

Bible

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

"This Is GOD Speaking...!"

You and your family are seated around the dining table. Your RADIO is tuned in to your regular entertainment program.

Suddenly a great Voice thunders forth from your radio, "This is **GOD SPEAKING**. I interrupt your program to bring you a **STARTLING DECLARATION OF WORLD-SHAKING MAGNITUDE!** I come to announce the imminent arrival of a **TERRIBLY-DESTRUCTIVE WORLD-WIDE UPHEAVAL of nature-OF EARTH! OF SKY!** Yes, even of the **WATERS!** A disruption of all nature. Imagination defying. And it is at your very door! **QUICK and determined ACTION MUST BE TAKEN if you are TO ESCAPE!**

"It is **TIME YOU WAKE UP** to the fact that you and your nation—the nations of the world and their leaders—have sinned. You have **GONE AGAINST MY COMMANDMENTS AND DIRECTIVES — DISOBEYED** the ways to right and gracious living. You have added your wrong way of life to the wrong ways of all those who have lived before you so that **YOU — man —** have now arrived at the point of stockpiling great atomic supplies, stored nerve gasses and deadly germs, and all sorts of other oblivion-producing devices. Have them **POISED TO DESTROY ALL MANKIND. NOW I MUST INTERVENE at once!**

"At the peril of losing your life, listen attentively—very, very attentively! My great final intervention is poised and beginning to occur—**NOTE THE UNUSUAL MOVEMENTS OF EARTH, SKY, and WATER AROUND YOU!**

"I am **A FAIR GOD**. I am here giving *you personally* every warning—every opportunity—to repent, mend *your own* individual ways in the short time still available. So that *you* may escape that

which is to fall upon those who do not heed. I **GIVE YOU** now a **CLEAR WARNING PICTURE** of the **TERRIBLE DISRUPTION JUST AHEAD** which will denude the earth of much—very much—life. It **MUST** then **BE YOUR SWIFT CHOICE** whether or not you, yourself, wish to take **DETERMINED ACTION** toward true active **REPENTANCE** and **TURN TO ME AND LIVE!!"**

HOW God is Warning!

Yes, **GOD IS SPEAKING!** Speaking **CLEARLY** and unmistakably! Speaking to be heard above all the strife and hubbub of this end time man-made turmoil. Speaking **BY PRELIMINARY OUTBURSTS OF NATURE AROUND US—preliminary QUAKES, tidal WAVES, DISTURBANCES IN the HEAVENS.** God is warning us **BY PROPHECY**, and, through smaller disturbances in nature, He is giving us examples **NOW** of the *dire* things just ahead for the heedless!

How else is God "speaking"? Understand clearly. God's warning words have been **RECORDED—IN** a book. That book is the **HOLY BIBLE**. There is *no* other book like it, for *no* other book records the words of God verbatim! **WHEN** you **STUDY** the **BIBLE—its examples, its prophecies—you ARE REALLY LETTING GOD SPEAK TO YOU.** *How you regard the Bible is exactly how you would regard God were He to personally speak to you!* Do you **FEAR** and **TREMBLE** before and **RESPECT** the Holy BIBLE, the *only record* of god's own words?

The **FINAL BOOK OF** your **BIBLE—the Book of Revelation—is FULL** and **RUNNING OVER WITH DIRE END EVENTS AND THE WARNING WAYMARKS WHICH PRECEDE**

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Bible

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 8 — Section 1

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Dr. C. Paul Meredith, *director*Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides.
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change in your address. IMPORTANT!

THEM. Listen! God warns, "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth [in mind, and acts on] the sayings of the prophecy of this book" (Rev. 22:7). By the events and prophecies given in this lesson, BE ALERTED to study harder in the days ahead so you may learn how you may escape the prophesied evils to fall on this sinful world!

In THESE LESSONS you have SAVING KNOWLEDGE BEFORE YOU. But saving knowledge can become DANGEROUS knowledge if it is rejected, "Because thou hast rejected knowledge [saving knowledge], I will also reject thee," God warns (Hosea 4:6).

HUMAN NATURE Doesn't Want to OBEY GOD!

WHY DOESN'T MAN JUST NATURALLY OBEY GOD? What is it that makes man *resentful* toward law and authority over his life? Why does a man just naturally *dislike* authoritative, commanding tones from superiors, orders from officers, laws from government?

Above all, *why is it* that all people, everywhere, seem to feel such a resentment toward the laws of God?

The Apostle Paul said of God's ten commandments, which the Bible says we must *obey*, "The law is *Holy*, and the commandment *Holy*, and *just*, and *good*" (Rom. 7:12). Paul agreed that the Christian *must obey* the ten commandments of God. But then Paul, almost seeming to contradict himself, says, "But what I *hate* [the *SINFUL*, *harmful* acts which God's law forbids, and which were *hurting Paul*], *that do I*" (Verse 15, last six words). Paul even though *knowing* and *preaching* God's Law was *Holy*, *just and good*, realized there was an evil, **DOWNWARD PULL OF THE FLESHLY NATURE**, "For I delight in the law of God after the inward man, But I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and **BRINGING me INTO CAPTIVITY TO the law**

of SIN which is in my members!" (Rom. 7:22, 23.)

As a result of this perverse pull of human nature against God's righteous and *Holy* law—the law pointing out the *best way* for Paul, he became thoroughly *disgusted* with himself—realizing the full *evil* and the **TERRIBLE CONSEQUENCES** of breaking God's law. He cried out, "O **WRETCHED MAN that I am**" (verse 24).

Why does man's mind always work this way? Why does man want to *disobey* God? God answers, "The heart [the **NATURAL CARNAL MIND WE ARE ALL GIVEN AT BIRTH**] is deceitful above all things, and **DESPERATELY WICKED**, and who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9.)

There's the reason!

Man's **INBORN NATURE**, his **NATURAL MIND** was **MADE**, for a *great purpose*, to be **HOSTILE TO GOD**. Paul said, "Because the carnal mind is **ENMITY AGAINST GOD**, for it is *not subject* to the law of God, neither indeed *can be*!" (Rom. 8:7.)

MAN'S OWN NATURE Enslaves Him!

Notice it! God said, "neither indeed *can be*!" Some might even feel they *want* to, in some way, "serve God" or "live for the Lord" or "do right!" But, like many, they somehow feel they "*can't*" overcome this or that problem!

Why?

Because they are **HELD CAPTIVES—SLAVES BY their OWN NATURE!** They are trying to accomplish it without the great *help* they so desperately need. "**WHO SHALL DELIVER me?**" cried Paul (Rom. 7:24). Peter wrote, "While they promise them *liberty*, they themselves [false teachers and ministers] are the servants of corruption, for of whom a man is overcome, of the same is he brought in *bondage* (II Pet. 2:19). Yes, the unchanged of mankind are real *slaves, captives*, in *bondage* to SIN!

Paul revealed sin actually *rules* over the carnal mind without the Power of God's Spirit. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are to whom ye obey, whether of sin unto death or of obedience unto righteousness?" (Rom. 6:16.) He had already said, "Let *not sin* therefore *reign* [rule, command] in your mortal body, that ye should *obey it* in the lusts thereof" (Rom. 6:12).

Yes, *sin*, that *natural* result of *human nature* which just *naturally* seems rebellious to God—results in everything wrong, evil, disappointing, frustrating, and hopeless! Is there no way out? Understand.

Paul asked, "*Who shall deliver me?*" (Rom. 7:24) and then answers triumphantly, "*I thank God [as*

YOU AND I SHOULD THANK GOD} through Jesus Christ our Lord.

God said, through Paul, "For the wages of *sin* is *death*, but the *gift* of God is *eternal life* through Jesus Christ OUR LORD" (Rom. 6:23).

HE IS THE WAY OUT! HE IS MAN'S ONLY HOPE today! Even as world leaders, statesmen, generals of the Army tell us, "It must be of the *spirit* if we are to save the flesh!" Man's *nature* must be changed!

Only through the living GOD, and His direct mind in us, to change, alter, renew and MAKE DIFFERENT OUR natural, CARNAL MINDS (Phil. 2:5), can we find the way out of all human failures, frustrations and woes!

BUT MAN WILL NOT, VOLUNTARILY, SEEK HIS CREATOR. GOD SAYS SO! HOW will GOD SOLVE this PROBLEM?

BY ALLOWING MAN, THROUGH bitter DISAPPOINTMENT, FRUSTRATION—the terrible MOUNTAIN OF SEEMINGLY INEXTRICABLE PROBLEMS of the world today — TO LEARN finally FROM EXPERIENCE that MAN'S WAYS, APART FROM GOD, are UTTERLY WRONG! GOD WILL USE COMPULSION—and YET WILL ALLOW MAN to MAKE his OWN CHOICE! He will BRING MAN, THROUGH CIRCUMSTANCES, TO the PLACE he is FINALLY WILLING TO SEEK GOD!

WHEN MANKIND has FINALLY LOST CONFIDENCE IN HIMSELF—totally and COMPLETELY—he WILL TURN TO HIS MAKER IN UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER! THEN, AND ONLY THEN, will man HAVE TRUE FREEDOM! Freedom from the greatest enemy of all—*death*! Freedom from all the depravity, sickness, perverseness, and the useless *wars* our own carnal natures have brought upon us!

GOD Must Liberate Man

The Apostle Paul said the EXPERIENCE OF the ANCIENT ISRAELITES has DEEP SIGNIFICANCE FOR US TODAY! (I Cor. 10:11.)

He was citing directly THE FAMOUS EXODUS OUT OF EGYPT. God always uses physical EGYPT as a TYPE OF SIN! PHARAOH was a direct TYPE OF SATAN the Devil, the author and originator of all sin! Ancient Israel typifies, and shows us by a remarkable example, how *human nature* is to be changed by delivering this world's *man-kind captive slaves*—human beings held captive by Satan and this sin-filled world—by truly setting them free from sin, and starting them on a life of overcoming and a life of change!

Pharaoh, a type of Satan, held the ISRAELITES

(TYPICAL OF MAN WITH HIS HUMAN NATURE TODAY) IN BONDAGE!

(II Peter 2:19).

MANKIND TODAY is IN the SAME IDENTICAL KIND OF BONDAGE—captive TO his OWN NATURE which automatically rebels against God and His righteous laws!

But HOW did GOD RELEASE the ANCIENT ISRAELITE CAPTIVES? How did He effect such a dramatic change in their lives? GOD STRUCK AT the FALSE GODS AROUND THEM! The ancient Egyptians worshipped the pagan ideas of many gods, of the gods of the Nile, of flies, of frogs. They thought there to be the gods of sun, moon and stars—of the wind, earth, rain. The true God, the CREATOR, the One who made all force, energy and all matter—STRUCK OUT AT the Egyptian NATION, and directly at Pharaoh himself, BY USING THE VERY FORCES OF NATURE—LASHING OUT AT the objects of pagan Egyptian worship! Remember, these captive Israelites did not know the true God! They were helpless slaves—having known only their own immediate environment!

They had been born into an Egyptian world. It was Egyptian SOCIETY, GOVERNMENT, PHILOSOPHY AND RELIGION. When they said, "Well, here's the way I look at it . . ." they were speaking only from their heredity and environment as a captive subject of Egyptian culture!

But GOD was GOING TO DESTROY THEIR PAGAN SUPERSTITIONS, their false gods!

It was ONLY IN THIS WAY, by letting them see clearly the abysmal failures of that society, then, that he COULD MAKE the ISRAELITES TRULY WILLING—even more than willing—ANXIOUSLY EAGER and exuberantly zealous TO LEAVE the DEPRAVITY of Egypt, the type of sin, and Pharaoh, the type of Satan—and, even though the way looked hard, to head toward the wilderness—and the promised land!

TIME AFTER TIME, GOD SENT His MESSENGERS TO CRY OUT to Pharaoh and his government to "LET MY PEOPLE GO!" RELEASE THEM FROM THE SIN THAT HOLDS THEM BONDAGE!

EACH TIME, THE CREATOR INTERVENED IN NATURE! He CAUSED PLAGUE AFTER PLAGUE—EACH one INCREASINGLY more SEVERE, TO STRIKE out WITH TERRIFYING VIOLENCE at the VERY ROOT and CORE OF ALL THAT HELD THEM CAPTIVE—the very bowels of the EARTH, the forces of WIND and WATER were SHAKEN!

The very word "EXODUS" MEANS to "DEPART FROM!" GOD WANTED His PEOPLE

TO WILLINGLY and JOYOUSLY DEPART FROM EGYPT, a type of SIN! MAKE AN EXODUS FROM SIN!

But notice it! It was not anything THE PEOPLE accomplished. They COULDN'T have done it BY THEMSELVES. THEY WERE SLAVES! It TOOK the TREMENDOUS SUPERNATURAL POWER OF ALMIGHTY GOD TO ACCOMPLISH it!

IT WAS THE DISRUPTIONS IN NATURE, the exposing of the *false gods* of society THAT LOOSED the HOLD of *sin* (Pharaoh as a type of the Devil and Egypt as a type of *sin*) from the captive Israelites. Later, you will see their release from *sin* was only the *beginning*. It was the *first step*—but it was a step in the *right* direction at last!

Final Important Instructions

Now we are ready for the actual lesson.

Is your Bible in front of you? If not, don't read another word.

STOP RIGHT HERE! Go and GET YOUR BIBLE. Also several sheets of paper, and a pencil or pen, so you can MAKE NOTES to help you remember what you learn.

Got them? That's fine! Now we are ready to begin this lesson. REMEMBER—you must open your Bible to *every* passage we give you in this lesson. You must READ, and *re-read*, and actually *study* EVERY PASSAGE IN YOUR BIBLE. This is a Bible STUDY course—a *study* of the Bible, not just a study of these words we have sent you. Our words are intended to show you *where* to look in your Bible—to *help* you to know *how* to study the Bible.

Now, with your Bible, a good DICTIONARY, and your note paper and pencil or pen on a desk or table before you, here is the method of study: Write down, neatly, on your note paper, the caption, "Lesson 8, Section 1," and underscore it. WRITE DOWN the lesson heading and question section heading. Then, underneath, number each question, and *write down the answer to each*, in your own handwriting. As an EXAMPLE, for the question

section, this is what you will write on your note paper: Coming Proclaimed by Prophets of Old. Then write:

1. Amos 3:7 — "Surely the Lord God will do nothing but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets."

Also write in any other thoughts you want to remember. *Study* and *understand* this question.

Keep these lessons and your own notes and answers fastened in the binder. DO NOT SEND US YOUR ANSWERS TO THESE REGULAR LESSONS. Keep them for reference.

By writing down all these answers, and by writing down all the words of every Bible passage that answers a question, you will find you will REMEMBER what you have learned. It takes a little more time, but you will really LEARN your lessons that way, and remember them.

Yet some ask, "Is this WRITING *really* NECESSARY?" YES! EXTREMELY so! Why?

YOU CAN QUICKLY REVIEW YOUR LESSONS. Also, it will aid you greatly in explaining the Bible to others.

WE ARE GIVING YOU THE BRIEF, COMPREHENSIVE, TRUE OUTLINE OF THE BIBLE. We know of no other place where you can obtain it! You will want to refer to these LESSONS AND THE EXPLANATION OF THEM IN YOUR OWN WORDS time after time in future years as you apply them to clear up related points in the Bible.

And remember, you are to spend at least a half hour *every* day studying YOUR BIBLE with this Correspondence Course. TESTS WILL BE SENT *after each group of four lessons*.

Now READ THE LARGE TYPE WORDS IN THIS FINAL INSTRUCTION—*pay no attention to the small type*. AND SUDDENLY—YOU HAVE A FLASH REVIEW OF ALL THE IMPORTANT POINTS! These serve as an INDEX, too. Simple and effective. *All the material in the Lessons is written this way. USE THE LARGE WORDS FOR THIS PURPOSE!*

HOW GOD RELEASES HIS PEOPLE!

There is truly STRIKING SIMILARITY between THE WAY GOD INTERVENED FOR HIS CHOSEN IN ANCIENT EGYPT AND the WAY HE is even NOW BEGINNING TO INTERVENE FOR MAN IN THIS AGE!

GOD is about THROUGH with WAITING. He said through Paul, "And the times of this igno-

rance God winked at [pagan idolatry, enslavement to the world and the society around us]: but NOW COMMANDETH ALL men everywhere TO REPENT!" (Acts 17:30.)

Let's UNDERSTAND the WAY GOD ACCOMPLISHED HIS PURPOSE THEN SO we MAY BETTER UNDERSTAND HOW HE is ACCOMPLISHING IT NOW!

1. Did GOD DECLARE His INTENT TO BRING the ANCIENT ISRAELITES OUT OF BONDAGE? Ex. 3:10. How were the Israelite

slaves being treated by the Egyptians? Ex. 3:7.

2. DID GOD HAVE *MOSES WARN PHARAOH* OF WHAT HE WOULD DO IF PHARAOH DIDN'T OBEY GOD? Ex. 4:23.

3. In their first meeting with Pharaoh, what did Moses and Aaron do? Ex. 5:1-4. Did they *speak* to Pharaoh? What was the Egyptian king's reaction? Verse 4. Pharaoh *wasn't impressed*.

4. At their next meeting with Pharaoh, did God even perform miracles to impress Pharaoh? Ex. 7:9. But these did not cause Pharaoh to let Israel go, did they? Verse 14.

5. When Pharaoh still *RESISTED*, what was the *FIRST PLAGUE* that came upon the Egyptians? Ex. 7:20, 21. Had the Egyptians shed the blood of Israelite infants? Ex. 1:22. How were the male Israelite infants slain? Then was *GOD JUST* in turning the *Nile River* into blood, as a punishment upon the Egyptians? How long did the plague last before fresh water cleared up the streams of the decaying blood? Ex. 7:24, 25.

This record was written on papyrus. It was translated by A. H. Gardiner (1909) under the title: "*Admonitions of an Egyptian Sage from a heiratic papyrus in Leiden*." It is commonly referred to as the "Papyrus Ipuwer"—because Ipuwer was an *EGYPTIAN EYE-WITNESS TO THE PLAGUE*. The papyrus records: "The river is blood" and "Plague is throughout the land. Blood is everywhere." It also states: "Men shrink from tasting; human beings thirst after water."

6. Will God *PUNISH OUR WORLD* with a *SIMILAR PLAGUE OF BLOOD* as He once punished the Egyptians? Rev. 16:3-4 and 8:8-9.

Why will God send this kind of plague? Rev. 16:5-7. What will the wicked do to merit such a punishment? Is God *just*?

7. What *second*, more troublesome *plague* did the Eternal punish the Egyptians with? Ex. 8:1-15. Did they learn their lesson? Ex. 8:15. Did they recognize the authority of God?

COMMENT: Notice that in Ex. 8:15, Pharaoh hardened his own heart—that is, he stiffened up in his resistance to God. *Physical circumstances* caused him to be self-assured. When the Scripture mentions that God hardened Pharaoh's heart, it means that *God brought about circumstances* that made Pharaoh convince himself that he could persist in his self-willed, stubborn way. God mercifully *GAVE PHARAOH EVERY CHANCE* to change his attitude. *God always made circumstances easy for Pharaoh to repent by removing the plagues after a period of time*. Instead of repenting, Pharaoh rebelled. The unappreciative heart of the king of Egypt became hard *THROUGH GOD'S MERCY* on the Egyptians.

8. What was the *third*, still more troublesome *plague*? Ex. 8:16-19. Notice that some translations render this plague properly "gnats" rather than "lice." *DID THIS WARNING TURN THE EGYPTIANS?*

9. What was the *next* plague God put on Pharaoh and the Egyptians? Ex. 8:21. What did God always want from these plagues? Verse 20. What happened to Pharaoh's attitude when he was afflicted? Verses 25 to 28. But when this plague, by God's mercy, was removed what happened? Verse 32.

Sin's Hold On Man Great

1. The Egyptians *HAD BY NOW MANY DISTINCT WARNINGS*, including several plagues. *FOLLOWING THIS, GOD BEGAN TO PROVE* He *MEANT BUSINESS* in trying to get Pharaoh to release man—the Israelites—so they could follow God. What plague did God send next? Ex. 9:1-7. Define the word "murrain" from your own dictionary.

COMMENT: The statement in verse 6 that "all the cattle of Egypt died" means *all* of those *ANIMALS* which *SUFFERED* from murrain.

2. As neither the king nor any of the Egyptians paid special attention to these *PLAGUES OF WARNING*—plagues which *should* have made the Egyptians glad to let their Hebrew slaves go (Ex. 9:17)—what was God's next act? Ex. 9:9, 11.

COMMENT: Note that among *our* seven last plagues are to be *BOILS*, abscesses and ulcers pro-

ducing excruciating pain (Rev. 16:11). These plagues are to be *just retribution* for physical suffering which the modern oppressors will inflict upon their slaves.

3. When the Egyptians still remained basically unchanged, *GOD WARNED THEM OF ANOTHER PLAGUE*. *GOD EXERCISED THE GREATEST OF PATIENCE!* Did some of the Egyptians heed the *WARNING*? Ex. 9:20-21. What was the nature of this terrifying plague? Ex. 9:18, 23-26. Was this the worst *ELECTRICAL STORM* ever to strike Egypt up to that time? Verses 18 and 24. What were the results of this destructive plague? Verse 25.

4. *Will plagues of similar nature strike terror into rebellious humanity in the NEAR FUTURE?* Rev. 16:21 and 8:7.

COMMENT: The same papyrus which records the plague of blood also records the catastrophic ruin brought upon Egypt by these plagues! It reads: "*TREES are DESTROYED*" and "*NO FRUITS,*

no herbs are found" and "GRAIN has PERISHED on every side."

God Frees Israel—the Ancient EXODUS!!

1. What *fault* in Pharaoh's character did God call to his attention before sending the next plague? Ex. 10:3. Contrast the king's character with that of Moses. Num. 12:3.

2. As a result of Pharaoh's continued rebellion, what do we find the next plague to be? Ex. 10:3, 4, 14. What does Psalm 105: 34, 35 say about this plague?

COMMENT: Observe that *in the future*—during the terrible "Day of the Lord"—God will again send a plague, not of literal *locusts*, but of *symbolic ones*—far more devastating. Rev. 9:3, 4. (Review this in our free booklet "The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!")

3. A strange phenomenon occurred at the next plague. What was it? Ex. 10:21-29. *Will God once again send a similar plague* to punish the wicked in the "DAY OF THE LORD"? Rev. 16:10. Notice how *much worse* the *future* plague will be!

COMMENT: This DARKNESS had a *supernatural* origin.

This frightening wonder was recorded by the Egyptians themselves in a shrine of black granite found at el-Arish on the eastern border of Egypt. It reads: "The land was in great affliction. Evil fell on this earth . . . there was such a TEMPEST that neither men nor gods could see the faces of those beside them." (From F. L. Griffith's "The Antiquities of Tel-el-Yahudiyeh and Miscellaneous Work in Lower Egypt in 1887-88.")

4. As a final punishment—when *warning* after *warning* went unheeded—what *FINAL CATASTROPHE TUMBLED PHARAOH AND EGYPT* from their haughty height? Ex. 12:29-31. The EXODUS OF ISRAEL immediately followed.

COMMENT: Indeed the ANCIENT ISRAELITES in *Egypt*—God's type for *sin*—FOUND THEMSELVES IN A WICKED, GOD-DEFYING, SINFUL, "WORLDLY" SYSTEM. (The system SUCH AS MAN FINDS HIMSELF born into TODAY—yes, in finding himself born into "this present *evil world*." Gal. 1:4.)

A system of worshipping FALSE GODS, of practicing licentious SEXUAL ACTS, CONTINUAL WARS, and other destructive practices. A system which brought them into sinful BONDAGE FROM WHICH they, OF THEMSELVES, COULD NOT ESCAPE. Caught in the toils of an ancient and entrenched system—just as is the

present world today—which would not let them go.

BUT GOD began to SUPERNATURALLY INTERVENE in their behalf—to disrupt and weaken the hold of the system upon them THROUGH bringing about UPHEAVALS OF NATURE upon it—and in so doing revealed to the ancient Israelites His might and right to be worshipped as the one and only true God. And they, BECAUSE OF THIS great display, became FREED. Freed SO they COULD BE LED BY GOD TO a MUCH HAPPIER PLACE!—a literal delightful land (known as Palestine today) just *flowing* with all good things—"A LAND OF MILK AND HONEY" (Ex. 3:8, 17; 13:5; Num. 13:27; 14:8)—where they could happily serve God (Ex. 8:1, 20; 10:3).

All Must Exodus to God

Genesis is the very first book of the Bible. And at once, the very next book is EXODUS—one whole book of the Bible! In *Genesis* man is created by God—*genesis* means *creation*. And then, at once, *in the very next book* of the Bible—EXODUS—God illustrates to man he must *come out* of his old *unhappy* state. The very WORD "EXODUS" MEANS "TO COME OUT OF. . . .!"

GOD, at once, after creating man, CALLS ON MAN TO PARTAKE IN AN EXODUS—COME OUT OF his DISAGREEABLE WRONG WAYS, AND JOYOUSLY SERVE HIS CREATOR—God! To wicked, sinful Egypt—the type of our world today—GOD SAYS TIME AND AGAIN, "LET MY PEOPLE GO THAT THEY MAY SERVE ME." (Study also Ex. 7:16; 9:1, 13; 10:3.)

EVERYONE MUST WILLINGLY AGREE TO AN EXODUS FROM his OLD DISAGREEABLE LIFE OF SERVING *SELF*—*self* service. Look at the 6,000 year fruit of man's *self* service today!—enough *time* in which to convince *anyone*. Man teetering on the brink of *self*-annihilation.

Yes, the TIME has come—is NOW AT HAND, at this present *end of this age*—when man MUST SURRENDER his OWN ATTEMPT AT DIRECTION OF SELF and BE LED BY GOD ON AN "EXODUS" FROM THIS WAY of life TO a "PROMISED LAND"—a PROMISED CONDITION—OF JOYOUSLY SERVING GOD—and happily FOR ALL ETERNITY! In that delightful state God promises us we will have no more sorrow, heartache, or tears! (Rev. 21:4.) A gracious God it is who wants all to share in this marvelous opportunity!—a God who would "have *all* men to be saved" (I Tim. 2:4). Most will be, it surely appears.

Yes, Time Now At Hand for New Exodus

We have seen the astonishing picture of the type of earth God caused this earth to become in the Old Testament times. This in order to loosen the hold of that world's society on the Israelites so that they could follow God in an Exodus from Pharaoh's land of Egypt (sin) and serve God. From this picture and from the sure word of prophecy let us learn what THIS EARTH of our time is even now more and more becoming. And how, VERY SOON, it is once again TO CRESCENDO INTO FULL BLOOM OF VIOLENCE, only this time FAR GREATER, in order TO LOOSEN the SPIRITUALLY DISOBEDIENT FROM the CLUTCH OF THEIR SINFUL, INBORN, DESPERATELY WICKED (Jer. 17:9) NATURES. SO they MAY BE LED BY GOD ON an "EXODUS" TO ETERNAL LIFE.

We are right now in the dangerous end of this age! When already desperately wicked man (Jer. 17:9) has sunk on down even "worse and worse" in these "last PERILOUS TIMES" (II Tim. 3:13, 1). The process of loosening the hold of man's desperately wicked nature upon man to the extent that man may follow God is not going to be easy. It will be difficult!

The STAGE IS SET!! Stupendous upheavals which will loosen the grip of man's nature upon man so that he may follow God are already beginning to occur!

Let us UNDERSTAND what these world-wide potentially TREMENDOUSLY DANGEROUS DISRUPTIONS, in which WE FIND OURSELVES more and more rapidly and INCREASINGLY INVOLVED, are to terrifyingly develop into. AND let us realize fully by God's sure word of prophecy HOW SHORT the REMAINING TIME we, personally, HAVE in which TO PREPARE in order TO AVOID THEM! God gives us the warning—IT'S UP TO US TO USE THIS TIME!

Upheavals INCREASING Rapidly!

1. Is THIS WORLD not, AT THIS VERY MOMENT, IN the CONDITION CHRIST SAID IT WOULD BE AT the AGE-END, just before the final great catastrophic events are to occur? Mat. 24:3-8; Luke 21:7-11. Are not false ministers (those who preach a false way to salvation in the name of Christ)—WARS, FAMINE, PESTILENCE and EARTHQUAKES becoming INCREASINGLY MORE AND MORE COMMON?

COMMENT: Look around the world about you.

They certainly are!

2. Aren't these kinds of days closely knit by Christ with His statement that THESE "are the [ONLY the] BEGINNING OF SORROWS"? Mat. 24:8. And His statement that unless these days be shortened there would be no one saved alive? Mat. 24:22. Sorrows to begin and rapidly worsen.

COMMENT: Today famine, disease, pestilence, earthquakes and other disruptions of nature ARE TAKING INCREASINGLY RAPID TOLL OF HUMAN LIFE! And there is world-wide TALK EVERYWHERE today OF world SELF-ANNIHILATION!

3. Does not Revelation chapter 6 speak of these same conditions, but under different titles, as the "white horse"—verse 2, and the "red horse"—verse 4, and the "black horse"—verse 5, and the "pale horse"—verse 8? Do not they also verify the fact that CONDITIONS throughout the world are TO DETERIORATE TERRIBLY in these end days in which we now find ourselves?

COMMENT: These FOUR HORSEMEN represent the four world conditions—all increasingly bad, at the end of this age. The WHITE HORSE represents the increasing number preaching a false Christ—false ways to "salvation." The RED HORSE—the increasing tempo of the ravages of wars. THE BLACK—increasing famine. THE PALE—disease rampaging. Famine and pestilence due much to great climatic disturbances.

(Send for Mr. Armstrong's FREE BOOKLET "The Book of Revelation Unveiled At Last." It will explain, in detail, these four horsemen. Send too for the free booklet, "The Key to the Book of Revelation." It will also be of aid for this lesson. For example: to locate at which time the false prophets—the false ministers—are to abound the most, one should look at the summary on its page 11.)

4. What terrible thing is to happen in this area of time to one fourth of the earth's population as a result of these four catastrophes? Rev. 6:8. What a terrible picture! Note also that beasts will multiply because of world depopulation from these catastrophes. And that they too will have their part in destroying man!

COMMENT: ONE FOURTH OF MANKIND OF THE WHOLE EARTH TO DIE IN a PERIOD of time DESCRIBED AS ONLY the BEGINNING OF SORROWS! Ponder this carefully—it's in your Bible!!

Captivity—Giant Quakes— Movement of Heavens

1. Shortly preceding a coming period of great religious persecution (Rev. 6:9), what do we find

is to occur to the MODERN-day descendants of ancient ISRAEL?—are TWO THIRDS of these to BE DESTROYED BY INVASION? Ezek. 5:1-4, 12. And will not the relatively few of the modern-day Israelites REMAINING to BE SCATTERED? Verse 2, and verse 12—last nineteen words.

COMMENT: Remember, the ancient Israelites had gone into captivity long before this prophecy was given. It is for *today!*

COMMENT: The descendants of ancient Israel—the people of the United States, Britain, and other specific democracies of northwestern Europe are soon to go INTO CAPTIVITY TO A EUROPEAN UNION OF NATIONS. Two-thirds of these modern-day Israelites will die of pestilence—famine—war (Ezek. 5:12). And the remaining one-third will be scattered and decimated—a sword will be drawn out after them (verse 12). Until THERE WILL FINALLY BE ONLY ONE-TENTH of the present-day Israel LEFT ALIVE other prophecies show!

Realize fully the *magnitude* of these end events. *No one* can escape them without Divine help! These are *God's* words—not man's. Ponder them *well!* These days are almost upon us!

2. Immediately after the RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION—"TRIBULATION" (Mat. 24:9, 29; Rev. 6:9) will there be a GREAT EARTHQUAKE to aid free man from his nature? Rev. 6:12. (Note that this is the 6th seal which follows the 5th seal of verse 9.)

3. And then what will happen—a TERRIFIC DISPLAY OF POWER OF GOD by the spectacular movement of both heaven *and* earth FOR ALL MANKIND TO SEE? Rev. 6:14. Will they not

be allowed to SEE the actual VERY THRONE OF GOD?!!! Verse 16.

4. Will these divine manifestations in the heavens call to the mind of man that there *is* a Divine heavenly Creator and Ruler to whom man may appeal for aid? Rev. 6:16.

5. The desperately wicked nature of man (Jer. 17:9) is very tenacious and particularly reluctant to release man so that man may follow God. But will some of the LESS RELUCTANT natures, AT THIS POINT, BEGIN TO WEAKEN—as did the sinful shackling to slavery *Pharaoh*—when God begins to show His *power* through the earth's natural forces around man? Isa. 2:19. Will they not begin to have a healthy *respect*—a "fear" of the Lord—a respect for His ability to accomplish great things in their behalf? Same verse.

6. Won't they then CEASE TO HAVE CONFIDENCE IN SELF—in desperately wicked, and weak, *man*? Isa. 2:22. And cease to have confidence in man's *gold* and *silver*? Verse 20.

COMMENT: Then such WILL TURN TO ALMIGHTY GOD AND SURRENDER TO HIM.

7. And simultaneously, won't the very powers of the heavens be shaken—producing a CHAOS IN THE HEAVENS? Rev. 6:12, 13. And Mat. 24:29—it describes the same event. What is to happen to the SUN at that time? Rev. 6:12. And to the MOON? Same verse. And to the STARS? Verse 13. *Tremendous!*

COMMENT: God will direct that the very laws now keeping the heavens in order will be suspended so as to cause the CRASHING OF THE STARRY HEAVENS EARTHWARD.

SPIRITUAL EXODUS of 144,000

WHO will be THE FIRST, BY GREAT DISRUPTIONS, TO BE FREED from the enslaving pull of this world's gods and society to which they, by nature, are so strongly attached?—freed SO that they MAY SERVE GOD? Let us see.

1. Will further disruptions of the earth be stopped for a brief period? Rev. 7:1-2. Why?—note the word "*seal*" in verse 3. What will these people have become because of going through these previous disruptions of nature?—NOTE THE WORDS "SERVANTS OF GOD" in the same verse. How many people are there to be in this group—144,000? Verse 4.

When transformed will they be allowed the honor of following Christ, the Lamb, wherever He goes? Rev. 14:1, 3, 4. GREAT REWARDS FOR BEING AMONG the FIRST groups—the

"*firstfruits*"—TO TURN TO GOD early!

COMMENT: (Note the interesting DUALITY: Here is a group of 144,000 people who will be freed from the enslaving sinful pull to this world's gods and society as they see these crumbling and crashing about them. Freed so they may surrender to become *Spiritual* "Servants of God." This group will be the *Spiritual* counterpart of what God wanted *physically* of ancient Israel when He commanded *Pharaoh*—representative of the desperately wicked enslaving society and "world" of PHARAOH and the Devil—to "Let My people go, that they may *serve* Me." Ex. 8:1; 7:16; 9:1; 10:3. And then poured out disruptions until they were freed to follow God in an actual earthly Exodus to a marvelous "land of milk and honey" where they could joyously serve God. Ex. 3:8; 13:5; Num. 14:8.)

SPIRITUAL EXODUS Leads To Happiness and Safety

1. What people will these 144,000 be? Rev. 7:4. Note the word "Israel."

COMMENT: These will be some of the modern-day descendants of ancient Israel. These are they whose natures, under stress, will not have been as adverse as others to letting them go on a spiritual "Exodus" so they may serve God.

COMMENT: MAN finds himself with a DESPERATELY WICKED NATURE (Jer. 17:9) which reflects back upon himself — BRINGS BACK UPON HIMSELF — all sorts of THINGS HE just basically DOES NOT LIKE: for "the works of the flesh [with which we are born] are . . . uncleanness . . . hatred, variance [discord] . . . wrath [violence] . . . strife [rebellion] . . . envyings, murders [of which war, world-wide or local, is a form] . . ." (Gal. 5:19-21); and many other evil "kick-back" traits. War begets war. Hate breeds hate. STRIFE brings ever increasing strife. And so it goes! By all these, man is HELPLESSLY CREATING FOR HIMSELF SURROUNDINGS he WOULD LIKE to HAVE MUCH DIFFERENT!

Man — mankind — COMPLETELY FRUSTRATED IN HIMSELF TO ATTAIN HAPPINESS WILL, AS a LAST RESORT, TURN TO a SOURCE OUTSIDE HIMSELF FOR AID. Turn to GOD! The only source he has any right or reason to believe might help him. Yes—but turn only as a LAST RESORT, FOR "the CARNAL MIND [of man] is ENMITY AGAINST GOD" (Rom. 8:7).

Man comes to find himself AT THIS POINT WHERE, in COMPLETE and ABJECT SURRENDER TO GOD, HE SAYS, "Here, O Mighty God, YOU TAKE ME. I CAN DO NOTHING TO BRING complete, absolute and LASTING HAPPINESS TO MYSELF. If You can bring me to this, I will do anything You say forever. But one thing and one thing only I request in return—and that is that I be granted complete joy and happiness forever. No heartache, sorrow or tear."

And sure enough, BY THIS ONE GREAT DECISION *man was destined for*, MAN WILL FIND HIS SOUGHT FOR GOAL!! Find it in his resulting *completely* changed attitude: of complete as possible human obedience to God, and of complete faith in God's *sure* promise fulfillment. He will *realize* his goal fully IN BEING MIRACULOUSLY TRANSFORMED INTO a SPIRIT BEING at Christ's coming and in then losing himself in his ensuing wonderful absorbing service to God for

all eternity. "They [the transformed will] serve Him . . . and GOD shall WIPE AWAY ALL TEARS from their eyes" (Rev. 7:17). Yes, God will *fulfill* His promise to bring ETERNAL JOY to those surrendering themselves to become His servants!! Read too Rev. 21:4 for more on this wonderful state those who are transformed will find themselves in. Lightly, easily and joyfully serving God for all eternity.

Yes, the future is to be an UNBELIEVEABLY MARVELOUS LIFE for those who, having the right attitude of surrendered obedience, are transformed as servants of God. For "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, NEITHER HAVE ENTERED INTO THE HEART [*the mind*] OF MAN, the THINGS WHICH GOD HATH PREPARED for them that love Him" (I Cor. 2:9). Prepared for those who surrender into His loving hands. It is just *impossible* for man to *conceive* the imagination-defying SCINTILLATING FUTURE that God has ahead for those who surrender themselves into His hands!!

Now note again (Rev. 7:3) THE words, "SEALED . . . servants of . . . God." These are some of mankind who will make this decision. They are those who will HAVE DONE LIFE'S GREATEST THING. MADE the DECISION which ALL are BORN TO MAKE. Will have made the great decision of one's lifetime. The decision TO SURRENDER themselves COMPLETELY INTO GOD'S LOVING HANDS, promising to OBEY Him TO the UTMOST and to BE His JOYFUL, obedient SERVANTS for ALL ETERNITY. THEY will HAVE the RIGHT SPIRIT—the RIGHT SEAL IN their MINDS—the seal of PROTECTION. They will be protected FROM PHYSICAL VIOLENCE. Saved for service. BE TRANSFORMED to SERVE CHRIST joyfully for all eternity, beginning AT His COMING (I Thes. 4:16, 17; II Tim. 4:8; I Pet. 5:4).

Note that GOD even HOLDS OFF the DANGEROUS "FOUR WINDS of the earth" (Rev. 7:1) FROM THESE who have made this great decision until they are sealed and thereby protected from these "winds."

Revealed---the Wonderful Future for All Mankind!

1. But AFTER THE 144,000 are SEALED FROM HARM, what happens next in time order? Rev. 7:9. Are these people of *all* nations?

COMMENT: Notice especially Verses 13 and 14. John, having seen the vision, asks: "What are these people . . . ?" He was puzzled by them. He did not know from where they came. So the angel answers:

"These are they which came out of *great* tribulation . . ."—and have been forgiven their sins through the shed blood of Christ. They are seen clothed in white robes, symbolizing purity and righteousness—obedience to God's laws—unspotted by the ways and customs of the world.

This GREAT MULTITUDE OF PEOPLE—OF ALL NATIONS—have come out of great tribulation. They had heard of the truth, they had heard of Christ, but they had not obeyed Him. But now—as they see God intervening through terrible supernatural signs in the heavens and on earth—they begin to fear God. They begin to SURRENDER TO God's will, to ask Christ's blood to cleanse them from all their past sin. Think of it—thousands upon thousands, even millions begin to surrender to GOD as a result of His intervention in nature.

Notice, too, that these uncounted multitudes are PICTURED as though they are IN the VERY PRESENCE OF GOD. God sees them, not any longer in mortal flesh, but AS SPIRIT-BORN SONS OF GOD who NEITHER THIRST, HUNGER, nor SORROW ANY MORE! Rev.

7:15-17. *THAT IS* what GOD reveals as His GOAL FOR MAN—SUPREME HAPPINESS!

2. *WHEN ALL* those who are IMMEDIATELY WILLING to repent have SURRENDERED TO GOD, THEN what further terrifying events will God send on the earth to bring these stubborn, unrepentant human beings to their senses so they may turn to Him? Rev. 7:1 coupled with 8:7-12.—Will the PERILOUS, DESTRUCTIVE "FOUR WINDS," restrained until after that time, "BLOW" ON the EARTH, SEA, and TREES? Same verses.

COMMENT: Today, GOD is first SPEAKING TO MAN BY His TRUE MINISTERS. SOON He will speak to man BY STUPENDOUS WONDERS IN the HEAVENS which man can *see*. But STILL there are MANY who will NOT REPENT. THEN GOD will SPEAK to man THROUGH supernatural ACTS that MAN CAN FEEL!

God continues to reveal, in order, the terrifying events just ahead, in the various of the following chapters of the Book of Revelation.

WHY are there some who continually hesitate, who PUT OFF SALVATION?

Nothing Gained By Delay!

God was compelled to pour out ever increasingly stronger and stronger disruptions on the ancient Egyptian society and "world" in the past, in order that man could make an exodus—come out of sin (Egypt)—and serve God *physically* in the Promised Land.

Today, God reveals He will again be compelled to pour out ONLY ever increasingly STRONGER AND STRONGER DISRUPTIONS. This time in order THAT MAN may again BE FREED FROM THIS SYSTEM OF LIFE and be completely surrendered and willingly led in an *exodus* to a promised transformed *spiritual* state. In which state he may serve God joyously *for all eternity!!*

TODAY, RIGHT NOW, there are SOME who are truly FREED from their worldly system of life and turned to God BY DISRUPTIONS IN THEIR DAILY LIVES. Not great numbers, but some. THEY FEEL strongly the NEED of A POWER FAR GREATER than they TO LEAD them. AND THEY SURRENDER FULLY NOW to God and come under the protection of God. YOU COULD BECOME ONE OF THESE!

PEOPLE VARY IN the TIME OF TURNING TO GOD. For we have just studied, on the other hand, where the 144,000 whom God will choose (Rev. 7:3,4) will have to live through an extremely decimating captivity (Ezek. 5:12); and live through a great religious persecution (Rev. 6:9). And will

have to experience the terrors and dangers which accompany the shakings of the heavens and earth (Rev. 6:12-16), before they are able to turn to God. The "GREAT MULTITUDE" of Revelation 7:9 will have to GO THROUGH MORE DISRUPTIONS than either of the other just mentioned groups. Note that NOTHING is GAINED BY DELAY—ONLY INCREASED TROUBLE lies in that direction! It is much better to turn at once, while there is still time to avoid the things ahead.

(To be continued in next Lesson)

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