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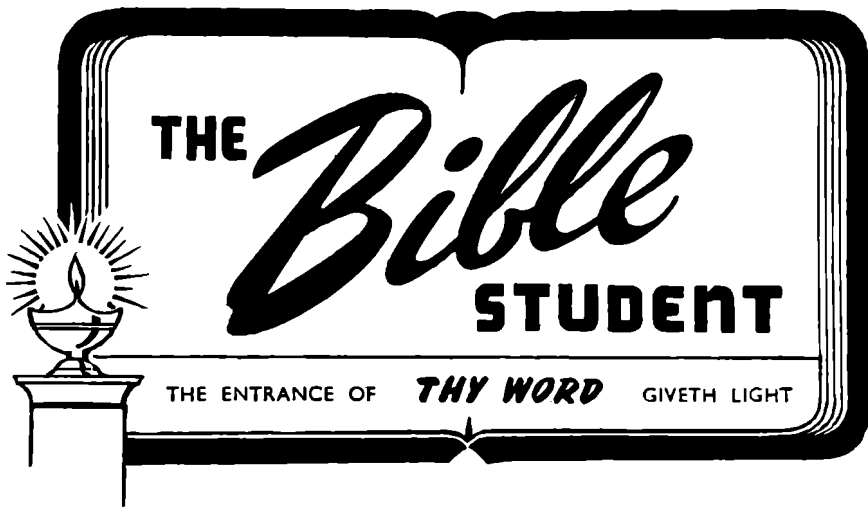
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New Series
Vol. XXV. No. 4

OCTOBER
1954

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Editor: A. McDONALD REDWOOD

any man to forecast millenniums ahead and to portray their unfoldings with accuracy. Only the Spirit of God could do that.

The Lord Jesus is the speaker in each letter, but each affirms that the Spirit also is the Speaker. 'Let him hear what the Spirit saith'. The Persons of the Godhead are One, and none acts independently of the other. Thus *God* gave the revelation: the *Lord Jesus* speaks in the letters: and the voice of the *Spirit* must be heeded.

Moreover, what is written to one church is a message for all. 'Let him hear what the Spirit saith to the Churches'. What happens to one should be a lesson for all: 'all the churches shall know' (Rev. 2:23). This is a most important principle. The doctrines and practices as written by Paul apply to 'all the churches of the saints' (see I Cor. 7:17; 14:33; 11:16; 16:1). While each church is independent of the other administratively, (no church having right to meddle with the affairs of another) all are, nevertheless, bound to each other by the common tie of responsibility to the same Lord, whose commands should be obeyed by all. The peculiar suitability of each of these letters to the special circumstances of any one church does not affect the applicability of its message to all.

(To be concluded in next issue)

A THIRD TEMPLE IN JERUSALEM

DR J. E. SHELLEY

President Ben Zvi said tonight that 'our generation standing on the verge of the Third Temple would not wait as long for the ingathering of the exiles as had our ancestors'. (Extract from *The Palestine Post*, February, 1954).

The third temple! Even at this late hour there are some Christians who vigorously affirm that our Lord's prediction that 'the abomination of desolation spoken of by Daniel the prophet would stand in the holy place' (of the temple) was completely and finally fulfilled in A.D. 70 when Titus destroyed the temple.

A discussion of these views is not the object of these remarks. It is sufficient to say that if this view is correct no third temple is yet to be erected on the temple area in Jerusalem. This area, it is well-known, is now called the 'Haram-Es-Sherif', and contains the Dome of the Rock, and the Mosque of Aksa and other buildings. The Israeli advanced positions, outside the Damascus Gate, are now within a few hundred yards of the area.

(Continued on page 204)

the prize goes to the overcomers, are designed to inspire the Christian athlete with the necessary self-discipline, persistent effort, and eager expectation, in view of the imminent appearing of the Lord Jesus (*cf.* 1 Cor. 9:25-27 and 1 Tim. 6:12-14).

There can be no doubt that the uniform testimony of the early Church to the personal and near return of the Lord Jesus constituted a source not only of comfort in persecution and trial but of inspiration to achieve and endure. History demonstrates that the Church is never so virile and strong as when this glorious truth is held in prominence and enjoyed in personal experience.

We have purposely refrained from going into details, our desire being to inspire the heart with an increased joyful anticipation of the glorious event predicted.

(Continued from page 197)

The only really effective military force opposing the Jews anywhere on their frontiers is the Jordan army. This army is in occupation of the old city of Jerusalem. But the total strength of the Jordan forces is less than one hundred thousand. These are well-trained men efficiently officered and courageous, but admittedly deficient in the equipment of modern warfare such as aeroplanes, tanks, etc. Whereas the Jewish forces are estimated at more than two hundred and fifty thousand, exceedingly well equipped as compared with the Jordan army, there is no doubt that they could at any time overwhelm the latter and occupy all Jerusalem.

The area where *alone* the third temple could be erected and sacrificial ritual begun could be seized at any moment. At present world political considerations are holding Israel back.

It is to be noted that the statement that 'Israel is now on the verge of the third temple', was *not* made by any 'enthusiastic' believer in the futurist school of prophecy. It was made by the *President* of the restored State of Israel!

No observer, who has *any first hand* knowledge of the conditions in Israel and Jordan, believes that the present uneasy truce can last very long.

No observer, who has *any first hand* knowledge of the dissensions between so-called Arab States and the corruption and dissensions within them, has the slightest doubt as to what would be the result of the breaking of that truce. It will not be long before this question of prophecy is settled and many more with it.—*Advent Witness*.