

**The Guiding Hand
of God
In History**

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THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD IN HISTORY

HISTORY, ('HISTOR"- GREEK DERIVED FROM THE ROOT "EIDENAI", TO KNOW) THE STUDY OF MANKIND'S EXPERIENCES IN ITS VARIOUS PROVINCES, WHETHER GATHERED FROM WRITTEN RECORDS, OR FROM MONUMENTS AND FRAGMENTARY REMAINS OF BYGONE AGES, WITHOUT CONTRAVERSY IS ONE OF THE FUNDAMENTAL BRANCHES OF LEARNING. WITHOUT IT THERE COULD BE NO PROGRESS, AS THE BACKWARD CONDITION OF PEOPLES THAT HAVE NEGLECTED ITS CULTIVATION, PROVES. LACKING THIS PRECIOUS HERITAGE FROM ITS FOREFATHERS, EVERY GENERATION WOULD HAVE TO MAKE A NEW BEGINNING A FRESH START (START FROM SCRATCH). WHERE, FOR INSTANCES, WOULD THE MEDICAL PROFESSION BE WITHOUT KNOWLEDGE OF ITS PAST DISCOVERIES? "TODAY" IS THE PUPIL OF "YESTERDAY" AND PRESENTLY MERGING WITH THE PAST, BECOMES THE SAGE TEACHER OF "TOMMORROW" EXPERIENCE IS THE BEST TEACHER, WE SAY, AND THIS IS EQUALLY TRUE, WHEN APPLIED TO HISTORY WITH ITS VALUABLE LESSONS FOR THE PRESENT AND THE FUTURE.

THE BIBLE WITH ITS 66 DIVINELY INSPIRED BOOKS IS PREEMINENTLY, AND IN ITS CONTENT PREDOMINANTLY A VOLUME OF HISTORY, OF FACTS IN CLEAR AND CLEAN CUT REALITIES. MORE THAN 60% OF ITS VOLUME CONSISTS OF PURELY HISTORICAL BOOKS, AND ITS DOCTRINAL AND PROPHETICAL BOOKS ARE REplete WITH HISTORICAL NARRATIVES, ALLUSIONS, REFERENCES. (MY BIBLE HAS 1253 PAGES. OF THESE THE HISTORICAL BOOKS TAKE UP 734 PAGES, OTHER BOOKS 519 PAGES. HISTORY IN THE PSALMS, THE PROPHETS, THE EPISTLES HEBREWS ESPECIALLY). THE PURPOSE OF THE BIBLE OF COURSE, IS NOT HISTORY IN ITSELF. GOD DOES NOT DO FOR MEN, WHAT THEY, AS HE HAS CREATED THEM, CAN DO FOR THEMSELVES. ITS ONE AND ONLY PURPOSE IS THE REVELATION OF GOD'S MERCIFUL AND GRACIOUS SALVATION WHICH MAN COULD NOT HAVE KNOWN, NOR ACCOMPLISHED BY HIS OWN REASON AND STRENGTH.

1. THE METHOD, HOWEVER, OF GOD'S DELIVERING THIS SALVATION TO MAN, IS HISTORICAL, BOTH BEFORE AND AFTER THE CONSUMMATION OF MAN'S REDEMPTION. LIKE

J. H. Martin

A GOLDEN CORD, EVER GROWING CLEARER AND BRIGHTER THE PROPHECIES AND PREFIGURATION OF GOD'S SALVATION IN CHRIST JESUS, ARE DRAWN THROUGH THE HISTORY OF MANKIND AND THE HISTORY OF HIS CHOSEN NATION DURING THE MILLENNIUMS OF THE OLD TESTAMENT, AND AFTER THE EXALTATION OF CHRIST, THE APOSTLES AND EVANGELISTS PROCLAIM AND WRITE DOWN THE FACTS AND THE SIGNIFICANCE OF FULFILLMENT.

2. IN CHRONICLING THE HISTORY OF NUMEROUS GENTILE NATIONS OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL, INsofar AS SUCH HISTORY IS RELATED TO GOD'S PLAN OF SALVATION, NO DOUBT, FOR THE PURPOSE OF EMPHASISING THE UNITY OF THE HUMAN RACE, AND THE UNIVERSALITY OF REDEMPTION, THE BIBLE INCIDENTALLY BECOMES AN INDISPENSABLE SOURCE AND SUPPLEMENT OF HISTORY IN GENERAL. LACKING THE RELIABLE HISTORY OF THE BIBLE, WHAT KNOWLEDGE WOULD WE HAVE OF THE CREATION OF THE WORLD AND OF MAN, OF THE TIME, THE PEOPLE AND CONDITIONS BEFORE THE DELUGE, OF THE FLOOD ITSELF AND THE NARROW ESCAPE OF OUR RACE BY DIVINE MERCY FROM TOTAL EXTERMINATION, WHAT KNOWLEDGE WOULD WE HAVE OF THE CONFUSION OF TONGUES, AND THE ORIGIN OF THE NATIONS BY THE CONSEQUENT DISPERSION OF THE TOWER-BUILDERS? WHAT WOULD WE KNOW OF THE NATIONS THAT HAD ALREADY DISENTIGRATED AND PASSED INTO OBLIVION AT THE TIME OF ROME'S FOUNDING IN 753 B.C., SUCH AS THE PHILISTINES, THE HITTITES, THE ANCIENT SYRIANS; WHAT WOULD WE KNOW OF THE ORIGIN OF THE WORLD POWERS OF ANTIQUITY, ASSYRIA, CHALDEA, MEDIA AND PERSIA? IN ATTEMPTING TO SOLVE THESE MATTERS BY OVERRULING THE BIBLE AS A SOURCE OF TRUE HISTORICAL INFORMATION AND RESORTING TO THE ABSURD THEORY OF EVOLUTION AND RATIONAL RESEARCH, THIS MODERN SCIENCE FALSELY SO CALLED, MEN HAVE DRIFTED FARTHER FROM THE TRUTH THAN THE ANCIENT HEATHEN THEMSELVES, WHO, IN THEIR COSMOGENIES AND MYTHOLOGIES RETAINED, AT LEAST FRAGMENTARY TRADITIONS OF THE TRUTH. AS THE BIBLE IS A

3.
SURE WORD OF PROPHECY, SO IT IS ALSO A SURE WORD OF HISTORY, AND IN THIS LATTER AGE OF ARCHEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AND DISCOVERIES, THE VERY STONES OF THE PAST ARE CRYING OUT IN CORROBORATION OF ITS INSPIRED TRUTH AND INFALLIBILITY.

3. FINALLY, THE BIBLE CONTAINS IN FULL THE HISTORY OF ONE NATION, THE HISTORY OF GOD'S COVENANT PEOPLE, THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, AN HOLY NATION, A NATION CHOSEN BY GOD, NOT FOR THEIR WORTHINESS, BUT FOR HIS MERCY'S SAKE, TO BE THE BEARER'S OF HIS PROMISE, A HISTORY, SINGULAR AND INCOMPARABLE IN ITS COMPLETENESS, LUCIDNESS, AND SIMPLICITY, INTERSPERSED WITH CLARIFYING BIOGRAPHIES OF GREAT PERSONALITIES, SUCH AS ABRAHAM, JOSEPH, MOSES, SAMUEL, ELIJAH, DANIEL, AND OTHERS, A HISTORY COVERING 2000 YEARS FROM ITS INCEPTION TO THE NATIONS FINAL REJECTION AND DISPERSION AT THE DESTRUCTION OF THE SECOND TEMPLE IN THE YEAR 70 A.D.

NOW, THIS HISTORY OF THE BIBLE, AS WELL AS ALL HISTORY, WHETHER THE HISTORY IN PART OF GENTILE NATIONS, OR THE FULL HISTORY OF GOD'S CHOSEN NATION, STANDS OUT AS A PERPETUAL LESSON FOR ALL NATIONS AND ALL PEOPLE, BELIEVERS AND UNBELIEVERS ALIKE. "WHATSOEVER THINGS ARE WRITTEN AFORETIME, ARE WRITTEN FOR OUR LEARNING! THE INSPIRED HISTORY OF THE WORD OF GOD, ALSO, IS PROFITABLE FOR TEACHING, FOR REPROOF, FOR INSTRUCTION IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, FOR COMFORT, AND PATIENT PERSISTENCE ACCORDING TO NEEDS.

THE GREAT LESSON OF HISTORY, HOWEVER, IS THE SOVEREIGNTY OF GOD, WHO SHAPES OUR ENDS, WHO SHAPES THE DESTINIES OF NATIONS AND OF MEN, WHO NOT ONLY PRESERVES HIS CREATION, AND ACTUALLY CONCURS IN THE EVENTS OF TIME AND HUMAN ACTIONS, BUT ALSO CONTROLS, RULES, DIRECTS THEM WISELY TO THE ENDS OF HIS JUSTICE, GOODNESS AND MERCY NOW BY PERMITTING EVIL, AGAIN BY IMPEDING EVIL, NOW BY DIRECTING BOTH GOOD AND EVIL TO SERVE HIS PURPOSES, AGAIN BY DESTROYING EVIL ALTOGETHER. GOD WHO IN HIS SOLICITOUS WATCHFULNESS OVER THE

4.
WORLD NEITHER SLUMBERS NOR SLEEPS. FOR HE IS THE LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS. "THE LORD GOD OMNIPOTENT REIGNETH." HIS IS THE KINGDOM AND THE POWER AND THE GLORY FOR EVER AND EVER. HIS IS THE HAND OF WHICH WE SPEAK WHEN NOW WE REVERENTLY MEDITATE UPON THE SUBJECT:

THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD IN HISTORY

I.
THE TRUTH OF GOD'S GUIDING HAND IN HISTORY

II.
THE METHOD OF GOD'S GUIDING HAND IN HISTORY

I.
THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD HAS VARIOUS SYNONYMS IN THE HOLY SCRIPTURES. IT IS CALLED:

1. "THE HAND OF GOD" 2 CHRON. 20, 6: "RULEST NOT THOU OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE HEATHEN? AND IN THINE HAND IS THERE NOT POWER AND MIGHT, SO THAT NONE IS ABLE TO WITHSTAND THEE?"

2. "THE HANDS OF GOD" Ps. 19, 2: "THE FIRMAMENT SHOWETH HIS HANDIWORK (IS THE WORK OF HIS HANDS SEINER HAENDE WERK). HEB. 10, 31: "IT IS FEARFUL TO FALL INTO THE HANDS OF THE LIVING GOD."

3. "HIS MIGHTY HAND" Ex. 32, 11: (MOSES INTERCESSION AFTER THE GOLDEN CALF) "THE PEOPLE WHICH THOU HAST BROUGHT FORTH OUT OF EGYPT WITH GREAT POWER AND WITH A MIGHTY HAND."

4. "THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD" MARK 16, 19: "JESUS SAT ON THE RIGHT HAND OF GOD".

5. "THE ARM OF GOD" Ps. 44, 3: "NEITHER DID THEIR OWN ARM SAVE THEM, BUT THY RIGHT HAND AND THINE ARM."

6. "STRETCHED OUT ARM" Ex. 6, 6: "I WILL REDEEM YOU WITH A STRETCHED OUT ARM, AND WITH GREAT JUDGEMENTS."

7. "THE GREATNESS OF THINE ARM" Ex. 15, 16: "BY THE GREATNESS OF THINE ARM THEY SHALL BE AS STILL AS A STONE."

8. "STRONG ARM" Ps. 89, 10: "THOU HAST SCATTERED THINE ENMIES WITH THY STRONG ARM".

5.
9. "HIS HOLY ARM." Ps. 89, 1: "HIS RIGHT HAND AND HIS HOLY ARM HATH GOTTEN HIM THE VICTORY."

10. "THE FINGER OF GOD" Ex. 8, 19: "THEN THE MAGICIAN SAID UNTO PHARAOH, THIS IS THE FINGER OF GOD."

11. "THE FINGERS OF GOD" - Ps. 8, 4: "WHEN I CONSIDER THY HEAVENS, THE WORK OF THY FINGERS, THE MOON AND THE STARS WHICH THOU HAST ORDAINED"

ALL OF THESE TERMS, DESIGNATING THE UNLIMITED POWER AND MIGHT OF GOD'S OMNIPOTENCE ARE SYMBOLIZED VISUALLY BY THE FINGERS OF A MAN'S HAND, WHICH EXECUTED THE HANDWRITING ON THE WALL OF BELSHAZZER'S PALACE, CAUSING THE KING, IN THE MIDST OF HIS BLASPHEMOUS ORGY, TO PALE AND TO TREMBLE, PRIOR TO HIS IMMINENT ASSASSINATION AND THE PASSING OF HIS KINGDOM: "MENE, MENE, TEKEL, UPHARSIN" ITS INTERPRETATION: "GOD HATH NUMBERED THY KINGDOM, AND FINISHED IT. THOU ART WEIGHED IN THE BALANCE, AND ART FOUND WANTING." THY KINGDOM IS DIVIDED AND GIVEN TO THE MEDES AND PERSIANS." DAN. 5, 25-28.

IT IS THIS MIGHTY RIGHT HAND OF GOD, THIS GREAT STRONG, HOLY, OUTSTRETCHED ARM OF GOD, THE FINGERS OF GOD, THE LEAST OF WHICH IS ABLE TO BREAK THE WORLD'S STRONGEST, OLDEST EMPIRES, WHICH GUIDES AND SHAPES EVENTS IN ALL HISTORY OF MANKIND.

THAT THIS IS TRUE, MAY BE SENSED, KNOWN AND UNDERSTOOD EVEN BY THE NATURAL HUMAN MIND, WHICH FINDS IT IMPOSSIBLE TO EXPLAIN MANY AMAZING HISTORICAL HAPPENINGS IN ANY OTHER WAY. WHAT THE NATURAL MIND REALIZES BUT FAINTLY, HOWEVER, IS ASSERTED, TAUGHT AND CONFIRMED IN THE PLAINEST MANNER BY THE WORD OF GOD:

FIRST: BY UNMISTAKABLE BIBLE PASSAGES.

SECONDLY: BY EXAMPLES OF THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD IN THE REMARKABLE FULFILLMENT OF ITS PROPHECICAL PASSAGES ASSERTING THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD IN HISTORY ARE MOST ABUNDANT. THEY ARE ABOUT AS PLentiful AS ARE THE PASSAGES ASSERTING THE INSPIRATION OF THE SCRIPTURES. THERE IS SCARCELY

A PAGE IN THE BIBLE ON WHICH ONE DOES NOT FIND AN INDICATION TO THIS EFFECT. OUT OF THE MANY WE QUOTE ONLY A FEW, AS FOLLOWS:

ACTS 17, 25: (FROM PAUL'S SERMON IN THE AEREOPAGUS, MARS HILL, THE HIGHEST COURT IN ATHENS) "AND HATH MADE OUT OF ONE BLOOD ALL ALL NATIONS OF MEN FOR TO DWELL ON ALL THE FACE OF THE EARTH, AND HATH DETERMINED THE TIMES BEFORE APPOINTED, AND THE BOUNDS OF THEIR HABITATION". THIS PASSAGE IS THE TEXT OF OUR PAPER - ALL HISTORY IN A NUTSHELL.

DEUT. 32, 8: "WHEN THE MOST HIGH DIVIDED TO THE NATIONS THEIR INHERITANCE, WHEN HE SEPARATED THE SONS OF ADAM, HE SET THE BOUNDS OF THE PEOPLE ACCORDING TO THE NUMBER OF THE CHILDREN OF ISRAEL."

IS. 23, 11: (FROM THE "BURDEN OF TYRE"): HE STRETCHED OUT HIS HAND OVER THE SEA, HE SHOOK THE KINGDOMS; THE LORD HATH GIVEN A COMMAND AGAINST THE MERCHANT CITY, TO DESTROY THE STRONGHOLDS THEREOF."

JER. 18, 7-10: "AT WHAT INSTANT I SHALL SPEAK CONCERNING A NATION, AND CONCERNING A KINGDOM, TO PLUCK IT UP, AND TO PULL DOWN AND TO DESTROY IT." "IF THAT NATION AGAINST WHOM I HAVE PRONOUNCED, TURN FROM THEIR EVIL I WILL REPENT OF THE EVIL THAT I THOUGHT TO DO UNTO THEM. (NINEVEH) AND AT WHAT INSTANT I SHALL SPEAK CONCERNING A NATION, AND CONCERNING A KINGDOM, TO BUILD AND TO PLANT IT; IF IT DO EVIL IN MY SIGHT, THAT IT OBEY NOT MY VOICE, THEN WILL I REPENT OF THE GOOD, WHEREWITH I SAID I WOULD BENEFIT THEM."

DAN. 2, 21: "HE CHANGETH THE TIMES AND THE SEASONS; HE REMOVETH KINGS AND SETTETH UP KINGS." A CHILD CAN UNDERSTAND SUCH STATEMENTS.

AMOS 9, 8: "BEHOLD THE EYS OF THE LORD ARE UPON THE SINFUL KINGDOM, AND I WILL DESTROY IT FROM OFF THE FACE OF THE EARTH; SAVING THAT I WILL NOT UTTERLY DESTROY THE HOUSE OF JACOB SAITH THE LORD."

PS. 46, 6: "THE HEATHEN RAGED, THE KINGDOMS

WERE MOVED." AND V. 8, 9. "COME, BEHOLD THE WORKS OF THE LORD, WHAT DESOLATION HE HATH MADE IN THE EARTH. HE MAKETH WARS TO CEASE UNTO THE ENDS OF THE EARTH; HE BREAKETH THE BOW AND CUTTETH THE SPEAR IN SUNDER; HE BURNETH THE CHARIOT IN THE FIRE."

PS. 2, 9: "THOU SHALT BREAK THEM WITH A ROB OF IRON; THOU SHALT DASH THEM IN PIECES LIKE A POTTERS VESSEL."

WE COME NOW TO EXAMPLES OF GOD'S GUIDING HAND IN THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECIES, PREDICTING THE INCARNATION OF GOD'S SON.

HE WAS PROMISED TO COME OUT OF THE FALLEN HUMAN RACE AS THE SEED OF THE WOMAN, THEN THE PROMISE WAS CONFINED TO A CERTAIN NATION, THE SEED OF ABRAHAM, AND THE PROMISE WAS GIVEN REPEATEDLY TO EACH OF THE THREE PATRIARCHS; THEN THE PROMISED SHILOH IS RESTRICTED TO THE TRIBE OF JUDAH, LATER TO THE HOUSE OF DAVID; FINALLY ISAIAH FORTTELLS THE SAVIOR'S VIRGIN BIRTH, AND MICAH DEFINES BETHLEHEM EPHRATAH AS THE PLACE OF HIS BIRTH; AND ALL OF THESE PROPHECIES WERE BROUGHT TO LITERAL FULFILMENT BY THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD WHOSE WISDOM, POWER, MERCY AND TRUTH OFTEN OVERRULED THE MOST ADVERSE CIRCUMSTANCES TO WORK TOGETHER FOR ACCOMPLISHMENT OF HIS PURPOSES, AS ILLUSTRATED, IN PARTICULAR, IN THE STORY OF ABRAHAM AND IN THE CHRISTMAS STORY.

OTHER PROPHECIES OF BLESSINGS AS WELL AS JUDGMENTS, MOSTLY THE LATTER, BOTH FROM THE OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT, WHICH WERE FULFILLED TO THE LETTER ARE AS FOLLOWS:

FROM THE OLD TESTAMENT

1. GEN 6 AND FOLLOWING CHAPTERS, TREATING OF THE FLOOD. 6, 7: "AND THE LORD SAID, I WILL DESTROY MAN WHOM I HAVE MADE FROM THE FACE OF THE EARTH", AND ITS FULFILMENT AFTER THE BUILDING OF THE ARK BY NOAH AND THE EXPIRATION OF THE 120 YEARS OF GRACE BY THE FLOOD WHICH INUNDATED EVEN THE HIGHEST MOUNTAINS.

2. GEN. 12: GOD'S PROMISE TO ABRAHAM: "I WILL MAKE OF THEE A GREAT NATION". AND ITS MATERIAL-

IZATION 400 YEARS LATER, WHEN 600,000 MEN ABOVE 20 YEARS OF AGE SET OUT UPON THE JOURNEY TO THE LAND GOD HAD PROMISED THEM.

3. IN CONNECTION THERWITH PAHARAOH 'S OVERTHROW EX.6: "THEN THE LORD SAID UNTO MOSES, NOW SHALT THOU SEE WHAT I WILL DO TO PHARAOH; FOR WITH A STRONG HAND WILL HE LET THEM GO, AND WITH A STRONG HAND SHALL HE DRIVE THEM OUT OF HIS LAND" AND THE FULFILMENT AFTER THE TEN PLAGUES BY THE DROWNING OF PHARAOH AND HIS 600 CHARIOTS IN THE RED SEA.

4. DURING THE 40 YEARS SOJOURN IN THE DESERT, WHEN GOD FULFILLED HIS PROMISES TO MOSES TO PROVIDE FOR THE PEOPLE'S NEEDS BY SENDING QUAIL RAINING MANNA FROM HEAVEN UNTIL THEY REACHED CANAAN, CAUSING ROCKS TO ISSUE FORTH WATER, PRESERVING THEIR SHOES AND CLOTHING AGAINST WEAR ETC.

5. DURING THE 450 YEAR PERIOD OF THE JUDGES, WHEN GOD AGAIN AND AGAIN REDEEMED HIS PROMISES OF DELIVERANCE TO THE APOSTATE, BUT REPENTANT PEOPLE BY RAISING UP VALOROUS DELIVERERS, OR JUDGES. NOTE PARTICULARLY THE DETAILED NARRATION OF THE STORIES OF GIDEON, SAMSON, AND SAMUEL WHICH STORIES SHED COLORFUL TOUCHES UPON THE PERIOD. NOTE ALSO THE STORY OF RUTH.

6. IN THE END PERIOD OF THE JUDGES, ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR A KING TO SURPLANT THEIR DIVINELY APPOINTED THEOCRACY, A REQUEST MADE BECAUSE OF THE UNWORTHINESS OF SAMUEL'S SONS AND ISRAEL'S DESIRE TO BE LIKE OTHER NATIONS, OVER AGAINST SAMUEL'S SORE DISPLEASURE AND SOLEMN PROTEST, WAS PERMITTED AND EVEN ENJOINED BY GOD WITH THE EXPRESS UNDERSTANDING: "THEY HAVE NOT REJECTED THEE, BUT THEY HAVE REJECTED ME, THAT I SHOULD NOT REIGN OVER THEM." I SAM.8,7. THIS CHANGE, OF COURSE, SERVED OTHER PURPOSES OF GOD'S WISDOM, BUT THE SIN OF THIS REJECTION OF GOD'S DIRECT RULE WAS VISITED UPON ISRAEL; FOR NOT ONLY DID THEIR FIRST CHOSEN KING PROVE UNWORTHY IN THE END, BUT UNDER THEIR FOURTH KING, REHOBAM, THE KINGDOM WAS DIVIDED FOR THE VERY REASONS SAMUEL'S PROTEST HAD PREFERRED

9.
AND OFTEN WE FIND THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS IN BLOODY WAR WITH EACH OTHER. AND THE KINGS OF THE DIVIDED KINGDOMS WITH BUT FEW EXCEPTIONS WERE NOT PRAISE-WORTHY. ONLY OF 3 OF THE 20 KINGS OF JUDAH DO WE READ THAT "THEY DID WHAT WAS PLEASING UNTO THE LORD", WHILE IN THE SUCCESSION OF ISRAEL'S 19 KINGS, WE FIND ONLY ONE, JOASH, WHO PLEASSED THE LORD; AND INDIFFERENTLY AT THAT. SOME OF THEM LIKE AHAB AND MANASSEH DURING PARTS OF THEIR REIG PROVED VERITABLE MONSTERS OF INIQUITY. FOR THE REJECTION OF GOD'S RULE DIRECTLY, THE THREATENED JUDGMENT CERTAINLY WAS VISITED UPON ISRAEL.

7. LET US NOTE THE FULFILMENT OF THE JUDGMENT PREDICTED UNTO WICKED KING AHAB. BECAUSE OF THE JUDICIAL MURDER OF INNOCENT NABOTH, AND THE EXECUTION OF MANY OF GOD'S PROPHETS BY AHAB AND JEZEBEL, ILIJAH, BY GOD'S COMMAND PROCLAIMED UNTO AHAB I KINGS 21, 19-24: "BEHOLD I WILL BRING EVIL UPON THEE, AND UPON THYNE POSTERITY". ABOUT TWO YEARS LATER AHAB, IN BATTLE WITH THE SYRIANS, ACCIDENTALLY, IT SEEMED, WAS WOUNDED BY ONE, WHO DREW HIS BOW AS A VENTURE. THE WOUNDED KING REQUESTED HIS DRIVER TO CARRY HIM OUT OF THE ARMY, BUT HE DIED IN THE EVENING, AND THE BLOOD RAN OUT OF HIS WOUNDS INTO THE MIDST OF THE CHARIOT. AFTER HIS BURIAL IN SAMARIA, ONE WASHED THE CHARIOT IN THE POOL OF SAMARIA, AND THE DOGS LICKED UP HIS BLOOD, AS PREDICTED. "AND OF JEZEBEL SPAKE THE LORD, SAYING, THE DOGS SHALL EAT JEZEBEL BY THE WALL OF JEZREEL". THE FULFILMENT ABOUT 15 YEARS LATER: "WHEN JEHU ENTERED IN AT THE GATE, AND SAW THE PAINTED AND ATTIRED QUEEN LOOKING OUT A WINDOW, HE COMMANDED SOME OF HER CHAMBERLAINS TO THROW HER DOWN. SO THEY THREW HER DOWN, AND SOME OF HER BLOOD WAS SPRINKLED ON THE WALL AND ON THE HORSES: AND HE TROD HER UNDER FOOT. AFTER JEHU HAD DINED, HE ORDERED THE CURSED WOMAN'S BURIAL FOR SHE IS A KING'S DAUGHTER, HE SAID. AND THEY WENT TO BURY HER, BUT THEY FOUND NO MORE OF HER THAN THE SKULL, AND THE FEET, AND THE PALMS OF HER HANDS." II KINGS 9, 33-35. SHORTLY AFTER THE DEATH OF JEZEBEL, JEHU ORDERED THE SLA

ING OF AHAB'S 70 SONS IN SAMARIA, WHICH ORDER WAS CARRIED OUT, AND THE HEADS SENT TO HIM IN BASKETS AT JEZREEL. AND JEHU WENT OUT TO THE PEOPLE, AND SAID: "KNOW YE THAT THERE SHALL FALL TO THE EARTH NOTHING OF THE WORD OF THE LORD, WHICH THE LORD SPAKE CONCERNING THE HOUSE OF AHAB; FOR THE LORD HATH DONE THAT WHICH HE SPAKE BY HIS SERVANT ELIJAH. SO JEHU SLEW ALL THAT REMAINED OF THE HOUSE OF AHAB IN JEZREEL, AND ALL HIS GREAT MEN, AND HIS KINSFOLKS AND HIS PRIENSTS UNTIL HE LEFT HIM NOTHING REMAINING." II Kings 10.

3. FULFILMENT OF PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE DISPERSION OF ISRAEL:

TRUE TO THE GENERAL WARNING OF MOSES: "AND THE LORD SHALL SCATTER THEE AMONG ALL PEOPLE, FROM THE ONE END OF THE EARTH EVEN UNTO THE OTHER." DEUT. 28, 64. AND TRUE TO THE SPECIFIC WARNING OF THE LATER PROPHETS, ISAIAH, JEREMIAH, AND EZEKIEL, BOTH OF THE SINFUL, IMPENITENT HOUSE OF ISRAEL WERE DELIVERED EVENTUALLY INTO THE HANDS OF THEIR ENEMIES, ISRAEL, THE TEN TRIBES, INTO ASSYRIAN CAPTIVITY UNDER SHALMANEZER, IN THE YEAR 722 B. C. AND THE KINGDOM OF JUDAH, THE TWO TRIBES, JUDAH AND BENJAMIN, INTO BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY 134 YEARS LATER IN 588 B.C. UNDER KING NEDUCHADNEZZAR.

THE TEN TRIBES HAD NO PROMISE OF RETURN TO THEIR COUNTRY, AND WE WONDER WHAT BECAME OF THEM. THEY ARE REFERRED TO AS THE LOST TEN TRIBES OF ISRAEL. SOME BELIEVE THAT SMALL COLONIES OF THEM FOUND THEIR WAY INTO DISTANT LANDS, SUCH AS AFGHANISTAN, INDIA, EVEN CHINA, WHERE THEIR REMOTE DESCENDANTS, ALTHO HAVING ADOPTED THE LANGUAGE OF THEIR RESPECTIVE ENVIRONMENT, TO THIS DAY IT IS CLAIMED, SHOW TRACES OF JEWISH RELIGION, CULTURE, AND PHYSICAL FEATURES. ANOTHER THEORY, GREATLY ENHANCED BY THE LATTER DAY SAINTS IN THEIR BOOK OF MORMON, BASED ON THE TABLETS, EXCAVATED AND DECIPHERED BY JOSEPH SMITH ACCORDING TO A VISION, AND BY THE HELP OF ANGELS. IS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE LOST TE

TRIBES OF ISRAEL FOUND THEIR WAY TO THE WESTERN WORLD TO BECOME THE PROGENITORS OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN. THE TRUTH NO DOUBT IS, THAT THESE TRIBES ALTHOUGH SHALMANEZER LATER PERMITTED A NUMBER OF PRIESTS AND LEVITES TO RETURN TO SAMARIA AS INSTRUCTORS, AND A FEW OF THEM ALSO JOINED THE CHILDREN OF JUDAH ON THEIR RETURN TO JERUSALEM, WERE MERGED WITH THE PEOPLE THAT SURROUNDED THEM. WHICH PROBABLY ACCOUNTS FOR THE FACT THAT THERE ARE JEWS WHO NO LONGER ARE CLASSIFIED AS JEWS AMONG ALL PEOPLE, WHATSOEVER THEIR NATIONALITY, THAT IS, PEOPLE OF PRONOUNCED JEWISH CHARACTERISTICS, SUCH AS AVERAGE, AGGRESSIVENESS, STOICAL FEELINGS, AND ADAPTABILITY TO ALL KINDS OF SURROUNDINGS. WE SAY THIS NOT IN DISPARAGEMENT. FOR IN THE LAST ANALYSIS WE ARE ALL ONE IN ADAM. GOD MADE OUT OF ONE BLOOD ALL NATIONS. AGAIN WE ARE ALL ONE IN CHRIST, THE SECOND ADAM WHO IN HIS HUMAN NATURE IS OF PURE JEWISH DESCENT AND BLOOD.

JUDAH, ON THE OTHER HAND, HAD THE SPECIFIC PROMISE OF DELIVERANCE AND RESTORATION TO THEIR LAND AFTER 70 YEARS. JEREMIAH, AN EYE-WITNESS OF THE TERRIBLE DESOLATION OF HIS LAND AND HOME OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE, HAD UTTERED THE INSPIRED WORDS, WORDS WHICH SHORTLY BEFORE THEIR FULFILMENT PROMPTED DANIEL'S PROFOUNDLY EARNEST PENITENTIAL PRAYER: "FOR THUS SAITH THE LORD, THAT AFTER SEVENTY YEARS BE ACCOMPLISHED AT BABYLON; I WILL VISIT YOU, AND PERFORM MY GOOD WILL TOWARD YOU, IN CAUSING YOU TO RETURN TO THIS PLACE. FOR I KNOW THE THOUGHTS THAT I THINK TOWARDS YOU, SAITH THE LORD, THOUGHTS OF PEACE, AND NOT OF EVIL, TO GIVE YOU AN EXPECTED END", NAME EXPECTATION, HOPE FOR THE FUTURE - MOFFAT - JER 29, 11. HOW GLORIOUSLY THIS PROMISE WAS FULFILLED AT THE PROPER TIME. THE LORD STIRRED UP THE SPIRIT OF CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA, THAT HE MADE A WRITTEN PROCLAMATION THROUGHOUT ALL HIS KINGDOM "THUS SAITH CYRUS, KING OF PERSIA, ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE EARTH HATH THE LORD GOD OF HEAVEN

GIVEN ME; AND HE HATH CHARGED ME TO BUILD HIM AN HOUSE AT JERUSALEM, WHICH IS IN JUDAH. WHO IS THERE AMONG YOU OF ALL HIS PEOPLE? THE LORD HIS GOD BE WITH HIM, AND LET HIM GO UP."
2 CHRON. 26, 22.23.

ASSISTED BY THOSE WHO REMAINED BEHIND, WITH MONEY, GOODS AND BEASTS, AND WITH FREE-WILL OFFERINGS FOR THE HOUSE OF GOD TO BE BUILT AND GIVEN THE VESSELS WHICH NEBUCHADNEZZAR HAD TAKEN FROM THE FIRST TEMPLE, THEY SET OUT UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF ZERUBBABEL, THE FIRST DETACHMENT NEARLY 5000 STRONG, FOLLOWED BY OTHER DETACHMENTS, TO BUILD AGAIN THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM AND THE TEMPLE. JUDAH'S INDEPENDENCE AND KINGDOM NOW CONTINUED, NOT WITHOUT DIFFICULTIES, BUT WITHOUT INTERRUPTION ALMOST 500 YEARS UNTIL SHORTLY BEFORE THE FIRST ADVENT OF CHRIST, WHEN THE SCEPTER DEPARTED FROM JUDAH AND IT TOGETHER WITH ALL THE INHERITANCE OF THE FATHERS BECAME A PART OF SYRIA, ONE OF THE MANY PROVINCES OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE.

IF WE ASK HERE, WHY GOD RETURNED JUDAH TO THEIR HABITATION, AND NOT THE TEN TRIBES THE DEEPER AND TRUE ANSWER LIES IN THE FACT, THAT GOD HAD CHOSEN JUDAH AS THE BEARER OF THE PROMISE. ASIDE FROM THAT, THE ANSWER IS: JUDAH DURING ITS LONG AND SEVERE CHASTISEMENT AND JUDGMENT WAS LED TO SINCERE REPENTENCE, AS THE CONFESSIONS OF DANIEL AND NEHEMIAH CERTAINLY TESTIFY, WHEREAS THE TEN TRIBES, ALREADY THOROUGHLY IDOLATROUS FELL DEEPER AND DEEPER, AND DID NOT REPENT. THE PROMISE OF MOSES SURELY PERTAINED TO THEM ALSO; "WHEN THOU SHALT RETURN UNTO THE LORD, THY GOD, WILL TURN THY CAPTIVITY, AND HAVE COMPASSION UPON THEE, AND WILL RETURN AND GATHER THEE FROM ALL THE NATIONS WHITHER THE LORD THY GOD HATH SCATTERED THEE." DEUT. 30, 2-4. ISRAEL, NOT JUDAH, HAD HARDENED ITSELF BEYOND RECLAMATION. THE FEW OF THEM WHO REPENTED, FOUND GRACE, AND SOME OF THEM, AS WE HAVE SEEN, SOONER OR LATER, JOINED THEIR

HOME-BOUND BRETHREN. BEYOND THAT WE CANNOT PENETRATE, BUT MUST JOIN PAUL IN THE HUMBLE CONFES- SION: "HOW UNSEARCHABLE ARE HIS JUDGMENTS AND HIS WAYS PAST FINDING OUT."

9. JUST ONE MORE FULFILMENT OF AN OLD TESTA- MENT PROPHECY, THE FORGOTTEN DREAM OF NEBUCHAD- NEZZAR, RECONSTRUCTED AND INTERPRETED BY DANIEL; AN IMAGE, GREAT, BRIGHT, AND TERRIBLE, THE HEAD OF FINE GOLD, THE BREAST AND ARMS OF SILVER, BE BELLY AND THIGHS OF BRASS, HIS LEGS OF IRON, HIS FEET PART OF IRON AND PART OF CLAY, SMITTEN BY A STONE CUT WITHOUT HANDS UPON THE FEET AND BRAKE THEM IN PIECES, THEN THE WHOLE IMAGE FELL TO PIECES, WHICH ARE CARRIED AWAY LIKE CHAFF WITH THE WIND, WHILE THE STONE THAT SMOTE THE IMAGE BECAME A GREAT MOUNTAIN AND FILLED THE WHOLE EARTH. DAN. 2. THEN THE INTERPRETATION: "THOU, O KING, ART THE HEAD OF GOLD. AFTER THEE SHALL ARISE ANOTHER KINGDOM INFERIOR TO THEE, AND AN- OTHER THIRD KINGDOM OF BRASS WHICH SHALL RULE OVER ALL THE EARTH. THEN THE FOURTH KINGDOM OF IRON, BECAUSE LIKE IRON IT SHALL BREAK IN PIECES, AND RUISE; HAVING TWO INGREDIENTS, IRON AND CLAY MEANS, IT SHALL BE DIVIDED, BUT EVEN AFTER ITS DIVISION IT SHALL REMAIN PARTLY STRONG, PARTLY WEAK, EVEN INTO THE TOES. AND IN THE DAY OF THESE LAST KINGS AND KINGDOMS SHALL THE GOD OF HEAVEN SET UP A KINGDOM WHICH SHALL NEVER BE DESTROYED, NOT BE LEFT TO OTHER PEOPLE, BUT BREAK IN PIECES AND CONSUME ALL THESE KINGDOMS, AND IT SHALL STAND FOREVER." WHAT A BRIEF BUT PRECISE DESCRI- PTION OF ALL HISTORY FROM THEN UNTO THE END OF TIME. FOUR KINGDOMS OR WORLD EMPIRES: FIRST BABY- LON, THEN MEDO-PERSIA UNDER CYRUS, DARIUS, XER- XES ETC, THEN GREECE WHICH ATTAINED ITS WORL- DOMINION UNDER ALEXANDER THE GREAT, AND AFTER HIS EARLY DEATH WAS DIVIDED AMONG HIS FOUR GEN- ERALS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY ROME, THE MIGHTIEST OF THIS WORLD'S EMPIRES, WHICH IN ORDER TO HOLD IT- SELF UP, EVENTUALLY DIVIDED ITSELF UNDER CONSTAN- TINE, INTO TWO PARTS, THE WESTERN AND EASTERN ROMAN EMPIRE, THE TWO

ROMAN EMPIRES, THE TWO OF THEM SUBDIVIDED INTO THE TEN TOES, THAT IS, A LARGER NUMBER OF LESSER KINGDOMS, WHICH IN PART WERE STRONG, IN PART WERE WEAK, AND WEAKER KINGDOMS, AND DURING THE TIME OF THESE KINGDOMS THE KINGDOM OF GOD WAS SET UP, PERFECTED AND CONSUMMATED AT THE END, WHEN ALL THE WORLD KINGDOMS, GREAT AND SMALL, STRONG AND WEAK, SHALL PASS INTO EVERLASTING OBLIVION, TO BE REMEMBERED NO MORE AT ALL. FOR THEY WERE INTRINSICALLY OF THE WORLD, IN THE WORLD, FOR THIS WORLD.

SECONDLY, NEW TEST. FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY

THE NEW TESTAMENT PROPHECIES WHICH EVIDENCE THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD I SHALL NOT ENLARGE UPON, BUT ONLY MENTION A FEW I HAVE IN MIND, AS THERE WILL BE AMPLE OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS ALL OF THESE THINGS AGAIN IN THE SECOND PART, WHEN WE TAKE UP THE METHOD OF GOD'S GUIDANCE.

1. THE MIRACULOUS FULFILMENT OF THE PROPHECY OF THE OLD TESTAMENT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST AND OF JESUS CONCERNING THE OUTPOURING OF THE HOLY GHOST ON PENTECOST, AND THE CONSEQUENT RAPID SPREAD OF THE GOSPEL AND GROWTH OF THE CHURCH DESPITE THE FIERCEST OPPOSITION AND PERSECUTION BY JEWS AND ROMAN GOVERNMENT.

2. THE FULFILMENT OF JOHN THE BAPTIST'S AND CHRIST'S PROPHECIES CONCERNING THE DESTRUCTION OF JERUSALEM, AND THE FINAL REJECTION OF THE HOUSE OF JUDAH, AND THE DISPERSION, BUT PERPETUATION OF THE REJECTED AND HOMELESS NATION AS A GRAVE WARNING TO ALL NATIONS TO THE END OF TIME.

3. THE FULFILMENT OF PROPHECY, PREDICTING THE ANTICHRIST, THE RISE AND UNPARALLELED TYRANNY OF THE PAPACY WHICH WAS TEST AND AFFLICTION TO THE TRUE CHURCH ON A LEVEL WITH THE PERSECUTION OF THE EARLY CENTURY, CAUSED AND FOSTERED MAINLY BY ALLIANCE BETWEEN CHURCH AND STATE, BETWEEN ECCLESIASTICISM AND POLITICS,

LIKE ISRAEL IN THE DAYS OF THE JUDGES WAS CONTINUALLY DRAWN INTO THE MESHES OF THE CANANITES IT FAILED TO IRADICATE ACCORDING TO GOD'S PLAIN COMMAND. THEN ALSO THE MERCY OF GOD IN BREAKING THE POPE'S IRON HOLD AFTER MANY FUTILE ATTEMPTS BY MEN, IN THE REFORMATION OF THE XVI CENTURY.

ALL OF THESE BIBLE PASSAGES AND EXACT FULFILMENT OF DIVINE PROPHECY WHICH COULD BE AUGMENTED MANIFOLD, CERTAINLY SHOW THAT GOD IS NOT ASLEEP, OR REMOVED FROM HIS CREATION ON EARTH TO SOME DISTANT PLANET, BUT THAT HE IN SOLICITOUS PROVIDENCE IS PRESERVING THE WORK OF HIS HANDS, CONCURRING IN THE EVENTS OF TIME, GUIDING, DIRECTING, RULING FOR THE PURPOSE OF MAN'S TRUE WELFARE AND HIS OWN GLORY, ALSO THAT THE SON OF GOD WHO IN HIS DIVINE NATURE WAS THE REAL AGENT OF COMMUNICATION IN ALL REVELATION TO MAN, IS ALSO ACCORDING TO HIS HUMAN NATURE INVESTED WITH ALL POWER IN HEAVEN AND IN EARTH, JUDGING HIS ENEMIES, PROTECTING HIS CHURCH, DIRECTING ALL EVENTS BOTH GREAT AND SMALL, AND OVERRULING ALL THINGS TO WORK TOGETHER FOR GOOD TO THEM THAT LOVE GOD.

PART TWO THE METHOD OF GOD'S GUIDING HAND IN HISTORY

THE METHOD OF GOD'S GUIDING HAND IN HISTORY, THE WAY AND MANNER, IMPLYING THE MEANS, ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY, MEDIATE AND IMMEDIATE, OF GOD'S CONTROL OVER THE EVENTS OF TIME, IS MYSTERIOUS AND INCALCULABLE FOR THE REASON AND WISDOM OF MAN, IN THE FINAL ANALYSIS EVEN FOR THE CHRISTIAN WHOSE MIND IS ENLIGHTENED BY THE WORD OF GOD AND WHO BY FAITH TRUSTS IN GOD, THE LORD OF HOSTS "WHICH IS WONDERFUL IN COUNSEL, AND EXCELLENT IN WORKING". Is. 28, 29. (DES HERRN RAT IST WUNDERBAR, ER FUEHRET ES HERRLICH HINAUS). ALSO WITH RESPECT TO HISTORICAL EVENTS:

GOD MOVES IN A MYSTERIOUS WAY
HIS WONDERS TO PERFORM.

MAN IS NOT LIKE GOD WHOSE OMNISCIENCE OVERLOOKS THE GRAND PANORAMA OF THE PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE WITH ONE GLANCE, AS THOUGH IT WERE CLEARLY REFLECTED IN A BROAD MIRROR, AND GRANTED THIS VIEW, MAN WOULD BE UNABLE TO UNDERSTAND THE COMPLICATED PICTURE. NOT COMPLETELY INFORMED OF THE PAST IN ITS DURATION AND SCOPE, HE CANNOT WITH CERTAINTY INTERPRET THE PRESENT, TO SAY NOTHING OF HIS UTTER IGNORANCE OF THE FUTURE. CONTRIBUTING NOTHING AT ALL TO THE MIND OF GOD, AND NOT HAVING SAT IN THE SECRET COUNSEL OF THE MOST HIGH, WHEN HE PLANNED THIS MIRACLE OF THE AGES, WE CALL TIME, LIFE AND EXISTENCE, AND THEREFORE NOT COGNIZANT OF GOD'S REASONS AND PURPOSES, IT BEHOVES MAN TO STAND BY, SILENT, HUMBLE, REVERENT, xxx IN THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT, THAT:

"GOD IS HIS OWN INTERPRETER
AND HE WILL MAKE IT PLAIN."

IN HIS WORD, HOWEVER, GOD HAS REVEALED, THAT "THERE IS A DIVINITY (PROVIDENCE) THAT SHAPES OUR ENDS, THOUGH VIEW THEM AS WE MAY."

THAT GOD, AFTER CREATING THE WORLD, HAS NOT LEFT IT TO SHIFT FOR ITSELF, BUT CONTINUALLY PRESERVES AND IN FATHERLY MERCY CARES FOR IT, NOT FROM A DISTANT RETREAT, BUT BY ACTUAL, UNBROKEN PRESENCE. ROM. 11, 36: "FOR OF HIM, AND THROUGH HIM, AND TO HIM ARE ALL THINGS." ACTS 17, 28: "FOR IN HIM WE LIVE, AND MOVE AND HAVE OUR BEING."

DIVINE PROVIDENCE, SCRIPTURALLY, ANALYSED CONSISTS OF THREE DISTINCT TEACHINGS, GOD'S PRESERVATION OF THE WORLD, HIS CONCURRENCE IN ALL THINGS, AND HIS GOVERNMENT, OR RULE OVER ALL CREATION.

PRESERVATION

ACCORDING TO PRESERVATION GOD SUSTAINS ALL THINGS HE HAS CREATED, SO THAT THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR RESPECTIVE NATURES, KEEPING INTACT THE IMPLANTED PROPERTIES AND POWERS BESTOWED UPON THEM IN CREATION. AS CREATED THINGS HAVE NOT THE POWER OF SUBSISTENCE IN

THEMSELVES, BUT ONLY AS LONG AS GOD UPHOLDS IT, THE WORLD WOULD SOON REVERT TO CHAOS, IF GOD DID NOT CONTINUALLY MAINTAIN GENUS AND SPECIES, AS WELL AS THE STATUTES AND PROGRESSION OF ORDER AND COOPERATION AMONG THEM. THE DISTINCTION BETWEEN CREATION AND PRESERVATION IS ONLY A MATTER OF CONCEPT, OF LOGIC. SCRIPTURE USUALLY PUTS THEM TOGETHER, FOR WHICH CAUSE PRESERVATION HAS BEEN TERMED A "CONTINUOUS CREATION" (CREATIO CONTINUATA).

CONCURRENCE OR COOPERATION

PROVIDENCE, HOWEVER, IMPLIES MORE THAN THE PRESERVATION OF CREATED THINGS FOR IF GOD WOULD NOT DO MORE THAN THAT, WE WOULD HAVE TO TRACE ALL CHANGES AND ACTIONS WHICH OCCUR IN THE WORLD, SOLELY TO THE CREATURE, AND GOD WOULD HAVE NO FURTHER PART, THAN THAT OF GRANTING HIS CREATURE THE POWER AND THE ABILITY FOR SUCH ACTION. SCRIPTURE TEACHES THAT GOD CONCURS, COOPERATES IN ALL THAT TRANSPIRES IN THE WORLD; THAT EVERY SINGLE OPERATION, CHANGE, AND ACTION DEPENDS UPON GOD'S INFLUENCE. NOT THAT GOD HERE IS THE SOLE CAUSE, AS IN CREATION AND PRESERVATION. FOR GOD HAS GIVEN HIS ANIMATE CREATURES A WILL WHICH IS TO EXERCISE ITSELF IN ACTIONS, AND HE HAS IMPLANTED INTO INANIMATE CREATURES CERTAIN PROPERTIES WHICH WE MUST CONSIDER AS THE EFFECTIVE CAUSE OF THESE CHANGES. WERE GOD THE SOLE CAUSE OF ALL ACTIONS, THE WILL OF LIVING CREATURES WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ASSERT ITSELF, AND THE PROPERTIES IMPLANTED INTO LIFELESS THINGS WOULD NEVER BE APPLIED. NEVERTHELESS, GOD IS A CONCURRENCE COOPERATING CAUSE OF ALL THAT HAPPENS.

IN EVERY ACTION ACTION, THEREFORE, WHICH PROCEEDS FROM A CREATURE, THE CREATURE EQUALLY WITH GOD IS THE CAUSE, GOD, HOWEVER, ALWAYS THE COOPERATING CAUSE. EVERY CHANGE, OPERATION, AND ACTION WHICH OCCURS ACCORDINGLY MUST BE REDUCED TO BOTH SIMULTANEOUSLY, TO THE CREATURE AND TO GOD. THIS EXPRESSES THE DOCTRINE OF CON-

CURRENCE. (MITWIRKUNG).

ALTHOUGH GOD COOPERATES IN ALL THINGS THAT HAPPEN THE MANNER OF HIS COOPERATION VARIES GREATLY, ACCORDING TO THE RESPECTIVE CHARACTER OF THE COOPERATING OR SECONDARY CAUSE, AND THE EXIGENCY WHICH MAY EXIST. HE COOPERATES DIFFERENTLY WHEN THE ACTION PROCEEDS FROM AN INANIMATE CREATURE, DIFFERENTLY, WHEN THE SECONDARY CAUSE IS ENDOWED WITH FREE WILL AND DECISION; AGAIN, GOD'S COOPERATION DIFFERS WITH RESPECT TO GOOD AND EVIL ACTIONS. THE GENERAL COOPERATION OF GOD, HOWEVER, IN ALL CASES IS TO BE REGARDED AS IMMEDIATE, AND AT THE SAME TIME A COOPERATION IN WHICH THE RESULT IS NOT DETERMINED BEFOREHAND, (FATALISM) IN WHICH CASE THE ACTUAL PARTICIPATION OF THE SECONDARY CAUSE AND ITS FREEDOM OF ACTION WOULD BE NULLIFIED.

THE DIFFICULT QUESTION; "HOW CAN GOD, CONCURRENCE AS THE PRIMARY CAUSE IN THE EVIL ACTIONS OF MEN, REMAIN WITHOUT RESPONSIBILITY AND BLAME?" IS ANSWERED BY OUR DOGMATICIANS AS FOLLOWS: "GOD CONCURS TO THE END OF THE EFFECT, NOT TO THE END OF THE DEFECT," (DEUM CONCURRENCE AS EFFECTUM, NON AD DEFECTUM) QUENSTEDT. WHICH MEANS, - GOD INDEED HAS GRANTED THE STRENGTH BY WHICH THE EVIL DEED COULD AND SHOULD HAVE BEEN GOOD, BUT IF ON MAN'S PART THIS STRENGTH HAS NOT BEEN APPLIED TO THAT END, THE BLAME IN NO WISE CAN BE ATTRIBUTED TO GOD.

ANOTHER WAY OF EXPRESSING IT "GOD CONCURS TO THE END OF THE MATERIALE (SUBSTANCE), BUT NOT TO THE END OF THE FORMALE (MANNER)". WHICH MEANS, "THE POWER, THE ABILITY IN ITSELF BY WHICH A DEED MAY BE PERFORMED, IS TO BE ATTRIBUTED TO DIVINE COOPERATION, THE USE AND DIRECTION, HOWEVER, TO WHICH THIS ABILITY IS APPLIED, IS LEFT TO MAN'S CHOICE, AND THEREFORE TO BE CHARGED SOLELY TO MAN." THIS BY HÖLLATZ.

ILLUSTRATION: EVE STRETCHED OUT HER HAND. THAT ACTION HAD GOD'S SUPPORT. SHE STRETCHED OUT HER HAND FOR WHAT PURPOSE? ANS. TO TAKE THE FORBIDDEN FRUIT. THIS MISAPPLICATION WAS NOT GOD'S BUT HER OWN ACT AND SIN.

GOVERNMENT

DIVINE PROVIDENCE IMPLIES STILL MORE. GOD NOT ONLY PRESERVES THE WORLD, HE NOT ONLY CONCURS IN ALL AFFAIRS AND ACTIONS OF HIS CREATURES, HE ALSO GOVERNS, RULES, GUIDES, CONTROLS THIS WORLD. GOVERNMENT IS THE ACT OF PROVIDENCE, ACCORDING TO WHICH GOD IN THE BEST WAY ORDERS THE AFFAIRS AND ACTIONS OF HIS CREATURES, CONTROLS AND DIRECTS THEM TO HIS PURPOSES ACCORDING TO WISDOM, JUSTICE AND GOODNESS, TO THE GLORY OF HIS NAME AND TO THE WELFARE OF MAN.

FOR THIS CAUSE EXACTLY GOD PARTICIPATES AND CONCURS IN ALL ACTIONS, IN ORDER TO DIRECT AND CONTROL ALL THE WORLD TO HIS PURPOSES. AS PRESERVATION PERTAINS TO THE EXISTENCE AND CONTINUATION OF CREATED THINGS, SO GOVERNMENT PERTAINS TO THE DOINGS AND ACTIONS OF HIS CREATURES WHICH HE DIRECTS AND GUIDES ACCORDING TO HIS WILL SO THAT THEY MEET HIS PURPOSES. AS GOD INDOWS MAN WITH FREEDOM OF ACTION, AS POINTED OUT PREVIOUSLY IN OUR PAPER, THE METHOD OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT IS THEREBY DETERMINED, NAMELY, HE RULES, SO AS NOT TO INTERFERE WITH MAN'S FREEDOM. THEREFORE MUCH HAPPENS, WHICH WOULD NOT HAPPEN, IF MAN'S FREEDOM WERE NOT PERMITTED THIS SPHERE OF ACTION, AND BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT ATTITUDES OF MEN, WHOM HE WOULD NOT DEPRIVE OF THEIR FREEDOM, GOD IS PROMPTED TO USE DIFFERENT MODES OF RULING THE WORLD. THESE MODES, AS WE KNOW, ARE MANIFOLD, THOUSANDFOLD, MANY THOUSANDFOLD AS PAUL GERHARDT SINGS:

THY WAY IS EVER OPEN;
THOU DOST ON NAUGHT DEPEND;
THINE ACT IS ONLY BLESSING,
THY PATH, LIGHT WITHOUT END.
THY WORK CAN NO MAN HINDER;

THY PURPOSE NONE CAN STAY,
SINCE THOU TO BLESS THY CHILDREN
THROUGH ALL DOST MAKE A WAY.

IN GERMAN, MUCH SMOOTHER AND MORE GRIPPING:

WEG HAST DU ALLER WEGEN,
AN MITTELN FEHLT DIRS NICHT,
DEIN TUN IT LAUTER SEGEN,
DEIN GANG IS LAUTER LICHT,
DEIN WERK GANN NIEMAND HINDERN,
DEIN ARBEIT DARF NICHT RUHN,
WENN DU, WAS DEINEN KINDERN
ERSPRIESLICH IST, WILT TUN.

FOR THE SAKE OF BREVITY, HOWEVER, WE SUM
UP THE MANY WAYS OF DIVINE GOVERNMENT UNDER
THE FOLLOWING FOUR HEADS:

1. GOD PERMITS EVIL.
2. GOD IMPEDES OR CHACKS EVIL.
3. GOD DIRECTS BOTH, GOOD AND EVIL.
4. GOD DETERMINES, THAT IS, HE SETS
BOUNDS AND LIMITS WHICH THE CREATURE
CANNOT PASS.

1. GOD PERMITS EVIL.

GOD DOES NOT RESTRAIN MEN FORCEFULLY
FROM FALLING INTO SIN, BUT FOR JUST REASONS
PERMITS THEM TO FALL INTO SIN. PERMISSION OF
EVIL IS NOT COMPLACENCY ON GOD'S PART AS IF
HE CARED NOT: IT IS NOT RELAXATION OF HIS
HOLY LAW, OR THE GRANTING OF A LICENSE, OR
AN EXEMPTION EVEN TO ONE SINNER; IT IS NOT
IMPOTENCE, FOR GOD IS ALMIGHTY, OR IGNOR-
ANCE, FOR HE IS OMNISCIENT; IT IS NOT AS IF
GOD WERE AN IDLE SPECTATOR WHO DOES NOT
FORBID SIN NOR SET A LIMIT NOR ENFORCE THE
PENALTY OF WICKEDNESS. IT IS PURELY A
NEGATIVE ATTITUDE, A TEMPORARY SUSPENSION
OF A CURB AND OBSTACLE. PS. 81, 12: "SO I
GAVE THEM UP UNTO THEIR OWN HEARTS' LUST
AND THEY WALKED IN THEIR OWN COUNSELS."
ACTS 14, 16: "WHO IN TIMES PAST SUFFERED
ALL NATIONS TO WALK IN THEIR OWN WAYS."
ROM. 1: 21: "WHEREFORE GOD GAVE THEM UP TO

UNCLEANNESSE THROUGH THE LUSTS OF THEIR OWN HEARTS,
TO DISHONOR THEIR OWN BODIES BETWEEN THEMSELVES"
V. 28: "AND EVEN AS THEY DID NOT LIKE TO RETAIN
GOD IN THEIR KNOWLEDGE, GOD GAVE THEM OVER TO A
RETROBATE MIND, TO DO THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE NOT
CONVENIENT."

THUS, IN THE STORY OF JOSEPH, WE FIND THAT
GOD PERMITTED THE CONCEIT OF JOSEPH IN NARRAT-
ING HIS DREAMS WHICH AGRAVATED HIS BROTHERS'
ENVY; HE PERMITTED THE CRUEL AND EXTREME WICKED-
NESS OF JOSEPH'S ABDUCTION, KIDNAPPING AND LATER
JOSEPH'S INNOCENT IMPRISONMENT FOR YEARS IN
EGYPT, ALSO THE BUTLERS CARELESS FORGETFULNESS
OF JOSEPH'S FAVORS UNTIL AN EMERGENCY AROSE.
HE PERMITTED THE MIDIANITES, THE MOABITES, THE
PHILISTINES TO RAID AND RAVAGE THE LAND OF HIS
PEOPLE, THE PHILISTINES EVEN TO ROB AND HOLD
FOR A WHILE THE SACRED ARK OF THE COVENANT. HE
WHO SAYS: "I WILL NOT GIVE MY PRAISE TO GRAVEN
IMAGES" PERMITTED THE NATIONS WHO GRATEFULLY HAD
TURNED THEIR BACKS UPON HIM, TO DESECRATE THAT
HOLY NAME FOR CENTURIES IN THE MOST SHAMEFUL
IDOLATRY: "IN FORGEEARANCE" ROM. 3, 25 "HE SUFFERED
THE NATIONS TO WALK IN THEIR OWN WAYS". ACTS 14,
16: "WINKED AT ⁹CLOSED HIS EYES⁰ AT THE TIMES OF
THEIR IGNORANCE." ACTS 17, 30: "A DEBASEMENT SO
UTTERLY NAUSEATING THAT NOBLER MINDED LEADERS
EVENTUALLY SOUGHT RELIEF IN THE ESTABLISHMENT
OF COUNTERACTING REFORM RELIGIONS AND MOVEMENTS,
SUCH AS BRAHMAISM, ZOROASTRIANISM, BUDDHISM,
CONFUCIANISM, MOHAMMADANISM WHICH SUCCEEDED
TEMPORARILY TO PURGE, AT LEAST, THEIR FOLLOWING
FROM GROSS IDOLATRY, BUT ONLY TO REVERT, IN TIME
TO OTHER AND FINER FORMS OF IDOLATRY, EITHER
WORSHIPPING THEIR FOUNDERS, OR THEIR ANCESTORS,
OR ADOPTING A MORE INTELLECTUAL FORM OF PAGANISM.

2. GOD IMPEDES EVIL.

IN RULING THE WORLD GOD IMPEDES, HINDERS AND
CHECKS EVIL. ACCORDING TO THIS ACT GOD EITHER
PREVENTS THE CONCEPTION OF EVIL ALTOGETHER, OR
HE RESTRICTS THE ACTIONS OF CREATURES ACCORDING

TO HIS WILL, SO THAT THEY DO NOT HAVE THE EFFECT, WHICH THE NATURAL OR FREE-ACTING FORCE OTHERWISE WOULD HAVE.

TO ILLUSTRATE: IN THE STORY OF JOSEPH REUBEN'S INTERFERENCE SAVED THE LIFE OF JOSEPH AGAINST THE HIGH TEMPER AND MURDEROUSNESS OF THE BROTHERS, SO THAT, INSTEAD OF SLAYING HIM THEY CAST HIM INTO THE PIT; ONLY ONE DISSENER THERE WHO HAD IN MIND TO RETURN JOSEPH TO HIS FATHER. AGAIN, THE WELL-TIMED ARRIVAL OF THE ISHMAELITE CARAVAN, AND THE PREDOMINANCE OF THE BROTHER'S GREED OVER THEIR ENVY RESULTED IN THE SELLING OF JOSEPH. JOSEPH'S LIFE, AT LEAST, WAS SPARED. IN EGYPT AGAIN IT WAS POTIPHAR'S WELL-FOUNDED SUSPICION OF HIS WIFE, WHO, ALTHOUGH HE HAD JOSEPH PUT INTO PRISON, NO DOUBTS, TO SHIELD HIS UNFAITHFUL WIFE FROM CERTAIN DISGRACE, YET DID NOT HAVE JOSEPH EXECUTED, WHICH, IF ONE KNOWS EGYPT AT THAT TIME, CERTAINLY WOULD HAVE BEEN JOSEPH'S FATE.

WE ALL KNOW HOW GOD CHECKED THE CRUEL DECREES OF PHARAOH IN THE CASE OF THE CHILD MOSES, BY BRINGING ABOUT THE DISCOVERY AND THE ADOPTION OF THE CHILD BY PHARAOH'S OWN DAUGHTER; HOW GOD FRUSTRATED THE PLAN OF HEROD TO SLAY THE CHRISTCHILD BY THE FAILURE OF THE WISE MEN TO RETURN TO HEROD, AND THE PRECIPITATE FLIGHT TO EGYPT; HOW GOD HINDERED THE DESIGNS AND ATTACKS OF HIS ENEMIES UPON THE LIFE OF JESUS UNTIL THE HOUR HAD COME, WHEN ACCORDING TO GOD'S WILL HE WAS TO BE DELIVERED INTO THEIR WILL AND POWER.

IN LUTHER'S TIME GOD PROTECTED LUTHER'S LIFE AND THE NEWLY PLANTED REFORMATION BY THE MENACE OF THE TURKS WHO, BEGINNING WITH THE CONQUEST OF CONSTANTINOPLE IN 1453, HAD MADE DEEP INROADS AND WERE THREATENING TO OVERPOWER ALL EUROPE, WHICH MENACE FORCED THE POPE AND PAPAL STATES TO MAINTAIN UNITY AND PEACE WITH THE PROTESTANT PRINCES FOR POLITICAL REASONS, WHICH TOGETHER WITH MANY OTHER

CUMSTANCES RESULTED IN THE PRESERVATION OF LUTHER'S LIFE WHO BESIDES BEING EXCOMMUNICATED BY THE POPE, HAD BEEN DISENFRANCHISED BY THE EMPEROR. THAT LUTHER DIED A NATURAL DEATH, IS NOTHING LESS THAN MIRACULOUS.

3. DIRECTION OF GOOD AND EVIL

IN GOVERNING THE WORLD, GOD DIRECTS BOTH GOOD AND EVIL TO SERVE HIS PURPOSES; THE GOOD WHICH MEN SPEAK AND DO IN OBEDIENCE TO HIS WILL THAT IT MAY BRING ABOUT THE END AND OBJECT, INTENDED BY GOD, AS FOR INSTANCE, THE SUCCESS AND BLESSINGS WHICH ACCOMPANY THE PREACHING OF THE GOSPEL; EVIL ACTIONS, HOWEVER, HE STEERS TO CERTAIN ENDS AND PURPOSES, DETERMINED BY HIM, WHICH SINNERS, OF COURSE, DO NOT SEE, AND WHICH OFTEN ARE CONTRARY TO THEIR INTENTIONS, AS ACCORDING TO THE PROVERB; "HE THAT DIGGETH A PIT SHALL FALL INTO IT. ECCLES. 10, 3.

ILLUSTRATIONS: SAUL'S ANNTMENT BY SAMUEL AND HIS EVENTUAL ELECTION TO KINGSHIP OF ISRAEL I SAM. 9, 17; 10, 21.

AGAIN WE TURN TO THE STORY OF JOSEPH. THE PURPOSE OF GOD, INDICATED IN JOSEPH'S DREAMS, AFTER MUCH SIN ON THE PART OF HIS BROTHERS AND OTHERS, AND MUCH HUMILIATION TO JOSEPH, BY WHICH GOD HAD TRAINED HIM, WAS EVENTUALLY ACHIEVED, WHEN JOSEPH WAS EXALTED TO HIS HIGH STATION IN EGYPT, WHICH HE USED, NOT FOR REVENGE BUT TO SAVE HIS BROTHERS AND THEIR FAMILIES FROM STARVATION, AND SUMMING UP THE WHOLE MYSTERY OF GOD'S WONDERFUL LEADING, JOSEPH SAID UNTO THEM: "FEAR NOT, FOR AM I IN THE PLACE OF GOD? BUT AS FOR YOU, YE THOUGHT EVIL AGAINST ME; BUT GOD MEANT IT UNTO GOOD, TO BRING TO PASS, AS IT IS THIS DAY, TO SAVE MUCH PEOPLE ALIVE." GEN. 50, 20. IN LIKE MANNER GOD'S WISDOM AND POWER, MERCY AND TRUTH OVERRULED THE MOST ATROCIOUS CRIME EVER PERPETRATED, THE JUDICIAL MURDER AND CRUCIFIXION OF HIS SON SO AS TO RESULT IN THE GREATEST BLESSING BESTOWED UPON MANKIND, "THE SAVING OF MUCH PEOPLE ALIVE".

4. PROVIDENTIAL DETERMINATION

FINALLY, IN RULING THE WORLD, GOD DETERMINES THE ACTIONS OF CREATURES, THAT IS, HE CONFINES THEM TO CERTAIN LIMITS AND BOUNDS WHICH THEY CANNOT PASS.

THE DAY OF GOD'S INFINITE LONGSUFFERING AND PATIENCE, DURING WHICH HE PERMITS EVIL, OR ONLY HINDERS EVIL, OR IN HIS WISDOM OVERRULES EVIL TO ACCOMPLISH HIS PURPOSES, FINALLY ENDS, TO BE FOLLOWED BY THE DARK NIGHT OF HIS DISPLEASURE, WRATH, AND JUDGMENT, IN WHICH HE DETERMINES, EITHER TO CUT OFF THE EVIL AGENT ALTOGETHER, OR TO SET BOUNDS AND LIMITS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE.

DETERMINATION IS THE ACT OF RULING PROVIDENCE ACCORDING TO WHICH GOD INSTITUTES CERTAIN BARRIERS WITH RESPECT TO TIME, TERRITORY AND DEGREE OF POWER, AGAINST THE MIGHT, ACTIONS AND PASSIONS OF CREATURES, OVER WHICH THEY CANNOT PASS. HERE GOD SAYS: "HITHERTO SHALT THOU COME, BUT NO FURTHER: AND HERE SHALL THE PRIDE OF THY WAVES BE STAYED." JOB. 38, 11 SUCH LIMITS AND BOUNDS WHEREBY GOD EITHER KEEPS MAN IN HIS PLACE, OR CUTS HIM OFF, ARE MAN'S CONSCIENCE, CIVIL GOVERNMENT, MARRIAGE, SICKNESS AND INSANITY, DEATH FROM NATURAL OR ACCIDENTAL CAUSES, DESTRUCTIVE AND DEATH DEALING CATASTROPHIES, SUCH AS WARS AND REVOLUTIONS, FAMINIES, PESTILENCE DRAUGHTS AND FLOODS, CYCLONES AND EARTHQUAKES, FIRES, COLLISIONS ETC.

THUS GOD LIMITED SATAN'S POWER, IN THAT SATAN WAS ALLOWED TO TOUCH JOB'S POSSESSIONS BUT NOT HIS BODY; HE WAS ALLOWED TO TOUCH JOB'S BODY AND HEALTH BUT NOT HIS LIFE. JOB. 1, 2; HE BROUGHT TO NAUGHT THE BOASTFUL DESIGN OF THE BUILDERS OF THE TOWER AT BABEL BY CONFUSING THEIR TONGUES; HE TURNED ARROGANT SENNACHERIB BACK FROM THE SIEGE OF JERUSALEM TO HIS ASSYRIAN CAPITOL BY SLAYING

105,000 MEN OF HIS ARMY IN ONE NIGHT, TRUE TO ISAIAH'S PROPHECY, THUS GRANTING JUDAH ANOTHER CENTURY OF INDEPENDENCE AND GRACE; HE STOPPED THE PRIDE OF NEBUCHADNEZZAR BY SEVEN YEARS OF HUMILIATING INSANITY; HE DETERMINED THE ISSUE BETWEEN TWO EMPIRES BY THE DECISIVE BATTLE AT PLATAEA (SALAMIS) WHEN MIGHTY XERXES, THE SON IN LAW OF CYRUS, WAS DEFEATED AND FORCED TO RE-TRACE HIS STEPS TO PERSIA IN THE YEAR 480 BY THE GREAT VICTORY OF CHARLES MARTEL AT POITIERS IN FRANCE; HE TURNED THE FANATICAL MOHAMMADAN MOORS BACK ACROSS THE PYRENNIES TO CONFINE THEM TO THEIR MOORISH KINGDOM IN SPAIN; PROUD NAPOLEON, WHO BOASTED: "GOD FAVORS THE SIDE WHICH HAS THE MOST CANNON", WAS FINALLY DEFEATED AT WATERLOO IN 1815 BY THE MERE CIRCUMSTANCE OF ALL NIGHT HEAVY RAIN, RESULTING IN DEEP MUD WHICH HINDERED THE MOVEMENT OF HIS MANY CANNON, AND DELAYED THE BATTLE LONG ENOUGH FOR THE PRUSSIAN ARMY UNDER BLUECHER TO ARRIVE AND DEAL THE DECIDING BLOW, AFTER WHICH NAPOLEON WAS EXILED TO ST. HELENA FOR THE REMAINDER OF HIS DAYS.

WORLD WAR I AND THE PRESENT WAR ARE BRIMFULL OF SUCH INSTANCES OF GOD'S DETERMINING RULE AND POWER, WHICH SOME DAY, WHEN TIME SHALL HAVE REDUCED THESE EXTRAORDINARY EVENTS TO THEIR PROPER PROSPECTIVE, WILL BE DULY RECOGNIZED.

WITH THIS PARAGRAPH WE HAVE COME TO THE CONCLUSION OF OUR TREATISE. YOUR ESSAYIST, HOWEVER, IS LOATH TO CLOSE WITHOUT A FEW OBSERVATIONS ON OUR PRESENT WORLD SITUATION IN WORDS HE TRUSTS WILL SERVE AS A FITTING FINISH TO THIS PAPER, AND IMPRESS US WITH THE COMFORT AS WELL AS THE GRAVE WARNING, WHICH LIE IN THIS LESSON ON "THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD IN HISTORY".

THIS DISASTROUS CATAclysm WHICH IS FLOODING ALL THE EARTH HAS NOT COME BY CHANCE NOR BY A DECREE OF ABSOLUTE FATE, IT, TOO, IS A MANIFESTATION OF THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD. IT IS, OF

COURSE, EXORBITANT IN ITS SCOPE, BUT GENERALLY SPEAKING NOT EXACTLY UNPARALLELED. IT HAS ITS PRELUDES IN THE NAPOLEONIC WARS, THE 30 YR. WAR, AND PARTICULARLY IN THE WARS WHICH DECIDED WORLD LEADERSHIP IN ANCIENT TIMES, AS WHEN EGYPT'S WORLD DOMINION PASSED TO ASSYRIA, ASSYRIA'S TO BABYLONIA, BABYLON'S TO MEDO-PERSIA, MEDO-PERSIA'S TO THE MACEDONIAN - GREEK, AND THE GREEK MACEDONIAN FINALLY TO THE IRON RULE OF ROME. THESE WARS ALSO REVEAL RIVERS OF BLOOD AND CRUEL OUTRAGES THAT BEGGAR ALL DESCRIPTION. ROME, AT THE HEIGHT OF HER POWER SCARCELY PASSED A YEAR WITHOUT, AT LEAST, ONE WAR IN ONE OF HER 27 PROVINCES. AND IN BETWEEN THESE LARGER CHANGES, BOTH IN ANCIENT TIMES AND AFTER THE FALL OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE, THERE WERE WARS AMONG THE LESSER NATIONS ON ISSUES, WHICH DECIDE THE RISE OR THE DECLINE AND FALL OF KINGDOMS, SUCH AS CONQUESTS, BROKEN TREATIES, UNION OF SOVEREIGNTIES BY MARRIAGE, INHERITANCE, PURCHASE, ADVANTAGE OF TRADE ETC, MAINLY IT WAS AMBITION, BY WHICH THE STRONGER SOUGHT TO OVERPOWER THE WEAKER WITHOUT CAUSE, OR ONLY THE PRETEXT OF A CAUSE, UNJUST WARS. MANY OF THESE WARS WERE JUST, ALTHOUGH GOD IN HIS INSCRUTABLE GUIDANCE DID NOT ALWAYS GRANT THE JUST CAUSE VICTORY. FOR AS THE LAW, OR INSTINCT OF SELF-PRESERVATION IS INHERENT IN THE SOUL OF MAN THE LAW WILL NATURALLY EVINCE ITSELF IN THE SOUL OF A NATION. AND IT IS NOT ONLY HUMAN BUT JUST AND IMPERITIVE TO ASSERT THAT LAW ON BEHALF OF SELF, AND OTHERS.

BUT NOW GOD, AS WE HAVE SEEN, PERMITS EVIL, DOES NOT CURB AND STOP IT IMMEDIATELY AND ALWAYS BY ALMIGHTY FORCE, AND DIRECTS IT EVENTUALLY TO SERVE HIS WISE PURPOSES. THIS METHOD OF GOD'S RULE HAS NOT CHANGED NOW, AND CONSEQUENTLY PEOPLE OF ALL LANDS BECAUSE OF THIS. AND WHETHER UNDER THE RULE OF THE

VICTOR OR THE VANQUISHED SUFFER MORE, OR LESS. WHY?

IT IS A JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON SIN AGAINST HIS COMMANDMENTS, THE PENALTY OF WHICH IS AS RELENTLESS AND INESCAPABLE, AS THAT OF BREAKING A NATURAL LAW; IT PREEMINENTLY A JUDGMENT OF GOD UPON THE REJECTION OF HIS GOSPEL BY ALL LANDS INVOLVED, WHO HAVE HEAPED GUILT UPON THEMSELVES, BY THEIR CONTEMPT AND INDIFFERENCE TOWARDS THE GOSPEL, THEIR OPPOSITION AND PERSECUTION, OR THEIR APOSTACY FROM THE GOSPEL; A JUST RETRIBUTION FOR TRODDING UNDER FOOT THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF HIS BELOVED SON AND FOR RUNNING COUNTER TO THE STONE HE HAS MADE THE HEAD CORNERSTONE OF HIS GRACIOUS SALVATION. FOR GOD NOT ONLY DESIRES THAT ALL MEN BE SAVED, BUT HAS ALSO CALLED THEM EARNESTLY AND POWERFULLY THESE 2000 YEARS.

THEREFORE TIMES OF WAR, LIKE ALL CALAMITIES WHICH ARE IN THE GUIDING HAND OF GOD SHOULD MOVE ALL MEN TO REPENTENCE, UNBELIEVERS TO TURN TO GOD IN CHRIST, AND CHRISTIANS TO DEEPER REPENTENCE, FOR CHRISTIANS IN THEMSELVES ARE BY NO MEANS GUILTLESS AND UNBLAMABLE.

THIS WAR, HOWEVER, IS NOT A JUDGMENT, A MANIFESTATION OF GOD'S WRATH FOR CHRISTIANS. THEIR SINS ARE FORGIVEN, GOD HAS CAST THEM BEHIND HIS BACK, HE NO LONGER PUNISHES FOR SINS WHICH HE REMEMBERS NO MORE, YET THESE TIMES ARE FATHERLY CHASTISEMENTS, THROUGH WHICH CHRISTIANS WILL AND SHOULD COME NEARER TO THEIR GOD AND SAVIOR BY HIS WORD AND SPIRIT, IN TRUER FAITH, IN WARMER LOVE, AND STRONGER HOPE. FOR ON THE GROUND OF GOD'S PROMISES THEY MAY HAVE THE COMFORT, THAT GOD IN HIS PROVIDENCE IS BY NO MEANS OVERLOOKING MEN WHOM HE CALLS "THE APPLE OF HIS EYE". HIS PROVIDENCE WHICH PERTAINS TO ALL CREATURES PERTAINS IN A SPECIAL WAY TO MAN WHOM HE HAS CREATED ORIGINALLY AFTER HIS OWN IMAGE, THE FOREMOST OF HIS WORKS, THE MASTERPIECE OF HIS CREATION, BUT IN A MOST SPECIAL MANNER HIS PROVIDENCE PERTAINS UNTO HIS CHILDREN, HIS BELIEVERS IN THE

CHRIST, WHO HAS RESTORED THE IMAGE OF GOD, AND IS RENEWING IT IN THEM DAILY IN WHOM THEY ARE CHOSEN BEFORE THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD, AND FOR WHOSE ELECT'S SAKE HE PROMISES TO SHORTEN THOSE DAYS OF TERROR AND TROUBLE WHICH SHALL OVERWHELM MEN IN THE TIME OF THE END.