

KINGDOM SPIRIT



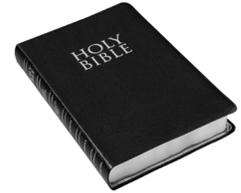
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“SEEK YE FIRST THE KINGDOM OF GOD”

Matthew 6:33



Issue 810

NEHEMIAH—MALACHI

In the 20th year of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, Nehemiah, the king's cup bearer, received word from one of his brethren, who had come up out of Jerusalem, that the people of Jerusalem were afflicted, the wall was still broken down, and the gates burned. Nehemiah fasted and mourned over this situation and asked God to grant him mercy before the king. When he next went in to serve the king, the king questioned his sadness recognizing it as great sorrow and he asked why. When Nehemiah explained his sadness, the king asked him what he wanted to do about it. When Nehemiah told him, the king granted him the authority to be governor over Jerusalem and Judah, to rebuild the wall and to take soldiers with him for protection.

Nehemiah ran into opposition in the persons of Sanballat and Tobiah, enemies of the Jews, when he arrived at Jerusalem even though he hadn't told anyone why he was there yet. As soon as he had surveyed the walls and knew what had to be done, he announced his reason for coming and encouraged the people to the rebuilding. Different groups (by family, by city, or even by trade) took responsibility for each of the gates and each portion of the wall and began their repairs and the rebuilding.

At first they were laughed at and then mocked by Sanballat, Tobiah, and other enemies. Then these enemies conspired to fight to keep the wall from being built, but Nehemiah had half the

people stand guard while the other half worked. All kept their arms at hand as they worked and the work continued in this way. Nehemiah also found problems within the ranks of his own people. Some of the Jews were taking advantage of their brethren by charging them usury, forcing them further into debt and then placing them and their families into bondage when they couldn't pay. Nehemiah demanded a promise from those charging usury that they would restore that which they had taken and stop the charging of usury. The people did as they promised.

They drew lots to see who would be in the ten percent who would occupy the city and the ninety percent then were to occupy the cities throughout Judah and Benjamin. They finished the wall and had a great celebration. They also separated the mixed multitude from them after they read in the law that the Moabite and the Ammonite should not come into the congregation of the LORD forever.

Nehemiah experienced the same frustration Moses must have felt when he came down off of Mt. Sinai and found the people worshipping the golden calf. Nehemiah, after twelve years as governor, went back to report to the king. When he returned, he found that the priests had given Tobiah a chamber in the temple and let him bring things into the temple that were not supposed to be there; that the Levites were not being given their portions; that the Sabbath day was being profaned; and they were again marrying with the people of Ashdod, Ammon and Moab and having children by them. He immediately kicked Tobiah out of the Temple; corrected the distribution of

the portions to the Levites; stopped all work on the Sabbath and cleansed the people of all strangers, but this gives us a good picture of what the people of Judah and Israel were like.

The time period covered by the books of Ezra and Nehemiah spans about one hundred years ending in the fourth century B.C. We do not have any further recorded Bible history from this point until the events immediately preceding the birth of Christ some four centuries later.

However, we do have one more prophet, Malachi, who wrote during this fourth century, probably after these last events we have recorded in Nehemiah. He addresses his book to Israel, but he deals primarily with the priests.

The people seem to be questioning God's love for them. God answers that Esau and Jacob were brothers, yet He loved Jacob and hated Esau. Esau, or Edom, are known as the people against whom the LORD had indignation forever, but God will be magnified from the border of Israel.

God accuses the priests of profaning His altar by offering the lame, blind, etc. They won't treat their governor as they treat God He says. He continued by saying it would be better to close the gates of the temple and not light the fire of the sacrifices than to offer as they were doing. **"But cursed be the deceiver, which hath in his flock a male, and voweth, and sacrificeth unto the LORD a corrupt thing: for I am a great King, saith the LORD of hosts, and my name is dreadful among the heathen."** (Mal. 1:14)

God has already cursed the priests because they refused to lay it to heart to give glory to His name. The covenant of priesthood was made with Levi, a covenant of life and peace. The priests were to be God's messengers to the people to bring them knowledge and law. But they have corrupted this covenant. There is a hint that some of the priests might not even be Levites.

The intermarriage with the people of the land is still going on and God condemns it saying He will cut off from the tabernacle of Jacob the man who does this, whether he be master or

scholar. They cover the altar with their tears and don't understand why God will not accept their offering. He says they weary Him by saying everyone that doeth evil is good in the sight of the LORD.

God says He will send His messenger to prepare the way and then the LORD will suddenly come to His temple, the messenger of the covenant. Even though the people delight in Him, who can abide the day of His coming? He will judge in righteousness and purify the sons of Levi that they might offer unto the LORD an offering in righteousness. Then He makes the statement in Mal. 3:6, **"For I am the LORD, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed."**

Remember the promises to Abraham. If God were a changeable God He certainly had reason to destroy Israel. But because He does not change, those promises are still in effect and because they are, Jacob, or Israel, is not destroyed.

The people are accused of robbing God by not tithing. They say it is vain to serve God, there is no profit in it for the proud and the wicked seem to be the ones who prosper. But God will remember the faithful when He makes up His jewels and they shall tread down the wicked. They are admonished to remember the law God gave through Moses.

Then Malachi closes the book with God saying, **"Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: and he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse."**

This completes our look at the Old Testament. It will be approximately 400 years before any of the writers of the New Testament take up the pen. It is our belief that the Bible is one continuous story beginning with creation and ending with man's return to the paradise of the garden of Eden or the ruling of God's kingdom. If this be so, then as we go from the Old Testament to the New Testament, the continuity of all the elements of our story thus far must be maintained. So let's do a quick review of the status of each of the major elements of our story thus far.

Remember that there are 3 basic divisions of the whole house of Israel: Israel, or the Northern Kingdom; Judah, or the Southern Kingdom; and the house of David

and the throne. All of these, at least in some form, are to remain forever because God has promised it so. However, because of their sin, the house of Israel, or the Northern Kingdom, and a large portion of the house of Judah have been taken into captivity by the Assyrians and placed in the land between the Caspian and Black Seas in the area south of the Caucasus Mountains. Through the prophets God has told us He has plans for them as a nation or nations, but they will not be allowed to return to their homeland. As Assyria came under Babylonian domination, so also did Israel, but God has told them to get out of this Babylonian bondage and move north and west to the isles of the sea. If they did this, they will cross into Europe and the nearest isles of the sea are the British Isles. We can presume they will have been doing this and continuing through this next 400 years.

Because of their sin as well, Judah has also been taken into captivity after her sister Israel went into captivity, but by the Babylonians and were scattered throughout the Kingdom of Babylon. However, they were to only have to spend 70 years in bondage after which a remnant was released to go back and rebuild the temple and the city of Jerusalem that was destroyed by King Nebuchadnezzar. These people have been told by God that they will cease to be a self-governing nation, or kingdom, and that the people will be scattered among the nations. The remnant that has returned has rebuilt the temple and the city and has re-established the orders of sacrifice and worship in the temple, though they have also reverted to the sins of their forefathers. Descendants of the Aaronic priest line, and Zerrubable, grandson of Jehoiachin, of the Davidic king line, are among this remnant.

The house of David and the throne seems to have been destroyed. The last legitimate heir to the throne was Jehoichin, son of Jehoiakim. However, God has cursed his and his father's house saying that Jehoiachin shall not have an heir to sit on the throne. Jehoiachin sat on the throne for a brief 3 months and was taken captive into Babylon where he died. Zedekiah, Jehoiachin's uncle took the throne for 11 years but he was also taken into captivity and all of his sons were killed. However, Jeremiah, the prophet, appears to have custody of Zedekiah's daughters as we left him, free, but in Egypt headed back to Judah. Part of Jeremiah's commission was to build and plant, something he had not done yet when we left him. The prophet Ezekiel prophesied symbolically that a princess of the Davidic king line will be plucked up and taken to another land and replanted where her kingdom will grow to very great proportions. We should be safe in assuming that this was God's way of keeping His promise to David and that his throne's kingdom and influence will grow during these next 400 years.

Because of the sins of each of these elements of our story, they have separated themselves from God. God says of Israel that He has put away and divorced her. Yet,

because of God's unerring truth and the fact that He does not change, the promises made to Abraham and his seed and to David and his seed must be kept. God, looking into the future has told us through the prophets that He will remarry Israel; Israel and Judah will be reunited; the King of Kings will sit on the throne of David ruling all Israel; and all Israel will rule the world under Him. In order that they might be brought back into a righteous relationship to Him, we have been told that Israel first has to be redeemed and that all of Israel's sins have to be atoned for. To accomplish this, the One who is to do this, this ruler of Israel, is to come from Bethlehem; is to contend with unrighteousness in Jerusalem; is to ultimately give His life as the price of redemption and the sacrifice for atonement; is to arise from the dead and will ultimately assume the throne of David as King of Kings. Preparation for this to happen should be evidenced during this next 400 years.

All of these elements are part of a 5th kingdom, spoken of by Daniel, that God has promised will ultimately destroy four successive world empires, or kingdoms, that began with the kingdom, or empire, or Babylon. We have seen in Scripture this 1st kingdom fall and the 2nd, the kingdom of Persia arise. We can assume further development in this succession of empires as well as this 5th kingdom during this next 400 years.

Another important element of our story is that of Esau, or Edom as his descendants have come to be known. Recall that he sold his birthright to Jacob and then through some deceit on the part of Jacob, he also lost his father's blessing. However, Isaac, in giving a secondary blessing to Esau, told him that he would live by the sword and would serve his brother, however, the time would come when he would break Jacob's yoke from off his neck and he would have dominion over Jacob. We found that Edom seemed to be a part of everyone who attempted to do damage to Israel and Judah. The prophet Obadiah told us that Edom should not have done that and predicted the complete destruction of Edom. We need to watch what happens to Edom during these next 400 years.

Though much more has been written and prophesied to come to pass, this at least gives us the status of these major elements of our story so that we can follow them as we pick up our story again in the New Testament.

Full understanding of New testament history and doctrine can be enhanced somewhat if we take a look first at what secular history tells us has transpired with these primary elements of our story during these 400 years and before between the last writings of the Old Testament and the writings of the New Testament.

Looking first at the world empires foretold by Daniel, we left the Persians as the dominant kingdom, the second in the succession of 4 world empires. The Greeks were a group of states, or smaller nations, in Asia Minor who were also under the Persian rule. They rebelled against Persia openly in 496 BC when they captured and

burned Sardes, the capitol of Lydia. Darius, king of Persia, set out to avenge this rebellion and ended up being defeated at the battle of Salamis in 480 BC. However, the Greek states still remained un-unified though they did form a confederacy to defend themselves. Philip, father of Alexander the Great and king of Macedonia, one of the Greek states, succeeded in uniting all Greece into one kingdom in 338 BC and started building an army to invade Persia in 337 BC. He was assassinated in 336 BC and the project of invading and conquering Persia fell to his son Alexander, who successfully carried out this ambitious mission. Greece then became the 3rd successive world empire. They were able to remain at peace for nearly 100 years.

About 210 BC, the Romans, who had been advancing with rapid strides, found occasion to interfere with Greek affairs. Philip V, of Macedon, had allied the Greeks with Hannibal of Carthage and when the Romans defeated Hannibal, they also sent an army to punish Philip V. The Romans defeated Philip in 197 BC and forced him to agree to a peace treaty that supposedly recognized Greek independence. The Greeks soon learned, however, that they had agreed to a foreign master. They formed a league of states to resist Rome, but even the league was still subject to Rome. Rome demanded that certain states and cities be removed from the league and the league openly resisted the demand in 147 BC. Corinth was captured and destroyed by the Romans in the ensuing war in 146 BC. With the destruction of Corinth also went the end of any independence the Greeks had. Greece became a state in the Roman Empire, the 4th world empire. However, Greek thought and culture made a definite conquest of the more primitive Roman civilization. So by New Testament times Rome was the kingdom, or empire, in power, but Greek language and culture was predominant among the people.

We will look at a little more secular history and archeological findings next issue as we prepare to look at the New Testament. **JRL**

Last issue, we outlined a basic man's will saying that we wanted to compare God's Last

GOD'S LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT OR INHERITING THE KINGDOM OF GOD

Will and Testament to how we write a will today. We listed two primary basic provisions, Administrative and Dispositive. We took a brief look at the Administrative provisions last issue so we want to start with a look at the Dispositive provi-

sions this issue.

In the Dispositive provisions, the first thing that has to be done is to identify, or tell who is to be a beneficiary. This may be one person, several persons, or an organization of some type. Pets as a beneficiary have made the news lately.

Since the beneficiary is normally a marriage partner, or a child of the testator and since there is always the possibility of that beneficiary passing either before the testator dies, or between his or her death and the final settlement of the estate, it is necessary to establish a line of succession, i.e. to children or grandchildren, etc.

Once the beneficiary is established, we then deal with the actual disposition. We have to determine what the actual estate is that they are to inherit or receive. Is it land, buildings, money, stocks, bonds, etc? Then we need to look at how the transfer is to be accomplished.

Very briefly, this is a basic will. The provisions as we have listed them may or may not be in the order that we have given them. It may be difficult to pick them all out of a will but I think you will find all of them in every will. If you are involved in the settlement of an estate, probably the first question that comes to mind is who gets what, the disposition. I think it safe to say that we are the same with God's Last Will and Testament. Because we have concentrated on this rather than the administrative provisions, we may have missed some very important provisions of the will.

Let's look at God's will and compare it with our basic will. I say it but actually God made two Wills or Testaments, or at least made some significant amendments to the first.

Most of us are familiar with at least a portion of that first will. Ex. 19:3-6 tells us, **"And Moses went up unto God, and the LORD called unto him out of the mountain, saying, Thus shalt thou say to the house of Jacob, and tell the children of Israel: Ye have seen what I did unto the Egyptians, and how I bare you on eagles' wings, and brought you unto myself.**

Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people: for all the earth is mine: And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation.”

Someone might say this isn't a will. It is a covenant or some might call it a marriage contract between God and Israel. I think you will see before we finish that it is all of the above. Is not a will technically a contract or an extension of a marriage in that the testator promises to take care of, through his or her estate, the marriage partner and the fruit of that marriage? So really they are the same with some of the prophets referring to it as a marriage contract while the author of Hebrews refers to it as a last will and testament. For purposes of our study we want to look at it as the author of Hebrews looks at it.

Let's see if these provisions are in God's will. First, God makes it known that it is He who is making this will. In verse 5, God establishes His authority to make this will, and tips us off some on what the estate is, **“For all the earth is mine.”** Verse 3 declares that it is children of Israel who are to be the beneficiaries.

Again in verse 5, we find a special condition of disposition provision, **“Now therefore, if ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant.”** Then comes the disposition provision itself. It is in 3 parts. 1) **“Ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me above all people.”** In the sense used here, “peculiar” restricts ownership to God only. He would not share them with other gods or mix them with other peoples. They would be His and His alone much the same way a young woman becomes a peculiar treasure of her husband. Security is assured. 2) **“Ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests.”** Priest here simply means an administrator, a ruler in the sense they would be carrying out the job of government on orders from the Supreme Ruler. 3) **“and ye shall be an holy nation.”** Holy means set apart. Set apart from all other nations. If you have been or are in the military, or if you are or have been in a supervisory position, you are probably aware that if a person is

“ruling” over others as a foreman or officer for example, that person cannot socialize with those he is over as if he were one of them—he or she is set apart from them. These three parts then are a promise of rulership if we put them all together. Since God says in verse 5 that all the earth is His, what He is promising is world rulership—ruling His world. Israel then is to be the ruling nation over all the earth. But remember there is a condition that has to be met before disposition can be made.

In our comparison to our basic will, we have found all of the provisions with the exception of one very important provision. We don't have an executor, or administrator yet. At first thought, one might say Moses was the executor. But if we look ahead a little, we see there was no orderly succession either from Moses to another person or of his office. Yes, Joshua succeeded Moses but it wasn't necessarily orderly—a rule wasn't followed that could again be followed at the death of Joshua, etc. When Joshua died, no one followed him nor was his office maintained.

However, we do have a person who was given many, many instructions and an orderly succession was established both for him personally and for his office. It begins in Ex. 4:13-16 when God told Moses that Aaron, his brother, would be to Moses his mouth when Moses told God that he was not eloquent enough lead the people of Israel out of Egypt. God later told Moses to make Aaron the high priest. Ex. 28:1 says, **“And take thou unto thee Aaron, thy brother, and his sons with him, from among the children of Israel, that he may minister unto me in the priest's office, even Aaron, Nadab and Abihu, Eleazar and Ithamar, Aaron's sons.”** The last part of Ex. 29:9, referring to Aaron and his sons, says, **“and the priest's office shall be their's for a perpetual statute.”**

Though Moses received, wrote, and exhorted obedience to God's laws, the law really became the responsibility of Aaron as high priest and to his descendents continually. The particular troublesome condition for disposition, obedience, became the responsibility of Aaron as high

priest. Basically, much of the books of Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy enumerate the basic powers and responsibilities the high priest had. A very difficult position to be put in plus a tremendous responsibility. He was to be mediator between God and Israel. Mediator and executor became one and the same job as God gave him instructions as to how to execute this will and then held him responsible for Israel. Note that I am talking of Israel as an entity, a nation—not the individuals of the nation.

Succession provision of the executor has also been established. It will go from father to son as a perpetual law.

Let's look at the will now in outline form with what we have learned.

ADMINISTRATIVE PROVISIONS

1. Identification of Testator—*GOD*
 - a) Establishment of validity of Will Provisions.—*First will written.*
2. Appointment of Executor—*Aaron the High Priest.*
 - a) Powers and Responsibility Provisions.—*Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers and Deuteronomy*
 - b) Succession Provisions—*Father to Son*
3. Special Conditions for Disposition Provision—*If ye will obey my voice and keep my commandments.*
4. Conclusion and Authority Provisions—*All the earth is mine—witnessed and acknowledged by people of Israel.*

DISPOSTIVE PROVISIONS

1. Identify Beneficiary—*Children of Israel*
 - a) Succession Provision—*Generation to Generation.*
- 2 Disposition—*World Rulership*
 - a) Identify Estate Provisions—I) *Be a Peculiar Treasure Unto God Above All People.* II) *Be A Kingdom Of Priests Unto God.* III) *Be an-Holy Nation.*

We mentioned earlier that God wrote two

wills or made substantial changes to the first will. Next issue we will look at this new will and the ramifications of it. **JRL**

THE GREAT PYRAMID

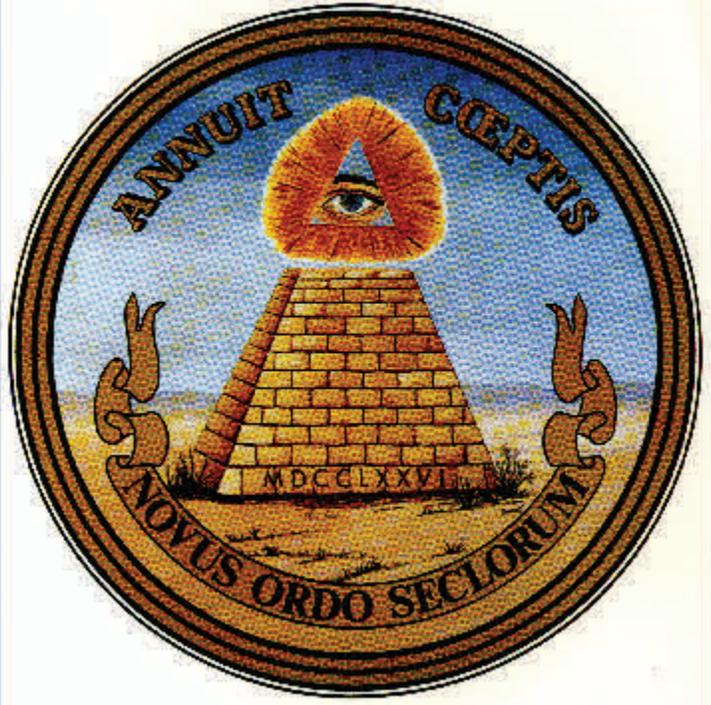
The reverse side of the Great Seal of the United States pictures an unfinished Pyramid representing the Great Pyramid of Giza. Above the Pyramid is its “missing” apex stone which appears as an illuminated triangle with the apex dissolving in a blaze of light. In the heart of the triangle is an open eye. Above the Pyramid are the Latin words, “Annuit Coeptis” meaning “He (God) has prospered our beginnings.” Below the Pyramid are the Latin words, “Novus Ordo Seclorum” meaning, “A New Order of the Ages.” On the base of the Pyramid are the Roman numerals 1776, referring to the date that the “New Order of the Ages (U.S.A.)” was established.

That the Great Pyramid of Giza was the pattern for the Pyramid on the seal is unquestioned. There are a number of correlations between the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Great Seal of the United States and the Bible. The builders made an “error” in building the Pyramid that caused them to reject the capstone because it didn't fit. Apparently the original design of the Pyramid's base called for the base to be 9131 P. inches long on each side which would have given it a perimeter of 36524 P. inches. However, as built the perimeter is 36238 P. inches, or 286.1 P. inches less. This meant that the sides of the Pyramid were contracted to the extent of 35.6 P. inches toward the center of the structure. That this probably was not an error is proven by how many times the 286.1 P. inches and the 35.6 P. inches shows up in measurements within the Pyramid. However, the cap stone was cut as to the original plan. It is exactly 35.6 P. inches wider than the top of the Pyramid on each of the 4 sides. Thus

the perimeter of the base of the capstone is exactly 286.1 P. inches greater than the perimeter of the top of the Pyramid where it was supposed to set. As a result it sits at the base of the pyramid, never put in place because it did not fit. In Matt. 21, Jesus was confronted by the chief priests wanting to know by what authority He was teaching. Since Jesus only talked to the Pharisees, Scribes and Priests in parables, He first answered them with a couple of parables, then in verse 42, quoting from Psalms 118:22, He said, **“Did ye never read in the scriptures, The stone which the builders rejected, the same is become the head of the corner: this is the LORD’S doing, and it is marvelous in our eyes?”** Of course, the stone here is He Himself, but it is referencing the rejected capstone of the Great Pyramid. The head of the corner, or the chief corner stone, as Paul refers to Him in Eph. 2:20 and as does Peter in I Peter 2:6, is not a stone in a corner of a wall or foundation, but rather is really the capstone which is all corners which has surfaces in all directions. We’ll discuss this a little more later.

There are many more significant symbolism in the Great Seal of the United States on both sides such as the number of times the number 13 shows up, but the symbolism is a study in itself. For now we want to be able to see how the Great Pyramid of Giza, the Bible in Stone as it is often referred to, plays a part in our own heritage.

It might be well to point out here that the capstone that was cut for the Great Pyramid was perfect in that it was cut to the correct dimensions—it is the Pyramid that has the flaw. Quoting from pg. 223 & 224 of Mr. Capt’s Study in Pyramidology, “if the Great Pyramid’s form is to be perfected, the Chief Corner Stone must be placed and the whole mighty structure beneath brought into conformity with it. This means that all the four sides of the entire Pyramid must be filled out with masonry until all the sides come into exact alignment with the angles of the projecting perfect Top-Stone. The result of this



would mean that the base perimeter of the Great Pyramid would be increased by 286.1 P. inches, or a total of 36524 P. inches. If this were done, the corners of the base of the Pyramid would fit exactly into the original setting-out dimensions cut into the foundation rock.

The Great Pyramid, in being expanded to fit the perfect Top-Stone, will have radiated out from the center to all the four cardinal points of the compass the exact Expansion Factor (+ 35.76 P. inches) and at the same time conform to the Rectification Factor (+ 286.1 P. inches) of the base of the Top Stone. This can be accomplished by the outer casing stones being laid at the uniform full thickness all the way around the base core. Then the reconstructed corners of the Pyramid’s base will be increased outward an exact 35.76 P. inches (+ Expansion Factor) and be in perfect alignment with the great Chief Corner-Stone.”

One other subject that we want to expand on briefly is the coffer. It obviously was never intended to be a tomb for several reasons, not the least of which is that it was placed in an air-conditioned chamber instead of an air tight cham-

ber required for preservation of a body. Also it is plain, undecorated. Egyptian custom was to decorate their tombs. Also it was placed above the ground level instead of below as was Egyptian custom. Yet it does remind us of the empty tomb.

Who actually built the Great Pyramid is still a mystery but there is considerable evidence that we can speculate on. We know that it was built starting in 2623 B.C. and that Cheops was the Egyptian King at the time. However, we also know that the Egyptians did not have the technical ability to build such a structure. Some historians credit the construction to the Shepherd Kings from Arabia that migrated into Egypt for a time and then moved out. Without going into detail, evidence points very strongly to Peleg and Joktan, sons of Eber, great grandson of Shem. Joktan had 13 sons, one of which may have been the Job of the Bible and it appears they had the ability to build such a structure. His oldest son, Almodad is credited with being the inventor of Geometry and the Measurer of the Earth.

However, these men would have only been the contractors, so to speak, and Cheops would have furnished the labor from the Egyptians. Quoting from Study in Pyramidology, pg. 175, "The perfect accuracy of all the various geodetic and astronomical statistics which man was unable to ascertain until modern times, after the development of trigonometrical knowledge and the invention of modern appliances, is evidence of Divine Revelation. The fact that the interior arrangements of the Pyramid are built up from the functions of "π" and "y" in Polar diameter inches is scientific evidence that He who

designed the universe is the Architect of the Great Pyramid."

This completes our review of Study in Pyramidology by the late E. Ramond Capt. We highly recommend this book as the amazing facts that have been discovered, and probably have yet to be discovered, about this amazing structure need to be in your mind as you study the Bible. The book is available from Artisan Publishers, P.O. Box 1529, Muskogee, OK 74402.

I would like to make a few comments that I believe are relevant to the study of the Great Pyramid. In Revelation 21:2 John tells us, "**I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God out of heaven, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband.**" Then in verse 16 we're told, concerning this city, "**And the city lieth foursquare, and the length is as large as the breadth: and he measured the city with the reed, twelve thousand furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal.**"

Many people are looking for an actual cube containing a city to descend from heaven. I would like to point out that there is another structure that has equal length, width, and height. It is a pyramid. I submit that what is being described in Rev. 21, rather than being a physical city, is really a governmental structure, a pyramid structure, if you will, with Jesus Christ, the Chief Corner Stone being at the top with ever expanding courses of people as you move down the structure. Daniel tells us that the 5th kingdom of Nebuchadnezzar's dream was a stone that ultimately filled the whole earth. If we think of the Kingdom of God structured as a pyramid, I believe it will enhance our understanding. **JRL**