

GOD HONORS HIS WORD

God ALWAYS Does EXACTLY What He Has Stated

By Arlen L. Chirwood

“The words of the Lord are pure words: as silver tried in a furnace of earth, purified seven times” (Ps. 12:6).

“To the law and to the testimony: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them” (Isa. 8:20).

God’s Word and God honoring His Word is, in one respect, compared in Scripture to a “twoedged sword,” cutting both ways, with no middle ground. But Scripture, in this comparison, moves *a step beyond*, stating that God’s Word is “sharper than any twoedged sword” (cf. Matt. 12:30; Heb. 4:12).

To provide an example of the preceding, which is rather straight forward, for it is simply what Scripture states (as anyplace else in Scripture that could be dealt with), note Gen. 12:3a:

“And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee...”

This, of course, has reference to the Gentiles’ treatment (or Christians today, as well) of the seed of Abraham through Isaac and Jacob. There are *blessings* on the one hand and *curses* on the other. God honors His Word, compared to but “sharper than any twoedged sword,” cutting both ways, with no middle ground. It is one or the other, either *blessings* or *curses*.

And, to see an illustration of this principle, note the judgment of the Gentiles in Matt. 25:31-46 at the time of Christ’s return, following the Tribulation. Judgment in these verses is based on *one thing alone* — *these Gentiles’ treatment of “Christ’s brethren” during the Tribulation*, which could only be a reference to their treatment of the Jewish people

during this time.

Then, with God (there in the person of His Son) inseparably associated with anything and everything which happens to the Jewish people — *experiencing these things Himself, right along with His people*, all blessings as well as all curses (Isa. 63:8, 9) — again, those being judged are dealt with *on one basis alone*. They are dealt with *on the basis of that which God had previously stated in His unchangeable word 3,500 years earlier, in Gen. 12:3*.

(Note that the end result of the judgment in Matt. 25:31-46 has to do with *entrance into or exclusion from the kingdom*, NOT with eternal life or eternal damnation, as so many attempt to read into the passage [v. 34, with v. 41 antithetical to v. 34].

To say that the two groups show that they are either saved or unsaved by their actions [an interpretation almost universally held throughout Christendom] is not only reading something into the text which is not there but bringing works over into a realm where works *CANNOT EXIST* [Rom. 11:6; Eph. 2:8, 9]. Through this means, not only is the passage made to teach something which it doesn’t teach at all but that which the passage does deal with is destroyed.

Most Christians seem to understand that a person can’t perform works to be saved or to stay saved. But few seem to understand that it is equally erroneous to see works used as a basis to show that a person has been saved. To remain within salvation by grace through faith, a person *CANNOT* do anything to be saved, stay saved, or show that he has been saved.)

But, note something a little different, which some might consider another way of viewing God honoring His Word, though it is not another way at all. Any way the matter is viewed it is still God doing exactly as He has stated, with both positive and negative ramifications, with no middle ground, exactly as seen back in Gen. 12:3.

Some Christians though don’t seem to want to view this Word after the same unchangeable manner when dealing with certain other related subjects. And, in connection with this, as seen in the manner that many handle Matt. 25:31-46,

they also often find themselves forced to take similar liberties with the Word elsewhere, for the plain reading of the text can take them into areas which they don’t understand.

And to deal with the matter, attention will be called to different promises and warnings which God gave to the Jewish people through Moses and the Prophets, with everything regarding the outworking of these promises and warnings kept in modern times (past, present, and future).

Past — the Holocaust and Afterwards

As horrific as Jewish persecution preceding and during the WWII years was — merging into what is today called, “the Holocaust,” resulting in the death of some 6,000,000 Jews in Europe at the hands of the Third Reich — *this persecution can easily be explained and understood in the light of God’s Word*. And, in fact, *this Word is THE ONLY THING which will explain the matter*.

That which occurred during those years can be explained from *one standpoint alone, in a very simple manner: God again honored His Word!*

God, through Moses, 3,500 years ago called the Jewish people out of Egypt, made a covenant with them, and established them in the land previously covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, within a theocracy (Ex. 12:1ff). And within this theocracy, in the land, they were to be the channel through which spiritual and material blessings would flow out to all the Gentile nations of the earth (Gen. 12:1-3; Ex. 19:5, 6; Isa. 43:1-10).

Then, relative to this covenant, *God clearly stated, in no uncertain terms, what HE WOULD DO in two instances*.

God explained what *HE WOULD DO if the Jewish people obeyed His covenant*; and, on the other hand, God also explained what *HE WOULD DO if the Jewish people disobeyed His covenant* (Lev. 26:1ff; Deut. 28:1ff).

On the ONE hand, blessings would ensue. God would place the Jewish people above all nations, dwelling in a land flowing with milk and honey, with the nations being blessed through Israel.

On the OTHER hand, exactly the opposite would occur. The Jewish people would be removed from their land, driven out among the nations, placed at the tail of the nations, with resultant curses having to do with both the Jewish people and their land.

And, as the Biblical account continues, the Jewish people are seen numerous times disobeying the terms of the covenant. And, as the Biblical account continues further, God, true to His Word, eventually drove His people from their land out among the nations. And as the Biblical account continues even further, persecution at the hands of the Gentiles, quite extreme at times, resulted (e.g., Dan. 3:19ff; Esther 3:8ff).

But throughout all of this, extending into modern times, the Jewish people have had a God-given promise. *If they would repent, turn from their wicked ways, and seek the Lord's face, He would forgive their sins and restore them to a healed land* (Lev. 26:40-42; II Chron. 7:12-14; Ps. 66:16-20; Jer. 11:10, 11).

As seen time after time in the Book of Judges, God used/continues to use the Gentile nations as His chastising instrument to bring His wayward son (Ex. 4:22, 23) to the place of repentance, obedience. And this chastisement, as He stated in Lev. 26 and Deut. 28, *could be/has become quite severe at times*.

And this is THE ONLY THING which will explain why God allowed the Holocaust to occur — carried to the extremes seen, by one of the most civilized nations on earth, Lutheran Germany — with no outside interference from the Allies who knew what was happening (no diverting parts of the war effort to curtail the persecution), resulting in *no let-up in the persecution until the Third Reich was no longer able to continue afflicting God's son*.

In His omniscient control of all things, God evidently prevented the Allied forces from interfering with His plans and purposes as they pertained to His dealings with His people. In short, *God simply honored His Word, preventing outside interference!*

Beyond that, note that *God suffered right along with His people* — “In ALL their affliction he was afflicted...” (Isa. 63:9a). As in the person of His Son, dying at Calvary, *God has gone to similar extremes with His son, Israel, for related reasons* (cf. John 4:22).

Present — The Jewish People Today

At the end of WWII, Jewish life throughout Europe was *in complete disarray*. Over half of Europe's Jewish population had been slain, no one seemed to know who was still alive, who wasn't; and their property was gone or lay in ruins, along with numerous parts of Europe, particularly Germany. *They were literally a wandering people without a place to go*.

Thus, it is little wonder that the attention of European Jewry — a people arising like a phoenix out of the ashes of the Holocaust — found itself *directed toward one place, toward the land in the Middle East covenanted to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob millenniums before*. They found themselves caught up in a renewed Zionistic movement begun fifty years earlier under Theodor Herzl.

But, in God's eyes, a major, multifaceted problem could only confront the Jewish people:

The Holocaust had not effected repentance, the “house” (a reference to the Jewish people, Jerusalem, and the land) still lay “desolate” (Matt. 23:37-39), and the Jewish people were attempting to re-enter a house which had been left “empty, swept, and garnished” (put in order relative to its desolate state [Matt. 12:43-45]).

In short, God COULD NOT, at this time, re-gather the Jewish people to their land in accord with His numerous promises to do so and, at the same time, remain true to His Word.

And, *if the Jewish people took it upon themselves to do that which God could not presently do and honor His Word — seek to emancipate themselves in their present condition, apart from their Messiah, and re-enter this house left “empty, swept, and garnished” — they could only accomplish ONE THING. They could only guarantee that God would honor His Word in another respect.*

They could only guarantee that another Holocaust, FAR, FAR WORSE than the last would overtake them. And, according to Matt. 12:43-45, because of what they had done, this Holocaust would be intensified SEVEN TIMES.

Future — the Holocaust and Afterwards

As horrific as Jewish persecution under the coming man of sin will be — with the Jewish people find-

ing themselves in a FAR WORSE Holocaust, resulting in the death of some 9,000,000 Jews this time (by today's count [two-thirds of world Jewry will perish]) — again, *this can easily be explained and understood in the light of God's Word, with this Word, again, being THE ONLY THING which will explain the “why” of that which is about to occur, which can only be in the immediate future.*

And God may very well have used the WWII Holocaust in such a manner so as to prepare His people for *this future Holocaust*, which could explain the severity, along with the Allied non-interference with God's action — remaining true to His Word pertaining to what He would do concerning covenantal disobedience.

Thus, that which will occur during those future years can be explained *exactly the same and only way* that the past Holocaust can be explained, from ONE STANDPOINT ALONE, in a very simple manner: *God has honored and will honor His Word!*

The next Holocaust, described in Scripture as “the time of Jacob's trouble,” will encompass not just Europe but will extend worldwide (Jer. 30:7).

The Jews presently in the land — all 6,000,000 — will be uprooted from their land in the middle of this time, in the middle of the Tribulation. A tenth will be killed, the remainder will be sold as slaves to the Gentiles or driven back out among the nations, and their cities and land will be destroyed (cf. Lev. 26:31-33; Isa. 6:11-13; Dan. 9:26; Joel 3:1-8; Matt. 24:15ff; Luke 21:20ff; Rev. 12:6, 14).

And there, out among the nations with the remainder of world Jewry, God will deal with ALL of the Jews together, with conditions so severe that two-thirds of them will die — through starvation, plagues, the sword (Lev. 26:27-29; Ezek. 5:5-13; Matt. 24:7). But this time, unlike in the past Holocaust, *Israel will be brought to the place of repentance.*

Then, following ensuing events (Israel's national salvation, restoration to a healed land, Gentile world power destroyed), the Messianic Era will be ushered in, *for GOD HONORS HIS WORD!*

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