

because of bowing themselves down and being submissive to the commercial and political elements of Satan's organization and of recognizing such elements as "the higher powers" spoken of at Romans 13:1. Consequently there was no peace. "Character development," so called, was the chief doctrine taught and the matter chiefly discussed by the "elective elders" of the congregations who wished to shine before men; and they put the field-service work in the rear. No real, zealous and effective work was done. God's people were afflicted and hindered by the modern-day people of Samaria who still continue to commit the "sin of Samaria", or "golden calf worship", by looking to the words of men and not to Jehovah as to what should be done. (Amos 8:14) The Devil used these and other elements of Satan's organization to oppress and put fear in the hearts of God's people; there was also strife in their company or congregation where the swell-headed "elected elders" lorded it over God's heritage. These must be cleared out of God's sanctuary before unity would fully exist. Even after they were cleared out some of that opposing element continued and will continue their efforts to hinder the work of Jehovah's witnesses; but the faithful ones will go steadfastly ahead and give no heed to the opposition, avoiding those who attempt to hinder.

When Zechariah prophesied, the foundation of the temple of God at Jerusalem had been laid and the work had progressed for two years. That well corresponds to the time from 1922 on, and particularly from 1926 on, which latter date is in fulfillment of the prophecy of Daniel 12:12 and marks the beginning of the time of blessedness. "But now I will not be unto the residue [the remnant] of this people as in the former days, saith the Lord of hosts." (Zech. 8:11) The "former days" were the days of negligence. But when God's covenant people came to realize that Jehovah had a work for them to do, conditions amongst them changed and prosperity followed. Zechariah 8:12 declares: "For the seed shall be prosperous [(*Roth.*) shall be secure]; the vine shall give her fruit, and the ground shall give her increase, and the heavens shall give their dew; and I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things."

Take note how Jehovah has fulfilled this prophecy by and through Christ Jesus, the mighty Builder of the temple. The security or prosperity mentioned by Zechariah exactly corresponds with the prophecy of Haggai 2:19 and Isaiah 30:23. Hence there is now an abundance of spiritual food for those who care to partake of it. This spiritual food the Lord graciously permits to be published in the WATCHTOWER publications and to be put within the reach of all that love God. The "seed" has prospered, resulting in 'peace that passeth the understanding of man'.

Jehovah produces the Kingdom fruit by his "vine", and the Christ is that vine. (Isa. 27:2,3; John 15:1,2) The remnant delight to bear that fruit to their brethren and to all others who hear. The remnant at the same time 'drink deeply of the fruit of the vine new' and give praise to the anointed King and to Jehovah. (Matt. 26:29; Luke 22:18) The Lord has blessed the labors of his remnant in building up the land or organization, and thus he has brought the increase and good resulting to the glory of the Lord. The report in the *Yearbook* for 1940 proves this.

The divine promise that "the heavens shall give their dew" says in symbol that there shall be no scarcity of truth,

but that the Lord will continue to supply the remnant on earth with all things needed. The Lord has placed upon his table an abundance of fresh, life-sustaining food for his remnant and has brought them great joy and peace. In times past about one-half of the space of the magazine *The Watchtower* was taken up with "Views from the Tower", so called, meaning things pertaining to the world; but since 1924 such things have disappeared and all the space is given to the truths pertaining to Jehovah's kingdom, and this gracious provision of the Lord has kept his faithful people refreshed. God through his prophet foretold in the book Deuteronomy: "My doctrine shall drop as the rain, my speech shall distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass; because I will publish the name of the LORD: ascribe ye greatness unto our God." (Deut. 32:2,3) Now his people have learned that the truths set out in the book of Deuteronomy apply particularly to God's people who are brought to the temple. Those in Christ have been brought into unity, which unity is "as the dew of Hermon, and as the dew that descended upon the mountains of Zion: for there the Lord commanded the blessing, even life for evermore".—Ps. 133:3.

Jehovah's promise by Zechariah was, "I will cause the remnant of this people to possess all these things"; and truly he has fulfilled this promise and continues to do so. The work began in earnest in 1922, and in a very marked degree from and after 1926, which year marks the beginning of the Lord's special work of cleansing the sanctuary in preparation for the greater work to follow. (Joel 2:23-28) The obedient ones of Jehovah continue to rejoice and praise him while engaged in temple work, regardless of what the enemy may say or do, well knowing that they have protection from Jehovah and in his name they are safe.

Jehovah uses his people as instruments of blessings for others; hence Zechariah prophesied: "And it shall come to pass, that as ye were a curse among the heathen, O house of Judah, and house of Israel; so will I save you, and ye shall be a blessing; fear not, but let your hands be strong." (8:13) The mention of the "house of Judah and house of Israel" shows that the prophecy has fulfillment at a time of unity in Christ. Because of disobedience they had been under God's curse and they dwelt amongst the heathen who also cursed them; and this was the condition of spiritual Israel prior to 1922, when God was angry with his covenant people because of disobedience and negligence. Then his anger was turned away. (Isa. 12:1) Now the faithful delight to diligently proclaim his name and his works, and so continue; and, as stated at Revelation 22:3, "there shall be no more curse" for them. Diligence in proclaiming the message of Jehovah's kingdom is indeed a blessing to many people, particularly to the Lazarus class, the "great multitude" of people of good will. Micah 5:7,15 declares: "And the remnant of Jacob shall be in the midst of many people, as a dew from the Lord, as the showers upon the grass, that tarrieth not for man, nor waiteth for the sons of men. And I [the Lord] will execute vengeance in anger and fury upon the heathen, such as they have not heard."

Jehovah is preparing his people for the battle of the great day of God Almighty, and hence he commands them to fear not. At Deuteronomy 20:3 he says: "Hear, O Israel; ye approach this day unto battle against your enemies; let not your hearts faint; fear not, and do not tremble, neither be

ye terrified because of them." Gog, who is Satan's invisible field marshal, has brought into the conspiracy all of his forces, and these are directing their efforts against Jehovah's "hidden ones" (Ps. 83:3); but those who trust Jehovah implicitly need not and will not fear. (Pss. 27:1; 118:6; Zeph. 3:16; Heb. 13:6; 1 John 4:17, 18) Therefore the remnant in this day of judgment are bold in declaring the message of the kingdom and will continue so to do regardless of all opposition.

Prior to 1918 Jehovah caused the truth then due to be proclaimed on earth, and "Christendom" had an opportunity to know about the kingdom of God under Christ. While that work, the "Elijah work", as it is called, was thus being done, and particularly in the year 1918, the Lord's faithful people were ill-treated by "Christendom". Among God's covenant people in that time there were the "elective elders" who, like the "rich man", failed to serve God, and because of their unfaithfulness it became necessary to clear these out that the approved ones might be prepared for God's purposes. "For thus saith the Lord of hosts, As I thought to punish you, when your fathers pro-

voked me to wrath, saith the Lord of hosts, and I repented not." (Zech. 8:14) The Lord did not repent, but has done the purging work that he may have a company who will "offer unto [him] an offering in righteousness". (Mal. 3:1-4; Ezek. 20:35-38) Judgment must begin at the house of God and continue until God's sanctuary is cleansed, and then lawlessness against God shall have an end.—1 Pet. 4:17; Ezek. 21:24, 25.

From and after 1922, and more particularly since 1926, Jehovah has prospered his "faithful servant" class. Jehovah foretold this in these words (Zech. 8:15): "So again have I thought in these days to do well unto Jerusalem, and to the house of Judah; fear ye not." This Jehovah has done because it is the time for the vindication of his name, and not because the remnant deserved the blessing. (Ezek. 36:21-23) The "man child" having been born by his "woman" in A.D. 1914 (Rev. 12:1-5), meaning the Kingdom having begun there, it is the "set time" to favor Zion, his capital organization, and to honor and vindicate Jehovah's name. This he will do by his kingdom under Christ.—Ps. 102:13; Isa. 63:4.

LETTERS

RESOLUTION

The company of Jehovah's witnesses at Rio de Janeiro recently unanimously adopted the following resolution defining their stand for the Theocracy:

"We, Jehovah's witnesses organized and assembled in the company of Rio de Janeiro, in view of the notice of the execution by a firing squad of August Dieckmann for refusing to go to the front in the war between Germany and Poland, present through the president of the Society, J. F. Rutherford, our votes of full accord with the brethren who are faithful in Germany, on the side of Jehovah God, asking his protection for all who are bearing with dignity the perils to which we are at all times subjected, in order that we may hold in the highest place the name of the Almighty God, through Christ Jesus, and thus maintain our integrity to him, obeying faithfully his commandments."

JEHOVAH HAS LED AND BLESSED

DEAR BROTHER RUTHERFORD:

At the united service meeting of the Greater Glasgow company of Jehovah's witnesses it was unanimously agreed that we send to you once again an expression of our fervent love in the Lord, and our deep appreciation of the way in which Jehovah has led and blessed us through you in the year which has just passed.

Though the war clouds continue to hang ominously over us, and many of the brothers are likely to be haled before tribunals as conscientious objectors shortly, yet the zeal and loyalty of all the brethren has not diminished, but rather increased, as a result

(Continued from page 370)

lecture record on any particular subject of vital interest today. There are 64 pages of material, enclosed in a sturdy cover, and the booklet will be supplied on your contribution of 5c a copy. Those in organized companies should send in their orders in combination through the local company servant.

1940 CALENDAR

The 1940 Calendar sets out the text for the new calendar year, to wit: "My heart shall rejoice in thy salvation." (Psalm 13:5) A beautiful color illustration, specially painted, harmonizes with the theme of the text, and its portrayal of what is impending will

of these conditions. We find the people as a whole more receptive of the message and our numbers continue to increase. What with this and the fact that, though the nation is at war, we are still able to continue almost unrestricted in our privileges of service, we realize that, though there is indeed on the earth "distress of nations with perplexity", yet we can now 'look up and lift up our heads and rejoice, for our redemption draweth nigh'.

We appreciate that Armageddon is very near, and we are determined by Jehovah's grace to stand shoulder to shoulder with you and to continue steadfastly in his service right to the end.

We render thanks to the Lord for the rich feasts of fat things coming to us through the columns of *The Watchtower*, and we pray that he may continue to bless you as you keep pressing the battle to the gates of the enemy.

IN FULL HARMONY

(The following is from the son of O. R. Moyle)

DEAR BROTHER RUTHERFORD:

On August 8, 1939, when the Bethel family was asked to express their disapproval of the letter of O. R. Moyle, I expressed my approval by remaining seated. After prayerful and Scriptural consideration of the matter I am now of the opinion that my action was wrong.

I wish to state that I am in full harmony with the Theocracy of Jehovah and I recognize the Society as the visible part. I desire to co-operate to the best of my ability and opportunity.

Yours in the Kingdom interests,

PETER O. MOYLE.

gladden your heart. Neat calendar pads indicate the special Testimony Periods of the year and the special lines of endeavor of the other months of activity in publishing the Kingdom gospel. Calendars, of which the supply is limited, will be sent on order, remittance accompanying, at 25c each, or \$1.00 for five sent to one address. Companies will please order through their company servants.

"WATCHTOWER" STUDIES

Week of January 21: "Lazarus Comforted,"

¶ 1-24 inclusive, *The Watchtower* December 15, 1939.

Week of January 28: "Lazarus Comforted,"

¶ 25-55 inclusive, *The Watchtower* December 15, 1939.