that Santa Claus is a fraud and a fake. But there is much more in Christmas than Santa Claus. At Christmas, Christendom has the greatest manifestation of human kindness in the entire year. At Christmas, more is provided and done for the needy than in the entire year. At Christmas, preachers and churches preach and teach more of the deity of Christ than at any other time in the entire year. And the divine birth of Jesus Christ is the great fundamental doctrine in the Christian faith.

No day in the week is more desecrated than Sunday. Should we therefore ban Sunday and all other Christian practices, including the gospel, because there are no perfect preachers?

It is one thing to seek to make Christmas and Easter observed in a more Christian manner. To teach that Christmas and Easter are pagan festivities comes from you know who. Christmas and Easter with their good and evil come once a year.

Sunday and Communion are desecrated every week in the year. Some believe that the word Sunday came from the worship of the sun. Should we therefore ban Sunday and Communion? As for unity, it should be based on truth and reason.

It is not Santa Claus that displeases the present anti-Christmas crusaders; it is the same thing that displeased the chief priests and the scribes when Christ was on earth.

In Matthew 21:15 we read: "And when the chief priests and scribes saw the wonderful things that he did, and the children crying in the temple, and saying, Hosanna to the son of David; they were displeased."

They are also displeased by the emphasis that both the clergy and the laity, at the Christmas season, place on the divine birth of Christ and His deity. These anti-Christmas crusaders are displeased and disturbed by the friendly spirit and the giving of gifts at Christmas time. These anti-Christmas crusaders are using Santa Claus in order to put a stop to the above activities and the friendly and helpful spirit that prevails at Christmas time.

To use how some Catholics observed Christmas Day in 1633 to teach that Christmas is a pagan festivity in Christendom today is absurd.

Do you suppose Christ's birth and His coming to earth will be memorialized in the kingdom age?

"A SPECIAL PEOPLE"

C.H. SPURGEON

"For thou art an holy people unto the Lord thy God: the Lord thy God hath chosen thee to be a special people unto himself, above all people that are upon the face of the earth." (Deuteronomy 7:6)

Before we search the Scriptures in regard to God's special people we should have two scriptures by the apostle Paul in mind. Romans 11:1–2 states: "I say then, Hath God cast away his people? God forbid. For I also am an Israelite, of the seed of Abraham, of the tribe of Benjamin. God hath not cast away his people which he foreknew . . ." Here Paul states that the Israel people are God's special people. He also states that God did not cast away these people and cease to have a special, earthly people when Christ was crucified and arose from the grave. Paul states further that God foreknew everything these special people would do.

In Romans 15:8 it states: "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God to confirm the promises made unto the fathers." The only people in the Old Scriptures who were commanded to observe circumcision were the Israel people. Instead of Christ by His death and resurrection canceling the promises that God made to the fathers, Christ by His death and resurrection confirmed these promises.

When we consider the promises God gave to the fathers: Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, we can understand why the enemies of the Israel people will take these names and claim they are Israel, Judah and Zion. The surrounding heathen tribes could see that these people were especially blessed. They heard what God did for His special people at the Exodus, at Jericho and at Ai, which became a heap of ruins. They heard and saw how God fought for these special people by casting stones from heaven. They thought that by claiming they were Israel they could receive these great blessings and promises which God gave to the Israel people. They are doing this at the present time.

In Esther chapter 8, verse 17, it states: "And in every province, and in every city, whithersoever the king's commandment and his decree came, the Jews had joy and gladness, a feast and a good day. And many of the people of the land became Jews; for the fear of the Jews fell upon them." In the time of the prophet Jeremiah these people had, to a certain extent, become affiliated with the small nation of Judah. Jeremiah in chapter 24 divided this nation into two groups. One group is likened unto a basket of good figs; the other group likened unto a basket of bad figs. At the time of Christ the basket of bad figs had gained control of the religion and also the civil administration to a great extent in Palestine. And they compelled the Romans to crucify the Christ.

But God in 70 A.D. sent the Romans to seek vengeance on the inhabitants of Jerusalem. At this time, true Judahites fled to the mountains which Christ had told them to do. They fled from Jerusalem and joined themselves to their kinsmen, ten tribed Israel who in a siege had been carried into the mountainous region around the Black and Caspian seas.

Today the descendants of true Judah are among the other Israel people, one of the nations of Christendom. Throughout church history there has been only one people who called themselves Jews. Christ in His final messages to the church said: ". . . I know the blasphemy of them which say they are Jews, and are not, but are the synagogue of Satan." (Revelation 2:9) And ". . . which say they are Jews, and are not, but do lie;" (Revelation 3:9) The term Jew is not a racial term; it is a religious term. There were many people in the time of Esther who became Jews regardless of who their parents were or their race that turned to the Jewish religion. As Christians we either believe what Christ stated in Revelation 2:9 and Revelation 3:9, or we do not believe it.

When we consider the tremendous and beautiful promises pronounced upon God's holy, special, chosen people throughout the Scriptures we see the reason why the enemies of the true Israel people would claim they are God's holy, chosen and special people. The Isaac-sons, now the Anglo-Saxons and kindred people, were called holy, chosen and special because they were chosen by God to render services both to God and to other nations. Do not choke on the word holy. When used in referring to human individuals or nations it means used by God.

If God could use only men who are sinless there would be no preachers, no missionaries, evangelists and no Christian churches. When God chose the Israel people to be special to Him, God made this statement in Exodus 19:6: "And ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation. These are the words which thou shalt speak unto the children of Israel." Both a kingdom of priests and an holy nation implies called, blest and used by God. This is the history of the Israel people, now the Anglo-Saxons and kindred people, since the time of Moses and up to the present time.

In considering prophecy in the Scriptures pronounced upon the Israel people, we see another reason why non-Israel and the enemies of the Israel people would claim that they were Israel, Judah and Zion. We shall note the prophecies that Balaam the sorcerer pronounced upon the Israel people. Numbers 22:6 states: "Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people, for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed."

Balak, king of the Moabites, saw all that Israel had done to the other heathen nations. And they were fearful for the Israel people were moving toward their border. Balak the king sent men to bring Balaam the sorcerer to come and curse the Israel people. In verse 12 God said the following to Balaam the sorcerer: "And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them, thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed." Later God permits Balaam to go with the understanding that God would put the words in Balaam's mouth.

As we consider the prophecies that God spoke concerning Israel through the mouth of Balaam the sorcerer, a very wicked man, we should ask ourselves what people on all the face of the earth have had these prophecies fulfilled in their midst. God spoke through the mouth of Balaam's ass so God would have no difficulty in speaking through Balaam's mouth in spite of the fact he was a very wicked man. The first prophecy God spoke concerning Israel through the mouth of Balaam the sorcerer is recorded in chapter 23, verses 7 through 10. Verse 11 states: "And Balak said unto Balaam, What hast thou done unto me? I took thee to curse mine enemies, and, behold, thou hast blessed them altogether."

In verses 18 through 24 in chapter 23 we have the second time God prophesied concerning the Israel people through the mouth of Balaam the sorcerer. Verses 25–26 state: "And Balak said unto Balaam, Neither curse them at all, nor bless them at all. But Balaam answered and said unto Balak, Told not I thee, saying, All that the Lord speaketh, that I must do?" In verses 2 through 9 in Numbers 24 we have the third time God prophesied concerning the Israel people through the mouth of Balaam the sorcerer. It would require a volume to comment on these three prophecies which God made concerning Israel. In verses 5 and 6 it would seem like Balaam was in an airplane, flying across this country, looking down upon this nation.

The Anglo-Saxons and kindred people are the only people in all history who have in any manner or degree fulfilled the prophecies God spoke through Balaam the sorcerer. Did you notice especially verse 10 in chapter 23? "Who can count the dust of Jacob, and the number of the fourth part of Israel? Let me die the death of the righteous, and let my last end be like his." This Zion nation and the other Israel nations will not have the terrible end that the communists have planned.

Isaiah 54:17 states: "No weapon that is formed against thee shall prosper; and every tongue that shall rise against thee in judgment, thou shalt condemn. This is the heritage of the servants of the Lord, and their righteousness is of me, saith the Lord." And many nations are now forming weapons to use against the United States, but their weapons shall not prosper. Many voices and writers are condemning the United States, but what they say and write will be their condemnation.

Throughout the Scriptures God's special, kingdom people have been called God's servant. Christ