

The Christian Israelite Church

Life Immortal

A short account of the Faith and Doctrines of the Christian Israelite Church.

“Then shall the King say unto them on His right hand, come ye blessed of my Father, inherit the Kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world” Matthew 25:34.

FOREWORD

The Christian Israelite Church was founded by one John Wroe of Bradford, England, about 1822, when the Spirit of the Lord visited him in a series of remarkable visions and revelations which continued periodically during the remainder of his life approximately forty years. During this period he carried on his Missionary Work, travelling and preaching in many parts of the world particularly in England, America and Australia where many branches of members were established.

Of humble origin, John Wroe was, we believe, a Divinely inspired "Messenger" of the Lord, who was commissioned to revive and preach the "Gospel of the Kingdom" and the Second Coming of Christ, with particular reference to the destiny of the "remnant" of God's "Elect" people Israel - Christian Israel. The special objective of our members is the ultimate realisation of God's faithful promises to descendants of the twelve tribes of Israel - at present "scattered abroad" James 1:1 - namely, the ingathering and full Redemption of their *"Whole Spirit and Soul and Body"* 1 Thessalonians 5:23 - immortal life without physical death. *"We shall not all sleep (or die) but we shall all be changed"* 1 Corinthians 15:51.

This Glory of physical Immortality, God has reserved for literal descendants of the "Children of Israel". It is an "Inheritance" promised to them subject to the essential obligation of obedience to both Gospel and Law as taught and manifested by Jesus Christ (see Matthew 5:17,19;25:34).

The descendants of Israel referred to, are derived from the seed of Abraham to whom God gave His Special Blessing and promises for Israel. These promises were confirmed in his son Isaac and later developed in Jacob, whose name God changed to "Israel" - from whose twelve sons the twelve tribes of Israel originated. The twelve tribes are also spoken of as "Israel and Judah" - Israel representing ten tribes and Judah (a section of the Jews) representing two tribes, known together as the twelve tribes of Israel. Many of these descendants of Israel are at present mixed among Christian and Jewish Churches, unaware of their lineal descent and of their high destiny, but according to Divine promise, they are to be gathered and established in God's Kingdom on earth at the Second Coming of our Lord.

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand again the second time to recover the remnant of His people which shall be left And He shall set up an ensign for the nations, and shall assemble the outcasts of Israel and gather together the dispersed of Judah from the four corners of the earth" Isaiah 11:11,12. (See also Deuteronomy 7:6-14; Exodus 19:5; Amos 9:9; Jeremiah 30:3,11; Romans 8:17,28-30; Revelation chapters 7, 14, 21 and 22.

The following pages are designed to convey a short account of the Faith and aspirations of members of the Christian Israelite Church. To those interested in this highly important subject we earnestly commend this little Booklet.

“Many deceivers are entered into the world, who confess not that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh. This is a deceiver and an antichrist. Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward” 2 John 7,8.

LIFE IMMORTAL

It is quite impossible to over-estimate the importance of the Bible which is the “Word of God”. It contains for each of us the Will of God upon the observance of which our human and spiritual destiny very largely depends. This collection of Divinely inspired writings known as the Holy Bible was written for our learning that we, through patience and consolation of the Scriptures might have hope (see Genesis 3:15 and Acts 3:21). It includes many wonderful records of the life and teaching of our Lord by His Apostles, who were actual "eye-witnesses" of His Mission on earth. As the "Word of God", the Bible is the source of all Wisdom and Truth, and provides infallible instructions for our conduct and our comfort, together with God's Glorious plan for the Salvation of all mankind. It is of vital importance to each one of us.

But our Lord often spoke in parables and symbolic language, and said to his Apostles: *"I have yet many things to say unto you, but ye cannot bear them now. Howbeit, when He the Spirit of truth is come, He will guide you into all truth"*. At another time He was asked by them: *"Wilt thou at this time restore again the Kingdom to Israel"*. He replied: *"It is not for you to know the times or the seasons which the Father hath put in His own power."* Paul also said of his day, that they knew only *"in part"* - they saw *"as through a glass darkly"* at that time.

The Christian Israelite Church believes these passages indicate that, as many hundreds of years were to elapse before the appointed time for the complete fulfilment of God's plan, the time was not then ripe for the full enlightenment of Christ's disciples. We also believe that God has inspired certain "Messengers" in these later days, in order to illuminate the Scriptures and to revive and preach the profound truths relating to the Kingdom of God, with special reference to the Ingathering and distinguished Glory pertaining to the "remnant" of Israel referred to in Revelations chapters 7 and 14 as the 144,000 - *"the first fruits unto God and to the Lamb"*. According to Scripture, they are to be wholly Redeemed (Spirit, Soul and Body) without death on certain conditions, and established in God's Kingdom on this earth when *"the kingdoms of this world are become the Kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and He shall reign for ever and ever"*, as "King of Kings and Lord of Lords."

The Scriptures abound with prophecies and promises for the redemption of Israel, which promises our Lord has assured us will eventually be fulfilled, saying: *"My words shall not pass away"*. In the 24th chapter of Matthew and the 21st chapter of Luke, we are given vivid descriptions of world conditions which will inevitably precede the return of Jesus Christ. Comparing these Bible pictures with world events today, there appears to be ample evidence that we are quickly approaching the Day of our Lord. We should therefore exercise prudence and prepare ourselves for the Second Coming of Christ, and the fulfilment of His beneficent plan of Salvation. We should ask ourselves whether we are wholly satisfied with our Spiritual life and outlook. But many people today either entirely ignore the Scriptures or are sceptical and indifferent as to their meaning and significance.

Here, perhaps, we may give a brief outline of God's plan for the conduct of our lives and for Salvation generally, before speaking of the particular doctrines of the Christian Israelite Church.

God created man in *"His own image"* to be Immortal (Wisdom of Solomon 2:23) and, in His Wisdom, set before our first parents Good and Evil with instructions to observe the good and reject the evil, that by their obedience to His command they might attain to life in its fullest sense, ie. Immortality of the physical body without death. But our first parents disobeyed God and took of the evil, which resulted in the 'Fall of man', consequently Judgement was pronounced upon them, and thereafter mankind became subject to the evil power with the disastrous results of sin and suffering: sickness and death.

At the same time, in the symbolic language of Genesis 3:15, God cursed the Serpent (Satan) and promised that the Woman's seed (Jesus) should ultimately "bruise" Satan's head ie., destroy his power. In the meantime the evil power flourished, for which the World was destroyed - except for Noah and

his household - but sin was again perpetuated and is present with us at this day with all its growing evil consequences.

Some four thousand years after the Creation of our first parents, and in accordance with prophecy, God sent His Holy Spirit (Christ) into the World to abide with Jesus, the pure Seed of the Woman, who thus became Jesus Christ after His Baptism at the River Jordan. He came as a mediator between God and humanity that, by obedience to His Word, mankind might eventually triumph over evil and regain the high estate which our first parents lost. Christ came to teach and demonstrate the purpose and power of God: to practice and to preach the ultimate conquest of Good over evil. In short, to expound and manifest the "*Will of God*" and the way of Salvation for mankind.

Men and Women, however, do not all interpret Scripture alike, and so the vital question is: what is the Will of God for each one of us, and how are we to achieve the great rewards of Salvation which God, through His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ has promised and will undoubtedly fulfil in His appointed time?

In answering this question, we should carefully note what Paul says: "*Study to show thyself approved of God . . . rightly dividing the word of truth*" 2 Timothy 2:15. "*All Scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine ... for instruction in righteousness: that the man of God may be perfect, throughly furnished unto all good works*" 2 Timothy 3:16,17.

Our Lord also taught His followers to labour after perfection: "*Be ye therefore perfect even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect*" Matthew 5:48. Surely He would not teach that which is impossible to attain! He set an example that we should "*follow His steps*" and said: "*the works that I do shall ye do also, and greater works than these shall ye do, because I go unto my Father*".

"RIGHTLY DIVIDING THE WORD OF TRUTH"

The Three Glories

It is thought by some that the Spirit and Soul are one, but according to St. Paul, man is composed of three constituents: "*Spirit and Soul and Body*" 1 Thessalonians. 5:23. "*The Word of God is quick and powerful and sharper than any two-edged sword piercing even to the dividing asunder of Soul and Spirit*" Hebrews 4:12.

The Christian Israelite Church believes that, as the above text indicates, the Scriptures require "rightly dividing" to show different degrees of Salvation. "*There is one Glory of the Sun, another Glory of the Moon and another Glory of the Stars*" 1 Corinthians 15:41, which stand typical of the various Glories available to mankind. The Scriptures relating only to soul salvation (partial salvation) require dividing from those referring to full Redemption. Some parts of Biblical writings apply only to those of the Common Salvation, regarding the soul after death, and other parts to those who seek complete salvation, or exemption from the death of the physical body, which incorporates the spirit and soul.

Speaking of the Latter Days, Isaiah prophesied as follows: "*One shall say I am the Lord's (Christian) another shall call himself by the name of Jacob (Jew) and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord and surname himself by the name of Israel.*" Note that the latter will associate the name of the Lord with that of Israel. He will indeed become a Christian Israelite. Many Christians accept the Gospels but do not observe the Laws of God as given to Moses, whilst some Jews accept these Laws but reject the Gospels. The Christian Israelite Church believes it is essential to observe both Law and Gospel for those who desire and are aspiring to obtain the greatest Glory - Immortality of Spirit and Soul and Body. (See *Matthew 5:17-20; John 5:46,47; Luke 16:16,17.*)

We believe that at death, the spirit of man returns to God who gave it, whilst the Souls of those who have died in faith and repentance, sleep in the grave in happiness until the "first resurrection" when they will be raised and reunited with their Spirits - "*it is raised a Spiritual body*" - as the angels. This is a Glory which Jude speaks of as the "*Common Salvation*", that is to say, it will be a happy spiritual life common to, or available for, all faithful believers after death at the first resurrection.

"But the rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished" Revelation 20:5. The Souls of the wicked and unrepentant (Wandering stars - Jude 13) will also be raised at the first resurrection, we believe, but will be sent from the presence of God and receive their punishment, or unhappiness, during the Millennial period of a thousand years, at the end of which they also will be reunited with their Spirits (the Second Resurrection) but enjoy a lesser degree of Spiritual life and happiness. All Souls being finally rewarded "according to their works". "For one star differeth from another star in Glory. So also is the resurrection of the dead" 1 Corinthians 15:41.

Daniel also says: *"Many of them that sleep in the dust shall awake, some to everlasting life (at the first resurrection) and some to shame and everlasting contempt", but only during the thousand years, because "Christ died for the ungodly" Romans 5:6. He tasted death for every man (Hebrews. 19). He "gave Himself a ransom for all" - God is the "Saviour of all men, specially of those that believe" 1 Timothy 4:10.*

It is evident that Death came into the World through sin, resulting from disobedience to God, but the Souls of those who have departed will receive their Salvation at either the first or second resurrection, according to their faith or lack of it, as evidenced in their lives on earth - the wicked receiving their punishment (the *"Second Death"*) during the Millennium which is a thousand years.

We believe that Jesus Christ came into the World for a two-fold purpose. He came to be *"A Light to lighten the Gentiles (at His First Coming) and (will be) the Glory of thy people Israel"* - at His Second Coming (Luke 2:32). He came with all Divine Authority at His Command to proclaim not only the Salvation of the Soul after the death of the physical body; but also the preservation of Spirit and Soul and Body without death ie., the *"Glory of the Sun"*. Paul tells us: *"There are celestial (Heavenly) bodies and bodies terrestrial (earthly) but the Glory of the celestial is one, and the Glory of the terrestrial is another."*

Whilst Paul was commissioned to preach Soul Salvation to the Gentiles, he was, himself, of the stock of Israel and passionately expressed his belief and hope in physical immortality. He wrote: *"And the very God of peace sanctify you wholly; and I pray God your whole Spirit and Soul and Body be preserved blameless unto the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it."* 1 Thessalonians 5:23. He also supports this wonderful objective by his startling prophecy: *"Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep (or die) but we shall all be changed"*.

Paul also writes to the Hebrews: *"Therefore leaving the principles of the doctrine of Christ, let us go on unto perfection, not laying again the foundation of repentance from dead works ... and of resurrection of the dead . . . and this will we do if God permit" Hebrews. 6:1, and again he says: "even we ourselves groan within ourselves, waiting for the adoption, to wit, the redemption of our body" Romans 8:23. He saw the light of Immortality afar off. He was "as of one born out of due time". "Thrice," St. Paul asked the Lord to remove the "Thorn" in his flesh", but the Lord replied, "My Grace is sufficient for thee". So he was sure of his salvation by Grace - the Salvation of his Soul.*

It is manifest that Paul and others did not experience the redemption of the physical body of which he spoke, therefore we must assume that it was reserved for some later generation. We believe, however, that there are three living witnesses of this life of physical Immortality: Enoch and Elijah - both of whom were translated without death - and our Lord.

But the highest authority is the Master himself who gave us in essence, instructions for the Perfect life in His Sermon on the Mount. Here, He makes perfectly clear that He upholds, not only the fulfilling of the Law, but also the continued teaching of it in addition to the observance of His Gospel precepts (Matt. 5:19). He did not come to abrogate or "destroy" the Law, apart from the sacrificial law which was superseded by the wonderful Sacrifice of Himself, the *"Lamb of God"*, on the Cross. And Paul says: *"not the hearers of the Law are just before God, but the doers of the Law shall be justified"* Romans 2:13.

The Salvation of the Soul by the Grace of God, is a reward for Faith and repentance. But to obtain redemption of the physical body it is essential to observe and to do the works of both Law and Gospel - faith plus works - which we of ourselves cannot achieve, but will be accomplished by those who seek the co-operation and guidance of the Holy Spirit. *"Now to him that worketh is the reward not reckoned of grace, but of debt"* Romans 4:4.

According to John, our Lord makes quite plain what He means by the more abundant life of which He spoke. He did not will or desire the death of any man but said: *"Verily, verily, I say unto you; if a man keep my saying he shall never see death"* John 8:51. *"And I give unto them eternal life and they shall never perish, neither shall any man pluck them out of my hand"*. Here, it is evident our Lord was referring to the physical body, because Spirit and Soul are eternal - only the body can perish, or lose its existence.

"BELIEVEST THOU THIS"

Again, in the 11th chapter of John, Jesus said to Martha with reference to the death of Lazarus: *"Thy brother shall rise again"*, to which she replied that she knew he would rise again in the resurrection, thinking this was what He meant. But Jesus said: *"I am the resurrection, and the Life: he that believeth in me, though he were dead, yet shall he live (in the resurrection): and whosoever liveth and believeth in me shall never die. Believest thou this?"* Martha understood there would be a life in the resurrection, but here Jesus was clearly impressing her with the fact (apart from the raising of Lazarus) that there was to be a higher, Perfect life without death. He used these words: *"Never see death", "never perish", "never die"*, which we believe are conclusive evidence that He referred to the physical body. What a glorious message this is, that sorrow and death are not only to be expunged, but superseded by the Perfect life of the physical Immortal body, in God's earthly Kingdom.

Jesus Christ said He was the bread of Life from Heaven: *"If any man eat of this bread he shall live for ever"* John 6:51. *"This is that bread which came down from heaven: not as your fathers did eat manna, and are dead: He that eateth of this bread shall live for ever"* 6:58. *"If ye abide in Me and My words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will and it shall be done unto you"* John 15: 7. Surely these passages prove without doubt that death is not inevitable! They are the words of our Lord and eternal truth.

In addressing His Disciples, our Lord's message was not only to them but also to their descendants. He prayed fervently for their sanctification. He prayed not that they should be taken out of the World, but that they should be kept from the evil. *"Neither pray I for these alone but for them also which shall believe on Me through their word"* John 17:20.

The Gospel according to John is worthy of close study. It is a most inspiring book and provides much convincing evidence of our Lord's promises regarding the perfect life of physical Immortality for those who obey His Word. *"This is the disciple which testifieth of these things and wrote these things; and we know that his testimony is true"*, says the Bible.

After His resurrection, our Lord appeared to Mary at the tomb, but later demonstrated His Glorified Immortal body before the assembled disciples when He said: *"Handle me and see, for a Spirit hath not 'flesh and bones' as ye see me have"*. To Thomas He said: *"Be not faithless but believing"*. Without any possible doubt, His was a Glorified body of pure *"Flesh and Bone"* - without blood - within which dwelt the Spirit of God, it being the Immortal life of it. He was, and is, the supreme example of what the true Israel is to become in God's own time.

Is it not reasonable to believe that what God accomplished for His Son Jesus Christ, is also possible for Him to accomplish in those who strive to obey His Laws and Commands? That is to say: to remove the evil power from within, and replace it with His Holy Spirit! We are told to *"Look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall change our 'Vile' body, that it may be 'fashioned' like unto His glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto Himself"* Philippians 3:20,21.

No, there is nothing, absolutely nothing impossible with God. How can we doubt this when we consider all the manifold miracles of creation and life around us in this wonderful world? But the key word to the Perfect life of Immortality is **Obedience**. *"Be ye doers of the Word (says James) and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves"*. As the *"Fall of man"* with all its consequent evil was the result of disobedience; so the complete redemption of man will result only from his final obedience to God's Laws and Commands. This is made possible by the Spirit of Christ working in the heart of man, the Spirit which Jesus says *"shall be in you"*. This, we believe, is the *"Will of God"* for Israel.

Our Lord says, *"Without Me, ye can do nothing"*. It is therefore very necessary to remind ourselves that we, of ourselves, cannot achieve this Perfection which He speaks of. We must continue to strive through Faith and Prayer and, above all, by Action; in order that we may be drawn into, or *"clothed"* with, the Spirit of Christ as a preparatory step. We must arrive at that stage before His Spirit will dwell **within** us. We must be *"grafted"* into Him before He will be *"grafted"* into us, i.e., within us, which will precede Immortality: Perfection. When this is accomplished, He says: *"At that day, ye shall know that I am in My Father and ye in Me and I in you"* John 14:20. He has promised-faithfully promised-to complete His work in those who shall *"stand when He appeareth"*.

"He that overcometh shall inherit all things; and I will be His God, and he shall be My son". Physical Immortal life in God's Kingdom upon earth is to be the inheritance of God's *"Elect"* people, Israel. *"Thy people also shall be all righteous; they shall inherit the land for ever"* says Isaiah (60:21). And Paul writes: *"For whom He did foreknow, He also did predestinate to be conformed to the image of His Son"*. These will be the *"called"* and the *"justified"* and also *"Glorified"*(Rom. 8:29,30). They will *"purify themselves even as He is pure"*. They will be *"righteous even as He is righteous"* (1 John 3:3,7). These will come *"unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ"* Ephesians 4:13.

We believe this Glory of physical Immortality will be the reward of true Righteousness and that true Righteousness consists in the observance of the Laws as given to Moses - apart from the sacrificial laws - in conjunction with the Gospel precepts and commands. The Bible is teeming with prophecies and promises for Israel and Immortality.

But the question may be rightly asked: Who are the true Israel? At this time, no one can say who are Israel and who are not, as they are *"not all Israel that are of Israel"*, and we do not profess to know which generation will live to inherit the promises. At the same time we do sincerely believe we are living in or near the *"Latter days"* and that the Second Coming of our Lord is near at hand, so we continue on with hope and confidence that this great work of Immortality will assuredly be accomplished in God's own time, and according to His purpose. We believe that, wherever it may be, this latent seed of Israel at present awaits the awakening fire and urge of the Holy Spirit, to usher in the work of Israel's ingathering and full Redemption, and the establishment of God's Kingdom of Peace and Righteousness on earth.

So when the last trumpet shall sound and *"this mortal shall have put on Immortality, then shall be brought to pass the saying that is written, Death is swallowed up in Victory"*. *"The last enemy that shall be destroyed is death."*

"In the way of Righteousness is life; and in the pathway thereof there is no death" Proverbs 12:28.