

KINGDOM SPIRIT

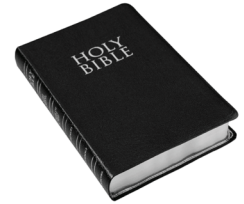
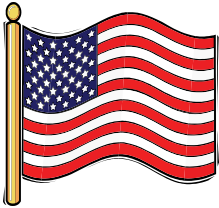
P O Box 279, Pleasant View, CO 81331

Phone 970-562-4874

e-mail ksm@fone.net

"SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD"

Matthew 6:33



Issue 702

GENESIS 4 -11

Last month we introduced ourselves to the beginning as recorded in the first three chapters of Genesis, while looking at some of the results or consequences, as recorded elsewhere in the Bible, of some of the beginning events in the history of man. The history that we find recorded in the book of Genesis covers approximately 2000 years, so it comes to us in a very digested form. Few small details are given, so when we do find details, it will be important for us to observe them carefully, as this is indicative to us of the importance of that part of our story that we will be dealing with as we continue our study.

Chapter 4 tells us of Adam and Eve's family, at least their first three sons. Cain was their firstborn followed by Able. Unfortunately we do not have sufficient details to know exactly why it happened, but Cain killed Able. There is much speculation as to the reason for this first murder, but I would caution new Bible students in particular not to be too concerned about these speculations, at least until you have your feet firmly planted in the whole Bible story.

The question often arises as to where these three sons, and men that followed, got their wives. If you will notice, all of the men, including Adam, had other sons and daughters. But with the exception of Seth, only the

firstborn sons are included in chapter 5, by name.

The third son, Seth, became the one Bible genealogies were to be reckoned after. People often complain that they just don't understand all of the genealogies, but they do serve their purpose and while they may be boring as you begin to study, at least read through them. They will take on greater significance later on.

For now, the genealogies given in chapter five give us an idea of the length of the lives of some of these first men in history. Later on in our study, we will deal with the importance of numbers in Scripture. Researchers have found that numbers have special significance by identifying common or similar types of events or situations that are related to a number. Of interest here, we find in II Peter 2:5 a reference to Noah as being the 8th person or preacher of righteousness from Adam. Also in Jude 14 that Enoch was the 7th from Adam. If we, like various researchers, kept a list of events, characters or situations that are related to a particular number, such as 7 or 8 in these references, we would find a reasonable degree of commonality throughout the Bible. Just one of the many things we will find as we study, that proves the divine inspiration of the scriptures.

This brings us to Noah's flood. This is another controversial subject with arguments that the flood was universal over the whole earth and arguments that refute this. For purposes of our study, the fact is that the flood did take place. Noah, his wife, his three sons and their wives were the survivors of the flood.

We do not really know for sure where the Garden of Eden was, nor where Noah lived before the flood, but it is generally accepted that it was somewhere in what we now call the Mesopotamian area where today we find countries like Iraq, Iran, Turkey, etc., It was in this area that Noah and his family came, following the flood. We hear the area referred to as the “cradle of civilization.” All of the races or nationalities of the Caucasoid race came from here. All derived from one of the three sons of Noah, Shem, Ham and Japheth. For example, the Mongolian, (not Mongoloid) that makes up the majority of the Russian population, claim to be descendents of Japheth, the Egyptian from Ham, the Arab and the Anglo from Shem, just to name a few.

We see what we might consider to be strange stories, at times, as we read the Bible and we find one of these stories in the latter part of Chapter 9. We are told that Noah planted a vineyard and when he harvested the grapes he made wine, but when he drank the wine it made him drunk. I think we can assume that prior to the flood, fermentation might not have been a problem. We were told in the 1st chapter of Genesis that when God created the heavens and the earth, heaven separated water below it (on the earth) from water above it. In Gen. 7:11 we are told as the water began to flood the earth that the windows of heaven were opened to let it rain for forty days and nights. Though I don't believe anyone knows for sure what this would mean, I think we can assume the climatic conditions that were on the earth before the flood, because of this water, were different after the flood. If so, this might explain why Noah got drunk on the wine he had made.

At any rate, we are told that Ham, while Noah was drunk, saw the nakedness of his father and that because he did, his son Canaan was cursed to be a servant of servants. To understand what happened here we need to go to Lev. 20:11, “**And the man that lieth with his father's wife hath uncovered his father's nakedness.**” This in effect tells us that Canaan was the son of Ham by

Ham's mother. This will help us understand the Canaanite's (descendents of Canaan) plight as we see them later in our story.

The descendents of these three men decided they needed to build a city and a tower, that they said would reach unto heaven, so that they would not be scattered abroad upon the face of the earth. To prevent them from building this tower (called the tower of Babel) and city and to cause them to scatter abroad upon the earth, which was His plan and purpose, God confounded their language so that only families could talk to and understand each other. This caused them to begin to move farther and farther apart.

God chose one of the three sons of Noah, Shem, through whom to continue the story or plan that the Bible presents. We are going to see, as we continue our study, that God has a definite plan and purpose. This plan is to restore man to the position Adam was in before he sinned, and in the process God will be glorified. This sounds simple, and it is, but He is going to do it to the maximum benefit of all mankind, as well. He is going to continue to choose particular people to implement this plan. However we need to keep in mind that He is sovereign, and He will be using unrighteous men as well as what we would consider righteous men. This does not mean God is evil, unrighteous or unjust. As we will see, just the opposite is true, but we will not be able to understand the Bible if we do not recognize and accept God's sovereignty.

At this point in our study God chose Shem, whom we would certainly regard as a righteous man, and continues to list his descendents. His line of descent then is Shem-Arphaxad - Salah - Eber (presumably from whom the name “Hebrew” is derived) - Peleg—Reu-Serug - Nahor - Terah - Abram. From this point in Scripture we are going to deal primarily with Abram and his descendents. The length of life spans start to decrease substantially with the list of men we just gave, and it is interesting that Shem lived 600 years, outliving Abram or Abraham who died at age 175.

Abram had 2 brothers, Nahor and Haran.

We are told that Haran died relatively young, but not before he had a son, Lot, and a couple of daughters. Nahor, Haran's brother, married one of the daughters, Milcah. We will meet up later in our story with Nahor and Milcah and their family. They were all living in Ur of the Chaldees which was probably near the Euphrates River northwest of the Persian Gulf. Abram married Sarai, who was probably his half sister, and his father Terah took Abram, Sarai, and Lot and started toward the land of Canaan, but stopped in the land of Haran where Terah ultimately died.

God spoke to Abram and told him to get out of the land of Haran and go to a land that God would show him. Abram was 75 years old when God spoke to him. He was obedient to God and took his wife Sarai and Lot and God brought them into the land of Canaan, a land bounded on the west by the Mediterranean Sea and on the east by the Jordan River. The descendants of Canaan, son of Ham by his own mother, were already in the land when God brought Abram to it.

The next few chapters are devoted to Abram and his family. Understanding what happened here with Abram and his family is basic to our understanding the rest of the Bible, including the New Testament, so we will stop here for this month and dwell in considerable detail next month with this man, Abram. Since the Bible spends the next 14 chapters or 100 years on this man's life, we can be assured that it is very important. Please read these next 14 chapters in preparation for next month's lesson. **JRL**

THE BRIDE AND THE CHURCH

In our last issue we saw that very often in Scripture the names of the capitol city of a nation is substituted for the name of the nation. Also, we saw that a nation or kingdom might be represent-

ed by something else symbolically; for example kingdom is often referred to as a mountain. With this in mind we want to first look at some scriptures we gave at the end of our article last month.

In Isa. 2:1-4 we have a prophecy that sounds very much like a short version of Rev. 21-22. First we are told this prophecy concerns Judah and Jerusalem. We know from history that what follows in verses 2-4 has not happened yet. Judah and Jerusalem were taken into captivity to Babylon and the city of Jerusalem was destroyed. Following 70 years of captivity a remnant of Judah returned and rebuilt the city. However, peace was something very elusive and finally in 70 A.D. Rome destroyed the city again and a few survivors were scattered. Again the city was rebuilt, but has never known peace to this day. So we know that at least to now, this prophesy has not been fulfilled in the nation of Judah or city of Jerusalem.

Keeping in mind the marriage ceremony between God and Israel, as we found in Ex. 19, that we discussed last time, let's look at the rest of this prophecy. First, this was to take place in the last days. The author of Hebrews tells us in Chapter 1, verse 2 that God spoke to him in "these last days." The apostle John makes a statement in I John 2:18, "**Little children, it is the last time: and as ye have heard that anti-christ shall come, even now are there many antichrists; whereby we know that it is the last time.**" Last days or last time of what? If we read Rev. 21 & 22, I believe we are being told that the earth and its people are to exist in perpetuity, that there will be no end. So taking what John and the author of Hebrews say, plus understanding that time, as we know it, is broken up into ages (time periods of definite or indefinite length), I think it is safe to say the reference is to the last days of this age.

Then Isaiah says "**that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established in the top of the mountains, and shall be exalted above the hills.**" In the marriage ceremony of Ex. 19, God's vows were that Israel would be "**a peculiar people**" meaning they would be His alone or

His house; they would be **“a kingdom of priests,”** or rulers as the Levites were priests or rulers over Israel; and they would be **“an holy nation,”** or set apart as we see in this prophecy as being established in the top of the mountains (kingdoms) and shall be exalted above the hills (smaller nations).

I believe it safe to assume that if God is to remarry Israel, the vows would be the same as we see from Rev. 21 that the new Jerusalem is to rule the nations with God. This prophecy in Isaiah, though only 4 verses long, pretty well spells out God’s plan and purpose for all mankind, but especially for the kingdom of Israel.

Isaiah 11 & 12 gives us considerably more detail of that plan as we see Christ, the Branch, from the house of David begin His rule on the earth. He will gather Israel and Judah together once more and they will no longer be at odds with each other, but will be as one nation again and will rule with Christ. Total peace on earth will be the result of this righteous rule.

In Isa. 51 we are reminded that though the first marriage between God and Israel failed because of Israel’s disobedience, the plan we have been discussing of Israel ruling the world with God cannot fail because God promised Abraham unconditionally that his descendents would be kings or rulers (Gen. 17:6), it is incumbent upon God to bring this about. Seeing this plan unfold through the centuries is truly a wonder to behold.

In keeping with His promises to Abraham, God chose Isaac to inherit these promises and then He chose Jacob and his descendents to carry out this plan. Though the plan is sure, it at first appears that God stumbled as He married Israel and then had to divorce her. But several things were established here that are integral components of His overall plan. First God’s law was established which defines righteousness. Secondly, proof that man cannot attain to righteousness himself is made plain. Thirdly, God laid the legal groundwork for Christ to come, be rejected and crucified and to be resurrected. This may seem unnecessary, but God is not only a law giving God, but a law keeping God. Since the promises

He made to Abraham were unconditional, God has to bring them all about Himself, which he has done through Jesus Christ, but since He established the law, he does all this through the law. There was much more accomplished, but this should suffice for our purposes here.

Much of Isa. 60 reads the same as Rev. 21 after the angel showed John the bride, the new Jerusalem. Since we know from Hosea that the bride will be Israel and we have seen that the kingdom is often called by the name of its capitol city, I submit that the New Jerusalem is the kingdom of Israel.

Micah 4:1-2 tells us the same thing Isa. 2:1-4 told us using the same symbolism. He tells us the law will go forth from Zion indicating ruler ship would be from Zion or the New Jerusalem. The word of the Lord will go forth from Jerusalem. We will deal with this more a little later.

Rev. 21 describes the bride, or the Lamb’s wife, as the angel shows it to John. We are told that it is a great city, the holy Jerusalem. It had a high wall with 12 gates with the names of the tribes of Israel written on them. There were to be three gates on each side of the city. This reminds us of the order of march of the children of Israel in the wilderness during the exodus from Egypt. Three tribes were on each side of the tabernacle as they camped and as they marched. The wall also had 12 foundations and in them the names of the twelve apostles of the Lamb. This would be similar to the vision John saw in Rev. 4 which, if interpreted properly, would represent the kingdom of God as it does here. This city measured the same width, length and height. God and the Lamb are the temple in the midst of the city. Many people are expecting a city in a literal cube to come down out of heaven and fulfill the job description for it as given in Rev. 21.

The book of Revelation is written in simile to a large extent so the symbols and depictions used are not literal, but rather represent something else. In this case what we have read elsewhere in scripture leads us to believe that ruler-ship will come from the New Jerusalem. So to me it is logical that the New Jerusalem or Zion, rather than representing

a literal city, represents, a structure of government.

A cube is not the only structure that has the same width, length and height. A pyramid also has the same measurements. I submit that what we see in Rev. 21 could very well be a pyramid with the structure of government being that shape. If we go back to Exodus 18, we find the story of Jethro, Moses' father-in-law, coming to Moses in the wilderness. When he found that Moses was bearing basically the entire burden of government, he made some suggestions which Moses took, and organized the civil government of Israel on this basis. He placed over the people rulers of thousands, rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties and rulers of tens. This would mean, for example, for 10,000 people there would be 1000 rulers on the bottom echelon of government, 200 at the next level, 100 at the next level and 10 at the next level, with Moses then being the person in which the most serious matters were brought. As you can see this would be a pyramid type governmental structure.

Within this structure was the priesthood. The priesthood had the responsibility of the welfare of the people concerning their spiritual well being, their health, their mental well being, etc. Again, the tribe of Levi, as a whole, operated at the lower echelon of responsibility, while the high priests family operated at a higher degree of responsibility, on up to the high priest himself who bore the ultimate responsibility - again a pyramid type structure of government.

So I submit that the bride of Christ is Israel in its governmental form. It represents the basic structure of government that God caused Israel to build in the wilderness. The bride will be the kingdom that will grow until it fills the whole earth as Daniel saw it in Daniel 2.

Does this mean that all who are genetic descendents of Israel will make up the bride? No. In Rev. 19:7-8 we read, **“Let us be glad and rejoice, and give honor to him: for the marriage of the Lamb is come, and his wife hath made herself ready. And to her was granted that she should be arrayed in fine linen, clean and white: for the fine linen is the righteousness of saints.”**

Remember, a nation or kingdom can and does have its own identity separate and apart from the individuals. If all the people of that kingdom were wicked, the kingdom would probably be considered wicked. In the same breath, we could say that if all the citizens of that kingdom were righteous, the kingdom would be considered righteous. If we read the law, we see that there are a host of reasons (sin) a person would be cast out of the congregation, or lose his citizenship. It could be temporary, if that person repented and went to the priests for cleansing, or it could be permanent if he did not repent. We understand now that the only true cleansing, i.e. becoming righteous, is through the blood of Jesus Christ. So first off, unless someone had accepted the sacrifice of Christ as his own, he is not of the kingdom of Israel, regardless of his genetic background. Secondly, if we look at the letters to the 7 churches in Rev. 2 & 3 we find something else added. In each of the letters we find the term, **“He that overcometh”** and then a reward is listed for that individual. Those rewards include, **“will I give to eat of the tree of life, which is in the midst of the paradise of God; shall not be hurt of the second death; will I give to eat of the hidden manna, and will give him a white stone, and in the stone a new name written, which no man knoweth saving he that receiveth it; to him will I give power over the nations...and I will give him the morning star; the same shall be clothed in white raiment; and I will not blot out his name out of the book of life, but, I will confess his name before my Father, and before his angels; will I make a pillar in the temple of my God, and he shall go no more out: and I will write upon him the name of my God, and the name of the city of my God, which is new Jerusalem, which cometh down out of heaven from my God: and I will write on him my new name;”** and finally **“will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame and am set down with my Father in his throne.”**

The word “overcome” implies an effort on the part of the over-comer. Remember, justifications is a free gift, so this is above and beyond

justification. So if we wish to be a part of the bride, it will require effort on our part. I believe these are the people who will have part in the first resurrection (Rev. 20:4-6); the resurrection Paul was striving for when he said in Phil. 3:14, **“I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Jesus Christ,”** the resurrection the martyrs were looking for when they **“were tortured, not accepting deliverance: that they might obtain a better resurrection.”** (Heb. 11:35)

Now what may sound strange to many, even if we are part of the bride, because the bride is a national entity, as individuals we can be considered friends of the groom and like the 5 wise virgins, be invited to and attend the marriage supper. **“Blessed are they which are called unto the marriage supper of the Lamb.”** (Rev. 19:9)

Since we can be a part of the bride as well as friends of the groom, and if it be that we are, we are also a part of the church, which we will discuss next issue. But for now, let’s understand that the function of the bride is a governmental one. I believe the marriage supper to actually be a training period in preparation to be a part of that function. The call to the marriage supper, I believe, is synonymous with the first resurrection. I believe that only when the bride and the church are fully understood, can the marriage itself and the results of it be understood. **JRL**

LAND OF CANAAN

LITTLE KINGDOM SEEKERS

This month, in our geographical look at Bible lands, we want to begin a look at the land of Canaan. For the most part, what was considered the land of Canaan in the Bible is today the nation of Israeli. As we did with Egypt, let us look first at the land as it is today and then we will take a look at it as it was in Bible times, at least

the best we can.

It is a very small country comparable in land size to the state of New Jersey. If you look at a map of the middle east, the Mediterranean Sea is the largest body of water. The small country of Israeli is on the eastern shore of the Sea. It is bounded on the north by Lebanon, on the northeast by Syria, on the south and southeast



by Jordan and on the southwest by Egypt. From its southern most tip on the Gulf of Aqaba to its northern boundary, it is approximately 263 miles long. It varies in width from 9 miles to 71 miles.

As it was established by the United Nations in 1948, it had a total size of about 8000 sq. miles, but in 1967 the Israeli state conquered and added 2743 more sq. miles in what is referred to as the West Bank and the

Gaza Strip. As of October 2006, Israeli had a total population of 7,082,000. Approximately 76% of this population are considered Jews, while most of the balance is Arab-Palestinians. There are different kinds of Jews, depending on where they came from. The majority are Ashkenazim Jews and most of these came from Germany, France, Eastern Europe and Russia. The second largest group, though much smaller, are Sephardim Jews whose ancestors lived in Spain and Portugal until 1492 when most moved to Greece, Italy, England and the Netherlands. The Bene' Roma Jew's ancestors lived mainly in Central Italy. Finally there are the Mizrahim Jews whose ancestors lived in Arab or Muslim lands.

Among the Jews, 68% are Israeli born, mostly second and third generation Israelis. The other 32% have migrated there so very few of the current Israelis can claim a long term, multi-generational, residence in the land.

There are two major bodies of water in the country. Lake Tiberias, which is the Sea of Galilee in the New Testament, is a fresh water lake that covers approximately 63.7 sq. miles. Strangely, it is 700 ft. below sea level. It is fed by the Jordan River which then continues on to the Dead Sea. This Sea is heavily saline or salt water and it is even lower is elevation being approximately 1309ft. below sea level.

The Negev Desert in southern Israeli makes up about 1/2 of the total Israeli land area, roughly 4600 sq. miles. The highest mountain in Israeli is Har Hermon at 7375 ft.

As you can guess with a mountain of this height to the Negev De-

sert, the climate is highly variable, depending on altitude, latitude and proximity to the Sea. Rainfall varies from 1.2" annually in the south, to 35.5" annual average in the north. Only about 17% of the land is farmable with about 768 sq miles being irrigated.

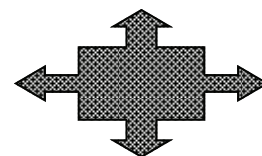
However, Israeli does export such raw materials as copper, phosphates, bromide, potash, clay, sand, sulfur, asphalt, manganese and some natural gas and crude oil.

So we can see that this is a small country about the size of New Jersey with a population slightly less than Virginia. Most of the population live on half the total land since the Negev desert takes up the other half. At present it is heavily subsidized by the United States and other countries. While it has considerable manufacturing, it probably could not support itself without these subsidies. While the majority of the people are Ashkenazim Jews, there is a considerable mixture of people and culture.

Most of the neighboring countries are, at best, less than friendly with Israeli. War has been a fact of life for the Israelis ever since the nation was founded in 1948.

The city of Jerusalem is a major point of contention since Judahism, Islam and Christianity claim part of it as shrines. While Tel Aviv is the current capitol, the primary interest of all parties involved is Jerusalem.

Next month we will look at this country from the Bible perspective and compare it to the present day country. **JRL**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

It is with very sad hearts that we have to announce the death of two friends and supporters of this ministry.

On March 19, 2006 Mrs. Vonda Cox of Doniphan, Mo. passed away at her home. She will be remembered as having attended some of our winter Bible retreats and also various other retreats that we have all attended over the years. Vonda was the mother of Sharene and Shawn Cox, 2 young people who took part in our retreats with music and discussion. Vonda is sorely missed by her family. I do not have Shawn's address but Sharene lives at 808 N 191st Ave, Buckeye, Az., 85326 if you would like to contact her.

On February 6, 2007, Dale (Coach) Calvin was gravely injured in a fire that ultimately took his life on Feb. 10 in Oklahoma City, OK. Dale and his wife Veretta were close dear friends of ours and ardent and loyal supporters of Kingdom Seekers Ministry. They and their 2 children, Joe and Jerri also attended many retreats at various locations over the years and I'm sure are remembered by many of you. Dale taught in some of our camps and was always there in a supporting role for many young people.

Our deepest sympathies go out to these families and we pray God's richest blessings on them in their time of loss.

"THE IMPORTANCE OF LITTLE THINGS"

A NEWBORN'S WAIL, A BIRD IN FLIGHT,
A ROSEBUD'S FRAGRANCE, AT THE MORNING LIGHT,
A YOUNGSTER'S PRAYER, THE CHURCH BELL'S CHIME,
THESE "LITTLE THINGS," THEY'RE YOURS, THEY'RE MINE.
BUT THOUGH THEY BE OF SMALL ACCLAIM,
THEY'RE OF REAL IMPORTANCE, JUST THE SAME.

Bernadine Hixson