

# The Good News

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## CHRIST Our PASSOVER

*The greatest Passover since apostolic days is just ahead! Last year, some brethren "forgot" this commanded assembly! STUDY this article — and REMEMBER the Passover!*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

"LET me color this one, Mommy!" said little Mary, holding a hard-boiled egg in her tiny little hand. "Mommy" was busily preparing *Easter eggs* for her children!

In a short time, all over this Western "Christian" world millions of little children are going to greedily and excitedly search for "Easter eggs" at lawn parties, seeking to find the brightly colored and decorated eggs supposedly laid in little nests of grass by bunnies!

WHY? What does it all mean? What is the *significance* of this greatest among "Christian" holidays?

*That's just it!* There IS no real significance! The original significance of the egg, the rabbit, and other accoutrements of the pagan Easter festival have long since become obscured. People today *do not understand* the symbols that have become identified with Easter sunrise services — *supposedly* commemorating the resurrection of Christ! They would be SHOCKED if they knew! (If you have not yet studied the booklet on Easter and the resurrection, write for them immediately.)

### A World of Confusion

You're living in a world of absolute Babylon, a world of total confusion! Satan the Devil, the god of this world (II Cor. 4:4) has darkened and blinded the minds of all nations! (Rev. 12:9).

There is no *real* positive TEACHING behind the silly and seemingly ridiculous

trappings of a pagan Easter ceremony! It does not TEACH anything constructive! Rather, it is Satan's method of bedazzling the minds of greedy little children with gifts of candy, and attractive, colorfully painted eggs — keeping them *deluded* and *deceived* so they cannot see the *truth*! God is not the *author* of confusion (I Cor. 14:33). He instructs us to COME OUT of this Babylonish chaos around us (Rev. 18:4) which is *confusing* and *blinding* a gullible society to the PLAN of God.

### The First Passover

God's annual Holy Days really *make sense*! There is a definite *picture* — a constructive *pattern* they portray. They are given to *teach* us something!

In calling our forefathers out of the land of Egypt, God said to Moses "This month shall be unto you the beginning of months, it shall be the first month of the year to you.

"Speak ye unto all the congregation of Israel, saying, In the tenth day of this month they shall take to them every man a lamb . . . and ye shall keep it up until the fourteenth day of the same month, and the whole assembly of the congregation of Israel shall kill it between the two evenings [dusk]" (Ex. 12:2-6).

The Israelites, *while still slaves* in Egypt were told to *roast* the lamb, and to "eat it, with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it *in haste* ['in fear,' mar-

gin]: it is the Eternal's passover" (Ex. 12:11).

Notice it! The first Passover was to have been a very *hasty* meal, eaten in trepidation or "fear," looking apprehensively toward the time on the very next evening when they would *flee out* from the land of Egypt and the scene of their abject *slavery*!

God said, "And this day shall be unto you for a *memorial*, and you shall keep it a FEAST TO THE ETERNAL throughout your generations, you shall keep it a feast by an ordinance [statute] forever" (Ex. 12:14).

Then, God immediately instituted the Days of Unleavened Bread! "Seven days shall ye eat unleavened bread, even the first day you shall put away leaven out of your houses, for whosoever eateth leavened bread from the first day until the seventh day, that soul shall be cut off from Israel.

"And in the first day there shall be an *holy convocation*, and in the seventh day there shall be an *holy convocation* to you; no manner of work shall be done in them, save that which every man must eat, that only may be done of you.

"And you shall observe the feast of *unleavened bread*, for in this self-same day have I brought your armies out of the land of Egypt, therefore shall you observe this day in your generations by an ordinance [statute] FOR EVER" (Ex. 12:15-17).

The first Day of Unleavened Bread

was to *commemorate* the occasion of the delivery of millions of Israelites from abject captivity — being the servants and slaves of Egypt — a type of SIN!

All Catholics, Protestants, and the majority of *all* people calling themselves "Christian" *understand* that this Passover service in the land of Egypt was *looking forward* to the necessity for a Saviour!

What they DO NOT UNDERSTAND is its deep spiritual significance for US TODAY!

Christ did not come to ABOLISH the Passover, the Holy Days of God, nor the Laws of God! Rather, Jesus *changed* the symbols of the Passover from the killing of the lamb, and the eating of its flesh, to the unleavened bread and the wine symbolizing His broken body and shed blood!

If this deceived world understood the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread, *by themselves* — without knowing of *any* of the other Holy Days — they would automatically KNOW their counterfeit "plan of salvation" is in rank error!

Today, the world teaches all you must do is "accept"! Or, "receive" Christ as your Saviour! THEN — there is nothing more YOU must do! Christ has *done it all* for you! After you receive Christ, you STAND STILL!

But notice that the ancient Israelites were to have eaten the Passover in trepidation or apprehension! That is because God said they were to get ready to *travel*!

By killing the firstborn in the land of Egypt, God saw to it that the Pharaoh and the Egyptians THRUST OUT (Ex. 12:39) the Israelites from Egypt and said, "It is a night to be much observed unto the Eternal for bringing them out of the land of Egypt, this is *that night of the Eternal* to be observed of all of the children of Israel and their generations" (Ex. 12:42).

They didn't *stand still*.

That's where the Days of Unleavened Bread come in!

After WE observe the PASSOVER, showing our acceptance of the blood and body of Jesus Christ — there is SOMETHING MORE to perform! God intended we should UNDERSTAND that *just* "accepting" Christ IS NOT ENOUGH!

Christ died *for* us — that is something WE CANNOT DO! But Christ DID NOT observe the Days of Unleavened Bread FOR us — He left something *we* must DO! We cannot STAND STILL after repentance, and after receiving the sacrifice of Christ — but we, too, MUST COME OUT OF EGYPT! We are told to be NOT conformed to this rotten, filthy, foul, evil WORLD, (Romans 12:2).

Now, let's notice some of the deep spiritual significance behind this solemn time of the year.

### Christ the Lamb

From the beginning of the Bible to the end there are dozens of prophecies about the first coming of Jesus Christ as the Saviour!

Think of it! Many different men, in widely scattered places, not knowing each other, and writing hundreds of years apart, foretold minute, technical *details* of the first coming of Jesus Christ!

The exact TIME of His coming was foretold, even to the exact *date* of the beginning of His ministry, and of His crucifixion. It was foretold that He was to have been born of a virgin — at Bethlehem. His childhood was to be spent in Egypt, and He was to have been reared in Nazareth. God foretold that He would be preceded by an Elijah-like predecessor, that He would speak in parables, that He would be a man of sorrows, that He would enter Jerusalem riding on a colt. He was prophesied to be rejected by the leaders of His own nation, to be betrayed by a friend — and for *exactly* thirty pieces of silver! Then, God prophesied that the thirty pieces of silver were to be spent for a potter's field!

Christ was to have been led like a "lamb" to the slaughter. Even His very *dying words* were foretold, the exact manner of His death, that His hands and feet were to be pierced, but not a bone was to be broken! The prophecies foretold that lots would be cast for His garments — that He would be buried with the rich — and be in the tomb EXACTLY three days and three nights!

It was prophesied that He would RISE from the dead, and ascend to the right hand of God!

And these are just a *few* of the remarkable and infallibly proved prophecies of Jesus, who IS the Christ!

Again, even Catholics and Protestants, and all Bible commentaries admit that Jesus Christ IS the "paschal lamb" being pictured by the Old Testament observance of the Passover.

John, being projected forward in spirit into our day wrote: "And I beheld, and lo, in the midst of the throne and of the four living creatures [margin] and in the midst of the elders, stood a *lamb* as it had been slain . . . (Rev. 5:6).

Later John heard the angels crying aloud in praises to God and "saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the *Lamb* that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honor, and glory, and blessing." And John heard all of these millions of spirit beings saying, "Blessing, and honor, and glory, and power be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the *Lamb* for ever and ever" (Rev. 5:11-13). Just as the lamb was to have been chosen by the Israelites on the tenth day of Nisan, and kept till the fourteenth, Jesus was "singled out"

by the murderous Pharisees and priests on the tenth day of the month, or the *Sabbath* preceding His crucifixion!

### Christ Institutes the New Testament Passover

Jesus had been *keeping* the Passover *all His life!* (Luke 2:41).

Now, in the very *last* Passover, just on the very *eve* of His MURDER, Jesus left some definite and specific COMMANDS.

Notice it, in John the 13th chapter: "And supper being ended [*during* supper, according to the Greek] the devil having now put into the heart of Judas Iscariot, Simon's son, to betray him; Jesus knowing that the Father had given all things into his hands, and that he was come from God, and went to God; he riseth from supper, and laid aside his garments; and took a towel, and girded himself.

"After that he poured water into a bason, and began to wash the disciples' feet, and to wipe them with the towel wherewith he was girded" (verses 2-5).

Notice! This ceremony of the washing of the feet of the disciples had NOTHING WHATSOEVER to do with the Old Testament observance of the Passover! It was occurring on the very eve of the murder of Jesus Christ!

This was something NEW, something DIFFERENT! It was being instituted for the first time by Jesus Christ Himself!

IF Jesus wanted to "nail to His cross" ALL laws, Holy Days, and everything that God ever gave including foot washing, then WHY did He go to such great lengths and pains to show His disciples *how* to observe the Passover from then on?

Surely Jesus would have been busily explaining to them that immediately after His crucifixion there would be *no further obligation* for them to keep the Passover, had He intended to nail God's Holy Days to the cross!

Instead, He was taking this *last-minute opportunity* to *institute* an observance which He COMMANDED His disciples to keep!

Peter argued with Him — saying he wasn't going to have Christ wash His feet! Men today argue the same thing. Jesus explained that unless Peter *entered into the footwashing ceremony*, he had NO PART with Christ!

Jesus, after washing the disciples' feet "said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord, and you say well, for so I AM! If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; YE ALSO OUGHT TO WASH ONE ANOTHER'S FEET" (John 13:12-14). Yes, Jesus said anyone who acknowledges Him as "Master and Lord" ought to wash one another's feet!

He went on to say, "For I have GIVEN YOU AN EXAMPLE, that you should (Please continue on page 14)"

# Is GOD the Author of Ceremony?

Is it proper to take photographs during religious services, baptisms, or marriage ceremonies? Here is an answer we all need to understand.

by Herman L. Hoeh

IS IT proper to have flashing light bulbs, strob lights, tripods and general disturbance in order to take photographs during an annual holy day at the Feast of Tabernacles? — or on any other festivals or the weekly sabbath?

When a minister is speaking from the pulpit, or in an ordination ceremony, should photographs be taken? Is this showing proper respect to the office in which God has placed that minister?

And what about baptisms and marriage ceremonies? While the minister reads the ceremony, when the couple kneel, or when one is buried in the waters of baptism, should pictures ever be taken?

## God's Decision

The 1961 Ministerial Conference had to take up this question. It has been commonplace for members to take snapshots especially on the closing day of the Feast of Tabernacles. Usually individuals just have forgotten to take them earlier and have thought they had to do so that day. Often, during religious services throughout the week brethren have come near the platform to obtain a candid shot of the service.

Is this proper?

What does God say?

First, we must come to realize that *God* is the Author of ceremony. He performed the first marriage *ceremony* in Eden when he brought to the man the woman who was to be his wife. Would it have been proper to interrupt Him to obtain a candid shot? Since God's ministers are divinely authorized to perform the same ceremony today, is it showing proper respect to *the ceremony God ordained* to distract the guests for a candid shot?

In religious services would you interrupt Jesus Christ, if He were personally speaking, in order to photograph Him? Or if He were performing a baptism?

Of course not!

Then would we be showing proper respect to God by disturbing a religious service He ordained in order to take a photograph?

Most people take for granted that it would be improper to interrupt a funeral. It seems that few, however, have thought about marriages and holy days God ordains. People appear to show more respect for the dead than for the Everliving

God. Even in worldly sanctuaries it is generally forbidden to take photographs during religious ceremonies. Only after the ceremony is over and the participants step out of the sanctuary do the cameramen bustle about.

Should not we — God's very own people — have at least this much respect for our Maker?

Recognizing God as the Author of the marriage ceremony, and of religious services, and recognizing our responsibility under Jesus Christ to teach and instruct His Church, we have had to make known God's decision in this matter. At the 1961 Ministerial Conference it was decided to explain it through the pages of *The Good News* so that all the brethren, no matter where scattered, would understand it.

IT IS IMPROPER, DISRESPECTFUL TO GOD AND HENCE EXPRESSLY FORBIDDEN TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS DURING BAPTISMS, ORDINATIONS, THE MARRIAGE CEREMONY, OR DURING ANNUAL HOLY DAYS OR THE WEEKLY SABBATHS, AND ALSO DURING ANY RELIGIOUS SERVICE ON WEEK DAYS WHEN A MINISTER IS PREACHING, OR ONE IS PRAYING.

## When Pictures May Be Taken

There is nothing wrong with taking pictures. But there is a proper time and a proper place to take them.

Many young couples have been embarrassed at a wedding when unauthorized pictures are taken. This should not be. If the bridegroom and the bride want to have pictures taken, it is to be done *after and apart from the marriage ceremony*. That is the only proper respect for the ceremony God ordained, and it is respectful to both participants and guests, who have come to witness the ceremony, not the cameraman!

No one should take pictures of religious services *on any holy days*. Take your pictures on week days.

However, during religious services on a week day at a festival there are occasions when pictures may be taken. It is permissible to photograph the Ambassador Chorale, individual singers or groups of singers—or a minister when announcements only are being read — when *proper prior authorization is obtained*. These functions are not expressly a duty of the office a minister occupies. It is respect to

*the office* that God has established, which we must recognize.

We want you to have the opportunity to take personal mementos of the Festival home with you. But it is only proper that if a program is being presented to the entire congregation, the audience should not be distracted by dozens of unauthorized individuals attempting to take photographs. It will be necessary hereafter, that any photographs taken during services in the Tabernacle Building be authorized by designated personnel at the Information Booth. These designated individuals have the authority to limit the number of people taking pictures — that the audience will not be unnecessarily distracted — and also to designate the areas from which photographs may be taken. Be sure you check with them before any photographs are taken within the Tabernacle during weekday services. Pictures may be taken before and after such services only when no congestion or confusion would result.

Of course, when no religious services or other programs are being presented, it is quite all right to take candid shots in the Tabernacle of your friends and relatives whom you may not have seen for the past year. We encourage you to do this — but be sure you do not wait until the last Holy Day. Your candid shots are better taken outside and on days other than Sabbaths. Pictures at baptism should not be taken without approval of the participants and then only apart and prior to the ceremony.

## Lesson of Experience

Experience has taught us that most people do not take good photographs of special programs presented for everyone at the Feast. To make it possible for you to have every picture you want, at far less than the cost of film and development, and to have the right kind of photograph that will be a credit to the Church when you show it to friends, we prepare each year *The ENVOY*.

During the festivals certain competent men on *The ENVOY* staff will be designated to take pictures of those particular things you would all like to see. They will be able to take them from the right position at the right time. In this way the

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# The Good News

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**Be sure to notify us immediately of  
 change of address.**

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Proved All Things

"Dear Mr. Armstrong,

"My wife and I have been listening to your broadcasts and studying your material since 1957. We have checked this material against the Bible and many reference books during this time and we have become convinced that you are indeed preaching the plain truth. Many changes in our thinking and in our way of life have occurred as a result of our studies, but these changes have not come about without the experience of much mental and emotional turmoil. We were both taught by our parents that God's way is the only way to salvation. We not only believe this, but have always been willing to accept it and live it to the best of our ability. It has been blow after blow and shock upon shock to us as our eyes were opened to the truth as to how far removed the church's way is from God's way and to how blinded and deceived we have been all our lives."

Man from Laramie, Wyoming.

### Correspondence Course a Lamp

"Dear Mr. Armstrong,

"I have now started on the Bible Correspondence Course and I am finding it very helpful. God's Work is indeed a lamp to our feet and light to our path. Thank you for sending me the first of the lessons, looking forward to future lessons with much joy."

Man from Glasgow, Scotland.

### Get Your Bible

"I've been trying to work and listen to your program, but this morning I just had to stop and get my Bible as you said to do."  
 Georgia.

### Warning Signs

"Farmers are being forced to sell out, they can't hold on any longer. Some business firms here in Windom are folding up and are selling out to the bare walls. People right here in my neighborhood are losing their minds on account of so much trouble, sickness, and sorrow. And so it grows worse and worse as the weeks go by."  
 Windom, Minnesota.

### Money Can't Buy The Truth

"I am almost 80 years of age and have spent hundreds of dollars trying to get the same benefit as your magazines have already more than given me and I am greatly pleased."

Woman from Oakland, Calif.

### The Truth A Stabilizing Factor In Malaya

"Your sincere dedicatedness in the service of God and The PLAIN TRUTH have proved on many an occasion to be the stabilizing factor in my problems of life. Thank you very much for this; I am always praying for your success in spreading the gospel the world over. This, I know, will come to pass because you cannot prevent a mountain stream eventually reaching the sea. You can divert it, but you just can't stop it."

Man from Penang, Malaya.

### PLAIN TRUTH Brings Understanding

"I am a regular reader of The PLAIN TRUTH. Besides being a good material for understanding, it creates a wider perspective and broad view in the reader, in your evaluating not only Biblical problems, but the vital issues that confront us in our daily lives."

Man from Nigeria.

### Curiosity Converts Adventist

"I became curious as to your program The WORLD TOMORROW for the simple reason that the Seventh-day Adventist Church seems to resent your program. So, I thought, I'll send for The PLAIN TRUTH and see for myself. Well, I'm not an Adventist now and am finding your teaching is verified by the Bible itself, and that's what I've been looking for."  
 Listener, Missouri.

### Broadcast A Blessing

"We just heard you for the first time last night on KFJR Bismark, N.D. Just imagine a one-half hour program seven days a week. We always listen in the evening to WDAY Fargo, N.D., and have missed you completely. Isn't there some

way to advertise your program in papers? Countless others must be like us."

Woman, Park River, N.D.

### God Opens Another Door

"We here in Phoenix (and I am sure that the entire CHURCH of GOD) are giving thanks to our FATHER in heaven that HE has opened a door here in Phoenix—radio station KPHO. Station KPHO announced The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast at least four times during the day. The program came in perfect; no interference, and believe me all of us here in Arizona are delighted. At last we can HEAR without interruption the GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW. THANKS TO OUR FATHER IN HEAVEN WHO MAKES THESE THINGS POSSIBLE THROUGH HIS SON JESUS CHRIST."

Member, Phoenix, Arizona.

### A Pleasant Surprise

"What a pleasant surprise last evening when my wife called to me and said, 'The WORLD TOMORROW is on KHQ.' And then, sure enough, there came your voice over our big, old-time radio station of the territory commonly called the 'Inland Empire.' No doubt you know that KHQ Spokane is pretty much considered to be the 'dean' of radio stations in this part of the country—at least that is my belief and understanding, and it is heard all over our territory up here, and I have heard that it is received at many distant points as well."

Harrington, Washington.

### Australians Take Notes

"Mr. Armstrong Jr.'s broadcasts are being followed with tremendous interest. I am amazed at the meaning he got out of the Epistle of John. I have always passed this over, but now it is full of interest. When listening (which I do most nights) to Mr. Armstrong, I first tune to 2KA, then if the talk is of particular interest, I tune to 2KY and tape it. This enables me to study the talk closely and to make notes about it."

Man, Sydney, Australia.

### Let's Have More Growing Pains

"I just finished reading your long letter about the recent surge forward Christ has led the Church through. We must all realize that as God's very Church it needs to grow to accomplish its part in fulfilling the commission given it. If this Church—God's very own Spirit-inspired Church—does not have growing pains continually, then it would be really disastrous. But it has growing pains and will continue to have them until the end, and I say *this is good. Let's have more growing pains.* God will see to it we can afford them."  
 Man, San Mateo, California.

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# Does Your Child *LIE*?

*You may be neglecting to train your child to tell the TRUTH.  
He could be learning the SKILL OF LYING!*

by Jack R. Elliott

**Y**OU as a parent should be ACTIVELY TEACHING your child that ALL LYING IS UNPROFITABLE. But first *you* must become convinced of this yourself. ALL lying is wrong and MUST be eradicated! If YOU are not strictly adhering to the truth, you are probably teaching your child to tell lies. From your *example* your child learns and from your *neglect* he will grow up untrained in truthfulness.

The Scriptures show clearly, and especially Proverbs 19:5, that A FALSE WITNESS SHALL NOT BE UNPUNISHED. Who ever speaks lies will not escape, but will PERISH in the lake of fire!

## Society of Liars

We live in a land so full of lying and liars that an individual who refrains from lying in all forms is often considered ODD. Movies and novels portray these individuals as causing endless trouble because they refuse to tell even "the little white lie." They are often made the brunt of jokes. The author of such stories usually ends them in such a way that the reader is convinced that lying is not only profitable but *to refrain from it is FOOLISH!*

But, all lying is WRONG. It is merely another WAY which seems right to man, but which ends in death (Pr. 14:12).

## What is a Lie?

In order to teach your child *not to lie*, you must first determine when he is lying and when he *is not*. For maximum success, you must discover when he first BEGINS to lie. You must also learn to discern WHAT A LIE IS and be able to distinguish it from imagination.

While LYING *is evil* and needs to be stamped out, IMAGINATION *is needful* and is one of the chief characteristics of a bright, potentially capable young person.

*Lying is an attempt to deceive* or to bear false witness with selfish or evil intent.

As a child develops in his ability to use a language and matures to the point to where he's able to communicate detailed information, he of necessity has also developed the ability to imagine. This skill begins to be apparent at about three to five years of age. Parents often have a hard time determining the difference between this active, imaginative use of the child's new talent in speaking, and the deceptions which are sure to follow.

We have all witnessed cases such as the following: Little Billy dashed in the house to where his mother was busily

washing dishes and exclaimed excitedly, "Mother, Mother, I saw a bear in the tree outside!"

"Aw Billy!" she said.

"Oh yes, yes! He had great big eyes, and big white teeth, and he growled!"

"Now, Billy," said mother, "there are no bears in this country and certainly not up in the trees!"

"Well, maybe it was a squirrel then," said the child, still inclined toward excitement.

"No, I wouldn't think so," said the mother.

Then comes the child's response with firm conviction, "Well, Mother, I just *know* I saw a branch shake in that tree."

As hard as it may be for some to understand, THIS IS NOT THE TIME TO SPANK HIM FOR LYING. The child, in an attempt to break the humdrum and the boredom of being alone with nothing to do, had allowed a shaking branch to trigger his IMAGINATION into an exciting experience which he attempted to share with his mother. THIS IS THE TIME TO TRAIN him how to express his imaginations (without loss of the excitement and the suspense of telling) in such a way that *no one is deceived* into thinking there really was a bear.

Nevertheless, Junior *is on the THRESHOLD* of LYING and if he is a bright youngster, he will soon be trying out his skill — BE ON YOUR GUARD.

## Parental Vigilance Necessary

If a parent is vigilant and awake, it is *possible* to even discover the very first lie their child tells. Certainly, before he establishes the HABIT, a vigilant parent will know that his child has begun to lie.

One crucial day you, or someone else, will ask the important question, and your child, in order to avoid trouble or to get what he wants, will answer *falsely*.

This is the ZERO HOUR in training! He MUST learn that *lying does not pay*. It will take more than the few words possible in this article to show you what to do. You will have to employ *the rod of correction* in love, with patience and consistency, not only in this situation, but those which will surely follow. You will need GOOD JUDGMENT AND THE SOUND WISDOM THAT ONLY COMES FROM GOD.

Before you can be *fully successful* in training your child, you yourself must also be convinced that *lying does not pay*. If there's still a lingering doubt in your mind, you *won't convince your child!* You had better leave off carnal reasoning and *believe God* when He says,

"ALL LIARS WILL GO INTO THE LAKE OF FIRE" (Rev. 21:8).

To fail to teach and learn this important lesson is a tragedy indeed. Nevertheless, most fathers and mothers of this nation are failing just that.

Many parents believe since their child *hasn't lied before*, that he *doesn't lie*. They refuse to *check up* on the child's statement to *find out*. They have some foolish notion that children who lie are INHERENTLY BAD, instead of realizing that ALL CHILDREN LIE until taught. When they hide their eyes from the problem the situation worsens and their child goes unaided.

## Blind Leaders of the Blind

Other parents, when they come to realize that their child really is lying, attempt to excuse it by saying, "Oh, he's only going through a stage and it will pass with time."

NO! He's going through a period when he NEEDS TO LEARN not to lie, and HIS PARENT IS FAILING HIM at the moment that parent is needed most. Such a child will probably NEVER emerge from the "lying stage," but will continue to tell lies, at least "little white lies," the rest of its life.

Yes, your child instead of *learning not to lie* because lying is UNPROFITABLE, will be daily *gaining in the experience of lying* while you sit idly by excusing yourself saying, "He or she is going through a cycle." All lies, whether they're little and white or big and black, have to be *accounted for*.

Your child will *fail to develop* many character traits if it is a liar. One of these traits is *true tactfulness*. The person who lies believes that to be tactful you just simply tell a (little) lie to avoid embarrassment. The person who does not resort to this CHEAP and EVIL way out of a situation, learns to rely on the important principles of *discretion, soberness, politeness and patience*. These are unfeigned and irreplaceable in Christian character.

If you are awake to your child's needs on lying, you will also be awake to his needs in other directions. Tendencies toward *disobedience, selfishness and cruelty*, show up early in the lives of children. A parent who keeps a child close enough to know what that child is doing, WILL BE ON HAND to help in the time of need. The parent who turns the child out to go where he pleases, or for the "neighbors to raise" while *going about other things*, is indeed a SLOTHFUL and a NEGLECT-

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# Is JUDAISM *the Law of Moses?*

*When was the Old Testament completed? Who authorized the building of synagogues in Judea? In this fifth installment you will learn how the Jews continued under the Government of God to the time of Alexander the Great.*

by Ernest Martin

THE canonization of the Old Testament by the members of the Great Assembly was the real stabilizing factor in the religious life of the Jews. Ezra and Nehemiah bound upon the people the Law of Moses as the constitutional law of the land. And the Great Assembly, after the deaths of Ezra and Nehemiah, enforced *this same law* in every respect.

## Life Under the Persians

Even though Judea was properly a province of the Persian Empire, the Jews maintained a semi-independent community. Since the days of Ezra, the Persians had shown extraordinary consideration to the Jews. "God... hath extended mercy unto us in the sight of the kings of Persia" (Ezra 9:9).

"The Persian rulers," says Herford, "living far from Judea, seldom interfered with the internal affairs of their Jewish subjects, and were content to leave their public business in the hands of the governor of the province. If the royal taxes were paid, the order maintained, the Jews might organize their life as a community in the way that seemed best to them" (*Talmud and Apocrypha*, p. 45).

The Persians had rule over Palestine until 331 B.C. — for about one hundred years after Ezra and Nehemiah. During this entire period, the Jews were allowed full freedom to practice their own customs and traditions. This Persian period was especially propitious to them because they were allowed to observe the Scriptures as ordained of God (Kent, *History of the Jewish People*, p. 224). And during this period the Law of Moses was kept!

At this time, the Jews were under the direction of the High Priest, the president of the Great Assembly, and the other authoritative priests who comprised its membership. No religious splits or schisms were tolerated and all the people were kept in obedience to the laws of the Old Covenant. This peaceful condition in Palestine led to many advances in the social and religious life of the Jews.

## The Priests Teach the Truth of God

The canonization of the Old Testament, and the establishment of the Law of Moses as the constitutional law, brought about the necessity of teaching the Law to the people on a grand scale.

Ezra had brought back with him from

Babylon a good number of priests to add to the 4,000 who had come back from the Babylonian captivity at an earlier time (Ezra 8:17-20). These priests were brought back to Palestine in order to assume their position as religious teachers of the people, for the Bible had ordained that priests were to teach the people the laws of God (Lev. 10:11; Deut. 24:8; 27:14, etc.). The book of Malachi, written immediately after the return of Ezra and Nehemiah, records what these priests were ordained to do. "For the priest's lips should keep knowledge, and they should seek the law at his mouth; for he is the messenger of the Lord of hosts" (Mal. 2:7).

Because the Law of Moses had become the law of the land, it became the priests' job to teach the law. These commands required meetings every Sabbath in all the villages and towns around Judea. It was these Sabbath services that finally merged into regular synagogue services.

In time, all the areas within Judea began to build their own synagogues. In some of the larger areas, a body of priests would take up residence and have charge of the synagogue. Before the Babylonian captivity, synagogues had existed throughout Israel and Judah (Psa. 74:8), but because all these previous synagogues had been completely destroyed by the invading armies of the Assyrians and Babylonians, the Jews had to start afresh after their return from Babylon to build completely new synagogues. This fact has led some commentators to erroneously assume that synagogues had their first development *only after* the Babylonian captivity, and that they were not in existence before. This, however, is not true! These new synagogues which were built in Palestine, were certainly built from scratch. But there had been synagogues before.

Buildings for religious assemblies are essential in every age and dispensation. It was impossible for all the Jews throughout Judea to journey each Sabbath to Jerusalem and to the Temple in order to learn of the law and to worship God in holy convocation. The people had to have instruction by the priests every Sabbath in their own communities. The proper instruction of the Law of Moses could only be accomplished by the establishment of synagogues throughout the land. And, under the benevolent rule of the Persians, with peace and safety every-

where, there is no reason to doubt that synagogues dotted the land from one end to the other (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, p. 58).

Not only did the synagogues offer opportunity for worship of God on the Sabbaths, but we are informed in a Talmudical reference that Ezra ordained the priests to hold periods of religious instruction on the regular market days of the week — Mondays and Thursdays (*B. Kamma*, 82a, b). From this evolved the custom of having instruction in the Law on those two days of the week. This custom was even carried down until the time of Christ.

## Priests and Levites in Authority

It is plain that the people during this one hundred year period under the Persians had adequate instruction in the Laws of God—not only on the Sabbaths and Holy Days, but even on two market days during the week. The priests were kept busy in the occupation of teaching the people the Law. For their helpers the priests had the regular Levites who gave them proper assistance in teaching the people. These Levites really did much of the actual teaching, and the priests were the supervisors. It was impossible for the limited number of priests to do all the necessary duties. For that reason, a good deal of the help in teaching, judging, being dieticians and, in a limited way, being policemen, fell to the Levites.

In effect, the Levites represented the professional class among the people. They were under the authority of the priests, however, who were the responsible organization for the over-all well-being of the nation (*ibid.*, p. 59). The real leader of the whole nation was the High Priest, who was actually the head of state being the leader of the Great Assembly.

The Great Assembly was the one organization that was the governing authority. This religious assembly, as previously pointed out, was composed of the chief priests of the land with the High Priest as official president and over-all ruler. All members of this authoritative assembly in the Persian period were priests and priests alone (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 28).

"For the priests were the actual leaders of the community, since they alone were recognized by the Law (Deut. 17) as its official teachers and competent interpreters."  
(Please continue on page 15)

# Church News from *Around the World*

by Albert J. Portune

**G**REETINGS to all members of God's Churches around the world! Here in Mr. Garner Ted Armstrong's office the ministerial reports from God's ministers over the Churches of God around the world come in monthly with interesting and heart-warming events concerning God's people. God, through His Holy Spirit, has made us all members of His Family. I know you will all be vitally interested in these scintillating comments from the different church areas.

## News from New Church of God in Wichita, Kansas

Mr. Allen Manteufel, former pastor of the San Antonio and Corpus Christi Churches, has been working for the past several weeks in the Wichita area making preparations for the first Sabbath's service of God's new Church there. Final arrangements have been made and the Church of God will have met officially for the first time on March 11. Services are to be held in the Twentieth Century Club located within five blocks of the downtown business district—536 North Broadway.

Although no official services were planned for March 4, Mr. Manteufel had planned to meet with a few of the brethren in the new hall for a "get acquainted" meeting. News rapidly spread by word of mouth and, although Mr. Manteufel was only expecting 20-25 to attend, there were 110 in attendance. This shows the zeal and enthusiasm of God's people for the Church in this new area.

## Unemployment a Major Problem

Mr. Manteufel reports the following severe difficulty that God's people are experiencing in the Wichita area. "The *major problem* facing the people in this area is that the aircraft industry which is the backbone of the economy for Wichita is laying off workers by the droves. Men with seniority up to *fifteen years* are being released. It is rumored that the Boeing plant, which is strictly military, may lay off up to TWENTY THOUSAND during the year of 1961! Most store owners and employers say this is a *depression*. Cessna and Beechcraft Aircraft Plants, which produce for private and commercial orders, are in the same fix!"

Brethren, let's all remember to pray for all of God's people during this serious recession that God will provide opportunities for everyone that is really faithful and diligently seeking Him.

## News from the New York Church

Mr. Carlton Smith, pastor of the New York Church, sends us very encouraging news from the New York area. "The overall growth of the Church of God in New York," he states, "is maintaining a steady spiritual growth. One major factor behind the rapid growth of many of the families in the New York Church is the continued progress of the TWO Spokesman's Clubs that are providing training in public speaking for more than fifty men in the greater New York area. It is certainly encouraging to realize that the interest in the Spokesman's Club in New York has been so keen that now two clubs are required. I know this will be encouraging to all of the Spokesman's Club members in God's Church."

All of the New York members are anxiously awaiting the first edition of a new "church newspaper" which is to soon be published in the New York area. Mr. Carlton Smith writes, "We are in the process of creating a church newspaper here, and *much enthusiasm* is being shown toward it. It seems that people here do have an unusual zeal for the Church and the work."

## Bible Study in Vancouver

With the opening of a new office in Vancouver, British Columbia, God's people in that area have responded with increasing zeal. Mr. Jimmy Friddle, pastor of the Seattle and Tacoma Churches, reports that *thirty-two* were in attendance for the last Bible study. This is certainly encouraging news and an indication of things to come in the Vancouver area.

## Sabbath Services in Sydney, Australia

On my return trip from the Philippine Islands, I had the great blessing of being in Sydney, Australia for Sabbath services on March 4. There was a record attendance on that Sabbath of 78! After nearly three weeks in the Philippine Islands, I can assure you that it was really a blessing to be in the Sydney Church.

The Church in Sydney is certainly one of the warmest and friendliest Churches I have ever visited. Although we are Americans and they are Australians, the bond of God's Holy Spirit binds us into a family that is far closer than the ties of nationality. After the Sabbath services on Saturday, which began at 2:00 o'clock p.m. and lasted until 6:00 o'clock p.m., a Bible study was held the following day

on Sunday. Since my plane was scheduled to leave immediately after the Bible study, everyone that was able came to the airport to see me off. It was really a heart-warming experience to take off from Sydney International Airport with nearly all of God's Church in Sydney, Australia waving a very warm and encouraging good-bye.

## Work Booming in Australia

The work is continually growing in Australia with the addition of new stations almost monthly. Mr. Gene Hughes, graduate of Ambassador College, and his wife and child have now arrived in Australia. Mr. Gene Hughes will become the office supervisor to facilitate in the management of the growing work there. With the office staff increasing, Mr. Waterhouse feels that he and Mr. Hammer will be able to devote more time to visiting among the brethren and possibly taking baptizing tours in the near future. God's Church in Sydney will certainly be growing very rapidly and there will possibly be additional Churches of God raised up in other cities in the near future. God is certainly blessing His work and His Church in Australia.

The following wonderful healing was reported to us by Mr. Tony Hammer.

"God is still working very rapidly in miraculous healings. A three-year-old daughter of a member of the Sydney Church was prayed for Wednesday evening after Bible study for a severe infection behind her left ear. She had an opening about  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch wide and over an inch long where the ear connects to the head. The flesh was rotting and putting off a very bad odor—it looked as if the ear were coming off.

"Early Friday her father called to say her ear was completely healed, only a red line appeared where the terrible infection had been. Thank God for His healing power and intervention for us."

## News from Fresno and Sacramento Churches

Here is a dynamic report from Mr. Ron Kelly, pastor of the new Sacramento Church and co-pastor of the Fresno Church.

"The Sacramento Church, still in its infancy, and the Fresno Church are both growing steadily. Fresno, one of our older churches, raised up by an Evangelistic Campaign in 1956, had grown to 160 attending regularly. But when the new church was started in Sacramento, Fresno

lost 30 or 40. As God's Work grows, so do the churches and we are already back up to 140!

"The Sacramento church had been EAGERLY AWAITED by many members in Northern California! A few years ago churches were raised up with *only* ten, twenty, or perhaps thirty members. But this new church in Sacramento *had* 150 attending the very first Sabbath. Since then — in just five short months — it has *grown* to 180 attending every week. And if everyone were to come on one Sabbath there would be over 200!

"Rejoice with us in the way God has guided and directed those in California. The very first Sabbath for the Sacramento Church made it possible for some to come from as far away as 250 miles. Some had to leave their homes between 4:00 and 5:00 in the morning! They were willing to do this to be at God's Church with God's People.

"Mr. & Mrs. Lenis Bennett of Susanville had to drive over four hours to be there. But Mrs. Bennett was ill and needed to be prayed for and anointed as we are instructed in James 5:14. She had a great deal of pain in her body and even an issue of blood. Later, the doctor diagnosed this as *cancer*. Before she even left Sacramento the bleeding had stopped. Within six or eight weeks, to the *amazement* of the doctors, the cancer was COMPLETELY GONE! God's power is healing today as it always has for those who put their faith in Him!

"But this is not all. Mrs. Ray Poore of Stockton was expecting a baby any day. Complications arose! The baby did not turn and was to be born breech. Her doctor *refused* to deliver the baby by natural birth. She was anointed at church. Within a very short time the baby turned into position. The doctor then agreed to go ahead. But at the last minute he again refused. Mrs. Poore rushed to the hospital, still trusting God, and gave birth to a fine eight pound baby boy without any difficulty.

"Another miraculous birth took place recently. Mrs. Delphino Sandoval of Fresno gave birth to a seven pound boy, her second child. Before her conversion her first child was taken by Caesarean section. This time she *completely trusted* God to correct the physical trouble she had before. When time for the birth came, she had quite a long period of labor. The doctor began to worry! At 10:30 A.M. he said if the baby did not come in one hour he would have to take an X-ray and operate. Mr. Sandoval immediately called God's ministers. Others were called and asked to pray about it. Precisely at 11:09 — less than 40 minutes later — and 20 minutes before the doctor's deadline, the new addition to the

Sandoval family arrived healthy and naturally. We cannot put a time limit on God, but *when an outsider does*, God will intervene with time to spare.

"A member of our Fresno church was involved in an automobile accident a few weeks ago. His jaw was broken! The doctors immediately wanted to operate and wire it together. *They said* if they didn't, the bone wouldn't heal properly and would have to be re-broken later. But they did not know about God's intervention. The bone has since healed perfectly — no one can tell it was ever broken — not even Mr. Reynolds.

"We have more to rejoice over in the Fresno Church. Our deacon, Mr. Eldon Stewart, has been helping individual members a long time. Now he has been given the opportunity to help them as a group by delivering sermonettes during Sabbath services.

#### Recession Hits Here, Too

"In this time of recession many have lost their jobs. But a way has been provided for those who *diligently* seek the right way! Inspired by Mr. Armstrong's recent Co-Worker letter, one member knew *he just had to find work so his tithes and offering would be helping walk through the doors God opened to His Church!*

"He folded the letter, placed it in his pocket, prayed for God's guidance and went to find a job.

"The first stop resulted in advice to seek another type employment — or he wouldn't find a job in years. With advice like that many would have quit. But he kept on! He tried a second time, a third, then a fourth — meeting no encouragement or even hints a job would open up.

"How many would have remembered the SEVEN LAWS OF SUCCESS Mr. Armstrong has written about? One of those laws is NEVER TO GIVE UP! So this young man tried a fifth time. When he applied to the personnel manager he found *he had arrived at exactly the right moment!* Another man had just quit his job and the company had not even had time to contact the employment office to fill the vacancy. Mr. D'Amelio was hired on the spot and went to work the next day. Now he can have a more active part in sending the Gospel of the Kingdom of God *around the world!*

"There is certainly no doubt that God exists and is vitally interested in us here below. From these examples we can all take courage to step out even more to serve God and to live the only way which produces real happiness!"

#### Report from the Denver Area

Mr. Burk McNair, pastor of the Denver and Pueblo, Colorado Churches writes the following news from his area: "The Denver Spokesman's Club now meets

*every week* instead of biweekly. In addition, the Denver Bible study now meets *every week* instead of biweekly. This has added much to the enthusiasm of the brethren because of the added fellowship."

The attendance in the Denver Church has continued to increase each year. Mr. McNair sends the following yearly attendance figures for the past four years: 1958 — 56; 1959 — about 80; 1960 (first six months) — 97, 1960 (second six months) — 115; 1961 (first two months) — 124. This growth in the Denver Church is certainly encouraging.

#### Portland

Mr. Dale Hampton, pastor of the Portland, Oregon Church of God, is very jubilant over the birth of a new baby girl. Her name is Deborah Lynn Hampton. He reports that mother and baby are both doing fine and that the father will also recover! Mr. Hampton reports, "My wife had false labor pains Friday night, then no more until Monday. Then, just before the birth of the child my wife had only moderate labor for about thirty minutes — just three or four hard pains and then Deborah Lynn was born." God did say, "Be fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth." And certainly our ministers are setting us a very good example.

#### From the Houston and Dallas Area

Mr. Richard Prince sends the following report from his area. "The month of February has been a very busy month with the highlight being Mr. Raymond Cole's visit to this area and his inspiring sermons on the Sabbath. Mr. Cole's visit here inspired the whole Church in the understanding we have of the responsibility to help others to attain salvation. As a result of his visit there has been increase in interest and in zeal toward shouldering more of the responsibilities in God's Church.

"On February 5, 1961 five people were baptized so that a few more laborers have been added to the work of God's harvest. The inspiring thing about these recent baptisms was the increased interest shown by the members of God's Church in the newly converted brethren by their presence at the baptismal services.

"The attendance in the Dallas, Texas Church has leaped ahead by eighteen additional persons over the previous month. The attendance in the Dallas Church is now averaging 185."

Despite the effects of the recession being felt in Houston and Dallas, many of the brethren have been able to secure employment and others have received promotions and raises in pay. Surely, God can bless and prosper His people even in

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# CHRIST or ANTICHRIST?

*Events are plunging toward the eventful climax of Christ's return. How will you know the REAL CHRIST when he comes?*

by David Jon Hill

Is the Pope ignorant of the plain Bible statements that label *him* "the Antichrist"? What deception will Satan use to keep the world from realizing the Pope's true identity?

God's Word warns us that this man—masquerading as a great "Christian" leader—will finally declare himself to be GOD! (II Thes. 2:8.) If he calls *himself* "God," whom will he point to as the *Antichrist*?

## Catholic Interest in Prophecy

God declares that the end-time Pope will be a false *prophet*, yet the Pope has never declared himself to be a prophet. When will he deceive the world into thinking that he foresees future events? What events will he foretell? How will these prophecies affect *you*? How can you keep from being deceived?

A recently published book reveals a startling Catholic interest in end-time prophecy. This book, together with tradition and the writings of some of the "early church Fathers," brings to light an eye-opening preview of the false prophecies that are about to be preached!

Satan knows God's general plan. He has been at work in the minds of evil and deluded men throughout the ages to lay the groundwork of the GREAT DELUSION! Though the vials of the wrath of God are poured out on sinful men, their impenitence remains—"AND THEY REPENTED NOT" (Rev. 16:9). They will flee from Christ—even calling for rocks to fall on them, hiding out in caves—RUNNING AWAY FROM GOD!

## WHY?

Because of "that man of sin... who opposeth and exalteth himself above all that is called God, that is worshipped; so that he as God sitteth in the temple of God, showing himself that he IS GOD... even him, whose coming is after the working of Satan with all power and signs and LYING wonders, and with ALL DECEIVABLENESS." THAT MAN WILL TELL THE WORLD THE BIGGEST LIE EVER TOLD! Into the ears of those who do not have a love of the truth he will pour the LIE that our returning King, *Jesus Christ*, is the *ANTICHRIST*! And they will believe him because God will have sent them a "strong delusion that they should believe a LIE" (II Thes. 2:3-11).

But upon what will the Pope base this claim?

By its own admission, the Catholic

Church bases its definition of the articles of faith on its *own* interpretation of the Scriptures AND TRADITIONS as explained in the writings of the early church "Fathers"! "And then it was approved by all, that *the traditions* should be received as of equal authority with the Scriptures" (*History of the Council of Trent*, page 145).

Any attempt to dispute their interpretation by use of plain Scripture is greeted, as it was at the time of this declaration, with the cry of "HERETIC" and branded as "Anathema"! "... the holy Scripture cannot be expounded against the sense held by the holy Mother the Church, nor against the common consent of the Fathers" (*History of the Council of Trent*, page 152).

## Catholic Definition of Antichrist

Here now, for the professed prophecies in the Catholic Church's recently published book, *Prophecy for Today*.

"Towards the end of the world Antichrist will overthrow the Pope and usurp his See"! ("prophecy" of Abbott "Merlin" Joachim, died 1202; see also *Catholic Encyclopedia*, article "Antichrist.")

Because they will not admit the truth the Church believes the Antichrist will be the one to unseat the Pope, while every Bible prophecy commissions the true Christ with that job.

"Antichrist will fight a successful battle at Mageddo [Armageddon] in Palestine after which... he will hereafter become lord of the world" (Ibid; Anna Catarina Emmerick, d. 1824). It is almost impossible to see how they could believe this! But there it is! And here is more! "The Kings will send armies to the Holy Land, but the Antichrist will slay them all"! (Ibid.; "Venerable Maria of Agreda" d. 1665). Compare this with Revelation 19:19.

But to continue. "Antichrist and his army will conquer Rome, kill the Pope and take the throne... The Jews will come from everywhere, and accept Antichrist as the Messiah." (Ibid.; from a "prophecy" by Venerable Bartholomew Holzhauser, d. 1658).

Just one more quote to illustrate their satanic definition: "After the destruction of Rome, Antichrist will appear and exalt himself above pagan deities and the Trinity... Coming to Jerusalem, he will succeed through false preaching, miracles, gifts, terror, aided throughout by the devil. An evil spirit will come out of the air and descend upon his followers. *He*

*shall feign a resurrection from the dead, cause rain to fall... and perform other wonders, all through the power of the devil... The Jews will welcome him.*" (Ibid.; Richard Rolle of Hampole, d. 1349).

## Compare With Your Bible

Hippolytus is one of the "early church Fathers" upon which the Catholic church depends for inspiration and dogma. Get your Bible, and compare the plain statements of Scripture, the Word and authority of Almighty God, with the blasphemous prophecies made by Hippolytus about the year 170 A.D. Satan very cleverly inspired this early writer to pen these prophecies just a hundred years after the true Church of God had to flee to Pella. Since that time there have been scattered prophecies by many important men and women in the Catholic church on this subject of greatest importance—even up to as recently as 100 years ago.

*Hippolytus* begins by saying, "Believe not the enemy who is to come and be seen; for he is an adversary and corrupter and son of perdition, and deceives you; and for this reason he will kill you, and smite them with the sword" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*; Hippolytus, section XXIX).

GOD'S Word says, "Behold, he [Jesus Christ] cometh with clouds; and EVERY EYE SHALL SEE HIM... and all kindreds of the earth shall wail because of him" (Rev. 1:7).

"And out of his mouth goeth a sharp sword, that with it he should smite the nations: and he shall rule them with a rod of iron: and he treadeth the winepress of the fierceness and wrath of Almighty God" (Rev. 19:15).

Hippolytus goes on to say: "... at that time the whole earth will bewail the life of anguish, and the sea and air in like manner will bewail it; and the sun, too, will wail; and the wild beasts, together with the fowls, will wail; mountains and hills, and the trees of the plain, will wail on account of the race of man, because all have turned aside from the Holy God, and obeyed the deceiver, and received the mark of that abominable one, the enemy of God, INSTEAD OF THE QUICKENING CROSS OF THE SAVIOR" (Ibid.; section XXXIII).

God's clear revelation shows that the time when the families of all the earth are going to bewail for anguish is the time of Christ's return. "And the merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn

over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise anymore: The merchandise of gold, and silver, and precious stones... fine flour, and wheat, and beasts, and sheep, and horses, and chariots, and SLAVES, and SOULS OF MEN... The merchants of these things, which were made rich by her, shall stand afar off for the fear of her torment, WEEPING AND WAILING" (Rev. 18:11-15.)

Hippolytus: "And in the presence of all he exhibits himself as taken up into heaven with TRUMPETS and SOUNDS, and the MIGHTY SHOUTING of those who hail him with INDESCRIBABLE HYMNS; the heir of darkness himself shining like light, and at one time soaring to the heavens, and at another descending to the earth with great glory, and again charging the demons, like angels, to execute his behests with much fear and trembling. For he will show forth his demons brilliant like angels, and he will bring in hosts of the incorporeal without number" (Section XXXIII).

The Holy Spirit through the revelation of YOUR BIBLE says: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a SHOUT, with the VOICE OF THE ARCHANGEL, and with the TRUMP OF GOD: and the DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to MEET the Lord in the air" (I Thes. 4:16-17.)

As for Hippolytus' "demons brilliant like angels," Daniel tells us that the resurrected and changed saints "shall shine as the brightness of the firmament; and they that turn many to righteousness as the stars [angels] for ever and ever" (Dan. 12:3.) See also I Cor. 15:50-53.

And the "incredible hymns"—"And they sung as it were a new song before the throne... and NO MAN COULD LEARN THAT SONG but the hundred and forty and four thousand, which were REDEEMED from the earth... the FIRSTFRUITS unto God and to the Lamb" (Rev. 14:3-4.)

### More From Hippolytus

"Then that abominable one [if this is not blasphemy against the very God of Heaven, what is?] will send his commands throughout every government by the hand at once of demons and of visible men, who shall say, 'A mighty king has arisen upon the earth; come ye all to WORSHIP him; come ye all to see the strength of his kingdom: for, behold, he will give you corn; and he will bestow upon you wine, and great riches, and lofty honours. For the WHOLE EARTH AND SEA OBEYS HIS COMMAND. Come ye all to him'" (Ibid., section XXXVII).

Revelation 14:6-7: "And I saw another fly in the midst of heaven, having

the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on the earth, and to every nation and kindred and tongue and people, Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgment is come: and WORSHIP him that made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and the fountain of waters [and therefore the whole EARTH AND SEA OBEYS HIS COMMAND]."

When these false "prophecies" are read from pulpits into the ears of gullible people and they begin to see God's intervention come to pass, THEY WILL BELIEVE THE ONLY MEANING THEY HAVE EVER LEARNED ABOUT THESE SIGNS AND WONDERS... AND BE CONVINCED THAT THE GLORIOUS CHRIST RETURNING IN TRIUMPH IS IN TRUTH THE ANTICHRIST!

A more modern prophetess of the Catholic Church has this to say about this time of preaching: "Whole nations will join the Church shortly before the reign of the Antichrist. These conversions will be amazing. Those who shall survive shall have to conduct themselves well. There shall be innumerable conversions of heretics, who will return to the bosom of the Church" (*Prophecy For Today*; from Anna Maria Taigi d. 1837).

These false doctrines and false prophecies are going to be preached with ALL DECEIVABLENESS, and are truly going to deceive ALL THE WORD. You and I, when we enter God's Kingdom at His return, are going to have to convince these people of the TRUTH.

### Being God's Born Sons Not an Easy Job!

The whole world will be up in arms AGAINST Christ. The chaos from years of pestilence and plague, the devastation of hydrogen and nuclear wars of cosmic scale will have to be CLEANED UP. Complete anarchy will take over in all the countries of the world as the earthly governments collapse; order will have to be restored. This *cannot be done overnight*.

It will take painstaking effort, even after the complete cooperation of the population of the earth is gained! Human nature will resist the Government of God to the bitter end!

It's not going to be easy to convince these hysterically frightened, demoniacally deceived, pitifully desperate human beings! This last generation, sinful as it is, will need the full compassion and mercy you will be able to give as God's Sons. You will need every ounce of spiritual power and wisdom God will give you to perform the JOB of re-habilitating millions of crazed, completely deceived men left on this earth.

They will be gaunt, wild-eyed! They will have seen more horrible things hap-

pen in their lifetime than all the pages of history have yet recorded.

Driven in stark, raving FEAR AND OPEN TERROR from their homes, they will seek to hide from the newest and most overawing manifestation of *world-shaking* POWER that they have yet seen—the only thought in their tortured minds will be that HERE IS YET ANOTHER ENEMY IN THIS SICK, HELL-TORN EARTH... HIDE, HIDE, HIDE!!!

HIPPOLYTUS agrees with *what* will happen, but he calls the *one who causes it to happen* the ANTICHRIST and not the TRUE CHRIST! "Then will he send the cohorts of the demons among MOUNTAINS AND CAVES AND DENS OF THE EARTH, to track out those who have been concealed from his eyes, and to bring them forward to worship him" (Ibid., section XXIX).

The Bible tells us from *whom* men will hide in the rocks, "And the Kings of the earth and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, hid themselves *in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains*; And said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:15-16).

You, as a born son of God, may have to be one of those who is sent out to track down these frightened people. You may have to counsel with them and assure them that the true living God has returned to the earth and that there will be peace from that time forward.

### Remarkable Prophecy

Here is another false prophecy from Hippolytus.

"And by reason of the SCARCITY OF FOOD, all will go to him and worship him; and he will put his mark on their right hand and on their forehead, that no one may put the sign of the *honorable cross* upon his forehead with his right hand; but his hand is bound" (Ibid., section XXVIII).

Now turn to the Book of Zechariah in your Bible, and read what the true, triumphant, returning Christ will do to the nations of this earth in order to get them to worship Him. "And it shall come to pass, that every one that is *left* of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up from year to year to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of tabernacles. And it shall be, that whoso *will not come up* of all the families of the earth unto Jerusalem to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, even upon them shall be no rain. And if the family of Egypt go not up, and come not, that have no rain; there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen that come not up

to keep the feast of tabernacles. This shall be the punishment of Egypt, and the punishment of *all nations that come not up to keep the feast of tabernacles*" (Zech. 14:16-19).

The Eternal God, at His return, is going to cause the nations of this earth to recognize Him as Ruler and to worship Him through the means of *controlling the weather*, causing drought and famine — SCARCITY OF FOOD — until ALL NATIONS COME UP TO KEEP THE FEAST OF TABERNACLES!

### Giant Rehabilitation Program

The "mop up operation" that will follow the return of Christ, in which you may be employed, will be the greatest in all history!

It is difficult to realize the total chaos that will exist! The truth of your Bible revealed in the pages of Revelation is not just "apocalyptic writing"—but these revelations are from the Almighty God who foresaw this end of civilization and realized as He told us Himself in Matthew 24:22 that, "Except those days should be shortened, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED ALIVE!"

So let your mind dwell for a moment on the REALITY of this. Let the truth sink in! This will be a time such as the earth has NEVER FACED BEFORE.

No ships are plying the sea, no forests cover the mountainsides, no grass clothes the plains, whole islands have disappeared into the sea, mountain chains have been wrenched out of shape, peaks have become valleys and valleys have become plateaus. Even the earth itself is not circling the sun in its proper orbit, but reeling like a drunken man through the solar system!

In a situation such as this only those who have God's truth could be expected to be sane!

"The public service of God shall be extinguished... at that time *silver and gold* shall be cast out in the streets, and none shall gather them; but all things shall be an offence" (Ibid. Hippolytus, section XXXIV).

The "public service," the Catholic Mass, will not be allowed! Silver and gold won't be worth anything to man, *because you cannot buy God*—only repentance will be worth anything in that day! "And they shall go into the holes of the rocks, and into the caves of the earth, for fear of the Lord, and for the glory of his majesty, when he arises to shake terribly the earth. In that day a man shall cast his idols of silver and his idols of gold, which they made each one for himself to worship to the moles and to the bats!" (Isa 2:19-20.)

The supreme government on earth is the Government of God. Christ Himself, with all of the saints born into His Kingdom with Him, and the multitudes of

Israel coming out of captivity are abiding in peace at Jerusalem. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will raise unto David a righteous Branch, and a King shall reign and prosper, and shall execute judgment and justice in the earth. In his days *Judah shall be saved, and Israel shall dwell safely*: and this is his name whereby he shall be called, THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS. Therefore, behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that they shall no more say, The Lord liveth, which brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt; But, The Lord liveth, which brought up and which led the seed of the house of Israel out of the NORTH COUNTRY, and from ALL COUNTRIES whither I had driven them; and they shall DWELL IN THEIR OWN LAND" (Jer. 23:5-8).

The first twenty-six verses of Jeremiah 31 repeat again the establishment of peace and God's rule at Jerusalem over Israel and over His born-again sons. Read it yourself!

During this same time, "He shall judge among many people, and rebuke STRONG NATIONS AFAR OFF; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning-hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Micah 4:3).

### Millennial Pioneers

Then, after a period of time — including the three and one-half years of the ministry of Jesus Christ which He has yet to finish as a personal ministry to Israel—those of us who are the born sons of God *and* the physical seed of Israel will go forth from Jerusalem to establish government, peace and prosperity. The laws of God will be taught to all the peoples of the earth, beginning at Jerusalem. "Behold, the days come, saith the Lord, that I will *sow* the house of Israel and the house of Judah with the seed of man, and with the seed of beast" (Jer. 31:27).

When you come to them and say, "This is THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT!" (Isa. 30:21), when you begin to explain to them that the Christianity they have known is FALSE, that the Sabbath is the seventh day of the week — even when you are able to read the thoughts of their minds — it is STILL GOING TO BE DIFFICULT TO BRING THEM TO THEIR SENSES! They will have been deceived ahead of time by a clever satanic-inspired prophecy. They will believe that you will be teaching exactly these things which they have been told are false! Yes, believe it or not, Satan knows the Scripture—he TREMBLES AT GOD'S WORD BECAUSE HE KNOWS IT WILL COME

TO PASS! And he will have tried his best, by his method of CONFUSING THE FACTS, to so deceive this last generation as to frustrate the plan of God in setting up His government in the millennium. Even though Satan himself is restrained at this time from *further* deceiving the nations, HE HAS ALREADY DECEIVED THIS LAST GENERATION!

Listen to this satanic delusion: "Anti-christ will be an *iconoclast* [against idols]. Most of the world will adore him. He will teach that the *Christian religion is false*, confiscation of Christian property is legal, *Saturday is to be observed instead of Sunday*, and he will *change the Ten Commandments* [that is, restore them in their ORIGINAL FORM, including the declaration against idols]. All his wonders could not be written in a book. They will be more wonderful than the Old and New Testaments! ... he will *read people's minds, raise the dead*, REWARD HIS FOLLOWERS AND PUNISH THE REST"! (*Prophecy For Today*; from Dionysius of Luxemberg, d. 1682.) AND, "... He will begin by affecting RESPECT FOR THE LAW OF MOSES" (Ibid.; from Frederick William Faber d. 1863).

### The Pope's Prophecy

Here we see in full the prophecies this end-time false prophet will preach! He will attribute Jesus Christ's intervention in world affairs to the person and the workings of Antichrist!

Christ is the One who is AGAINST IDOLS! Christ is the One who will show how perverted this world's "Christianity" has become—that it is a FALSE RELIGION! *Christ* is the Lord of the Old Testament whose day of worship is the seventh day, INSTEAD OF SUNDAY! CHRIST is the One who *gave* the Ten Commandments in their ORIGINAL FORM, and will restore them. CHRIST IS THE ONE WHO WILL RAISE THE DEAD AND REWARD HIS FOLLOWERS... HE IS GOD, AND THERE IS NONE LIKE HIM!

So we see here the diabolical plot hatched by this professed "Christian" leader. Here is the age-old attempt of Satan the Devil to arrogate to himself and to his deceived minions the OFFICE OF GOD; while he attributes the intervention of the True Christ in his returning glory to the PERSON AND ACTION OF ANTICHRIST!

This charges the office and work of the Holy Spirit as having its origin as a WORK OF THE DEVIL, AND CONSTITUTES UNPARDONABLE SIN!

These diabolical thoughts, ensconced in the fear-ridden minds of completely deceived human beings, WILL BE DIFFICULT TO DISLODGE! You will need all the power God bestows on you

as His born son to do the job He will give you to do.

### Peace at Last!

Egypt is an *example* of all the nations who refuse to come up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, to recognize God as the Ruler of the earth. Then we see the last rebellion put down as those from the far corners of the earth up in Siberia, and in the provinces of China—the farthest spot on earth from Jerusalem—will swoop down upon Jerusalem in a vain effort to take away the great riches that God has bestowed on His peace-loving people. A thousand years of peace and prosperity, health and happiness stretch beyond that time that cannot be imagined in your mind.

And think of it, brethren, YOU have been called to help God bring His peace to this earth! You are offered a sonship in the Kingdom of God to teach other people how to become God! By overcoming yourself daily. By getting close to God in prayer and Bible study. By learning how to live *yourself*. By setting a Christian example in overcoming the petty sins that weight you down.

As one last illustration of the reality of this fact please turn to Isaiah 19, and begin reading in verse 16, "In that day shall Egypt be like unto women: and it shall be afraid and fear because of the shaking of the hand of the Lord of hosts, which he shaketh over it... In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptian into Assyria, and the Egyptian shall serve with the Assyrian. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, BLESSED BE EGYPT MY PEOPLE, AND ASSYRIA THE WORK OF MY HANDS, AND ISRAEL MY INHERITANCE"! (Isa. 19:23-25.)

This is real, brethren, and you need to realize it!

THE REWARD OF THE RIGHT-EOUS IS NOT ETERNAL RETIREMENT, BUT A REAL DOWN-TO-EARTH, 24-HOUR-A-DAY JOB... EMPLOYMENT FOR ETERNITY, JOYFUL WORK!

## CHURCH NEWS

### from Around the World

(Continued from page 8)

the face of adversity so long as they are diligently seeking Him and obeying His Laws.

As pastor of the San Diego Church, I was greatly encouraged by the following report phoned to me by Mr. Billingsley—resident Co-Pastor.

### San Diego Area Report

"The San Diego Church is growing both spiritually and in numbers. The establishment of the Spokesman Club in September 1960 and the Bible Class every Friday night have aided greatly in its spiritual growth and development.

"We have had a number of miraculous interventions and healings. A few months ago Mrs. Barry Dean had been in labor (childbirth) for approximately 20 hours. The baby, Mark Anthony, was born approximately 10 minutes after being prayed for. (Mrs. Dean is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Harold Jackson.)

"Mrs. Jose Alvarez has had a number of miscarriages in the past and she became pregnant approximately 8 months ago. After some symptoms of previous problems materialized, she was prayed for and has been able to carry her baby ever since. The baby dropped so much after the first 6 months, the doctor did not think she could carry it much further. Also, other people were commenting about it, but by the grace and mercy of God she is doing well, on the whole, and the baby is expected by the 20th or 26th of this month—the full period. She has also been healed of pernicious anemia.

"Recently one mountain was conquered in this San Diego area. Twenty-five of us, ages from 8 to approximately 60, with the help of Mr. Jesse Honeycutt as guide, on an approximate 6 mile hike, courageously undertook the task of conquering Black Mountain. It was a hard struggle (for some) but there is now one less mountain to conquer in this area.

"Afterward, sandwiches and hot and cold drinks were furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Schreiber who have been an inspiration to many of us because of their zeal and diligence in serving God.

"Mr. Ollie Shaffer with his guitar then led us in folk singing. Later we returned home tired and happy. Overall we thanked God for His perfect way of life in providing us with the right kind of functions whereby we might all come to be better balanced that we might grow in the stature and fullness of our Saviour Jesus Christ."

### Oklahoma City Church of God

In a brief report from Mr. Dave Antion, pastor of the Oklahoma City and Tulsa, Oklahoma Churches of God—both new Churches of God in the past year—we received the following encouraging news. "This week was the highest attendance for a weekly Sabbath that the Okla-

homa Church of God has had since its beginning. The attendance was 152. The average attendance is now running about 145." I know we will all be encouraged by the progress and increase God is giving to His Churches in Tulsa and Oklahoma City.

I know these reports concerning the lives of God's people and the activities of His Churches around the world are of vital interest to all of the members in God's Church. As we receive these monthly reports, we will try to report to you in future editions of The GOOD NEWS magazine the highlights of the activities in God's Church. So, until the next time, let's all remember that we are part of *one body*—the Church of God, the body of Jesus Christ. Let's remember to pray for one another and for all of God's work wherever it is on the face of this earth.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 4)

### God Heals Cough

"Dear Mr. Armstrong,

"This is to tell you of the healing of the terrible cough my husband had. I put the prayer cloth on him and he hasn't had another coughing spell since. It left immediately."

Fallon, Nevada

### Thankful For God's Power And Promises

"Dear Mr. Armstrong,

"I am sending an offering to God for healing me. I have a cancer in my left breast and side, and God has answered my prayer and healed my breast. The cancer has died and is coming out."

Arkansas.

## DOES YOUR CHILD LIE?

(Continued from page 5)

FUL parent. He or she is sinning against their child, and against the CREATOR.

If you have been failing to rear your child properly, DO NOT FAIL ANY LONGER but begin immediately to repent and to do all you can to correct the situation. Read Mr. G. T. Armstrong's articles on child rearing in The PLAIN TRUTH, study your Bible for God's direct instruction, and pray fervently for the wisdom you need. God will not fail you (read James 1:5). YOU QUIT FAILING HIM AND YOUR CHILDREN.

# How do You Study the Bible?

When someone quotes a Scripture to prove a point, do you *check up*? Most don't! Your very salvation *could* be at stake. Here's how to be SURE!

by Jack R. Elliott

YOU have probably heard people say, "You can prove *anything* by the Bible." Perhaps, before your conversion, you have heard one denominational minister say one thing and quote scriptures to prove it, then another refute it saying just the opposite—yes—and quote Scriptures to "prove" it. People *who fail to check up* naturally assume that the Bible will prove anything! They do not know that ministers who teach a counterfeit way of salvation consistently *misquote* scriptures to justify the *doctrine of their church*.

## Why Most Do Not Check Up

It doesn't take a whole lot of effort to *check up* and *see* who is SPEAKING THE TRUTH. Then why don't most people check up?

The simple answer is in most cases *they don't know how!* As a result, they just choose whom they *prefer to follow* and *trustingly believe* whatever they are TOLD! They *assume* their teacher is a "specialist" at his trade—that *he* surely must *know!* Their woeful lack of knowledge about their Bible leaves them extremely vulnerable to any false doctrine which might come along.

Have you followed the example of the Bereans? (Acts 17:11.) They *received willingly* the words of God from Paul and Silas, who at that time were looked on as radicals, teaching strange doctrine, but then they searched the Scriptures daily *whether those things were so*.

Yes, *they even checked up on the Apostle Paul* to see if he used the Word of God *faithfully* and accurately. They checked the Scripture to *see* if what Paul said was in the Bible. They did not go to other brethren and ask *them*. THEY CHECKED THE SCRIPTURES for themselves.

The Bereans believed the *truth of God*, not because they asked men, but *because they went to the Bible*. Obviously their intent was to find the *real words of God*, valuing that rather than what other brethren—who didn't fully understand the Bible—thought.

It doesn't take a mental giant to study the Bible, just someone who is willing to be honest with himself and with God's Word.

## How To Check Up

If you are listening to a sermon, learn to *take notes* on that sermon. Not elaborate, burdensome notes, just jot down the main subject on which he is speaking, *what he has said about it* and what he

says you should do. Too many of you brethren merely quote a scripture, jotting down only the name of the book, chapter and verse. For example, if a minister is quoting Matthew chapter 5, verse 5, write down *Matt. 5:5 AND ALONGSIDE IT* jot down what he says this verse proves. Later, when you have the time, open your Bible and study it carefully. See that you not only learn it to satisfy your own mind, but that you learn it so thoroughly that you may be able to teach it to others later.

Always read a few verses before and after it until you're sure you understand the general subject with which the Bible is dealing. Then fix this valuable principle firmly in your mind.

Here's the big point! Where did the minister turn in the Bible to see how *God interpreted it?* Remember that no prophecy—or any other subject—of the Scripture is of any private interpretation (II Pet. 1:20). For example, verse 17 in the fifth chapter of Matthew, the word "fulfill" is often misinterpreted to mean "do away by completing."

Those who claim God's law is done away often quote this verse. They say God's law was not destroyed but Christ fulfilled it so that we don't have to. Such an error is easily discovered by following the admonition of reading the scriptures before and after that verse. In this case, the two verses immediately following clarify exactly what was meant in verse 17. Verse 18 shows that not one bit—not one iota—shall pass from the law by any means and verse 19 shows that no one should break even the least commandment and should not teach other men to do so. This clearly teaches that Christ did not come to do away with the law, but to keep it, setting us an example to do likewise (I Pet. 2:21); that the law shall stand fast until all the plan of God is fulfilled; that we shouldn't break it and we shouldn't teach others to break it! To put this clever twist on the word "fulfill" in verse 17 and the phrase "till all be fulfilled" in verse 18 makes the passage contradict itself and other Scriptures. God's ministers do not tell you *what they want* to believe, but *what God has said!*

Check to see if your understanding is consistent with all other scriptures dealing with the same subject.

If you question a translation, this difficulty can often be cleared up by referring to two or more different translations. The King James Version is generally more accurate but often hard to understand.

When one of its questionable translations is checked along with one of the more modern translations, such as Moffatt or Revised Standard, the meaning often becomes clear: If you still have a question, ask your local pastor, or, if you are not in a local church, write headquarters and we will explain it.

## Become Familiar With the Bible

Some people have difficulty in checking up because they are so *unfamiliar with their Bible* that they cannot find a scripture readily. Sad to say, this often comes from pure neglect of Bible study. If you do not know how to use your Bible, the following should prove valuable to you:

First, of course, you should have a Bible of your own. Try to provide for yourself a practical and convenient sized King James Version to use in most of your studying. This Bible should have large enough print to enable you to read it comfortably, but should not be so large that it is cumbersome to carry around or to hold while studying. *Get the best Bible you can afford*. It is important that it last a long time without wearing out or losing its pages! The longer you keep such a Bible, the more valuable it becomes to you. To wear it out and have to discard it, after you have marked it and become accustomed to it, is almost a tragedy.

It should have center references and as wide margins as possible for making notes. It does not need to have a concordance in the back because such concordances are too inadequate to be of much value. You will want to provide yourself with a much larger concordance when you can afford it.

Once you have a good Bible, *start at once* learning HOW TO USE it! Don't *just* start with Genesis and try to read straight through. You may become discouraged before you discover its *real value* in guiding YOUR life.

Your Bible is chock-full of VITAL information, but the significant parts of any one subject are revealed "here a little, there a little" (Isa. 28:9-11). Standing alone, one scripture on a subject may not mean much to you. But, put all the scriptures together on any one subject and it becomes *dynamically vital* to you.

Putting these scriptures together will require conscious study and research on your part. The best *help* you can get on this is to enroll in the *Ambassador College Bible Correspondance Course*, if you haven't already done so. It introduces

vital subjects and helps you to find Bible information on them.

### Studying Bible Profitable in Many Ways

There are many reasons for learning to use your Bible, other than just checking up. You need to become INTIMATE WITH GOD through your Bible. You need to read the very Words of God often, not just have someone else tell them to you. For this reason you will want to continue turning to each reference long after you have finally *proved* who teaches the true Words of God. This enables you to grasp the true meaning more fully and more clearly. It keeps you versatile with the words of God. It helps you to understand that scripture better when you read it again later. It also keeps you aware of your *dependence on God Himself*. You may even be used later to help others understand the same scriptures.

Becoming acquainted with the Word of God, to understand its meaning and the significance of its teaching, is a wonderful experience. If you have not yet done so, then you can look forward to one of the most intriguing, the most profitable, the most soundly reassuring experiences of your life. Nevertheless, it requires some effort on your part and *you alone* stand in the way of your success or failure.

If you approach God's Word with a *genuine thirst* for the *authentic, authoritative TRUTH*, you can rest assured that God *will* open your eyes and cause you to understand! Before your own eyes will unfold, clearly and plainly, His wonderful plan of salvation. It includes YOU, if you are among the obedient. Why *rob* yourself of it?

## Christ Our Passover

(Continued from page 2)

DO as I have done to you...if you know these things, HAPPY are ye if you DO them" (John 13:15-17.)

Now turn to Luke's account and notice that Jesus commanded us to do *something else*. "And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves: For I say unto you, I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the kingdom of God shall come" (Luke 22:17-18).

Jesus took *wine*, the fermented "fruit of the vine" and divided it among the disciples and then explained "This cup is the new testament *in my blood*, which is shed for you" (Luke 22:20). Jesus showed that the wine was to *symbolize* His shed blood! Then, "He took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you, this DO *in remembrance of me*"! (Luke 22:19.)

Here again, in instituting the new sym-

bols of the wine and the bread, showing His shed blood and broken body for the forgiveness of our spiritual AND physical sins, Jesus gave a COMMAND. He said, "This DO — in *remembrance of me*!"

The world is not WILLING to DO what Jesus says!

Are you?

### HOW Does God Forgive Sin?

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write that "ALL have *sinned*, and come short of the glory of God"! (Rom. 3:23.)

And the wages, the reward, the automatic *penalty* for sin is DEATH! (Rom. 6:23).

Further, God tells us that sin IS the transgression, or the breaking of God's spiritual Laws! (1 John 3:4.)

You and I have both sinned! And, since we have sinned, that means unless or until we have had that penalty removed and expiated, we are under the penalty of death! But it is given to ALL men to die once! (Heb. 9:27). Whether righteous or unrighteous, rich or poor, rebellious or obedient, all men must DIE — *once*! This, then, is *not* the penalty for sin! God was speaking of *eternal* death!

Only by having this terrible, brain-chilling sentence *removed* from you can you get from under this terrible load, and be freed from the horrible sentence of being *burned to a crisp*! The penalty is remaining *dead, gone, forgotten* — for *all eternity*!

God reveals in His perfect plan, that only by the *shedding of blood* is there remission for sins!

In the "golden text" of the Bible, God said, "for God so loved the world [yes, *this* rotten, sin-sick, crime-ridden world] that he *gave* his only begotten Son that whosoever believeth in him should not PERISH, but have everlasting life"! (John 3:16.)

Jesus was led like a *dirty criminal*, made to carry His own stake, until He fell under the weight of it — and then was hauled roughly up and had to feel huge *spikes* being pounded mercilessly through the flesh, pinning His hands and feet to the wood. He had to suffer a merciless *beating* which tore His flesh open, disfiguring Him, causing Him to bleed from dozens and even *hundreds* of open gashes and cuts! He was beaten and whipped with a "scourge," which was a whip of many leather thongs, with bits of lead and metal tied in the ends of them.

Then, after having to feel his own body weight ripping and tearing at the flesh where the nails had been driven through, without any relief in sight, Jesus had to feel a huge, sharp metal spear *jamming* into His side, cutting the tissue and the organs, severing blood vessels and flesh, and perhaps even cutting open His

stomach! Christ DIED in a hideous, merciless, depraved, BRUTAL death — such as a normal man would not think of inflicting upon a rabid dog!

And Jesus *did* this—VOLUNTARILY!

He did this for US, and for the whole world!

### Christ's Life for Ours

Jesus is GOD! He is not God the Father, but He is a member of the *family* called GOD! (John 1, Heb. 1.)

The One who became Jesus Christ is the LORD, the God of your Old Testament! By Him, and through Him, and by His spoken word were ALL THINGS created, and brought into being!

Jesus is the Executive Member of the God Family, the One who brought life itself into existence, Who created all matter, all energy and force, and everything that you can come to see or know by your senses!

Therefore, when this member of the Godhead had *voluntarily* been *changed into* a man — had become a physical, air-breathing, water-drinking and food-eating human being, confined to this earth, and had been MADE flesh — there was no second member of the Godhead in Heaven!

Jesus was on this earth — as a *human* being, a *man*.

His one life, since He was the very One who had been used to create *all* life, was worth FAR MORE than all the rest of our lives and the billions who have lived and died put together! Had Jesus been ONLY a man, His death could have paid perhaps for *only* one other man! But Jesus was GOD — IN THE FLESH!

His life is worth FAR MORE than all the rest of human life put together! Thus it is, that by EMPTYING Himself, being made of low estate, and taking upon Himself the sins of the world, Christ became the perfect and complete sacrifice for all sins ever committed!

Only through complete REPENTANCE, the *acceptance* of Christ's sacrifice, and then living in OBEDIENCE to God can you be saved!

The SIGN by which you PROVE TO GOD you are WILLING TO OBEY, and that you REALLY DO accept Christ's blood to pay for your spiritual sins, and His broken body to atone for your physical sins — that SIGN IS THE KEEPING OF THE PASSOVER AND THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD!

### Christ OUR Passover

Just as the ancient Israelites' houses were PASSED OVER by the death angel sent to kill the firstborn of Egypt, so will OUR homes be PASSED OVER by the ETERNAL DEATH that is the penalty for SIN!

David wrote, "BLESSED is he whose transgression is FORGIVEN, whose sin

is COVERED—BLESSED is the man unto whom the Eternal imputeth not iniquity" (Ps. 34:1-2). Yes, WHAT A BLESSING!

That Christ, through His TREMENDOUS sacrifice has willingly become OUR Passover "Lamb" that the filth of the world, the DISEASES of the world, the SINS of the world, and the ultimate DEATH of the world will PASS OVER us!

It is only when we have PROVED Jesus IS the Christ—when we have humbly, with BROKEN-HEARTED REPENTANCE, accepted HIS SHED BLOOD—that we have the forgiveness we seek!

The Apostle Paul was inspired to write, "PURGE OUT therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even CHRIST OUR PASSOVER is sacrificed for us" (I Cor. 5:7).

### GROW in Grace and Knowledge

This defiant world wants to CLAIM Christ as its saviour—to "receive" Christ, to appropriate His NAME—but they WILL NOT OBEY Christ!

The whole picture of the Days of Unleavened Bread show our coming OUT of sin, putting the human VANITY and CARNALITY OUT of our lives—GROWING in grace and knowledge.

Just as our forefathers were told to eat their passover with their loins girded, with their staff in their hand—looking apprehensively at the world around them—preparatory to FLEEING from Egypt, so WE are to GO ON after the Passover, to OBSERVE THE DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD!

Because the world wants to believe in a TWISTED concept of "grace" that actually means "permissiveness" to DO EVIL—because they have NOT OBEYED God in observing His Holy Days, they have LOST SIGHT of the great PURPOSE in human existence. They do NOT KNOW there is anything to DO—anything that could be called "works" they REJECT!

Think of this!

If the worldly churches understood ONLY THE PASSOVER AND DAYS OF UNLEAVENED BREAD—if they didn't know anything else of the Holy Days—THINK of all the TRUTH they would have!

First, they would know that Jesus WAS HUMAN! They would know that there is NO immortal soul, since He died by the shedding of His BLOOD! They would know the true manner of His death, and the real PURPOSE for it. They would know WHAT SIN IS—and WHAT REAL REPENTANCE is! They would KNOW Christ is ALIVE, since they would be accepting the *only sign* He left as proof of His Messiahship! They

would know we are to COME OUT OF THE WORLD—to be CHANGED from our old ways of life—they would know GOD IS THE RULER! In short, they would know literally DOZENS of great, overall principles of the PLAN of God of which they are in total *ignorance* today!

THAT IS WHY GOD COMMANDS US TO KEEP it!

We are never to forget the PLAN He is working out here below, and our vital PART in that plan!

Paul exhorted the Gentile Christians, "LET US KEEP THE FEAST" (I Cor. 5:8). He showed HOW we are to keep it, and said, "let a man examine himself, and so LET HIM EAT of that bread, and DRINK of that cup..." (I Cor. 11:28).

These commands mean YOU! God is offering us the PRICELESS, MATCHLESS PRIVILEGE of being BORN of Him—becoming HIS OWN CHILDREN! The PASSOVER and Days of Unleavened Bread show the BEGINNING of the PROCESS of Salvation!

Brethren—let's all be OBEDIENT to our God—LET US KEEP THE FEAST!

## Is God the Author of Ceremony?

(Continued from page 3)

audience will not be distracted by dozens of people, with tripods, flash bulbs and other paraphernalia, stumbling over each other in order to get a single picture for themselves only. We want you all to have hundreds of pictures, and The ENVOY is the most satisfactory way we find to enable thousands of you to each have the photographs you cherish.

So let us hereafter show the kind of respect to God that we should. He is the author of ceremony, not of confusion. All of us can have every photograph we desire, but we must do it orderly. Be sure to remember this whenever we assemble at God's annual festivals.

## Is JUDAISM the Law of Moses?

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ers" (*ibid.*, p. 28). These priests were not elected by the people to hold a high office in the Great Assembly. They assumed this position by heredity, as ordained by God (Deut. 17). Actually, no one but the priests, according to the Law of God, could teach or direct the people in their religious life. This is the reason why the Great Assembly was composed exclusively of the priests, with the High Priest being the recognized leader.

With the canonization of the Scrip-

ture and the establishment of synagogues throughout the land, a problem confronted the Great Assembly. In order to teach the Law of God, it was necessary that the priests and Levites have copies of the Scriptures. Up to the time of the canonization, books were not made with all twenty-two scrolls of the Old Testament combined together.

### Many Scrolls of Scripture Made

Now that the Scripture had been authoritatively assembled, it became necessary to distribute the complete word of God. The synagogues needed the Holy Scriptures as did many individual priests. So, it fell the lot of the Great Assembly to remedy this situation. They had the responsibility of seeing that many scrolls of Scripture were made and distributed to those who were in authority to teach the Word of God. And, too, they had to be extremely careful and make sure that only individuals who were thoroughly qualified would undertake such a sacred task of copying the Scriptures. Such a job could not be entrusted to just anyone, lest from inexperience or carelessness the transcription was not an exact reproduction.

It became obvious that the only body of men who were qualified to do such a work were the members of the Great Assembly *themselves*. It was necessary that the new scrolls be perfect and that each scroll be sanctioned by these authoritative priests. This led the Great Assembly to assume the task of copying the Scriptures. They assumed this occupation sometime not long after the deaths of Ezra and Nehemiah.

From this time forward, the members of the Great Assembly became known as *Sopherim*. The word "Sopherim" in Hebrew signifies "counters." "They were called *Sopherim* because they counted all the letters in the Torah [the Scriptures] and interpreted it" (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, p. 44).

In order to have an accurate transcription of the Scriptures, the *Sopherim*, the members of the Great Assembly, counted each letter on each section of a scroll. They made sure that when they copied the letters onto a new scroll, that there would be *exactly* the same number of letters on the new section as had existed on the old. To do this, they had to count each of the letters on the new scroll several times to make certain that the exact number was transcribed.

This method of copying the Scriptures was followed by later Jews until the invention of the printing press. In fact, about eight hundred years after Christ, this method was so highly developed among the Jews that they knew the middle letter of each book in the Bible, and, even the middle letter of the whole Bible. There were many nonessential fea-

tures developed from this method of counting the letters of the Scriptures. For those who may be interested in some of these features, see Ginsburg's *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible* (this book is now out of print and would be found only in some of the larger libraries).

### Sopherim Taught the Law

Once the members of the Great Assembly became the copiers of the Law (the Sopherim), we find the two names synonymously referring to the *one* group of priests. To speak of the Sopherim was to speak of the Great Assembly, and vice versa (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, pp. 44, 45). For convenience's sake, we will refer to these men by the name most used in history — we will call them the Sopherim. The term *Sopherim* denotes that the one major job of the Great Assembly was to copy faithfully the Scriptures, and teach these Scriptures to the priests of lower rank who in turn would teach the people. Their lives were centered in the study of the Scriptures and in teaching the Law of God. This was, after all, the occupation that God had ordained for the priests. They were also to regulate the religious life of the people. And, history shows that the members of the Great Assembly, the Sopherim of Persian times, following the examples of Ezra and Nehemiah, carried out their commission with fidelity.

### Sopherim Interpreted Scriptures Correctly

We read in the Scripture that Ezra "read in the book in the law of God *distinctly*, and gave the sense, and caused them [the lay people] to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:8). When Ezra taught the people, he would read from the Law of God and then *give the sense of it*, that is, he would give the true explanation of it so the common people could understand what God meant from the Law.

This is what any true minister of God will do. All that is necessary to understand God's Word is to have it properly explained by dedicated teachers who know the Scriptures thoroughly. A true minister of God will allow the Scripture to interpret Scripture. This is the only way of arriving at the truth of God's Word. This is the reason the World Tomorrow program and the Plain Truth magazine interpret Scripture with Scripture. This is exactly what Ezra and his successors, the Sopherim, did! They simply expounded the Law of God, the Scriptures. They did not make up their own ideas about Scripture teaching. They taught the Word of God, *and it only!*

This manner of teaching the Scriptures, and which is the only proper way, is known among the Jews as the *Midrash-form!* The word *Midrash* means "to com-

ment." And the term *Midrash-form* designates that manner of teaching which depends *only* on the written Word of God for doctrines — letting the Bible explain itself.

The reason this type of teaching has a special designation among the Jews is because they later had *different methods of teaching* which did not rely upon the Word of God. And, it became a later custom to refer to the true type of teaching, which expounded or commented on the Scriptures, *and the Scriptures only*, as teaching in the *Midrash-form*.

This *Midrash-form* is the type of teaching that the Sopherim used, for they were following Ezra's example of reading in the Scriptures and then giving the sense or the meaning so the common people could understand. This is the method of teaching that began with Moses and was exclusively used from his day and throughout the period of the Sopherim. For it was, and still is, the only proper way to teach the Word of God (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, p. 47).

"The *Midrash-form* was supposed to be that in which Moses had originally taught the Torah, and to use that form was called '*teaching after the manner of Moses*'" (*Ibid.*, p. 47).

The later Jews, as previously mentioned, came to the place of teaching religion in an entirely different method than "after the manner of Moses" and the Sopherim. We will see that they did not utilize the *Midrash-form* as the *only method of teaching*. However, Ezra and the Sopherim, following the example of Moses, taught exclusively in this correct form. They never departed from teaching directly from the Word of God. No other form of interpretation was used or allowed!

### Sopherim Complete Final Additions to the Old Testament

The Sopherim, being the successors of Ezra and Nehemiah as well as being the custodians of the Scriptures, were responsible for adding the final portions to the Old Testament. While they were in authority among the Jews, they added a few names to certain genealogical tables in order to bring them up to date. In I Chronicles 3:17-24 and Nehemiah 12:10, 11, there are recorded lists of certain men. The last mentioned of these men lived just before the coming of Alexander the Great in 331 B.C.

Notice I Chronicles 3:17-24. There is mentioned a sixth generation after Zerubbabel. This last generation would have lived about the time of Alexander the Great. Nehemiah 12:10, 11 refers to Jaddua the High Priest who was alive when Alexander the Great came to Palestine (Josephus, *Antiquities of the Jews*, xi, 8, 4). Thus, the names were added to

the genealogical tables by the Sopherim just before the coming of the Greeks in 331 B.C.

This shows plainly that the Sopherim, who were established about 440 B.C., were in authority for a period just over one hundred years—until 331 B.C. And also that the Old Testament, as we have it today, was made into its final form by the Sopherim with the addition of a few names to the genealogical tables, about 330 years *before* the birth of Christ!

The Sopherim had complete authority for doing this. They were the proper custodians of the Law and ordained of God for this purpose.

### What All This Means for Today

It must be emphasized that the Sopherim were all priests—there were no laymen among them.

"In the days of the Sopherim, when the High Priest was the head of the community, and when the teachers under his leadership formed an official body vested with authority to arrange all religious matters in accordance with the Law as they understood it, the knowledge of the Law was limited to the priests who were the *only official teachers*. On the one hand, the priests who were in possession of the Law and tradition of the fathers considered the teaching and interpreting of the religious law as their priestly prerogative" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, p. 197).

This priestly authority was in accord with the Word of God. The priests had been ordained to be the teachers of the people in religious matters. No layman was permitted to assume this authority. As long as the Sopherim remained as the official body among the Jews, this direction of God was adhered to. And during the entire period of the Sopherim—from the days of Ezra until the coming of Alexander the Great—the Jews were keeping the Law of Moses. However, in 331 B.C., when Alexander came to Palestine and defeated the Persians, the whole complexion of Palestine government changed.

The Greeks, unlike the Persians, did not allow the Sopherim to hold their authoritative position among the Jews. In fact, after 331 B.C. the Sopherim disappear from history as a body of priests directing the religious life of the people. The whole organization was dismantled by the Greek conquerors.

The coming of the Greeks brought a complete change in practically every mode of life in Palestine. With the Sopherim taken away from their position of authority, the Scripture teachings ceased being enforced. A whole new way of life was forced upon the Jews.

The next chapter will elucidate what happened in this very important period in Jewish history!