

WHAT REMAINS

~~31 December 1961~~

Heading

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"God is not so much the 'highest', or (as Hitler used to say) the 'almighty', or something like fate or some sort of final mystery -- but.... ~~he~~ he is our God, so that we human beings -- great and humble, old and young -- are likewise not some sort of creatures endowed with a little reason and a great deal of unreasonableness, ~~but the people of this God~~ but the people of this God who says of himself: I am your God. It is said in the Word of God that he has no wish to be God without us, but only with us, in such a way that without him we cannot be human beings. It is said in the Word of God that God has created a covenant between himself and us and has kept it until this day, so that we do not live somewhere out in the cold, but may be, and in fact are, at home in this covenant. In the Word of God we are told something we cannot understand, that God has loved us all and loves us and will continue to love us.... The fact that we are the ones whom God loves is what makes us human beings. And since God loved us, he gave himself for us so that we no longer belong to ourselves but to him.... The Word of our God says all this.

"But let us ask once more: What kind of a word is it? Where is it decisively spoken in such a way that we can hear it? I shall try once more to answer quite simply: God has said his word simply by doing what it says. What happened was that he appeared and worked and acted in our midst as our God. What happened was that he established the covenant with us.... The word of our God was spoken, and remains as his spoken word, in the events of Christmas."

The above quotation is taken from CALL FOR GOD, by Karl Barth, which is available at your local bookstore for \$3.95. Harper & Row, Publisher