

The

Good News

International Magazine of The Church of God





More About Our Cover...

David's throne is pictured on this month's cover! David himself never sat on this chair of course—but his direct descendants, ruling Ephraim today, are crowned on this chair. The stone beneath the chair has seen the history of Israel from the time Jacob used it for a pillow to the installation of Queen Elizabeth II.

When Christ returns He will move this stone to Jerusalem—where it will never be moved again. Read the article on loyalty in this issue beginning on page 19, and see how you can qualify to become a king with Christ!

Keystone Photo

What our READERS SAY...

Christmas

"Several days ago, I wrote you telling of the unfavorable household conditions which have resulted from my not observing Christmas, while my wife does observe it. I asked for help in working the situation out satisfactorily to me and her, without my compromising my duties toward God. She is a member of the Presbyterian Church. Please cancel the request I made of you because I have just received the October-November issue of *The GOOD NEWS* and it contains precisely—and in full—what I want. It is the article titled 'The Christmas Problem' by William F. Dankenbring."

Man, El Paso, Texas.

"I felt guilty about getting so much comfort free, so after reading 'Is Christmas Christian?' I quit putting money in my two Christmas Club accounts. When my checks came, I felt the best use for them would be Ambassador College. Please accept them as a 'thank you' for your lovely magazine and helpful broadcast."

Mrs. Michael C., Arizona

Ambassador College

"A man living in California is here visiting and said of course you were all wrong. Asked if I ever saw the college. Said he drove past the place—all grown

up in weeds. And I said he might as well save his breath for he could not change my mind and I had made my choice and he had made his."

Mrs. A. M. W., Indiana

• *Wonder which college he saw? It couldn't have been Ambassador, unless, of course, he was lying.*

Healing

"I asked for and received a prayer cloth for a baby grandson of whom doctors said his heart was on the wrong side, with enlarged blood vessels, tumors of the vessels, and one arm and leg were smaller and shorter. Three doctors examined him, and said all these things were true. Without saying anything to anyone, I asked for a prayer cloth. I laid it on his stomach in faith, and he just flinched and slumped forward slightly, then went right back to playing. I never told anyone. His parents wanted to take him to Jackson, Mississippi, to a specialist. I just let them go, but told them there wasn't any need for that trip, for he was already healed. They never asked me how I knew, nor did I ever tell them. They took him down there anyway. The doctor kept him over two hours, X-raying, examining, measuring, and whatever else he did. His findings were: no short leg, no short arm, no tumors, (Please continue on next page)

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*ministering to its members
scattered abroad*

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and no heart on the wrong side. He is three now, and is as nearly perfect as a three-year-old boy could be. I thank God for it all—not man, not the prayer cloth, but God.”

Man from Alabama

“I am 11 years of age and I help mama with washing the dishes. I receive 11 cents a week. I have been washing the dishes for her around 2 years and I save the money sometimes until I spend it. I’ve started saving it again now for ten weeks and I’ve saved \$1.10. I want to send a dollar for *The WORLD TOMORROW* program.”

Miss Jane R., Florida

From England

“We are saving to buy our own house, but I have just been thinking. I’d rather seek the security of God Almighty, the very Creator, which is more solid and durable, than the security which I create for myself made of brick, wood and plaster. Jesus Christ has done His part, now I must do mine. Enclosed please find a check for \$56.00—my average wages for a week.”

Man from Birmingham,
England

From Belgium

“Words fail me when I try to express my joy and recognition at having received a visit from you this summer. God has answered my prayer, since my heart always longed for the truth and you are a true servant of Christ, as I am able to recognize. I could not have experienced by letter what I experienced by your visit. I recognize I am nothing, and that I must follow God’s Word and not the traditions of men. I feel I have everything to learn, but God will guide me by His Spirit and by your help. Dear pastor, you to whom God has given the responsibility of preaching the Word of God—help me, pray for me, so that God will direct me in all His ways.”

Woman from Ophain, Belgium

Repentant

“I thank God that, though my foot was slipping back to the garbage pile where ‘old self’ was buried, He opened my nostrils wide to smell the stench.

Because of many trials, coupled with my physical handicap, I was exhausted and frustrated. I was trying on my own strength alone. Well, God delivered me. I set my life in schedule with *God first*. I went off balance trying to keep a perfectly kept home and there seemed to be less and less time for prayer and study of God’s Word. I was irritable with my husband and children because they weren’t perfect. I was so busy chasing dirt out of my home and family that I neglected the biggest pile of dirt in the house—ME!”

Mrs. John K., New Jersey

More Than Enough

“Recently our landlord said our rent would be \$10.00 more, starting the first of June. My husband said there was nothing we could do but pray about it, so we did. This week my husband got a \$32.00 monthly raise. This not only covers our rent, but will allow us to increase our tithes, Building Fund, and regular offerings.”

Mr. and Mrs. Dwain C., Texas

No Blessings

“I have tithed several times in the past months, SOLELY to reap the rewards of tithing, as you have said that God would open up the windows of heaven. Nothing but catastrophe upon catastrophe have I reaped since tithing. First my car broke down and I had to buy another. Then my wife lost her child in pregnancy and nearly lost her own life. Next my other car broke down and I had to have it fixed. I am having financial problems with the banks with which we deal, which have cost me dearly. All in all, since I have tithed, it has set me back approximately \$2,000.”

T. F. C., Pennsylvania

• *Change your attitude and God will change His!*

Sad But Wiser

“I am a sad example of one who decided to quit tithing for just a little while until I could catch up on some of my bills. Well, that little while turned out to be several months and I still haven’t caught up. My financial situation has become increasingly worse and worse. The last few weeks have

been a nightmare. Financial difficulties have come against me like waves of the sea and all my frantic efforts to make ends meet have been in vain. I am forced to make double payments on my house each month to prevent foreclosure, and to add to all this frustration, my last double payment became lost in the mail (a distance of only 72 miles to its destination). This quickly brought another threat of foreclosure. To top it all off, I am being harshly criticized by my mother for deciding to tithe again. Well, I’m mailing my tithe anyway despite criticism and the threatening foreclosure. I sincerely hope that others will not have to learn through bitter experience that it always pays to obey God no matter what the circumstances are.”

Horace H. R., Texas

From Canada

“I would like to report a blessing from tithing. Never before this year have I ever realized a crop worth over \$52.00 an acre. This year we netted almost \$70.00 per acre on some of our crops. Yet, in many places near our home the prophesied drought has been taking its toll.”

Man from Saskatchewan,
Canada

Tither Blessed

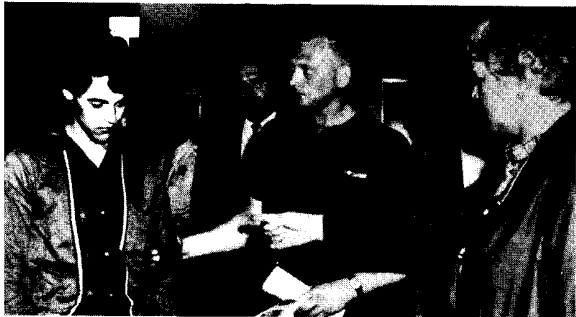
“To show that God does bless His tithe-giver as well as those who give freely, I can say that I am a living example of such . . . When the ministers say that God has a bigger shovel to send back the blessings for more than man can ever put into God’s Work, they are telling the truth. God’s shovel is the biggest I’ve ever seen.”

D. E. S., Virginia

Thanks Again

“This is belated, but I do want to thank you for the book *GOD SPEAKS OUT* on ‘The New Morality.’ It was really enlightening. I cried in some places. If only I had had such a book when I was growing up, I think my life would have been different. My mother and dad never told me about things I ought to have known, and I had to find out the hard way. I imagine I am not by myself in that point. But

(Continued on page 15)



Wide World Photos



DPA Photo

Ambassador College Photo



This Could Happen To
YOUR TEEN-AGER!

Mirror Pic Photo



DPA Photo



HOW TO *HELP* YOUR TEEN-AGERS!

A growing problem in God's Church today is that of unruly teen-agers. Parents cannot cope with their children when they reach the teen-age. Why should this problem affect God's Church in such great proportions? What can YOU do about it?

by David L. Antion

THE TEENS have been called *the dangerous age* by many sociologists and child psychologists. They see teen-age as an age of rebellion against authority, of unbridled energy and emotions.

Most psychologists have no understanding of the basic principles of dealing with teen-agers. What's more, they know nothing of how a teen-age mind works.

In God's Church today many brethren—faithful in rearing their children thru grade school—throw up their hands in utter amazement and frustration when their child reaches teen-age. Why should this be?

Do *you* know how to help *your* teen-ager? How can you "reach" him? How can you earn his respect?

Why does he not confide in you? How can you win his confidence? And just *what mistakes are you making* right now that are driving your child farther away?

The Great Basic Principles

The average parent today is totally ignorant of the basic principles by which he could help his teen-agers. Even members of God's Church neglect and forget the great basic principles in dealing with children. And yet the Bible is very plain on these two great principles. One is found in the Old Testament and the other in the New. Once you understand these principles you can use them for the good of your child.

Notice the first one: "And thou

shalt teach them [the commandments] diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up." (Deut. 6:7.) Here is the great basic principle so many parents neglect—that of TEACHING.

Most parents do very little teaching to their children. It is much easier for some to spank than to teach. Many parents don't realize they cannot deal the same way with their child for the rest of his life. They cannot understand that spanking *alone* is not the answer. There is also a time when spanking has very little effect on a child who has passed the age where he will repent through physical punishment. At this point most parents throw up their hands and say, "What's the use? *I can't do anything with him!*"

New Testament Principle

Now notice the other Bible principle contained in the New Testament. This principle is to the fathers or parents of the children. "And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord" (Eph. 6:4). Let's understand this scripture a little better. The *Moffatt Translation* says this: "As for you fathers, never exasperate your children, but bring them up in the *discipline* and on the *admonitions* of the Lord."

Did you catch that? Do you see the principle involved?

God's Word shows that we need to

do two things with our children. We need to bring them up in the *discipline*—the just and correct punishment for violations of rules—and the admonition of the Lord. The word "admonition" means the teachings, instructions, and commandments of Jesus Christ.

Two Extremes

Today people want to go to one extreme or the other. They want to try to deal with their children through all teaching and *no* discipline—or else they want to try all discipline and punishment and *no* teaching. Either way is a course that will end in disaster for your child.

Every child needs *both* the discipline and the teaching and admonition of the way of God. His parents have a God-given responsibility to *teach* and to *train*. In the early years of life they need more training and discipline as they are unable to understand much teaching at this time. But as the child continues to grow older, parents need to continue to train through discipline and then begin to bring in consistently more teaching. He needs to be talked to, taught, lectured, until he has been thoroughly *instructed* in the right and Godly ways of life.

If a parent neglects this proper teaching he will soon find his discipline not doing the job it should. If, on the other hand, he neglects the proper discipline of a very young child and tries to do it all through teaching—he will find himself on the short end as well. For the child will be unruly,

and unresponsive to the teaching. The child will not *sit still* to listen to the teaching given to him. Thus the parent will be headed for many problems and trials with his child.

Worldly Influences

Although brethren of God's Church are trying to get closer and closer to God's ways and absorb His teaching from the Bible, their children are constantly being exposed to worldly habits and teachings. Thus through the children—especially the teen-age children—the world has inroads into our family.

We send our child to school at six years of age. Our child may be well disciplined and taught to sit still. He may be well behaved and mannerly in almost every way. But then he begins to learn through sight, sound and the bad examples of others around him. He soon learns the dirt, filth and smut of this world. He also sees the unruliness and rebellion that is evidenced by many in his own class. This exposure is a constant form of teaching—a bombardment which very few are able to resist unless their parents come to their aid with constant *right* teaching.

As the child gets older he or she learns many *dirty jokes* in school, is exposed to the theory of evolution, hears *curse words*, erotic sayings, and many other things that appeal to his carnal human nature. Little by little *your* child is being influenced from the way of the Bible to the way of the world. Little by little the insidious, cancerous growth of worldly attitudes takes hold of your child's mind. Soon the once sweet, innocent little child you had now becomes a *different* person.

Many parents exclaim, "Why, I don't even *know* my child anymore!" *Why* does this parent not know his child anymore? Why is it that when the real attitude of this child is shown the parent is frankly shocked?

The simple answer is this: The parent has assumed that once he has taught his child to sit still, come when called, answer "Yes, Sir" and "Yes, Ma'am" that he has done all that is necessary as a parent. Thus his child

comes into the home, sits at the table when he is told to sit, gets up when he is told to get up, and answers his parents with respect. But *what else* is going on in his mind the parents do not know.

Year after year the child is bombarded with *worldly, carnal thoughts*. He is put under pressures, frustrating circumstances in school life. He is either *ashamed or afraid* to TALK IT OVER with his parents. And many parents do not encourage their children and teenagers to *talk* their problems over with them. The parent is too busy—he has done his job—he has taught the child to sit still, come when called, answer with respect.

But there is much more to child rearing than that!

Right Examples of Teaching

The Bible is full of examples on how to teach your children—even *what to say!* Many parents read right over these scriptures and never realize that they are put in the Bible to *teach the parent* how to teach his own child.

Here are some examples of proper teaching of children.

Notice Proverbs 4:20. "My son, attend to my words; incline thine ear unto my sayings." This is an example of a parent talking with and admonishing his own child. The parent asks the child to *listen*, to pay attention to the teachings he is about to hear. In the next few verses we find the things the parent should teach the child. He also tells the child the advantages of paying attention to the things he is about to be taught (verses 21-22).

Then the parent goes on to give the child these various admonishments: put away a froward (wilfully contrary, not easily managed) mouth and perverse lips, look straight ahead (concentrate, don't be easily distracted), ponder ("look before you leap"—think about what he is going to do *before* doing it) the path of his feet, and not turning to the right or to the left from the goal (finish the job he starts). These are *some* of the things you should be teaching your children! (Verses 24-27.)

Notice how many times the Bible

gives examples of a parent teaching his child to heed his words. In Proverbs 5:1 we read, "My son, attend unto my wisdom, and bow thine ear to my understanding." Again in Proverbs 6:20, we read, "My son, keep thy father's commandment, and forsake not the law of thy mother." Again, "My son, keep my words, and lay up my commandments with thee. Keep my commandments, and live; and my law as the apple of thine eye. Bind them upon thy fingers, write them upon the table of thine heart." (Proverbs 7:1-3.)

So we see in these various examples how the wise parent goes about *teaching* his child. He talks with him, instructs him in the way of righteousness.

Every parent secretly says: "My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine" (Proverbs 23:15). Also, "My son, be wise, and make my heart glad, that I may answer him that reproacheth me." (Proverbs 27:11.) Every parent is glad when his son or daughter does well in life. No parent wants his child to be foolish, cause destruction and bring on a bad name.

"A foolish son is the calamity of his father." (Proverbs 19:13.) But there is *a way* to avoid this calamity.

But HOW does one teach his son to be wise?

How much teaching and training is needed on the part of parents in God's Church to counteract the foolishness of this world?

Homework!

How is your home life? Do you really know your teen-ager? Oh yes, many *think* they do. But do they? Are you sure you know what is in the mind of your youngster?

Many parents never take the time to talk with their children. They have their own pleasures and activities to do, television shows to watch, and business to take care of—so they have no time to talk with their youngster. They don't know what's going on in his mind. They are not aware of the various problems he is facing at school or the frustrations which may be in his or her mind.

How many parents devote a certain

(Continued on page 22)

Church of God News—

WORLDWIDE



New churches and Bible studies established. More men for the field ministry. And introducing more of our recently ordained Elders.

by Roderick C. Meredith

SURGING GROWTH is the keynote in God's Work as 1965 closes. Since the recent Feast of Tabernacles, at least SEVEN new churches have been started or are starting. And *many* additional outlying Bible studies are being added throughout the U. S. and around the world.

Meanwhile, plans have just been completed to release *five more men* from service in Pasadena to go out into the field ministry. This should be a terrific boon to several churches—but *many more men* are still NEEDED!

Now for the details.

SEVEN New Churches

A total of *seven* new churches are now in the process of being established in this period just after the Feast of Tabernacles! Actually, Mr. Armstrong had already approved two of these but they had not started as yet. One of the new churches being established is in Joplin, Missouri—my old home town—where the church has already begun with 170 brethren meeting for the very first Sabbath services!

A *second* church has been established in Kansas City, Kansas, in order to make room in the church hall there! Actually, it seemed unwise to start an additional church in any other location as the brethren were evenly scattered around this area. So now we have two Kansas City churches—one in Missouri and one in Kansas City, Kansas, which began on November 20 with 256 in attendance.

Also, as previously approved, *two* new churches are being established in

the Greater New York area. One has already begun—in Manhattan. It will be for the Negro brethren there—and has been established to give more hall room and also afford the Negro brethren an additional opportunity for the development of leadership and service among their own people. They are most enthusiastic about this, and the initial attendance for the first Sabbath services, November 13, was reported as 143. The other Church, in Paterson, New Jersey, should start in a few weeks.

Another new church has been established in Youngstown, Ohio with 171 in attendance. It will be pastored by Mr. David Antion—District Superintendent for this area—and will be his *second* church to personally pastor.

Up in Canada, a new church has started in Victoria, British Columbia. It will be pastored by Mr. Dean Wilson—Director of the Canadian Work—and will be his *second* church where he will pastor personally. On November 13, 56 brethren met together for the opening service.

Over in England, Mr. Raymond McNair reports that a new church has been established in Newcastle, in the north of England. Mr. McNair, who is the Evangelist in charge over the British churches, was present to bring the first sermon for the 46 assembled brethren. This will give many brethren in this area an opportunity to meet together *regularly*—and will be pastored by Mr. Bob Fahey, Ambassador College graduate and minister, coming down from his home near Glasgow.

From Germany comes *very exciting news* of the FIRST regular church services to be held on the European continent! Mr. Frank Schnee has announced that *monthly* church services were to begin on the Sabbath of December 25 in Frankfurt, Germany. A Bible study was to be held, then refreshments served, then a full preaching service held there each month. Other similar meetings may begin at other locations in the weeks between. So now, for the first time, our brethren on the continent of Europe are beginning to have the kind of fellowship which only *regular church services* can afford!

Let us REJOICE in this great step forward in God's Work!

In addition, several monthly and bi-monthly Bible studies are being established around the world. In Tupelo, Mississippi, Mr. Carl McNair reports an attendance of 122 for the monthly Bible study there on November 7.

With Dr. Clint Zimmerman flying over from Pasadena to conduct it, the Salt Lake City Bible study had a recent attendance record of 91. This portends the need for a church there in the future *when we can just get enough ministers trained!*

In the sparsely populated northern California area, Mr. Dale Hampton recently conducted a Bible study at Crescent City with 30 in attendance. And more monthly Bible studies are now being established at Jackson, Michigan, Texarkana, Arkansas, and elsewhere around the country.

From the "land down under," Mr. Roy Page reports that 24 brethren were

present for the first Bible study to be conducted in Toowoomba, Queensland. Though small at the moment, this opening attendance forms the beginning of a secondary area for Mr. Page and should grow in time.

Another Bible study began recently in Adelaide, South Australia, with 48 in attendance. The opening Bible study was conducted by Mr. Wayne Cole and Mr. Bill Winner—who indicate that steady growth should soon be realized.

Another BIG item of growth in the overseas Work is that we now have our *own printing plant* in Great Britain! The plant occupies a total of 18,000 square feet in a large building, and has already printed the December issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. With the high quality work and advantages of internal control, the printing facet of God's Work is GROWING at an accelerated pace!

More Men for the Field

Mr. Armstrong has just approved plans to send FIVE more men into the field service of God's Church! All of these men will be *assistants* to the ministers—at least at first—but this kind of help is *desperately* needed as God's local churches continue to increase in size and scope.

First, Mr. Charles Bryce, a graduate of Ambassador College in Pasadena, will be going to the Buffalo-Toronto area to assist Mr. Gary Antion there. Mr. Bryce is a graduate of Ambassador College and married one of our co-eds. He is currently assisting Mr. Jon Hill in the Long Beach area.

Mr. Nelson Haas is being sent to the South Bend-Grand Rapids area to work under Mr. Frank McCrady for the spring and summer. He will be returning to finish his college training next year. Mr. Haas is a standout basketball player on the senior team—so Ambassador College's loss will certainly be the gain of the South Bend-Grand Rapids area.

Mr. Bob Cain, with his new bride, will soon be sent to the Oklahoma City-Tulsa area to assist Mr. Richard Prince. Like Mr. Haas, Mr. Cain spent some time in the service before his college career and should be a real help in the field ministry.

Mr. Bill Nettles and wife are being sent to Atlanta, Georgia, to assist Mr. Ken Swisher in the visiting work there. Mr. Nettles is an Ambassador College graduate and also married an Ambassador co-ed.

Mr. Ben Leonard is also being sent out for several months of field training and seasoning—assigned to the New York area under Mr. Raymond Cole. Mr. Leonard is a product of Imperial Schools, and has had much experience in God's Church and Work.

Another field switch which I wish to report to you is that Mr. Fred Kellers has been changed from the Eugene, Oregon area to the Baltimore-Richmond area to assist Mr. Guy Engelbart. Because of the extremely rapid growth and exceptionally large number of prospective letters coming in, Mr. Kellers' help as an Elder has been more urgently needed on the East coast. Reports have already come in that he is, indeed, keeping *extremely busy* in that area.

Last, but far from least, many of you brethren will be happy to learn that Mr. Bryce Clark is having his first opportunity to return to Ambassador College for graduate training! As Superintendent over the Kansas City Church District, he will now be replaced by Mr. Dean Blackwell—formerly Superintendent over the Chicago District, and recently here in Pasadena for graduate training himself. Knowing both of these dedicated servants of Christ very well personally, I'm sure that all of the brethren in the Kansas City area will certainly sorrow to see Mr. Clark leave. But I'm equally sure that they will be anticipating the fine help which Mr. Dean Blackwell can give as he begins his ministry in that district.

Now, we want to introduce the *eighteen* men who were ordained during the recent Feast of Tabernacles at Big Sandy and Jekyll Island, respectively. Space limitations prohibited us from doing this in last month's GOOD NEWS. But it is with great pleasure that we now give this written introduction to these new ministers of Christ in this month's issue.

So meet these new ministers of Christ!



Mr. Jack Pyle—newly ordained Preaching Elder

ELEVEN Ordinations at Big Sandy

One of the highlights of the Feast at Big Sandy was the ordination of one new *Preaching Elder* and TEN new Local Elders!

Ordained to the office of *Preaching Elder* in God's Church was Mr. Jack Pyle—a graduate of Ambassador College at Bricket Wood, and now serving as pastor of the Peoria, Illinois, Church of God. Mr. Pyle came to Ambassador College in 1959 from Gladewater, Texas, where he was a graduate of Imperial School. He worked in the Ambassador College News Bureau in 1960-61, was on the Visiting Team in 1962-63 at the College at Bricket Wood, England—to which he had been transferred as a leading student.

In his senior year, he was the editor of *The PORTFOLIO* and the Senior Class President. After graduation, Mr. Pyle served as an assistant in the Indianapolis-Cincinnati Churches and was later transferred and ordained as a Local Elder in the Chicago-La Grange area. Early this year, he took over as full pastor of the Peoria, Illinois, Church of God and now his growth and service has been recognized in his ordination as a full *Preaching Elder* in God's Church. He is married to a former Ambassador co-ed—Ruth Ann Schutt—and is the father of a baby daughter.

Now let me introduce the ten men
(Pictures on pages 12-13,
article continues on page 14)

DANIEL NINE PROVES Jesus Is the Christ

In the book of Daniel is an amazing prophecy revealing precisely WHEN the Messiah was to appear—as well as exactly WHAT He was to accomplish! Study this article carefully.

by William F. Dankenbring

DO YOU KNOW Jesus is the Christ? Can you PROVE it—from Bible prophecy?

Fundamentalist Protestants believe Jesus is the Christ. But many cannot prove it! They believe the Bible is God's inspired Word—but, again, they are hard put to produce any evidence. They have faith that God exists—but they cannot PROVE it! They accept these things on sheer faith.

Such a "belief"—such a "faith"—is weak, wishy-washy and utterly worthless, in God's sight! Empty faith—DEAD faith, the kind held by most people, today—will not save a single soul! There is no need to assume that Jesus is the Christ.

You can know!

The Prophecy of Daniel

The Old Testament is FULL of detailed, plain prophecies referring to the coming of "The Messiah"—or Christ, "The Anointed One." From Genesis to Malachi, prophecies reveal many facets of both the first and second coming of Jesus Christ. But, no Old Testament prophecy pinpoints the EXACT TIME of the coming of Christ, and what would occur, as specifically as the book of Daniel.

Turn in your Bible to Daniel 9, and read the prophecy for yourself.

The prophet Daniel lived during the days of Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and on into the reign of Darius the Mede and Cyrus the Persian. "In the first year of Darius the son of Ahasuerus, of the seed of the Medes" (Dan.

9:1-2), Daniel set his face to seek God, seeking Him through prayer and fasting (verses 3-4). Daniel confessed his sins, and the sins of the people, and besought God for His forgiveness.

While Daniel was praying, God sent the archangel Gabriel, who told Daniel, "O Daniel, I am now come forth to give thee skill and understanding... therefore understand the matter, and consider the vision" (Dan. 9:21-23).

What was this vision — this prophecy?

Seventy Weeks Prophecy

Beginning in verse 24, "Seventy weeks are determined upon thy people and upon thy holy city, to finish the transgression, and to make an end of sins, and to make reconciliation for iniquity, and to bring in everlasting righteousness, and to seal up the vision and prophecy, and to anoint the most Holy."

"Seventy weeks"—how are they to be understood? The day-for-a-year principle of Bible prophecy is understood by many students of the Bible. In Numbers 14:34 God told the Israelites, "After the number of the DAYS in which ye searched the land, even forty days, each day FOR A YEAR, shall ye bear your iniquities, even forty years..." Thus, a day in Bible prophecy is often a YEAR BEING FULFILLED!

This same prophetic principle is found in Ezekiel 4. Prophesying about the punishment and siege of Israel, God told Ezekiel, "This shall be a sign to the house of Israel. Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the

iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee the years of their iniquity, according to the number of the days, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee EACH DAY FOR A YEAR" (Ezek. 4:3-6).

Therefore, seventy weeks represents 70 times 7 or 490 days—that is, since days stand for prophetic YEARS, a total of 490 YEARS. What was to happen at the end of these years?

Let us continue the prophecy.

The Decree of Artaxerxes

Daniel 9:25 explains, "Know therefore and understand, that from the going forth of the commandment to restore and to build Jerusalem UNTO the MESSIAH the Prince shall be seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks: the street shall be built again, and the wall, even in troublous times."

What decree was this? When was it given?

In the seventh year of Artaxerxes, king of Persia, Ezra came to Jerusalem (Ezra 7:1, 7-9). With him he had a letter containing the DECREE of Artaxerxes, permitting the rebuilding and restoration of Jerusalem!

"Now this is the copy of the letter that the king Artaxerxes gave unto

Ezra the priest . . . Artaxerxes, king of kings, unto Ezra the priest, a scribe of the law of the God of heaven, perfect peace, and at such a time. *I make a decree*, that all they of the people of Israel, and of his priests and Levites, in my realm, which are minded of their own freewill to go up to Jerusalem, go with thee. Forasmuch as thou art sent of the king, and of his seven counselors, to inquire concerning Judah and Jerusalem. . . ." (Verses 11-26.)

In this decree Ezra was given authority to take with him all the Jews wishing to return to Jerusalem and to REBUILD THE TEMPLE, the house of God, and whatever else God commanded.

What year was this decree given? What year was the "seventh year of Artaxerxes"?

In recent years an abundance of documents, business records, and astronomical tablets, from the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, have been translated, and help us determine when the decree of Artaxerxes was written. These records reveal that Xerxes died late in December, 465 B.C. His death could not have occurred earlier or later, because documents dated in the last month of his reign, and in the first month of his successor have been found. Thus, his son, Artaxerxes, came to the throne in December, 465 B.C.

Since the Persians reckoned the years of their kings from spring to spring, Artaxerxes' first year was from April, 464 B.C. to April, 463 B.C. The preceding months of his reign are simply called his "accession year."

The Jews in Palestine in Ezra and Nehemiah's day, however, counted civil years from FALL TO FALL. They always postdated the reigns of Gentile rulers—that is, counted from the fall after the first year officially began. Therefore, according to Jewish reckoning, the first "year" of the reign of Artaxerxes would have been September, 464 to September, 463 B.C. This information may be corroborated in *The Chronology of Ezra 7*, as well as other thorough books on archaeology dealing with this period.

The SEVENTH YEAR of Artaxerxes,

therefore, was September, 458 to September, 457 B.C., according to Jewish reckoning. Ezra left Babylon and came to Jerusalem in Artaxerxes' seventh year—the year of the decree—his journey lasting five months (Ezra 7:8-9), and occurring during the first five months of the year—from Nisan in 457, corresponding to our April, to the month Ab, corresponding to our August.

Now notice! The prophecy was that FROM the year of the issuance of Artaxerxes' decree there would be "seven weeks, and threescore and two weeks"—till the appearance of the Messiah! In other words, from 457 B.C., in the fall, till CHRIST appeared on the scene, *there were to be SIXTY-NINE PROPHETIC WEEKS*—a total of 69 times 7 or 483 years!

To what year does this bring us?

The Year Christ Appeared

Figure it out yourself! Just 483 years after 457 B.C. brings us to exactly A.D. 27!

Halley claimed, in his *Handbook*, the date the Messiah was to appear was 26 A.D. However, there is no year zero. Therefore, in crossing from B.C. to A.D. or vice versa, a year must be added to the total to arrive at the correct date!

Notice:

483 years were to pass, beginning from 457 B.C. when the decree went forth, bringing us to
26 A.D.—however, one year must be added
1 in crossing from B.C. to A.D., bringing us to
27 A.D.—since there is no year zero.

Notice carefully—there is no year zero—simply a year 1 B.C. and a year 1 A.D. Supposedly, between these two years the birth of Christ occurred! This, however, is not true. The monk who gave us our present dating system made a slight miscalculation in his figures. But, notice—for example—if you want to count ten years from 5 B.C., simply by counting the number of elapsed years, you come to 6 A.D. However, if you subtract 5 B.C. from 10, the result is 5 A.D. Obviously, this is wrong, as simply counting shows. Therefore, you must ADD ONE YEAR to arrive at the

correct answer when subtracting—*bringing you to 6 A.D.!*

Therefore, the year the Messiah was to appear was 27 A.D.! What happened in 27 A.D.?

This was the historical year when Jesus Christ BEGAN HIS MINISTRY! This was the very year He was baptized, tempted of Satan the Devil in the wilderness, and BEGAN to call His disciples! Bible chronology and history prove Christ began His ministry in 27 A.D.

In 27 A.D. the MESSIAH appeared—JESUS CHRIST!

No one else came upon the scene of Palestine that year doing God's Work.

Jesus Christ began His ministry PRECISELY on schedule—exactly 483 years after the decree of Artaxerxes! But that is not all. Now, notice the REST of the prophecy!

Messiah to be CUT OFF

Verse 26, Daniel 9, "And AFTER threescore and two weeks shall Messiah be CUT OFF, but not for himself. . ." AFTER 483 years, then, the Messiah was to be "cut off." What does this mean?

Turn to Isaiah 53 for the answer. Prophesying about the Messiah, Isaiah declared, "Surely he hath borne our griefs, and carried our sorrows. . . But he was wounded for OUR transgressions, he was bruised for OUR iniquities. . ." (Isa. 53:4-5).

Further, Isaiah records, "He was taken from prison and from judgment: and who shall declare his generation? for he was CUT OFF out of the land of the living: for the TRANSGRESSION OF MY PEOPLE WAS HE STRICKEN" (Verse 8).

Christ, the Messiah, was "cut off"—KILLED—CRUCIFIED—not for Himself, but for our sins!

But—how long "after" the sixty-nine weeks? The last part of Daniel 9:26 shows that after Christ's crucifixion, "the people of the prince"—that is, the Roman armies under Titus and Vespasian—"that shall come shall DESTROY THE CITY and the sanctuary."

This was fulfilled in 70 A.D. when the Roman armies besieged Jerusalem, destroyed the inhabitants, burned the temple, and razed the city to the ground! "And the end thereof shall be with a flood, and unto the end of the WAR desolations are determined," Daniel concludes (verse 26, last part). The Romans DESOLATED the city and the surrounding area!

But—again, HOW LONG "after" the sixty-nine weeks was the Messiah to be "cut off"?

Length of Christ's Ministry

Now read verse 27 of Daniel 9. "And he [Christ] shall CONFIRM THE COVENANT with many for *one week*: and in the MIDST OF THE WEEK he shall cause the sacrifice and the oblation to cease..."

Here the SEVENTIETH WEEK is mentioned! It represents seven years! But, in the midst of this week Christ was to cause sacrifices to cease. How? Turn to Hebrews for the answer.

"So Christ was ONCE OFFERED to bear the sins of many"—remember? (Heb. 9:28.) He took our sins upon Himself, Isaiah prophesied; He was to "make reconciliation for iniquity," and to "make an end of sins," Daniel wrote. "But this man, after he had offered ONE SACRIFICE for sins for ever, sat down on the right hand of God" (Heb. 10:12).

How clear! Christ caused the sacrifices to cease because they were NO LONGER NECESSARY! "For it is not possible that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away sins" (Heb. 10:4). However, the blood of Christ covers all sins!

When? When did Christ—the Messiah—accomplish this? "IN THE MIDST OF THE WEEK!" That is dual—1) after fulfilling one half of the seventieth week—after preaching the Gospel for THREE AND ONE-HALF YEARS—Christ died for the sins of the world after doing the Work of God for three and one-half years, from autumn 27 A.D. until spring 31 A.D.

And 2)—it also indicates that Christ died for our sins in the middle of a literal week—on a Wednesday!

And He was resurrected three days and three nights later—in the evening of the weekly Sabbath (Mat. 12:40), so that He HAD ARISEN already by sunrise Sunday morning (Mat. 28:6; Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6).

Since Jesus died for the sins of mankind in the MIDST of the week, the prophecy, "And he shall confirm the covenant with many for one week," has NOT YET been completely fulfilled. For three and one-half years, during His ministry, He CONFIRMED THE COVENANT with His disciples. By dying for our sins, He put the final stamp on the covenant. Through Him, ALL PEOPLE can now enter into the covenant which God made with Abraham (Gal. 3:29), and become heirs "according to the promise."

But—as Daniel 9:26-27 reveals—there yet remains three and one-half years of Christ's ministry to be FULFILLED! When will Christ fulfill it? When will He once again CONFIRM the covenant?

When Christ Returns!

When Jesus Christ returns to this earth, He will CONFIRM the covenant He made with His people. He will confirm the covenant He made with Abraham, promising that his seed would inherit the entire WORLD (see Gen. 17:4-8; 22:16-18). Abraham and his spiritual seed through Christ will inherit "THE WORLD" (Rom. 4:13).

When Christ returns, Abraham and the saints will RISE to meet Him in the air (I Thess. 4:13-17). They will then REIGN with Him, over the nations of the earth (Rev. 2:26-27; 5:10).

And, at that time, Christ will make a NEW covenant with His people Israel, and write His laws in their hearts and upon their minds (Heb. 8:6-10). For *three and one-half years*, Christ will complete His ministry to ISRAEL, teaching them His ways. Rebels will be purged out from among His people, but the others, who repent of their sins and loathe themselves for their evil deeds, will be forgiven and will come to KNOW GOD (Ezek. 20:35-38, 43-44).

Seventy Weeks—Soon Fulfilled

Daniel 9, the "seventy weeks prophecy," has already—for the most part—been fulfilled. History proves that Jesus Christ—and NONE OTHER—was the One who fulfilled the prophecies of Daniel 9:24-27. He is the Messiah! No one else appeared at the *time mentioned*, or did the *things* mentioned, DIED in the midst of the week, and caused the sacrifices and offerings in the temple to CEASE!

Truly, Jesus IS the Christ! Bible PROPHECY *proves* this fact beyond the faintest shadow of a doubt. There is no need to vaguely "assume" or "think" that Jesus was FOR REAL. The PROOF is incontestable—irrefutable!

And soon, now, that very same Jesus Christ is going to RETURN to this earth and complete the fulfillment of Daniel 9—finish confirming the covenant with His people—and usher in "EVERLASTING RIGHTEOUSNESS" when He returns, "to seal up the vision and prophecy" (verse 24).

The prophecy given in Daniel 9:24-27 is truly one of the most amazing, startling prophecies in the entire Word of God! It gives a pinpointed, detailed explanation of the FIRST coming of Jesus Christ—even giving us the EXACT DATE HE WAS TO BEGIN HIS MINISTRY! It shows that after three and one-half YEARS, He was to be "CUT OFF"—crucified for our sins—giving His life for us, thereby causing the need for other sacrifices, given as a picture of our need for forgiveness, to CEASE.

Soon, now, Christ will RETURN to complete this amazing prophecy and finish the LAST three and one-half years. He will finish confirming the covenant of God with many—all those who accept Him and obey Him!

The Truth is overwhelming! How thankful we should be that God is revealing the real meaning of Bible prophecy! How thankful, that our faith is NOT merely empty superstition or "belief," but is based on the proven and tested, SURE WORD OF GOD!

Will *you* be ready when Christ returns to COMPLETE His ministry?

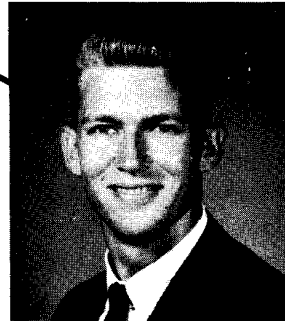
BIG SANDY-JEKYLL ISLAND



MR. ROGER MALONE



MR. MARTIN NICKEL



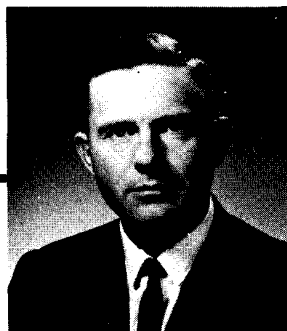
MR. ARCH BRADLEY



MR. BOB DICK



MR. KENNETH GRAHAM



MR. DAVID ROBINSON



MR. HARRY SCHAER



MR. RONALD VAN SLOOTEN



MR. GRAHAM VERNON



MR. MILO WILCOX

ORDINATIONS OCTOBER, 1965



MR. EUGENE NOEL



MR. DONALD PRUNKARD



MR. DENNIS PYLE



MR. JAMES REDUS



MR. MACEO HAMPTON



MR. JAMES JENKINS



MR. HAROLD KRUEGER

Church of God News—Worldwide

(Continued from page 8)

who were ordained as *Local Elders* at Big Sandy!

Meet Mr. Bradley and Mr. Dick

First, alphabetically, was Mr. Arch Bradley. Mr. Bradley graduated from Ambassador College here in Pasadena this last June, and has been assisting Mr. Bryce Clark in the Kansas City area since that time. Before coming to Ambassador College he attended San Jose College during 1960-61.

Here in Ambassador, he worked in the Mail Receiving Department and was transferred to the Visiting Program in his senior year. Also, he was Spanish Club President in his junior year and an Ambassador Club President in his senior year. Now he is married to an Ambassador co-ed, and is an *elder* in God's Church.

Mr. Bob Dick, as Mr. Pyle, came to us as a graduate of Imperial School. Attending first at the Pasadena Campus of Ambassador College, he was in the Mail Reading Department in his sophomore year and continued in this department at Bricket Wood to which he was transferred in his junior and senior years. In his senior year, he became a lead man on the Visiting Program, editor of *The PORTFOLIO* and representative of the Student Council at Bricket Wood.

After graduation, Mr. Dick assisted in the visiting at Big Sandy for part of this past summer, then joined Mr. McCrady in the South Bend-Grand Rapids area for further training and development. Now, he is slated to transfer shortly to the Atlanta-Birmingham area to assist Mr. Ken Swisher, District Superintendent there.

Actually, Mr. and Mrs. Bob Dick will soon be arriving at Birmingham, for Mr. Dick also recently married an Ambassador co-ed, Miss Dyanne Moore, just after the Feast of Tabernacles this fall!

Meet Messrs. Hampton, Jenkins, Krueger and Malone

The next man ordained as a *Local Elder* is one of our Negro leaders—

formerly from Chicago—Mr. Maceo Hampton. Mr. Hampton was ordained as a Deacon in December of 1964 in Chicago. Already, he was a leading man among the Negro brethren and on the Visiting Team there. This summer, he was transferred to Greensboro, North Carolina, to assist the Negro brethren in the Central Atlantic area. He has already been a great help there, and I am sure the brethren in that area will doubly rejoice in his ordination as an *Elder* in God's Church.

Our next new elder, hailing from Wichita, Kansas, is Mr. James Jenkins. A leading man in the Wichita Church and Spokesman Clubs, he was ordained a Deacon in 1962 and now has been made a *Local Elder* in God's Church at this Feast of Tabernacles.

A long-time leader in the Milwaukee Church and Spokesman Clubs, Mr. Harold Krueger now joins the list of God's Elders. Mr. Krueger and his family have been leading lights in the Milwaukee Church almost from its inception, and the brethren there will certainly rejoice doubly in his ordination at this Feast of Tabernacles as a *Local Elder* in God's Church.

From the St. Louis Church, Mr. Roger Malone now joins the list of *Local Elders* in God's Church. He was ordained as a Deacon in 1964, and has also become the Director of the St. Louis Church Choir.

Two Ambassador Graduates— and Two Long-Time Members

Now serving in the Minneapolis-Duluth area, Mr. Don Prunkard also has joined the list of *Local Elders* in God's Church. Mr. Prunkard is an Ambassador graduate, coming to us as one who had *already* graduated from Washington and Jefferson College in Washington, Pennsylvania. At Ambassador, he worked in the Mail Receiving Department and on the Visiting Team. After graduation, he assisted in the Los Angeles Church full time for nearly a year, and then was sent to assist Mr. Sherwin McMichael in Minneapolis. He

and his wife, Jeanne, are fine products of Ambassador College and we all rejoice in his ordination.

Our next new *Local Elder* is another *long-time* member of God's Church in South Texas, Mr. David Robinson. He and his wife attended the Feast of Tabernacles in 1950 when it was still being held at Belknap Springs, Oregon. Overcoming and growing a great deal in recent years through the opportunities given through Spokesman Club and Visiting Program responsibilities, Mr. Robinson now joins the ranks of the *Local Elders* in God's Church.

Our next new *Local Elder*, Mr. Roland Van Slooten, a long-time member of God's Church in the South Bend area, was baptized nearly twelve and one-half years ago. He attended the first Feast of Tabernacles ever held in Texas in the fall of 1953. He began to attend a local Church by driving to the Chicago area from 1955 to 1959, then becoming a member of the South Bend Church beginning in 1960 and now is able to serve his brethren more effectively as an *Elder* in the Church of God.

Another Ambassador College graduate, Mr. Milo Wilcox, was also ordained as a *Local Elder* at this Feast. Coming from Eastern Michigan University, and having spent six months active duty in the United States Marine Corps, Mr. Wilcox graduated from Ambassador in Pasadena last June. During his Ambassador years, he was in the Mail Receiving Department and on the Visiting Program in his senior year. He was also an Ambassador Club President and spent the summer of 1964 assisting Mr. Foster in the Wichita area where he is now stationed. After graduation from Ambassador last June, Mr. Wilcox married an Ambassador co-ed—formerly Miss Dorothy Jo Altergott—and together they form a fine addition to the staff of God's Work in the Wichita-Liberal area.

Congratulations to *all* of you men ordained at Big Sandy—and to your wives and families!

SEVEN Ordinations

At Jekyll Island, a total of SEVEN men were ordained—all to the office of *Local Elder*. Let me introduce them!

First, alphabetically, *Mr. Kenneth Graham* from Detroit was ordained as a *Local Elder*. A college graduate with a Master's Degree in engineering and a leading engineer for Chrysler Corporation, Mr. Graham has been active and zealous in God's Church long before the church in Detroit even began. He was baptized in 1958 and began attending the Chicago Church during the Festival periods soon after that. When the Detroit Church was raised up, he immediately became a leader, and was ordained early this year as a Deacon by Mr. Cole and Mr. Mokarow. Now, at this Festival, he was ordained as a *Local Elder* by Mr. Armstrong.

From the New York area, *Mr. Martin Nickel* has been a faithful and zealous member of God's Church for about six years. A graduate of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and an able businessman and leader, Mr. Nickel has commanded respect in God's Church and was ordained and made the head Deacon in the Brooklyn Church. Now, this Feast, he was ordained to the office of *Local Elder* in the Church of God.

A machinist and toolmaker by trade, *Mr. Eugene Noel* was baptized at Passover, 1957, and has been a zealous member of God's Church ever since. In 1964, he was ordained as a Deacon in the Cincinnati Church and now joins the list of *Local Elders* in the Church of God.

Another member of the Pyle family and a graduate of both Imperial Schools and Ambassador College, *Mr. Dennis Pyle* now joins the ranks of the *Local Elders* in God's Church. During his Ambassador years, he was a member of the College News Bureau, then in the Letter Answering Department and Visiting Program. In his senior year, he was Student Body Vice President at the Pasadena Campus. After graduation, he married the former Miss Joye Williams—an Ambassador co-ed. Now, as a *Local Elder*, he is assisting Mr. Mokarow in the Detroit-Toledo-Midland Churches.

Another Ambassador product is *Mr. Jim Redus*, who is presently assisting Mr. Swisher in the Atlanta-Birmingham area. Mr. Redus graduated from college this past spring and was on the

Visiting Program and sermonette list during his junior and senior years of college. Also, Mr. Redus had the additional benefit of a *full year* of field training under Mr. McCrady between his junior and senior years. Now, he is married to an Ambassador co-ed, formerly Miss Karen Johnson, and is assisting Mr. Swisher in the Southeast as an *Elder* of God.

Hailing from New York, our next *Local Elder*, *Mr. Harry Schaer*, is a product of the Spokesman Clubs and local Churches. Ordained a Deacon two or three years ago, he was recently designated as the Chief Deacon in the entire New York area—and was a zealous example of service and responsibility for the entire Church. Now, Christ has set him as a *Local Elder* in His Church.

Our next new *Local Elder*, also from

the New York area, is *Mr. Graham Vernon*. Mr. Vernon attended the Church in New York almost from its inception. He is the Materials Control Manager for a manufacturing company, and has unhesitatingly used his abilities and training in the service of his brethren. In 1964, he was ordained as a Deacon by Mr. Raymond Cole, and now he has been ordained as a *Local Elder* at this recent Feast of Tabernacles at Jekyll Island.

Congratulations, men! And congratulations and best wishes to all wives and families involved and *thanks* for your help as well!

Brethren, let us all REJOICE that God is adding to His ministry, and blessing His Work in all the ways we have seen. Let us just make sure that He is also adding more of *His Spirit* and *His Power* to our personal lives!

What Our Readers Say . . .

(Continued from page 3)

I want you to know my girl won't have to grow up ignorant, nor my boys either."

Mrs. Glen R., Florida

Tithe of Tithe

"You have certainly put that tenth of second tithe to wonderful help for all of us—what a blessing to have walks and driveways and wash rooms! In fact, what a blessing we all have in just knowing the truth about ourselves. It's so hard to have to come back and face the 'world' again."

Cornelia B. H., Illinois

Good News

"We just received our new magazines and they really are filled with good articles. We can't begin to appreciate these enough, and just to think—even the apostles didn't have this information! We are truly the most blessed of all men."

Edgar R.G., Illinois

Messiah Record

"We purchased the MESSIAH record at the Feast. Both the looks of the record and the cover are simply beautiful to us. We were surprised at the quality of

the record, but shouldn't have been (since we now realize that you wouldn't put out anything that is not quality.) We want to thank you very much for making this record. It is most inspiring."

Carroll L. B., Texas

"The MESSIAH record is just beautiful and we are grateful to have something like this in our home. It surely is inspiring and uplifting. But we would sure enjoy having an album of some of the most frequently sung hymns from the Church of God song book. Could this maybe be arranged? If everyone loves these hymns as much as I, he should be willing to donate more than \$1.50 or \$2.00 for an album by the Ambassador Chorale."

Mr. and Mrs. G. P., Arkansas

Tithing

"About one year and 4 months ago I realized through reading your tithing booklet that I would never be a Christian unless I would obey Christ. But, typical of Mr. Average America, I was in debt, especially to doctors, and felt I couldn't begin just then. But I did, even though at first it seemed I was

sending part of myself. After a couple of months I didn't even miss the tithe and offering. About the third month I was led to a better but cheaper place to live. Then I received a \$50 a month raise in wages. The past year I have received over \$100 raise in pay, plus the \$25 reduction in my rent. I have paid nearly all my debts and have not spent one dollar on doctors since tithing. The only ones that aren't convinced tithing works—haven't tried it."

Jerome C., Oregon

Cataracts Healed

"I received your letter after you offered prayer to God to remove my cataracts. When I opened your letter the cataracts disappeared. I cannot express my gratitude in words for God's blessings."

Rosa D., Maryland

Lesson Learned

"I borrowed \$10.00 from God's tithe about 2 months ago, and now I owe Him over \$100.00 accumulated over the past 2 months. It seems that after I borrowed the \$10.00 the bottom fell out of everything, plus having a guilty conscience. My income increased 80 percent during one year of tithing and I quit tithing after the increase. I know for certain now that my income will stretch 100 percent if I pay tithes, and I will repay the \$100.00 in installments plus regular tithes. I learned my lesson. I also continued to receive my PLAIN TRUTH and Correspondence Course without a word about money. I didn't expect to."

Dessie D., Texas

Tithing

"In regard to tithing, I have put it to the most severe test I could think of and am still testing it. In March, 1963, I had had a bank debit for over five years. I sent you one pound and hoped that by June my account would be showing a noticeable improvement. I was pleased by having my bank credit restored in 24 hours, and have maintained it ever since. A contract laborer by trade, I found better-paying jobs being offered to me. My income last year showed a 50 percent improvement and this year is over double what it was

two years ago. I find great happiness in learning this truth."

Man from Tara, Queensland,
Australia

Third Tithe Year

"Enclosed find God's tithe from sale of our corn crop. The man who tends the ground warned me that the dry weather had hurt the corn. I asked

what he thought it would yield. He has a number of other farms he is tending in addition to his own and this. He told me they had averaged 50 and 60 bushels per acre. Yesterday he came to settle up and mine was well over 100 bushels per acre. Need I say last year was my first third-tithe year?"

Mrs. Harmon D. C., Indiana

The Bible Answers Your Questions

Please address any questions YOU would like answered
in this column to the Editor.

In your booklet, "The True History of the True Church" (p. 7) you state that the *physical* brother of Jesus Christ wrote the Epistle of James. What proof do you have for this?

There are three men named James in the New Testament. James the son of Zebedee and James the son of Alphaeus were two of the original twelve disciples (Mat. 10:2, 3). Another James, called "the Lord's brother," (Gal. 1:18, 19) was the son of Joseph and Mary.

According to the Angus-Greene *Bible Handbook*, the fact "That James, 'the brother of the Lord' was the author [of the Epistle of James] is held with *practical unanimity* by Biblical scholars" (p. 738). Why? Notice the *Biblical* proof.

Christ had a brother named James (Mat. 13:55). Christ had another brother named Judas or Jude. These two brothers are again mentioned in Jude's Epistle (Jude 1:1), showing the brothers of Christ were still active in the Work of God thirty years after Christ's death.

James the son of Zebedee was beheaded by King Herod in 44 A.D. (Acts 12:2.) Since the book of James was written around 61 A.D. (see any commentary for these dates), this leaves only two Jameses.

Which of them wrote the book of James?

James the son of Alphaeus is nowhere

mentioned in the Bible after Acts 1:13. He mysteriously disappears from the Biblical scene! Where did he go? Jesus Christ, remember, *sent* the twelve apostles to the twelve tribes of ISRAEL (Mat. 10:5-6). A valuable source of information regarding the travels of the twelve apostles is William Cave's *Antiquitates Apostolicae*. According to this source, James the son of Alphaeus, one of the twelve, planted Christianity in Spain and "these Western parts," some authorities adding Ireland and Britain!

Fulfilling Jesus' command, he carried the gospel into western and northwestern Europe, to the lost sheep of the HOUSE OF ISRAEL!

But one James remained behind in Palestine. James, the Lord's brother, was at the Headquarters Church in Jerusalem (compare Gal. 1:18-19 with Acts 15:13-21). He was the brother of Jude, another brother of Christ, who wrote the epistle of Jude.

The story should be clear. The epistle of James was written by James, the brother of Christ, son of Joseph and Mary! He was not sent to one of the lost tribes of Israel, as was James the son of Alphaeus. He was the one who wrote from God's Headquarters "... to the twelve tribes which are *scattered* abroad" (Jas. 1:1).

The unmistakable conclusion is that James, the Lord's brother, was the chief apostle at Jerusalem, the Headquarters of God's Work during that age, and that he is the one who was inspired to write the epistle which bears his name!

MARK YOUR BIBLE!

*Do YOU know how to get the most out of marking your Bible?
Do you know how to make Bible-marking USEFUL and help-
ful? Here are some marking KEYS which you may find very
helpful in marking YOUR most precious possession!*

by John Edward Portune

THERE IS NO single, "sure-fire" marking system which everybody can profitably use! Bible marking is, in many respects, a personal, individual matter. Nevertheless, Bible marking should NOT be a sloppy, haphazard, hit-or-miss matter, either!

You CAN mark your Bible—so it will be much more USEFUL in your Bible study!

Why Mark Your Bible?

There are certain suggestions, and certain keys, which you should keep in mind in marking your Bible.

There is *more than one reason for marking a Bible!* Here are three basics: FLOW, DOCTRINE AND PERSONAL CORRECTION. Paul tells us in II Timothy 3:16, that God's Word is profitable for "*doctrine, for reproof and correction, and for instruction in righteousness.*"

In my earlier marking systems there had been no distinction of marks to separate these three categories. If I read a particular verse which applied to me personally, I coloured it bright red, for example. Or, if a minister read a verse which helped to clarify a basic doctrine, I marked it in the same way. Similarly a key verse of context received the identical nondescript mark. As a result, I soon discovered that some chapters had so many good scriptures that virtually the *whole chapter* became marked! I would have been better off to leave the entire page blank.

Therefore, a good system of Bible marking *should include a separate mark for each category.* The *precise* mark is not critical and can be adapted to personal taste.

How to Mark

To mark these three categories, here are five styles of markings which can be used: (1) colouring, (2) underlining, (3) circling, (4) brackets, or (5) signs in the margin. Others are a variation on these basic types.

But now, which of the five should you use? And more important, which ones for each of the three categories?

Of all reasons to mark a Bible, FLOW is of major importance. When you open to a particular passage, it is essential to immediately have your mind focused on the main subject. Therefore, the strongest mark needs to be reserved for the *main flow*. It must also be easy to make, in case you wish to mark the flow during a sermon or Bible study when the minister is speaking rapidly. Therefore, I personally selected *underlining for flow*. On the surface, colouring the verse might seem better. But not so—it is usually too slow. Underlining in free-hand is fast, neat and is the *most NATURAL form of emphasis*.

What about doctrine? What mark should be used? Imagine a page with the flow underlined and the doctrine coloured. Just look at your own Bible. A coloured verse stands out more than one underlined. Therefore, coloured verses would obscure the flow.

In fact, *any* type of mark *put directly on the text itself* confuses the marks for flow. So reconsidering the four remaining marks, I selected the *brackets for doctrine*. And to my surprise, they worked very well. The brackets are easy to locate, yet do not disturb the flow. And similarly, the flow marks do not obscure the doctrine marks.

Lastly, what about the selection of a mark for personal correction? Would it be colouring, circling or margin marks? Again I felt that colouring could not be used. This left circling or margin marks. Circling would have been my choice but after a little thought I rejected the idea because any flow underlining on the same verse would cover the circled words or phrases. Therefore, I was left with *symbols in the margin for personal correction*.

Underline for flow, *bracket* for doctrine and *symbols* in the margin for personal correction.

This is my system. I have *used* it, and am truly amazed at how much it improves the usefulness of my Bible. Not only this, but it is a system adaptable to ministers, college students, and Church members as well. I now can open to any chapter marked in this way and immediately see the context. Or if I want to explain a doctrine, the brackets lead me efficiently. And those verses one likes to remember for personal reasons, stand out clearly with a small symbol in the margin.

But the real blessing is this—**ONLY ONE TOOL IS NEEDED**—an ordinary pen. No elaborate box of coloured pencils! No special drawing pens! Just what you can find or borrow anywhere.

Adding Colour and Refinements

If you wish, a few *extras* can be included in this basic system. I have discovered that a *little* colouring is handy. However, **ONLY FOR MAIN FLOW**. Because of its strength it should *only* be used to emphasize *important*, KEY verses! This will become especially useful in chapters where the subject

changes often or is divided like the seals of Revelation 6.

One additional need in Bible marking, not included in the main system, is explaining words or phrases appearing in the text. For example, "conversation" in Philippians 3:20 should read "citizenship." How can you mark this, yet not confuse the main system?

Simple! Just put a bracket around "conversation" and make a note in the margin. You won't confuse this with a doctrinal mark because these should be used on *whole verses only*. If it ever becomes necessary to explain an entire verse, rather than just a word or two, don't mark it at all. Just write a note in the margin.

Some people like to draw lines between words or verses on the same page to show a connection. Do so if you wish, but with caution. Too many such marks can confuse the flow but a few could be useful, especially in certain places.

Chain References

Another type of Bible mark that needs mentioning is chain referencing. How, for example, should you mark a *series* of scriptures taken from a sermon or booklet? Many seem to profit from this type of Bible study.

The best way I have found is to simply make a note in the margin and put *no mark at all* on the verse itself. If you wish, you can number these chains. For example (3) for Sabbath, (5) for Faith, etc., but *don't be tempted to colour all the verses on a particular subject*. You will too often find that the same scripture is needed in several chains. Which colour would you make it? But a numbered note in the margin does not obscure other notes already there.

Chain referencing is of *limited value* and should be used with wisdom. In the days of my initial enthusiasm for learning all of the basic doctrines, I added *several* chain references to my Bible. Yet today I cannot think of a circumstance where I have used them. *Chain references may often be put in the back of your Bible*, leaving the actual Bible pages free for more useful notes.

A Word of Warning

I have already mentioned multi-colour systems but they need special emphasis by themselves.

Generally speaking, they should be AVOIDED. Certainly, they should only be used with great discretion, if at all. Take the advice of those who have learned the hard way. They can cause *confusion*. And you are at a loss without a battery of special pencils. Keep your marking system simple.

One exception to this might be in the Proverbs where the flow is not as clear as other places. Here colour might be used CAUTIOUSLY to separate the several, distinct topics discussed in this book. But do this *after careful study* and not in a haphazard way.

In marking your Bible, always use caution. An improperly marked verse will remain in your Bible, confusing you every time you turn to it. THINK BEFORE YOU MARK!! Be sure you really do understand the verse. Several places in my Bible show the unsightly remains of hurried notes added before I correctly understood the verse. I later had to erase or cross them out and neither is very neat.

In particular, go extremely slow on marking scriptures for personal correction. I have so often returned to a verse marked earlier for personal correction and wondered why I ever marked it. *Impulsive marking is a poor habit*. Take time to digest comments and ideas before you permanently mark your most important personal possession.

Don't Neglect This Vital Tool!

Whatever you do, don't fail to mark your Bible! Even a poorly marked Bible is better than a blank one. Regardless of the system you use, therefore, *be sure to MARK YOUR BIBLE!*

A marked Bible, a well-used Bible is often a sign of a growing and over-coming Christian. A person who is really GROWING in God's way and His truth will be studying God's Word—and applying it to his own life. *Marking* the Bible can be a vital help in Christian growth!

To some, the whole subject of Bible marking might sound too complicated

—too bothersome. Such an attitude may be a sign of *spiritual lethargy!* Often it is a sign of sheer neglect and laziness! A person who is marking his Bible is obviously *studying* his Bible—intently. Whereas an unmarked Bible may be indicative of a Biblically "blank" mind.

Don't Be Afraid to Mark

I well remember a particular lady I once visited who was highly offended when I laid her Bible on the floor for lack of space elsewhere. She was up in arms immediately. To her the Bible was a "Holy Book" and it was a gigantic SIN to let its cover touch the floor!

Of course, such reasoning is not true. Jesus Himself said, "The WORDS that I speak unto you, they are Spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). The message contained IN the Bible is the important thing. The words Jesus spoke are *spirit* and life.

But the ink and paper on which God's Word is printed is not "holy." God nowhere sanctifies the ink, paper, binding, or other physical components of the Bible.

Therefore don't be afraid to go ahead and MARK your Bible. Make *use* of it. Study it carefully, diligently, and mark it with wisdom. If you don't have a good quality Bible for marking, try to save enough money to purchase one—a Bible with easily readable print, good-sized margins, printed on good quality paper. Perhaps a *National Bible*, an *Oxford* or *Cambridge Bible* would be most suitable for your needs. Many ministers and Ambassador college students have found one of these Bibles to be most useful. They can be obtained through almost any large bookstore.

Remember the admonition of the apostle Paul: "STUDY to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth *not* to be ashamed, RIGHTLY DIVIDING the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). Study your Bible more effectively. Use it as a handy tool. Make it USEFUL by means of a systematic, practicable, and *simple* marking system. Make your Christian "sword"—the Word of God—sharp and glittering and effective by MARKING your Bible!



Views of Biblical World Photo

David had an easy opportunity to slay Saul in En-Gedi. But he chose to live as a fugitive in this wilderness rather than be disloyal!

CAN YOU BE TRUSTED?

Loyalty is a basic attribute of God's character. Without it, no person is qualified to rule. Read how David was always loyal—and how you can increase in this aspect of your character.

by Paul W. Kroll

GOD WILL never allow anyone to be born into His kingdom who doesn't have loyalty! God needs beings He can put *confidence* in—beings HE KNOWS will obey instantaneously.

The Key to David's Attitude

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has often said *loyalty* is one of the MOST IMPORTANT qualities a true Christian must have. King David had that character quality of *unflinching, immediate, devoted LOYALTY!*

Yes, David sinned—he committed *adultery!* He *murdered* Uriah (II Sam. 11:1-27). He was a *bloody man!* (Although, he *bitterly repented* of

these sins.) Yet, in spite of these failings we find David is called "a man *after mine own heart* which shall fulfill all my will" (Acts 13:22).

Why?

Why did God pick out David? He didn't say this of Noah, Job or Daniel. Yet, they were very righteous (Ezek. 14:14). When we understand WHY God looked upon David in this way, we can discern how God measures growth. We will know what standard God uses as a thermometer of spiritual zeal. We will know what it means to submit, to look to Headquarters, to have the childlike attitude Christ said we must have to enter His kingdom.

Let's delve into the lives of David

and Saul as they lived and fought. Let's come to see what it means to be loyal—and how we can INCREASE in our trustworthiness towards our Creator.

Perhaps no contrast between individuals of the Bible is as diametrically opposite as that between David and Saul.

David was loyal and devoted to God. He was subject to his superiors. He honored those over whom he ruled.

Saul was *disloyal* and devoted to HIMSELF.

As the story of their lives unfolds, this character antithesis becomes more apparent. And through this difference, we can see OURSELVES as we really are.

As you read their story ask yourself, "Am I loyal? Am I constant, staunch, trustworthy, true—with Almighty God and my fellow man?"

Saul—Mighty in Appearance

In I Samuel 9:2, we read this description of Saul, "A *choice young man, and a goodly*: and there was not among the children of Israel a goodlier person than he: from his shoulders and upward he was higher than any of the people."

Saul had plenty of ability. He made a good physical appearance. In short, Saul had *everything going for him*. The people wanted him as their king. He could have won any election hands down. Saul could have been a POWERFUL INSTRUMENT in God's hands.

But Saul failed miserably!

Have you ever wondered WHY?

Saul Disloyal to God

The simple answer is: *he lacked loyalty!* Notice how Saul failed in this one most important quality. You can read the Biblical account of the story in I Samuel 15. Through the person of Samuel, God is telling Saul to perform a task: "Now go and smite Amalek, and *utterly destroy* all that they have, and spare them not; but slay both man and woman, infant and suckling, ox and sheep, camel and ass" (verse 3).

This was the commission. Notice especially the italicized words. Now, see how Saul FAILED to comply with these orders.

"And Saul smote the Amalekites from Havilah until thou comest to Shur, that is over against Egypt.

"And he took Agag the king of the Amalekites ALIVE, and utterly destroyed all the people with the edge of the sword.

"But Saul and the people *spared Agag, and the best of the sheep*, and of the oxen, and of the fatlings, and the lambs, and all that was good, and WOULD NOT UTTERLY DESTROY them: but every thing that was vile and refuse, that they destroyed utterly.

"Then came the word of the Lord unto Samuel, saying, It repenteth me that I have set up Saul to be king: for he is *TURNED BACK* from fol-

lowing me, and hath not performed my commandments" (Verses 7-11).

Saul failed to follow simple instructions. He was disloyal to God and Samuel. He couldn't be trusted to perform according to what he was told.

But this was only part of the problem.

Saul tried to *excuse and justify* his actions.

"And Samuel came to Saul: and Saul said unto him, Blessed be thou of the Lord: I HAVE PERFORMED the commandment of the Lord.

"And Samuel said, What meaneth then this bleating of the sheep in mine ears, and the lowing of the oxen which I hear?

"And Saul said, They have brought them from the Amalekites: for *the people spared* the best of the sheep and of the oxen, to sacrifice unto the Lord thy God; and the rest we have utterly destroyed" (verses 13-15).

Saul was *not steadfast* in an emergency situation. He allowed people to get by with actions which were not in accordance with instructions. Saul couldn't carry out instructions himself either.

He refused to admit his failings. He clung to his excuses and championed his own cause. That made him loyal to *himself*—and no one else. Saul looked out for "Number One" in a tight situation. Then, he attempted to cover up and palm off the fraud that everything was being done according to instructions.

It was ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISHONESTY AND DISLOYALTY!

Saul *never repented* of this problem. He had a kind of worldly sorrow. He finally admitted that he had sinned (I Sam. 15:24). But then he made the same mistake all over again. He was a *double-minded man*. Saul was unstable. He couldn't see the need of carrying a job through according to orders—no matter what the obstacles.

As a result, Saul lost out!

Read his life history carefully. You'll see this one dominant failing time after time.

What About You?

What can WE learn from this?

This one great principle! Human na-

ture is ungrateful and self-centered. It's *natural* to be *disloyal*. There is an automatic pull that keeps us from arriving at the integrity that God demands!

No human being is automatically loyal. He must be TAUGHT to have this quality. He must constantly guard AGAINST seeking what is good only for *himself*.

Sometimes it's a whole lot easier not to keep an appointment. It's easier to steal from second tithe. To excuse yourself from attending a Spokesman Club meeting—when you know you have no reason not to be there. Perhaps to work just a *few minutes* on the Sabbath. To excuse yourself for sinning in a crisis by claiming, "I'm just weak, I guess!"

Every one of these are examples of a *DISLOYAL ATTITUDE!*

Certainly God realizes we are weak. But if we are *constantly* disobeying, *constantly* excusing ourselves, *constantly* saying we will obey only to sin again—we are being DISLOYAL TO GOD!

So ask yourself a candid question. Look yourself in the eye spiritually. Face yourself with this probing question: "Am I as wholeheartedly loyal to God as He is to me?"

Importance of Loyalty

Loyalty is a basic attribute of God's character.

Suppose for a moment that God was disloyal. Imagine if God were only kidding us along concerning the resurrection. Think about it! If God were to say, "Well, I know I promised to resurrect those who overcame, but I don't think I will."

Take another example. Suppose one or two prophecies, say Tyre and Daniel 11, were left to chance. Or maybe God would not intervene for His Work in a crisis when his intervention was *necessary!*

How could you put your trust in a God such as that? But God is *not disloyal!* He is the most impartial, fair, square-shooting, PROMISE-KEEPING Servant we have!

Loyalty is important—and *demand!*

Remember, we are bought with a price. Our life is not our own. We are obligated to give God the same loyalty

He showers upon us *undeserving* humans.

Let's see how David loyally served God—and how we can improve. It's an attribute of God and we can pray for a firmer attitude of more complete allegiance to Him.

David's Remarkable Loyalty

David was almost murdered by Saul a number of times. Saul was out to "get" David at all costs. Not only this, David knew that when Saul was dead he would take over the kingdom. In other words, David had every excuse to think he had a "right" to kill Saul, if he had a chance.

And God knew this.

So He tested David on his loyalty—first of all, to Himself and also to Saul. God wanted to see if David would obey even a "froward" master (I Peter 2:18).

This is a bitter lesson to learn. Too many of God's people haven't yet learned it. Wives aren't as submissive to their husbands as they should be. Members get hurt feelings even at other members.

Yet, this lesson is part of this most important character attribute of loyalty.

David never took matters into his own hands. He had faith in God. He knew GOD would take care of the situation.

Here's an example found in I Samuel 24.

"And it came to pass, when Saul was returned from following the Philistines, that it was told him, saying, Behold, David is in the wilderness of En-gedi.

"Then Saul took three thousand chosen men out of all Israel, and went to seek David and his men upon the rocks of the wild goats.

"And he came to the sheepcotes by the way, where was a cave; and Saul went in to cover his feet: and David and his men remained in the sides of the cave.

"And the men of David said unto him, Behold the day of which the Lord said unto thee, Behold, I will deliver thine enemy into thine hand, that thou mayest do to him as it shall seem good unto thee. Then David arose, and cut off the skirt of Saul's robe privily" (verses 1-4).

Here was an attitude of Satan (whispering in his ear—even quoting "scripture" to make David be disloyal). For a moment he weakened.

But suddenly he realized what he had done.

"And it came to pass afterward, that *David's heart smote him*, because he had cut off Saul's skirt" (verse 5).

Now, notice his devoted attitude.

"And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing HE IS THE ANOINTED OF THE LORD."

David realized what a lot of people never comprehend. *God takes care of His Work!*

And He may TEST His people to see if they are looking to Him.

What about it?

How do you stack up?

David didn't take things into his own hands. He didn't listen to a lot of wrong attitudes around him. He knew God was alive in heaven. As a result, he remained LOYAL to his Creator.

Loyalty Characteristic of David

Everyone should read and study the life of David. It's chock full of examples which mirror this attitude of complete yieldedness.

David had another opportunity to kill Saul in the wilderness of Ziph. You can read the story in I Samuel 26. God caused a deep sleep to fall on the army of Saul. David walked right up to Saul. He took his spear and cruse of water. Abishai, one of his leading men, wanted to kill Saul. But David *wouldn't bear* of it.

Another example:

An Amalekite came to David smugly claiming to have killed Saul. This man told David, "As I happened by chance upon mount Gilboa, behold, Saul leaned upon his spear; and lo, the chariots and horsemen followed hard after him.

"He said unto me again, Stand, I pray thee, upon me, and slay me: for anguish is come upon me, because my life is yet whole in me.

"So I stood upon him, and slew him.

"And David said unto him, How wast

thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?

"And David called one of the young men, and said, *Go near and fall upon him*. And he smote him that he died" (II Samuel 1:6-15).

David was loyal to his king, even in death! Not that Saul deserved it. Saul was a carnal-minded, disobedient and hardheaded man. But David respected his position. He knew God had placed Saul in the kingship.

David even wrote a sort of song or ode to Saul and Jonathan, his son. In it he said, "Saul and Johathan were LOVELY AND PLEASANT IN THEIR LIVES, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

"Ye daughters of Israel, *weep over Saul*, who clothed you in scarlet, with other delights, who put on ornaments of gold upon your apparel" (II Samuel 1:23-24).

Was David ignorant of Saul's sins?

Of course not!

But he was thankful for what Saul may have accomplished. For giving his life on the battlefield.

That's a pretty devoted attitude. What about you? How do you measure up? Saul was David's CONSTANT enemy. Yet, he praised Saul. In this day of the "every-man-for-himself" attitude, we need to saturate our minds with these chapters.

Disloyalty Punished

David measured up to God's standards on this vital characteristic. God expects the same of YOU!

David never swerved from total dedication.

It explains in II Samuel 4 how some men slew Ish-bosheth, Saul's son. Abner, Saul's commander-in-chief, had proclaimed him king. So these men thought they had done David a favor.

"And they brought the head of Ish-bosheth unto David to Hebron, and said to the king, Behold the head of Ish-bosheth the son of Saul thine enemy, which sought thy life; and the Lord hath avenged my lord the king this day of Saul, and of his seed" (verse 8).

Here's what David did.

"When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought

good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag... how much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house... and David commanded his young men, and THEY SLEW THEM" (verses 10-12).

David just didn't stand for disloyalty!

He believed in the government of Almighty God. David was a law-abiding citizen in attitude.

He was a kind man. A generous man. A big-hearted man. It all stemmed from this attitude of loyalty toward God and his fellow human beings. He elevated Saul's lame son to an important position (II Samuel 9). David also said, "I will *shew kindness* unto Hanun the son of Nahash, as his father shewed kindness unto me" (II Samuel 10:2).

David's attitude is summed up in this statement: "He that ruleth over men *must be just*, ruling in the fear of God" (II Sam. 23:3).

That's one reason why David will have such a tremendously important position in God's Kingdom!

How to Test Yourself

But before YOU can learn to rule, you have to learn how to BE ruled. And that's our place in God's Church today. Each of us must learn what it is to be loyal—and to put loyalty into practice in our lives.

There's a very simple test to determine your loyalty to God. First, are you always obedient in *attitude and deed* to the government of God?

Suppose you DON'T AGREE with the way finances are handled in God's Work, or which buildings are built, or which radio stations we go on. Do you complain, spread evil talk, or have a wrong attitude about it?

Or do you *look to Christ* in full faith—knowing that He is IN CHARGE of His Work. If you do, that's true loyalty. That's what David did. He knew God would take care of Saul.

Or, how do you react when the "showdown" comes? Do you strive to do what God commands? If so, that's loyalty. Because then you're following Christ, looking to him, obeying him.

God is loyal to each of us!

He wants us to be sure we know it.

Every blessing, every miracle, every intervention on our part is a token of God's faithfulness to us. He's looking out for our good. He wants us to RELY ON that attribute of His.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a REWARDER OF THEM that diligently seek him" (Hebrews 11:6).

Our Part

But God expects us to have that same loyalty *towards Him*. We must put God *above* everything in undivided "true-to-the-core" sincerity. Then we must also be loyal to those around us.

Not until we have developed a *deep-seated attitude* of devotion can we be given responsibilities to rule.

Our goal is beyond human understanding. We're going to have eternal life, with power over the nations, sitting in the temple of God, reigning with Christ over the world as kings and priests.

Read and study David's life. Come to know him as a personal, armchair friend. Saturate your mind with his attitude—because it's *God's attitude*. Be loyal to God, to His Work, to your superiors, to your husband or wife, to your children, to God's people, to those in the world. Then and only then will you be qualified to rule over OTHER HUMAN BEINGS in the very soon-coming Kingdom of God!

TEEN-AGERS

(Continued from page 6)

amount of time *each day* talking with their children?

How many times has *your* teen-ager come home with a serious problem on his mind—actually wishing to talk it over with you—and you gave him no opportunity to do so? How many times after a date does a daughter come home wishing to talk with her mother about certain things; yet partially ashamed or afraid to do so—but is never given the opportunity?

Do you *ask* your children about their dates? What they did? Where they went? What teen-agers were with them? Not in a prying grill session with suspicion in your voice—but an

open, friendly, warm and loving *interest*.

Do you *ask* them what happens at school each day? Do you *take the time* to find out what they have been doing? Or where they have been? Or with whom they have been associating? Do you ask them certain questions to get their point of view on life and its problems?

How about God's Church? Do you take the time to ask them whether or not they will become members of the Church some day? Do you know what their attitude is toward God's Church?

Brethren, there is a battle raging between you and this world—a *battle for your teen-ager!* This problem is FAR greater than you realize!

It's time to WAKE UP!!

"The rod and reproof give wisdom: *but a child left to himself* bringeth his mother to shame" (Proverbs 29:15). Many parents do just that. They do not ask their children the *proper* questions or take an *interest* in their daily activities. *They leave them to themselves!*

There are many scriptures in the Proverbs that give instruction on teaching a teen-ager. Here are a few that you may read: Proverbs 23:19-35; Proverbs 5:1-14; Proverbs 31:1-9; Proverbs 1:7-19.

Wise or Foolish?

"A wise son maketh a glad father; but a foolish son is the heaviness of his mother" (Proverbs 10:1). How true! It is the dream of every parent to have his son or daughter grow up to be respected and liked, to be wise and understanding, and to make a good name for himself. Perhaps the only reward a parent gets in child rearing is to see his son or daughter become a success in life.

But a foolish son, as the proverb says, is the "heaviness of his mother." He brings shame, heartache and headache to his parents. For a parent there is no worse feeling than failure with his children. To sit back and watch your children reap the harm and whirlwind from the things they sow, is painful indeed. To see your children suffer for things you have neglected to teach them is agony.

This does not have to be!

Many are *encouraging* their children to be foolish. Some parents think it is cute or smart when their child misbehaves. They *laugh* at the wrong things the child does. This encourages the child all the more in foolishness.

Another way parents contribute to foolishness is to encourage laziness and slothfulness in their children. Many parents never give a child an assignment or work to do around the house.

Many mothers never have their daughters do anything around the house. And if they do, it is only a very small task. It seems mothers have a hard time teaching their daughters to cook, sew or clean house. Many mothers say it like this, "Oh well, it takes her so long. It's so much trouble to teach her that I would rather do it myself." Yes, this is the common attitude. But in this case the mother is concerned only with *herself*. She is not concerned with her daughter's development.

Thus many girls grow up not knowing how to cook, sew or do housework. Many grow up with no idea of how to manage a home or with proper taste in it. It is the daughter who suffers. But the fault lies with the parent.

Another way parents encourage foolishness in their children is by not knowing what's going on. In many cases everyone knows but the parents. Even in local church congregations everyone seems to know about a particular child *except his own parent*. One example: A boy was smoking and almost everyone in the church knew it except his father and mother. They had no idea their son was smoking. Yet it was common knowledge among all the teen-agers. And through them the other parents in the church knew.

Why were his parents in the dark? Why were they the *last* to find out?

The answer is simple.

THEY NEVER ASKED!! Had his parents asked him, the boy would have readily admitted he smoked.

Are you AFRAID to ask your child?

When parents never ask it encourages more foolishness. Children begin to think their parents don't care. They then think their activity is none of their

parents' business. Since their parents do not care to know—they feel that the parents have no right to know. One girl made the statement about her dating habits, "What they don't know won't hurt them." She was speaking of her parents.

Does this describe you and your children?

One foolish move some parents make is this. They brag about their children's smart aleck remarks and arguments. Many times teen-agers talk back to their parents. They come up with a "smart" or "clever" (but *rebellious*) remark. Parents become proud of their child's "genius." This is sheer folly! Being so "proud" of his child he neglects any punishment. WHAT KIND OF REASONING IS THIS?

Brethren, let's face the facts. Many of your teen-agers have been involved in such wrong acts as stealing, necking, fornication, smoking, drag racing, etc. Many of your teen-agers are "crazy" about rock 'n' roll music. There are "boy-crazy" girls and "girl-crazy" boys.

Some of YOUR girls wear make-up. These children are slipping back into the world while you look on helplessly.

What a paradox! The parents have come to see the rottenness of this world. They have turned from it. The parents are seeking God's Way and God's Kingdom. And yet their children—whom they love so dearly—are *allowed* to drift back into the world. What a pitiful spectacle!

But make no mistake about it—if we allow our children to rebel against us—they will have to pay for it! Your Bible says, "The eye that mocketh at his father, and despises to obey his mother, the ravens of the valley shall pick it out, and the young eagles shall eat it." (Proverbs 30:17.) Here is a figurative expression in the Bible showing the person who despises his father and mother will suffer the consequences.

The Bible says in Proverbs 20:20, "Whoso curseth his father or his mother, his lamp shall be put out in obscure darkness." So regardless of where the fault lies—whether with the children or with the parents—when our children go wrong they are the ones who will have to suffer! Many parents

suffer inwardly seeing their children suffer outwardly.

Ways Parents Can Help

If you haven't really understood the basic principles of *true* child rearing—write for the *free* booklet—*The PLAIN TRUTH ABOUT CHILD REARING*. Read it thoroughly—and *apply* it. Absorb the fundamental principles from it! *Study* it! Use it as a handbook—review it!

Here then, are *seven concrete ways* by which parents can help their children and teen-agers.

Number One: Father *must* be the head of the home. There is no substitute for this primary requirement. If the father is not the head of the home then none of the other rules used will really work. Children must see and experience proper government in the home. They learn the proper respect for government through their home.

The man must be the dominating personality and force that stands for the right way in the family. He also must take a very active and intense interest in the children. This point cannot be over-emphasized. Every man needs to examine himself and make sure that he is doing all he needs to be doing to be the head of his house. He needs to be the head of the house in *service* and *love* as well as in authority. (See Mr. Meredith's article in the August 1965 PLAIN TRUTH on *Christian Manhood*.)

Number Two: Have a close family life. Dinner time can help. There is nothing like a family eating its meal together to bring about a close family life. This provides an excellent opportunity for parents to get to know their youngsters. They can ask them about problems at school—daily activities. This is a vital part of family life—don't neglect it!

Number Three: Encourage *loyalty* to the family. When a child loves and respects his family—has a loyalty for it—he will not want to bring shame or problems upon the family. He will watch his conduct—*being loyal to his parents' teaching* so that it does not reflect upon his parents or the family. He will do what is best for the family. He will try to please them. Right loyalty to the family unit is indeed a very precious and worthwhile thing. Parents

should cultivate more loyalty in their children.

Number Four: Teach them *responsibility* while young. This principle is found in Lamentations 3:27. "It is good for a man that he bear the yoke *in his youth.*"

Today's children are encouraged to neglect responsibility. The philosophy of the educational systems of this world is to relieve all responsibility from the children—giving them a free hand. Children are shielded from responsibilities today. The Bible shows it should be the opposite. Children should have responsibilities at home as well as at school. Too many parents neglect this phase of their children's training. It is *good* for a child to have responsibilities around the house. It is necessary for that child to fulfill them! This *teaches* him responsibility. It disciplines him at the same time.

You should give your child certain assignments—routine work that he is *required* to fulfill. This teaches self-discipline. In doing this work your child will assume responsibility. He will exercise self-discipline. As he grows older he should be able to assume more responsibility. These responsibilities should start small when he is young and increase as he grows older.

Numerous men desert their families each year. They leave their homes lose themselves in society. They never had responsibilities. When married they cannot cope with them. Many who stay with their families are dominated by their wives. Their wives take the responsibility for the family. Had these men learned responsibility *as boys*, this tragedy would not have occurred. To a degree the blame lies with their parents.

Number Five: Encourage *home entertainment*. Why go out all the time? Too many teen-agers today feel they cannot have a good time unless they "go out." This is wrong! And the parents do nothing to counteract this feeling.

There are many things a teen-ager can do at home. Parents should strive to provide a happy atmosphere—a "good time" at home. Your teen-agers don't need to "go out" always to have a good time. But sad to say, most par-

ents make no effort to entertain their children at home. They make no effort to have fun in a family unit. And this is essential! There are all kinds of family games that provide "at home" entertainment.

Today most teen-agers think a date is not a date unless they go to a drive-in movie and neck. They feel their date is spoiled if their parents are anywhere around.

Why this attitude?

The answer is that they have been *taught* to think like this. They want to do things that are not lawful—their minds are on the foolishness of this world.

Number Six: Encourage your teen-agers to be with the older men and women in the church. If you live in a local church area where you can attend church—where you have access to Spokesman Clubs—encourage your teen-agers (especially the older boys) to attend the clubs from time to time. They can gain much valuable experience in an enjoyable atmosphere and get their minds on more serious and more edifying things. If fathers will include their sons in mutual activities this son will gain valuable experience and maturity. Through this association with older men he will come to learn, to love, and to respect his father even more.

To be wise, walk with wise men. But many consign their boy to association only with other "kids." We *push* them into foolish contacts with other teen-agers. Let's include them in discussions with older, wiser men!

The same goes for young ladies. Your teen-age girls should be included in conversations—encouraged to associate with other ladies in the church.

The scriptures give us this principle: that the aged women "may teach the young women to be sober, to love their husbands, to love their children, to be discreet, chaste, keepers at home, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God be not blasphemed" (Titus 2:3-5).

Teen-age girls should learn from older women about homemaking. They should learn how to be good mothers and wives!

Number Seven: Don't be afraid to tell your children what will happen if

they will not obey. Sometimes parents know their children are not doing what is right but they are afraid to tell them.

Why should parents be *afraid* of their own children? Why not call your teen-ager aside—have a good serious talk with him. Why not "lay it on the line"? Tell him just where he is headed if he will not obey. Tell him who is the head of the house. Let him know what his obligations are. Make him *understand!* Explain thoroughly!

Many young people *excuse themselves* from obeying the Commandments by saying, "Well, I'm not baptized yet." They say, "I'm still carnal." This is a typical excuse for many teen-agers of the church.

They justify their disobedience—their carnal actions—by these excuses!

But the question is—WHAT ARE THEIR PLANS FOR THE FUTURE? DO THEY PLAN TO BE CONVERTED?

What They Need to Know

They should know this: Although their parents may not have done a perfect job in child rearing, *they*—the teen-agers—will be judged by God for *their own* deeds. They themselves will have to answer for what they do. It's time for them to *sober* up and face the facts!

Many are in their last couple of years in high school. How many of them have concrete plans for their future? For many it is merely a vague idea. Some think "maybe" they will go to college. Many are going to be in serious trouble when they apply for Ambassador College because they have not applied themselves in high school.

Some hide behind the high school cloak. It is their protection from responsible thinking.

Have you asked your son or daughter *what* he or she plans to do upon graduation? Will you let them drift along until the last few weeks of their senior year in high school—then try to rush them into something?

Brethren, it is time we all took a serious look at our teen-agers! It is time we began to think about the heritage God has given us. The time to save our children from the world is NOW!