truth is intensifying and the cries of the yet unborn will soon be heard echoing the voices of today's children, to us their parents 'What kind of world are you handing on to us? What kind of faith is the Truth by which we may overcome the follies and disasters of the past?' This is a moral challenge to all of us of the utmost gravity, an ever more vocal '*cri de coeur*'. We cannot, we must not, shrug it off, especially if we recall that each year the population of the-world is increasing by 86 million — which means that 3 additional lives are born into the world every second!

The young today from school days onward, roam the world to experience new horizons and new adventure in ways unheard of 2 or 3 generations ago. What might not be the pull of such exploration combined with supreme service to mankind? When the barely skin and bone, disease, starvation and death of African babies are presented on television, the young respond magnificently with their compassion and their money. If we give them the opportunity, there is now far more that they can do, and such efforts would lay secure foundations for a thousand

generations. So what kind of opportunity, what objectives, what kind of spiritual and moral leadership are we giving the younger generation?

We, the older generations, have inherited a marvellous and beautiful world full of the greatest potential — the flower of which is fading fast under our unheeding feet. We are destroying this rich heritage for greed and profit. So 'What kind of faith' is dynamic enough to uproot the coils of self interest to the point where sacrifice of the idols we secretly guard in the inner recesses of our hearts (wealth, power, fame, pleasure, popularity, admiration — you name it) is not too high a price to pay for the blood transfusion needed to save ourselves and our world from self-destruction?

History knows of only one answer to this question. One Person alone in all recorded history has claimed to be the Incarnate Son of God. It was He who said "What shall it profit a man if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?" The same Person said to His closest friends before He disappeared from sight "All power in Heaven and Earth has been given to Me". If this means anything at all, it means that Divine power is available now to melt and change our hearts of stone, and heal our blind eyes, our deadly apathy and inertia. Millions of individuals the world over attest the truth of this power to change their hearts and lives. If we don't ask for this help (heaven help us if we don't) — 'mutual assured destruction' (MAD) is our choice by default. Governments please take note!

These final thoughts are not just a 'cri de coeur' but a plea to the older generations amongst us to recall what happened in the first half of the last century — two world wars, the last one more horrendous than the first. In Dachau, near the site of the infamous German concentration camp but now a Cistercian convent and a Lutheran Chapel, there is a huge plaque on a simple Jewish shrine on which are the words -

"Those who forget are condemned to repeat."

Here is tragic testimony that hatred of our fellow men (let alone active indifference to their well being) is self-destructive — as under Hitler, the German Reich and the German people found to their cost when the rest of the world resisted the use of ruthless power to achieve their objective to rule the world.

My final thoughts on this journey through the planet and through 'space' — to create on this Earth a community of individuals and nations with its roots 'far beyond the stars' — is that we should take a long and hard look at our values.

In this connection, it is significant, interesting and of great value to recall the strong traditions in these Islands that Jesus the Christ came here in His Youth (perhaps many times) with His great uncle Joseph of Arimathea, a frequent visitor — and that the Christian Faith took root here nationally in the earliest years of the Christian era — a route he knew so well which became known as the 'tin trade route'. (More details of this great story are recorded in my earlier book 'The Dawn of Christianity in the West'.)

Videos are also available that illustrate the story of Joseph's epic journey across the Mediterranean, through France and then the English Channel to Cornwall, accompanied by a group of the earliest disciples, and thence to Glastonbury where the first 'church' above ground (perhaps in the world) took root. (Cardinal Baronius, 'Ecclesiastical Annals 1601 edition.) The massive evidence for this is recorded fully in the book by Professor J. W. Taylor, 'The Coming of the Saints'.

Economic prosperity is not the be-all and end-all of existence, though it is a blessing when combined with responsibility for the well-being of the nation; neither in social justice, though no community is viable without it. Social injustice is a symptom, not the cause of conflict between

class, sex, race or colour. The root cause of all our calamities is our rebellion against Divine Laws. Put bluntly — we have forgotten God, and ritual or lip-service is no substitute. Deeply embedded in our nature is a God-given desire for fulfilment and happiness. If we take stock of ourselves, and ask for the Divine help available, we shall know how to answer the question, mainly unspoken, by younger generations 'What kind of faith really works?'

The future belongs not to us but to them and their children — our grandchildren. What is our response going to be? What kind of world are we going to hand on to them?

When Jesus held large crowds spellbound on the western shore of the lake of Galilee near His home in Capernaum — so much so that He had to 'stand off' a little in a ship to talk to them — He referred to the vital need for 'good ground' on which seed could grow in profusion ("a hundredfold"). He was, of course, talking about growing people, not food production. With soil and deep roots still in our minds, perhaps the last word should go to St. Paul in his letter to the young and vigorous Church at Ephesus in Asia Minor. He writes —

"I bow my knees to the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom the whole family in heaven and earth is named, that He would grant you, according to the riches of His glory, to be strengthened with might by His Spirit in the inner man; that Christ may dwell in your hearts by faith; that ye, being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth, and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ which passeth knowledge, that ye might be filled with all the fullness of God" (Ephesians 3 v 13).

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