

## Obligations of a Great People

From Ronald L. Dart's *Born to Win* Notes

The three memorial services for Ronald Reagan, with all the formality that went with them, were strangely touching. It was altogether fitting to have such memorials for one of the great presidents of the greatest and most powerful nation the world has ever seen. And as I watched the greatest nation bury one of her greatest presidents, I was overwhelmed with an awareness of how great, how wealthy, how powerful this nation has become. And some questions grew in my mind.

- To what do we owe our greatness as a people?
- Are there any obligations that go with that greatness, that power?

In their own days, Greece and Rome were great and powerful. And the British Empire at its peak was indeed a great empire. These were nations that created empires. There is no American Empire, because Americans have never wanted one.

It is no secret that one of the beliefs that characterized the churches in our tradition for many years was what is often called "British Israelism." And we should avoid that term. It has been coopted by overtly racist organizations and beliefs that we simply do not share.

And many of the theories advanced for the modern identity of Israel are flawed at best. There is no way to trace the identity of Israel through history or genetics.

For one thing, the blessings of God do not follow strict genetic lines. We have examples in the Bible of God taking a blessing or birthright away and giving it to another. "Not as though the word of God hath taken none effect. For they are not all Israel, which are of Israel: Neither, because they are the seed of Abraham, are they all children: but, In Isaac shall thy seed be called. That is, They which are the children of the flesh, these are not the children of God: but the children of the promise are counted for the seed. For this is the word of promise, At this time will I come,

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

#### Obligations of a Great People

from Ronald L. Dart's notes ..... 1

#### Double or Triple Your Donations .... 1

#### Holding Nothing Back

By John Klassek..... 2

#### Short Takes..... 2

#### The CEM Feast Advantage

By Allie Dart ..... 4

and Sara shall have a son" (Romans 9:6-9).

"And not only this; but when Rebecca also had conceived by one, even by our father Isaac; (For the children being not yet born, neither having done any good or evil, that the purpose of God according to election might stand, not of works, but of him that calleth;) It was said unto her, The elder shall serve the younger. As it is written, Jacob have I loved, but

*continued on page 3. . .*

### ***Double or Triple Your Donations. . .***

Many employers offer matching gift programs. Those programs match any charitable contributions made by their employees and sometimes, even gifts made by retirees and/or spouses. All you have to do is check with the personnel office where you work to see if you are eligible and what your company's program affords you. If the company for which you work has a matching gift program, request a matching gift form, complete and sign it, and include it with your gifts. What this could mean is doubling or possibly tripling your gifts to *Born to Win* and CEM.

## Holding Nothing Back

by John Klassek

Initially I didn't know what to make of the observation that, "Jesus didn't tithe his blood!"

"What do you mean?" I asked my friend, who then looked at me rather surprised, as if to say, "Don't you get it?" Well, now in hindsight, I suppose I do. Jesus gave his everything, his last drop of blood, to pay for my sins. He spared nothing to accomplish what only he could do. And so when I'm reminded of that at the Christian Passover evening every year, I'm sobered, humbled, and very, very thankful.

And that leads me to the next point that sometimes I find troubling. You see, Jesus troubled himself for my sake, and so I can't help but ask, "What does he then want of me?" I didn't ask to be born. I didn't ask to live. I didn't seek God; he sought me. His calling was just thrust on me. And don't get me wrong, I'm really, really glad.

But with privilege comes responsibility. And that's just it. What does God want of me? Here, Jesus' words come into focus: "Not everyone who says to Me, 'Lord, Lord,' shall enter the kingdom of heaven, but he who does the will of My Father in heaven" (Matthew 7:21). If accepting

Jesus as Lord, Creator, and Savior isn't enough, then what, specifically, is the "will of My Father"? What does God really want? That is the question.

In the light of liberal theology that says, in effect, that the Ten Commandments were done away with, that the Law of God is irrelevant today, and that we're acceptable to God "just as I am," that's hard to answer. But what if God still has "requirements" of us? What if God still wants our obedience? What if God still wants to "test" our faith, as he did with Abraham? What if, as in Jesus' words, we're to "Render therefore to Caesar's, and to God the things that are God's" (Matthew 22:21)?

See, Abraham gave a tenth of all his goods, and in this passage Jesus is quite explicit in saying that tithing is still as relevant today as it was back then. And yet, elsewhere, Jesus also implies that God still wants more from us. "Seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you," said Jesus (Matthew 6:33). That is the equation given to us. Put God first in everything, don't hold anything back

from him, and then delight in seeing him provide for you—food, clothing, shelter, and anything else you might need.

But in real life, for most people, that is a hard call to make! An old widow seemed to have understood this when she gave of her entire savings—her very last two coins—into the Temple treasury. She put everything of hers in faith in God's care. That, of course, begs the question: Didn't she forget that she needed to buy dinner that night? Wasn't she simply financially irresponsible? Didn't she realize how corrupt the Temple authorities were? No, apparently Jesus thought very highly of her faith, and commended her as a shining example (Luke 21:1-4).

A careful reading of the Scriptures tells us that everything is God's. He made it. He sustains it. And he apparently makes demands of it. What we do with it, then, is up to us. That's where faith comes in. "Are you generous with Me?" asks God. "Do you really put Me first? Do you really love Me with all your heart, mind, soul and strength?" It's a question we might all ponder!

---

## Short Takes

Uppermost in the minds of our readers and listeners is the question of how Ron Dart is doing—how is he progressing in his recovery. All of us look forward eagerly to the time when he can once again teach and preach with the depth and insight that we all enjoy so much. There is much that Ron can communicate right now, if we but take the time to listen. More and more, as he listens to his own broadcasts, watches the news, or attends a church service, he'll make a comment. We've decided to collect a few of his comments to share with you each month in this column.

Speaking about listening to the *Knowing Jesus* CD Series, Mr. Dart had this to say: "I've got something I don't want you to miss. It's inaccurate to say I enjoyed it—it's bigger than that. I'm stirred up. I'm finding things I had forgotten I knew."

*Obligations of a Great People  
continued from page 1 . . .*

Esau have I hated.

“What shall we say then? Is there unrighteousness with God? God forbid. For he saith to Moses, I will have mercy on whom I will have mercy, and I will have compassion on whom I will have compassion. So then it is not of him that willeth, nor of him that runneth, but of God that showeth mercy” (Romans 9:10-16).

I said that God removes birthrights from one and gives them to another. Just how far reaching is this applied? Consider this instance in the words of Jesus. “And when he was come into the temple, the chief priests and the elders of the people came unto him as he was teaching, and said, By what authority doest thou these things? and who gave thee this authority?” It was the Jewish leaders that raised the question of authority, and they got an answer they did not expect.

“And Jesus answered and said unto them, I also will ask you one thing, which if ye tell me, I in like wise will tell you by what authority I do these things. The baptism of John, whence was it? from heaven, or of men? And they reasoned with themselves, saying, If we shall say, From heaven; he will say unto us, Why did ye not then believe him? But if we shall say, Of men; we fear the people; for all hold John as a prophet. And they answered Jesus, and said, We cannot tell. And he said unto them, Neither tell I you by what authority I do these things.

“But what think ye? A certain man had two sons; and he came to the first, and said, Son, go work

today in my vineyard. He answered and said, I will not: but afterward he repented, and went. And he came to the second, and said likewise. And he answered and said, I go, sir: and went not. Whether of them twain did the will of his father? They say unto him, The first. Jesus saith unto them, Verily I say unto you, That the publicans and the harlots go into the kingdom of God before you” (Matthew 21:23-31).

Now right here we can stumble over a term. We have a habit of expecting the Bible to do something we never do ourselves. We don't always mean exactly, precisely the same thing when we use a phrase. Neither does the Bible. Normally, some would take this phrase to mean that the publicans and harlots would go to heaven before the Priests and elders of Judah.

Or, if not heaven, at least to be in the resurrection in the kingdom of God. But in context, is that the way Jesus uses the terms? “For John came unto you in the way of righteousness, and ye believed him not: but the publicans and the harlots believed him: and ye, when ye had seen it, repented not afterward, that ye might believe him. Hear another parable: There was a certain householder, which planted a vineyard, and hedged it round about, and digged a winepress in it, and built a tower, and let it out to husbandmen, and went into a far country: And when the time of the fruit drew near, he sent his servants to the husbandmen, that they might receive the fruits of it. And the husbandmen took his servants, and beat one, and killed another, and stoned another. Again, he sent other servants more than the

first: and they did unto them likewise. But last of all he sent unto them his son, saying, They will reverence my son. But when the husbandmen saw the son, they said among themselves, This is the heir; come, let us kill him, and let us seize on his inheritance. And they caught him, and cast him out of the vineyard, and slew him. When the lord therefore of the vineyard cometh, what will he do unto those husbandmen?

“They say unto him, He will miserably destroy those wicked men, and will let out his vineyard unto other husbandmen, which shall render him the fruits in their seasons. Jesus saith unto them, 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? Therefore say I unto you, The kingdom of God shall be taken from you, and given to a nation bringing forth the fruits thereof” (Matthew 21:28-43).

You can't take something from people that they do not have. So the Kingdom of God cannot be merely a synonym for going to heaven. Nor for the resurrection. “And whosoever shall fall on this stone shall be broken: but on whomsoever it shall fall, it will grind him to powder. And when the chief priests and Pharisees had heard his parables, they perceived that he spake of them. But when they sought to lay hands on him, they feared the multitude, because they took him for a prophet” (Matthew 21:44-46).

There is a standing joke among Jewish people. Lord, I know we are the chosen people, but, next time,

*Obligations of a Great People  
continued from page 3. . .*

Dear God, please choose someone else.

All this arose in my mind as I considered my two questions. To what do we owe our greatness as a people? Are there any obligations that go with that greatness, that power?

As to the first question, it is not so easy to answer.

- It isn't that we are better people than anyone else.
- It isn't that we have more natural resources than anyone else.
- It isn't that our country is so big.

So what is it? The answer to these two questions is critical in your understanding the Bible and your obligations that now rest on us individually because of the greatness God has bestowed upon us as a great people. This pivotal *Born to Win* program, by Ronald L. Dart, *Obligations of a Great People*, will shed a clear light on your obligations and bring your individual obligation into focus. *Obligations of a Great People* is absolutely *FREE*. Call 1-888-BIBLE-44, or return the enclosed card to get your *FREE* CD of this *Born to Win* program, and listen carefully and prayerfully to it.

*Christian Educational Ministries*

PO Box 560

Whitehouse, Texas 75791

**phone:** 1-888-BIBLE-44

**fax:** 903.839-9311

**e-mail:** adm@borntowin.net

**website:** www.borntowin.net

*That the man of God may be proficient  
and equipped for every good work.*

# The CEM Feast Advantage

by Allie Dart

YEA classes and seminars draw families to CEM's Feast of Tabernacles site year after year. State-of-the-art YEA classes provide active forms of learning that captivate students from the time they enter the classroom. An atmosphere for learning is paramount. CEM offers children, ages three to 20, excellent YEA classes. These lessons/seminars are biblically accurate and written specifically to agree with our beliefs and traditions. The lessons address issues children face at each stage of development. Kids often resist what a teacher or parent tells them, so YEA classes and seminars encourage students to think, analyze, and compare as they discover that God's way is best for them.

Each child is given his own full-color book to prepare for fun, interactive classes/seminars. All the supplies and decorations are prepared by CEM and shipped to Ft. Walton Beach to make teaching these classes easy, visual, and long remembered. Teachers are provided specially written, easy-to-use Teacher's Guides early so they can be well prepared and on point. Teachers won't have to adapt Protestant lessons to our beliefs. Since the YEA program consists of over 900 different lessons, the YEA program is uniquely designed so a child or teenager never repeats the same lesson in this 17-year program. Each lesson builds on the others to insure students are biblically literate and hopefully repentant, baptized, and prepared for leadership roles

when he/she completes the program. CEM believes and teaches that our youth are not just the church of the future, but they are very much the church today. We want every young person fully involved every day of the Feast. Our slogan is: Build the Future Today! Teach YEA.

We need and we want you and your family at the ECCC for 2012. The ECCC in Ft. Walton Beach is the perfect place for your family to attend the Feast. This Feast will be what you have become accustomed to at a CEM-only Feast site. CEM's Feast site has become so exciting, so effective that other sites are imitating it, and we hope they will. You may even become a little confused and think that CEM is joining them for the Feast. But CEM will be back at the ECCC in Ft. Walton Beach with all of our proven programs intact, our original energy, purpose, and desire to include young and old alike. CEM is going forward in a mighty way! Don't you want to be a part of it? Please join us for the 2012 Feast of Tabernacles. Whether young or mature, we need your ideas and you to volunteer to help. Please call Paula Hughes toll-free at 1-888-BIBLE-44. Those who participate in serving get more out of the Feast.

The investment you make is eternal! We want and look forward to hearing from you, if it's only to let us know you'll be joining us at the ECCC in Ft. Walton Beach. Please visit our website, [www.borntowin.net](http://www.borntowin.net), and take the survey on the Feast of Tabernacles page under the "Events" tab on the homepage.