

# The Elim Pentecostal Herald

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## Human Organization

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In Part One, January issue, we considered several kinds of error that block spiritual progress. In this Part Two we face one of the greatest errors: the Human Organization of God's people into man-made systems. The object of such organizations is to set people into such system and order that they may be under the rule, control and leadership of those set over them.

That it is necessary for men to be brought under control is easily seen. But the error is bringing men under control of human rulers who are not under Jesus Christ but are controlled by their own choices, wishes and desires.

The first organization of record is at the building of the tower of Babel. Upon this God sent His disapproving judgement; a confusion of tongues which still exists.

The original Divine plan was that business, government and religion should all be under the government and instruction of God. Accordingly He set forth under Moses a pattern nation. To Israel He gave complete laws for governments, business, nation, family and religion. So here was a sample of the Divine plan for mankind.

To Moses was given the Divine pattern of all that pertained to worship. He settled all difficulties, questions, between man and man, or families—all was brought to God for Divine decision—a government from and by God, a sample nation before the whole world. Such a sample, Israel, as God intended, never fully became, though they were wonderfully governed by God at times.

The Lord again set forth His ways when He built the New Testament church. It was the most unique and powerful institution ever seen in the world. But again God's plan was spoiled by the intrusion of man's methods. Man's invented means and methods were substituted for the ways of God. Magnetic psychological powers of man used to bring men to religion, instead of the dynamite of God to bring to a saving knowledge of God. The supernatural works of God, such as Revelation, Prophecy, Personal contact with God in conviction, Repentance, Sonship, Gift of Holy Spirit and the like, were neglected;

and instead, attention turned to outward ordinances, forms, so-called church order, intricate questions as to the nature of the Divine Being, Relation of the Divine and human natures in Christ, and such questions as do not lead to spirituality but tend to doctrine and theory.

Scholastic study, and man's theories developed a ministry, learned, eloquent and attractive but lacking the endowment of power.

The government of the church gradually dropped down from a supernatural rule of the Lord Jesus through the gifts and powers of the Holy Spirit to control by the will of man. Christ no longer was the Head of His Church. But instead of the Divine Head, a vast ecclesiastical monopoly sprang up in the form of churches, known by such names as Roman and Greek Catholic, Lutheran, Episcopal, Methodist, Church of God, etc. None of these institutions have any authority given them by God or Jesus Christ. All the power they have or authority they exercise is from and by man and is an assumption and amounts to a monopoly and usurpation of that which belongs to God, to which they have no God-given right.

Like a huge octopus, with these churches as its great arms, these institutions have absorbed and brought death to spirituality again and again. In Revelation, chapters 16 to 19, this colossal set of systems is called Babylon, which means confusion, a mixture of spiritual and carnal things—things from God among things of man.

We have entered a period of time described in Acts 3:19-24, and called "the times of the restoration of all things." It is connected with the return of the Lord to earth.

In order to make essential preparation for this return of Christ, the true church is now in process of restoration, and must soon come forth in the glory, power and victory she once had.

When she thus once more shines forth, the children of God will hear the cry, "Come out of her (Babylon), my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Rev. 18:4.

It is not difficult to see that Babylon is that great city. (Rev. 16:19; 17:18). She is

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of the three parts of civilization; government, business, and religion. Government, (See Rev. 17:1, 2, 6, 18).

There comes forth a messenger with a message from heaven, mighty and thrilling, "Fallen, fallen is Babylon the great: and hath become a cavern of demons, and the home of every unclean and hateful bird, and the home of every unclean spirit, and the home of every unclean and hateful beast of prey." Rev. 18:2, Syriac Version, tells of the terrible state of fallen Christianity, called Babylon. As ancient Israel was carried to Babylon, so is Christianity carried captive from spiritual Zion and Jerusalem into earthly Babylon.

Fierce battles have been waged in the spiritual realm over the retaining or restoring of faith and experience of salvation, healing, holiness, baptism in the Spirit and other truths. But the most far-reaching and deeply entrenched of all is the reverence, fear and obedience which men deem due these ancient and so called holy churches. It seems sacrilegious to show what they really are, yet Revelation speaks of the many names of blasphemy.

We may therefore expect there will be mighty and fierce conflicts before these great man-made orders are dethroned and Christ be recognized as the Head of His Church; and the usurpation of authority and rule of man shall cease.

But God Himself says, "Her sins have reached unto Heaven, God hath remembered her iniquities" (Rev. 18:5). And she shall be utterly burned with fire: for strong is the Lord God who judgeth her". (Rev. 18:8)

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Cordials are a cruelty to the sufferer on the wheel: he only longs for the fatal blow, not food or sustenance. If it were possible to weaken him and hasten his death, we should abridge his sufferings.

Ask then neither remedies, sustenance, nor death: to ask death is impatience: to ask food or remedies is to prolong our agony. What, then, shall we do? Let alone; seek nothing; confess everything, not as a means of consolation, but through humility and desire to yield. Look to me not as a source of life but as a means of death.

[Abridged]

Africa

Addis Ababa,

Ethiopia.

Surely we have much to give thanks to God for in this land, for the way in which He has lead us since we left home one year ago to-night. Time passes very quickly on the field and especially when we are busy in His vineyard.

The school is growing daily. There are now 89 enrolled. Will you please pray that those at home who have been called to this field might be thrust forth. There are five who have the vision of the need and would gladly come if they had financial help. There would be enough work right at the capital to keep all busily engaged in the Master's service.

How we wish that you could hear the testimonies of one after another as they thank God He has heard their prayer and sent them help. We had no idea that the Lord would send us all the way to Africa to minister to these dear people (Armenians and Greeks.) Perhaps some in the home land many think as we thought, that the need would be greater among the people in the interior, but it is appalling to see the great need among the Armenians and Greeks in this city.

We intended to have the prayer meeting Tuesday afternoon for the women and girls, but the boys and young men from the school always attend. We have anywhere from 30 to 40 in attendance. At the last prayer meeting there were five or six Greeks. We wish we had some one to start a work among them.

Our Armenian teacher in our school gave the following testimony: "I thought that God had forsaken us before you came. I had visited different missions but my heart was not satisfied. I went also to the Catholic Church, but could not understand their service. When I went to your service, I said, 'This is what I want.' She confessed her possession of salvation that afternoon and mourned the wasted years. We told her to seek for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. She said when she first heard of our being here, 'They will be like all the others. They will come and go.' She is pleased to find that we do not plan to go.

Lovingly in Him,

Ellen C French

Bertha Dommermuth

Ruth M. Shippey

"But know that the Lord hath set apart him that is godly for himself; the Lord will hear when I call unto Him." Ps. 4:3.