

# The PLAIN TRUTH

*A magazine of understanding*

VOL. XIII NUMBER 6

DECEMBER, 1948

## NOW it Can Be Told! ... behind the scenes at the San Francisco Conference!

IT COULD not be broadcast. You read nothing of it in newspapers. But now it can be told to readers of **The PLAIN TRUTH**—the inside facts of the most significant event at the San Francisco Conference. It was prophetic. Already it is changing the course of the world.

Soon the entire world will gasp with **WONDER**, when they behold, full blown, the amazing thing that was germinated at this special meeting.

I was there. I saw this spectacle. I heard the startling pronouncement. Top diplomats of many European and South American nations were there. Other thousands were there. It was, in fact, the largest crowd to attend any meeting during the Conference, though this was not an official United Nations meeting—and probably few grasped the prophetic significance.

But Mrs. Armstrong and I recognized instantly its full import. We hurried immediately to our apartment where I wrote of what we had just seen and heard.

### World Drift Already Altered

Now, three and a half years later, the germ we saw planted there has sprouted into the most dynamic political movement in Europe. It will grow with increasing momentum.

Had we published these facts at the time people would not have believed. Now, in the light of developing world events, it may be understood.

\* \* \*

Here is what I wrote:

This is Sunday, April 29th, 1945. It is a grave moment in history. Mrs. Armstrong and I have just returned from a significant special meeting. It is destined to change the course of world events.

It will have far greater ultimate impress upon the world's future than the official meetings at this Conference.

We are in the last days of World War II. The Nazis are disintegrating on all fronts. It appears only a matter of days, now. But already world leaders are looking toward World War III. This historic San Francisco Conference is the world's effort to prevent it and bring in World Peace. "The world's last chance," says Anthony Eden of this Conference.

### Power Politics in Action

Never in the history of mankind has anything like this taken place. It is the greatest, most elaborate conference of world leaders ever held. I have had the rare privilege of being one of the very few writers and speakers of prophecy credentialled to the Conference. Here I have talked with world statesmen. Here I have been *seeing* power politics in action. Here I have witnessed something of the subtle yet fateful arts, skill, and strategy called statecraft and diplomacy—in living action as instruments for selfish national advantage.

In the plenary sessions of the Conference we hear beautiful oratory enunciating lofty aims of altruism and world peace—to be printed in newspapers throughout the world for public consumption. But the real sessions are behind locked doors of committee council chambers, and there the savage battle for national interests rages fiercely.

Already I see the clouds of World War III gathering at this conference. I saw it first as it was injected indirectly into every press conference. We learn of it in private talks with delegates in hotel lobbies. The nations can have peace—IF

THEY WANT IT. But they don't want it. They want **GAIN** at the expense of others.

### Injustices to Minorities

Yes, the efforts to form a world **PEACE-ENFORCING** government here are proving, in themselves, a continuing **CONTEST**, punctuated by constant strife.

The firebrand here is Stalin's top man, Molotov. I've attended press conferences here where protesting representatives of Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, cry out against grave injustices forced on their people by the overpowering Russian boot. Three million from Lithuania have been torn from their homes and families, and deported to Siberia!

In a private interview with Constantin Fotich, pre-Tito ambassador to the U. S. from Yugoslavia, I learned that 30,000 small farm owners in Yugoslavia have seen their homes and farms confiscated by Stalin's puppet government. Some of these remain on their farms as slaves, some have been driven to Siberia—many have been "liquidated"—killed!

I do not see **PEACE** being germinated here, but the seeds of the next **WAR**!

Success of the United Nations' effort for world peace requires complete **HARMONY** between the Big Three. But if America and Britain are to achieve harmony with Russia, it is already apparent *it will have to be at the cost of justice in the smaller Baltic and Balkan nations, and Poland.* And if the rights of these helpless millions are to be trampled upon with impunity as the price of peace with Russia, **THEN WE STILL HAVE NO PEACE!**

There can be no **REAL PEACE** until we have justice for all. To achieve that,

Uncle Sam must stand up as the stern and determined champion of the rights of these helpless smaller peoples.

#### World Oblivious to Russian Crimes

And to do that would sacrifice harmony with Russia, and risk another war. PEACE, it seems, can be achieved *only* if Russia can eat her cake and have it, too!

The world seems blissfully ignorant of the colossal crimes Russia is committing against these smaller nations she is occupying and annexing. But I have talked, here, with officials and representatives from these nations and learned, *first-hand*, with shocked indignation, the true and cruel facts.

"EXCEPT THE ETERNAL BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN WHO BUILD IT." Here at San Francisco I see little puny men in exalted positions setting out to build a great House—a vast edifice, a HIGH TOWER that will reach to the HIGH HEAVEN OF PEACE! But *God is not building this house!*

God has not so much as been invited into this Conference. At the opening plenary session I was surprised, as I looked down from the Press gallery, to observe Secretary Stettinius, instead of opening the deliberations with prayer for God's guidance call, instead, for a one minute silence for meditation! You see, Mr. Molotov and the Russian delegates do not believe in God, and if Mr. Molotov were insulted, there could be no peace! But neither can there be peace without GOD!

#### The Most Significant Session

But back, now, to that most significant special meeting this morning. It was not an official United Nations meeting—it was not a secret meeting—it was a "Solemn Pontifical Mass," staged by the Roman Catholic Church.

It was held at the great Municipal Auditorium, seating a vast audience of 10,000. Every seat was filled. Mrs. Armstrong and I were allowed to sit on aisle steps near the front of the balcony, which provided very good seats.

Never had we seen such an elaborate ritual and ceremony—all the pomp and gorgeous display of ancient Babylon! Decked out in gold, and purple and scarlet! (See Rev. 17:4.) In the center of the great stage was an altar. On the left side of the stage was a great throne, and at the opposite side were seated dignitaries elaborately robed in purple and scarlet color.

In the fore part of the auditorium was a choir of one thousand voices. Hundreds of black-robed nuns composed one section of the great choir. Another section was formed of men in white robes,

winged by balcony sections of girl singers, each section a different color. It was impressive.

A Solemn Pontifical Mass must be officiated by an archbishop or higher. This was presided over by John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco, seated on the throne.

I'm afraid we didn't understand the meaning of all the "motions" of the awe-inspiring ritual. Bowing before one object, kneeling before an image, priests in lavish regalia, two or three together, were going through ceremonies, one shaking a little box held with both hands before him, out of which ascended the smoke of incense. These priests were crossing themselves, then turning, walking solemnly to another point on the great stage, kneeling, rising, turning, walking slowly to another point, turning, kneeling or bowing, rising, all the while making weird gestures and motions with their hands. Repeatedly they placed on the archbishop a high crown, removed it, put it on again.

#### Important Statesmen Present

But all this was of no special significance. It was merely elaborate stage-setting for that which *was* of prophetic significance, touching off the spark of a movement to change the course of the world.

It was the SERMON that shot forth that spark, impregnating the minds of world leaders in attendance.

This amazing sermon was delivered by a foremost radio speaker of the Catholic Church, Bishop Duane G. Hunt of Salt Lake City. He possesses a marvelous voice, is a master of stirring oratory, an effective and powerful speaker.

And most important, seated before him was a special section of some two or three hundred delegates to the Conference — important political leaders from Europe and South America—men in whose hands may rest the destiny of the western world.

#### Holding Out a Last Straw

The Catholic hierarchy was well aware that the United Nations Conference was producing nothing but strife and bickering, and was destined from its inception to end in total failure. Yet world leaders were pronouncing it THE WORLD'S LAST HOPE—with the only alternative ANNIHILATION OF HUMANITY!

And in this solemn hour, amid the psychological build-up of this impressive service, this dynamic Catholic speaker with ringing voice offered these world politicians the LAST STRAW for their drowning nations to grab, when they should later see their world Organization sinking into oblivion!

Without divine help, he assured them, the United Nations structure is doomed<sup>1</sup> to collapse. That divine aid was offered through the Roman Catholic Church. Without the guidance, supervision, authority of the Catholic Church, he told these men, they were laboring in vain.

There could be only one appraisal of his sermon—IT WAS A MASTERPIECE!

Few of the ten thousand in that vast audience recognized that they were actually seeing launched before their very eyes A CAMPAIGN TO RULE THE WORLD! Here in this masterful address, so impressively delivered before world leaders, was the psychological seed destined to unite under Catholicism a Europe that will resurrect THE "HOLY" ROMAN EMPIRE!

#### HUMAN NATURE the CAUSE of Wars

Here is a condensed summary of the message that rang in the ears of United Nations delegates—as I myself heard it:

PEACE, this papal representative said, "cannot be manufactured here below. It must be sought as a gift from above." Man alone of God's creatures can choose to obey and love God; he can choose to serve and love his fellow men. But *Man* can choose, also, to defy God and hate his fellow men. In every man, he continued, a struggle constantly persists between his higher faculties and lower inclinations—between obedience to law and servility to appetites, passions and selfishness. Unless this lower nature is kept under control, it breaks forth in violence and disorder. It is human to be sensitive about securing one's own rights, while disregarding the rights of his neighbor. So men are tempted to lie, steal, and to kill in order to get what they want.

With men left to themselves, their baser inclinations unrestrained, with selfishness given free play, *there can be no peace or order in this world.* Man's mind and will are too weak. *The downward impulses of nature are too strong.*

The two great Commands—LOVE toward God, and LOVE toward neighbor—point *the only path to peace*, he said, and TRULY!

Without GOVERNMENT over men, therefore, we could not have peace between individuals. But, as we rise in the scale of human relations, the problem of peace and good order becomes more complex, yet the solution remains the same.

#### Government Is of GOD

To the individual citizen, he continued, the Catholic Church says: "You

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# WHERE *did we get* CHRISTMAS?

*... from the Bible, or paganism? Here are astonishing FACTS which may shock you!*

**S**TOP and think! Very few know **WHY** we do the things we do—**WHERE** our customs came from! We were born into a world filled with customs. We grew up practising them, taking them for granted, but **NEVER QUESTIONING WHY!**

We have supposed **CHRISTMAS** to be the chief of the Christian holidays. Without asking questions, we have blindly assumed its observance must be one of the principal teachings and commands of the New Testament. We have supposed Jesus was born December 25th, and that the New Testament set this day aside as the chief Christian festival. We have supposed we exchange gifts because the wise men presented gifts to the Christ-child.

But let's quit supposing, and look into history and the Bible for the **FACTS!**

## **A PAGAN—Not Christian—Festival**

The word "Christmas" means "Mass of Christ," or, as it later became shortened, "Christ-Mass." It came to us as a Roman Catholic mass. And where did they get it? From the **HEATHEN** celebration of December 25th, as the birthday of **Sol the SUNGOD!** It is, actually, an ancient rite of **BAALISM**, which the Bible condemns as the most abominable of all idolatrous worship!

It is not so much as **MENTIONED** anywhere in the New Testament. It was never observed by Paul, the apostles, the early true Christian church!

The idea Jesus was born December 25th is one of the **FABLES** the Apostle Paul prophesied (II Tim. 4:4) would deceive the world in these latter days.

The plain truth is, Christmas is **NOT** Christ's birthday at all! And this festival, important as it seems to so many, is not of Christian, but of pagan—**Babylonish—origin!** But does that make any difference? Isn't it all right to go ahead and observe it anyway? Isn't the "Christmas **SPIRIT**" a good and splendid thing, regardless of how it got started? **WE SHALL SEE!**

## **Jesus NOT Born December 25th**

Now let's look to the interesting **PROOF!** When was Jesus born?

Jesus was not even born in the winter season! When the Christ-child was born "there were in the same country shepherds *abiding* in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). This never could have occurred in Palestine in the month of December. The shepherds always corralled and

brought their flocks from the mountain sides and fields not later than October 15, to protect them from the cold rainy season that followed that date.

Any encyclopedia, or any other authority, will tell you that Christ was not born on December 25. The Catholic Encyclopedia frankly states this fact.

The exact date of Jesus' birth is entirely **UNKNOWN**, as all authorities acknowledge—tho if I had space in this article I could show you Scriptures which at least strongly indicate that it was in the early Fall—probably September—approximately six months after Passover.

If God had wished us to observe and celebrate Christ's birthday, He would not have so completely hidden the exact date.

## **What Encyclopedias Say**

There is not one word in the New Testament, or anywhere in the Bible, telling us to observe Christmas.

Then where did we *get* "Christmas"? Since it has come to us thru the Roman Catholic Church, and has no authority but that of the Roman Catholic Church, let us examine the Catholic Encyclopedia, published by that Church. Under the caption "Christmas," you will find:

"Christmas was *not* among the earliest festivals of the Church . . . the first evidence of the feast *is from Egypt* . . . *Pagan customs*, centering around the January calends, gravitated to Christmas." And, further, we find this truth acknowledged: "In the Scripture, *sinners alone*, not saints, celebrate their birthday."

Encyclopedia Britannica has this: "Christmas (i.e., the Mass of Christ). Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the church." It was not instituted by Christ or the apostles, or by Bible authority—it was picked up afterward from paganism.

The Encyclopedia Americana says: "**CHRISTMAS.** It was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons, rather than their birth" (the "Lord's Supper," which *is* instituted by New Testament Bible authority, is a memorial of the **DEATH** of Christ). "A feast was established in memory of this event (Christ's birth) *in the fourth century.* In the fifth century the Western Church ordered it to be celebrated forever *on the day of the old Roman feast*

*of the birth of Sol*, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

## **HOW This Pagan Custom Got Into the Church**

Now notice! These recognized historic authorities show Christmas was **NOT** observed by Christians for the first two or three hundred years—a period longer than the entire history of the United States as a nation! It got into the Western, or Roman church, by the **FOURTH** Century A.D. It was not until the **FIFTH** century the Roman church ordered it to be celebrated as an official "Christian" festival!

Then **HOW** did this heathen custom **CREEP INTO** a so-called Christianity?

The Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia explains clearly, in its article on "**CHRISTMAS.**" "How much the date of the festival depended upon the Pagan **Brumalia** following the **Saturnalia** (Dec. 17-24) and celebrating the shortest day in the year and the 'New sun,' . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia *were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence.* . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merry-making was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the West and of the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia *accused their western brethren of idolatry and sun worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival.*"

Remember, the Roman world had been **PAGAN.** These people had grown up in **PAGAN** customs, chief of which was this idolatrous festival of December 25th. It was a festival of **merrymaking**, with its special **SPIRIT.** They **ENJOYED** it! They didn't want to give it up! Now this same article in Schaff-Herzog encyclopedia explains how the recognition by Constantine of Sunday, which had been the day of pagan **SUN-worship**, and also the influence of the pagan Manichaeism, which identified the **SON** of God with the physical **SUN**, gave these pagans of the fourth century now turning over wholesale to "Christianity" their **EXCUSE** for calling their pagan-festival date of December 25th (birthday of the **SUN-god**) the birthday of the **SON** of God.

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## Heart to Heart Talk With the Editor

You've heard the patriotic saying: "Breathes there a soul so dead, who never to himself hath said, 'This is my own, my native land.'"

Do you know what Jesus meant when He said: "The children of this world are, in their generation, wiser than the children of light"? That is, those whose minds are on material, worldly things only—unconverted minds—are wiser in worldly things than Christians, whose minds have been illuminated by the Holy Spirit, are about spiritual things.

Those of the world feel a patriotism surging through their being. It may be patriotism for country—or for college or high school, political party, society, lodge, fraternity, club, or business.

This is the football season. Nearly all the larger colleges and universities play football. Now only eleven men play at one time on the team—the total squad of the average university will average from 33 to 70 men, out of a student body of, say, one to twenty thousand. The team will have a captain, and is managed and directed by a coach. This year the championship of the Pacific Coast and opportunity to play in Pasadena's famed Rose Bowl lies between the Universities of California, and Oregon, located in Eugene. Having lived in Eugene 15 years, I know something of the football interest of Oregon students. *Every student in the university feels a deep sense of patriotism, loyalty, enthusiastic fervor, for that team!* Only a very small percentage of students take active part on the team, yet every student feels it is *his* team!

After a game he does not say, indifferently, "I see Coach Aiken's team won

another game." He says, with ENTHUSIASM, "WE won again!" Tho he does not direct it, play on it, or have any personal part, he feels he is a part of it—feels a sense of deep partisan loyalty. He heatedly defends it against its critics. When the games are at home he buys a ticket, sits in the stands and yells his throat hoarse cheering his team on to victory! And when a touchdown is made, he LEAPS into the air with wild shouts of joy!

The children of this world can be whipped up to frenzied fanaticism for the work of the devil. Mark the terrific zeal of Hitler's Nazis in setting the world in flames.

But what of the "children of light"? God has called us to a Mission a thousand trillion times more important than football, or the "cause" of conquering and enslaving the world. Ours is the only truly GREAT CAUSE—to preach and publish HIS GOSPEL to the world, winning precious souls! Only few of us can take personal active part. But should we not feel that those whom GOD *has called* to direct and do the active work of the Gospel compose OUR "TEAM"?

Should we not feel a deep, fervent LOYALTY to this all-important work—a deep-down spiritual HEART INTEREST, transcending every other interest or consideration? Should we not defend it when criticised, sacrifice for it, "pull" for it, encourage it, with far deeper zeal than a college student for a football team? Should we not feel that God's

work is OUR work? Should we not support it with incessant prevailing, heart-rending, believing prayer—and with our pocketbook? Is it not FIRST, *above* personal interest or material desires? And do you not feel a surge of JOY when our work wins more and more souls—as it is doing continually? Don't you just THRILL when you hear the broadcast or read another PLAIN TRUTH, realizing that scores of thousands of *others* are hearing and reading the precious Message, too—many being brought to Christ? Hundreds of loyal Co-Workers do—God bless them!—DO YOU?

## Now it Can Be Told!

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must understand that civil government is ordained of God, deriving its AUTHORITY from Him. You must obey its laws. "Render unto Caesar the things that are Caesar's."

Then, to the civil governments—meaning those world statesmen high in authority in many nations seated before him—the Catholic Church says: "YOU MUST UNDERSTAND YOUR PLACE in the divine scheme of things! GOD is first." Do you grasp what he meant by that? The Catholic position is that GOD speaks and rules on earth through the Papacy and the Roman Catholic Church! Whatever the pope binds on earth is bound in heaven. Whatever he looses is also approved in heaven. His title is "Vicar of Christ," which means, actually, "RULING IN PLACE OF CHRIST."

In effect, then, he *is* Christ on earth. The Catholic position is that the pope is, therefore, supposed to be the KING of kings, and the LORD of lords, by divine authority. He is supposed to be IN AUTHORITY over all kings and civil governments.

Bear carefully in mind this interpretation whenever GOD is placed over nations. The Catholic meaning is that THEIR CHURCH must be placed, AS God, and IN PLACE OF God, over the nations. This is their official position. It has been enunciated by encyclicals of many popes. It was practiced in fact for 1260 years thru the dark ages! They openly admit they seek to put it in practice again!

So, bearing this carefully in mind, see if now you can grasp the dynamic MEANING of his words.

### Church Should Rule Over State

Continuing, then—to these world leaders the speaker said GOD is first, man is second, and *you* are third! Notice carefully, the Catholic position dif-

## RADIO LOG

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Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of THE WORLD TOMORROW!

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fers in this regard from Fascist civil doctrine or Communist doctrine. They both hold that the STATE is first, *man* is second and the chattel of the state, and God is either third or ignored altogether. But, said this Catholic speaker, the STATE exists to protect man's rights and promote his welfare. YOU, he said to these high government statesmen, *are bound*, no less than the humblest citizen. RENDER TO GOD THE THINGS THAT ARE GOD'S!

Now he came directly to his point. If the maintenance of peace and order is difficult as between man and man, if it is more difficult as between citizen and government, it is *most* difficult of all as between nation and nation! The basic conflict is the same as before—(human nature)—but the stakes are higher. In the international realm the selfishness of human nature reaches its lowest level. Nowhere else are the temptations to greed and lust for power so nearly irresistible. *National selfishness is more than the sum-total of the selfishness of individuals.* MORE CRITICALLY HERE THAN ANYWHERE ELSE, THEREFORE, VICTORY ON THE SIDE OF HIGH IDEALS DEPENDS UPON THE HELP OF GOD! (And bear in mind the Catholic position that God does this helping by delegating authority OVER the state to the papacy!)

The Church, he continued, is international and SUPERNATIONAL. Then he boldly told the delegates that *if the CHURCH were able to have full authority, THERE WOULD BE NO WAR! AT ALL TIMES*, he assured them, THE SELFISH POLICIES OF NATIONS WOULD BE CHECKED! No longer was he talking about GOD IN HEAVEN ruling over and restraining nations—he was now boldly asserting that NATIONS would be checked in their selfish policies that lead to war, if the Catholic Church WERE FREE TO EXERCISE THE POWER AND AUTHORITY SHE CLAIMS BELONGS TO HER BY DIVINE RIGHT.

#### Only the Church Can Deliver Nations from Chaos

Now, having boldly stated the hypothesis that THE CHURCH ought to have authority to check and control nations, ruling for, and in place of, God, he drove home his point—planted his psychological germ to sprout when these national leaders saw their new international organization crumbling.

Coming to his dynamic climax, he described skilfully the struggle of the Apostle Paul with the downward pull of his inner human nature. "Unhappy man that I am," he quoted Paul, "*who*

*shall deliver me from the body of this death? THE GRACE OF GOD, BY JESUS CHRIST OUR LORD!"*

Here we are, he said to the political delegates, trying to build a structure of PEACE.

"UNHAPPY NATIONS THAT WE ARE, WHO SHALL DELIVER US FROM THE BODY OF THIS DEATH?" Just as individual man cannot control and resist the downward pull of his passions and sinful nature WITHOUT THE HELP OF GOD, so these NATIONS, swayed by NATIONAL selfishness greater than the sum-total of the selfishness of all individuals, CANNOT CONTROL THESE AMBITIONS AND LUSTS FOR POWER AND INTERNATIONAL AGGRESSION WITHOUT THE DIVINE POWER AND AUTHORITY AS ADMINISTERED ON EARTH BY THE ROMAN CHURCH!

He thundered to them the text, "EXCEPT THE LORD BUILD THE HOUSE, THEY LABOR IN VAIN THAT BUILD IT." Here were these nations at San Francisco trying to build a great world structure WITHOUT GOD—WITHOUT THE CATHOLIC CHURCH! It was doomed to failure, he warned them, as long as they left GOD out of it!

BUT, his words rang out with great oratorical power, IF *the Lord* build the house, they do *not* labor in vain who build it. THERE IS NO OTHER WAY to peace!

Unfortunately, he said, the Roman Church is NOT FREE, now, to RULE and check aggressions of war-like nations—but he said they were "HOPING AND PRAYING FOR IT." And, since the Church is NOT FREE to sit in authority over nations—since thru them the Lord is NOT building this UNITED NATIONS structure for world peace, his conclusions were plain indeed: THE UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION WILL FAIL. IT IS DOOMED BEFORE IT STARTS!

And what this powerful speaker dangled before these world leaders was the straw a drowning Europe is expected to grab *when* they see, as they will, that the UNITED NATIONS has failed them!

This was the Roman Catholic bid to resurrect the so-called "HOLY ROMAN EMPIRE"!

And PROPHECY says they will succeed! \* \* \* \* \*

Now, three and a half years later, WHAT HAS HAPPENED?

The germ IDEA for a re-birth of this "Holy Roman Empire" was planted in the minds of important European statesmen at this unofficial meeting during

the San Francisco Conference. But the Roman Church did not stop there.

The United Nations has continued to quarrel—to accomplish NOTHING so far as real world PEACE is concerned. Already the nations of Europe have lost hope in the United Nations.

Meanwhile, the great Red avalanche of Communism started sweeping westward over Europe. European nations, predominantly Catholic, became alarmed. And soon after the San Francisco Conference there sprang up in Europe a NEW POLITICAL PARTY—the Christian Socialist Movement. It is injecting THE RELIGIOUS ISSUE into politics. It is stirring up HOLY WAR opposition to Russia.

So far the new movement is both Catholic and Protestant. IT IS LEADERLESS! The pope has encouraged it, but refrained from officially sponsoring it. Yet there can be no doubt, in the minds of those who know the true conditions—in the wake of this significant pronouncement at San Francisco—that the movement was secretly started by Catholics.

For the pope to boldly take over leadership and control of the movement now would drive the Protestants from it. As it is, they are wholeheartedly IN IT!

The movement is growing like wildfire! For 18 months or more it has been either winning, or second, in every election—and gaining rapidly in power. ALREADY IT HAS CHECKED THE COMMUNIST ADVANCE IN EUROPE. Elections for some time, now, have been going against the Communists. But Communism provides the UNIFYING OPPOSITION which welds together all professing Christian elements throughout Europe—which fires them to fanatical zeal and dynamic political action in this new religious-political movement.

At the psychological time, the pope will step in and officially lead it.

Thru this political movement, he will UNIFY ten nations in Europe. It will be a "The UNITED STATES OF EUROPE," but that probably will never become its official name. Leading statesmen in both America and Britain are actively advocating the idea of a UNITED STATES OF EUROPE.

Meanwhile, as pointed out in the November PLAIN TRUTH, the Marshall Plan will continue to put Europe economically on her feet. Almost immediately, now, the United States will undertake to ARM the nations of western Europe, on the "Lend-Lease" basis, which means AT UNITED STATES EXPENSE!

Once Europe is economically revived, and powerfully armed, a new Hitler will

appear upon the scene—and it *could* be Hitler himself, claiming to have been resurrected from the dead! This political leader will make a deal with the Vatican. The religion and the schools will be turned over to the Roman Church. The military power will be turned over to the new Fascist STATE.

There will be an agreement by which the police of the state will ENFORCE Catholicism upon all citizens inside its jurisdiction.

The description of this new super-state is found in Revelation 17, a union of ten nations in Europe. It is pictured as the "BEAST"—which even footnotes in the Catholic Douay Bible admit is THE ROMAN EMPIRE. Only, this is the new, resurrected Roman Empire—because it is to fight against Christ AT HIS SECOND COMING (verse 14) and is to exist only a SHORT TIME (verses 10-11). So IT IS YET FUTURE, not past!

In verse 1 is the picture of a great FALLEN Church—a GENTILE Church, since she commits fornication, not adultery. She is a UNIVERSAL Church—ruling over different nations speaking different languages (verses 1, 15). She has committed fornication with WORLDLY rulers, engaging in WORLDLY POLITICS (verse 2). She is that great CITY, which reigned over the kings of this world (verse 18) and no other church ever did that! She rules over seven "mountains." Literally, there are the seven little mountains in Rome. Figuratively, she rules over seven KINGDOMS, or dynasties of government—five are fallen, one is (the Mussolini-Hitler kingdom), and ONE IS YET TO COME! (Verses 9-10.)

This great Church is a MOTHER Church—and her daughter churches are called HARLOTS (verse 5). This, then, includes Protestants as well as Catholics! She is an arch-deceiver, and the inhabitants of the earth are spiritually DRUNK on her false doctrines—so drunk they cannot see clearly spiritual TRUTH! She is herself drunken with the BLOOD OF SAINTS, AND THE BLOOD OF THE MARTYRS OF JESUS! She will pronounce all who do not accept Catholic doctrine "HERETICS," which will amount to a DEATH SENTENCE, to be carried out by the POLICE OF THE STATE!

She is to sit on, and have authority over, this last revival of the Roman Empire, the same as she DID the former ones, beginning with Justinian's kingdom in 554. Her name is BABYLON THE GREAT—and she is the daughter of the ancient Babylon. Her doctrines and rituals and traditions and forms ARE THE VERY PAGANISM of the

ancient Babylon, but masquerading UNDER CHRISTIAN-SOUNDING NAMES!

Thus, once this EMPIRE is revived in Europe — AND BY UNITED STATES HELP AT THAT—so gullible are we and dull of UNDERSTANDING!—the new-born Fascist-Nazi military power will without warning DESTROY AMERICAN AND BRITISH CITIES OVERNIGHT WITH ATOMIC BOMBS, conquering our peoples, taking our survivors to Europe as THEIR SLAVES! I have given you the prophecies on this time after time, and shall continue to shout this warning so long as God gives me breath and freedom!

Then it is that the MARK OF THE BEAST will be enforced. Unless OUR people, then conquered SLAVES in Europe, will bow to the Roman religion, THEY WILL BE TORTURED, AND PUT TO DEATH!

THUS SAYS THE WORD OF GOD!

This article is a SOLEMN WARNING! These things are written and placed before your eyes by AUTHORITY OF THE LIVING GOD AND HIS WORD!

It is time SOMEONE DARES TO SHOUT TO THIS NATION AND ALL THE WORLD THE TRUTH! The time will come soon when every organized pressure will be exerted to silence this warning Message! The facts contained in this article, I know, are sensational—and it takes courage to tell you these facts!

But so long as faithful co-workers stand by me, hold up my hands, and the Eternal God permits me to continue, and wills that I shall, NO POWER ON EARTH CAN STOP THIS MESSAGE OF THE ALMIGHTY GOD FOR THESE LAST DAYS OF THIS WORLD!

## Where did we get CHRISTMAS?

*Continued from Page 3*

And so *that* is how "Christmas" got into our so-called Christianity! We may call it by another NAME, but it's the same old pagan sun-worshipping festival still! The only CHANGE is in what we CALL IT! You can call a rabbit a "LION," but it's a RABBIT just the same.

### The Real ORIGIN of Christmas

But if we got Christmas from the Roman Catholics, and they got it from paganism, where did the pagans get it? Where, when, and what was its real origin?

It is a chief custom of the corrupt system denounced all thru Bible prophecies and teachings under the name of BABYLON. And it started and originated in the original Babylon of ancient Nimrod! Yes, it stems from roots whose beginning was shortly this side of the Flood!

Nimrod, grandson of Ham, son of Noah, was the real founder of the Babylonish system that has gripped the world ever since.

Nimrod was so evil, it is said he married his own mother, whose name was Semiramis.

Thru her scheming and designing, Semiramis became the Babylonian "Queen of heaven," and Nimrod, under various names, became the "divine son of heaven." Thru the generations, in this idolatrous worship, Nimrod became the false Messiah, son of Baal the Sun-god. In this false *Babylonish* system, the "Mother and Child" (Semiramis and Nimrod), became chief objects of worship. This worship of "Mother and Child" spread over the world.

Every Christmas season you'll hear sung and chanted dozens of times the hymn "Silent Night, Holy Night," with its familiar "Mother and Child" theme. We, who have been born in such a Babylonish world, reared and steeped in these things all our lives, have been taught to revere these things as holy, and sacred. WE NEVER QUESTIONED TO SEE WHERE THEY CAME FROM—WHETHER THEY CAME FROM THE BIBLE, OR FROM PAGAN IDOLATRY!

We are SHOCKED to learn the TRUTH—some, unfortunately, take offense at the PLAIN TRUTH! But God commands His faithful ministers, "CRY ALOUD, spare not, lift up thy voice like a trumpet, and SHOW MY PEOPLE THEIR TRANSGRESSIONS!" Shocking as these facts are, they are the plain facts of history and the Bible!

The real origin of Christmas goes back to the ancient Babylon. It is bound up in the organized apostacy with which Satan has gripped a deceived world these many centuries! In Egypt, it has always been believed the son of Isis (Egyptian name for "Queen of Heaven") was born December 25th. Paganism celebrated this famous birthday over most of the known world for centuries before the birth of Christ.

December 25th is NOT the birthday of Jesus, the true Christ! The apostles and early true Church never celebrated Christ's birthday at *any* time. There is no command or instruction to celebrate it in the Bible—rather, the celebrating

of birthdays is a HEATHEN, not a Christian custom, believe it or not!

Thus the ancient idolatrous "Chaldean Mysteries" founded by this mother of Nimrod, have been handed down thru the pagan religions, into the Catholic church under new Christian-sounding names, and from there into the Protestant denominations and on to all of us today!

### Origin of Holly Wreath, Mistletoe, Yulelog

Now where did we get this MISTLETOE custom? Among the ancient pagans the mistletoe was used at this festival of the winter solstice because it was considered sacred to the SUN, because of its supposed miraculous healing power. The pagan custom of kissing under the mistletoe was an early step in the night of revelry and drunken debauchery—celebrating the death of the "old sun" and the birth of the new at the winter solstice. Mistletoe, sacred in pagan festivals, is a PARASITE!

Holly berries were also considered sacred to the sun-god. The Yulelog is in reality the "sun log." "Yule" means "wheel," a pagan symbol of the sun. Yet today professing Christians speak of the "sacred YULE-TIDE season!"

Even the lighting of fires and candles as a Christmas ceremony is merely a continuation of the pagan custom, encouraging the waning sun-god as he reached the lowest place in the southern skies!

### Yes, and Even SANTA CLAUS!

But surely dear old Santa Claus is not a creature of pagan birth? But he IS, and his real character is not so benevolent and holy as many suppose!

The name "Santa Claus" is a corruption of the name "St. Nicholas," a Roman Catholic bishop who lived in the 5th century. Look in the Encyclopedia Britannica, Vol. 19, pages 6 & 9.

Thru the year, parents punish their children for telling falsehoods. Then, at Christmas time, they themselves tell their little children this "Santa Claus" lie! Is it any wonder many of them, when they grow up and learn the truth, begin to believe God is a myth, too?

One little fellow, sadly disillusioned about "Santa Claus," said to a playmate, "Yes, and I'm going to look into this 'Jesus Christ business,' too!" Is it CHRISTIAN to teach children myths and falsehoods? God says, "Thou shalt not bear FALSE WITNESS!" It may seem right, and be justified by human reason, but God says "There is a way that seemeth RIGHT to a man, but the ends thereof are the ways of DEATH!" "Old Nick" also is a term for the devil! Is there a connection?

Satan appears as an "angel of LIGHT," to deceive!

The Americana says "the holly, the mistletoe, the Yulelog, etc., are relics of pre-Christian times." "PAGANISM!" The book "Answers to Questions," compiled by Frederick J. Haskins, found in public libraries, says: "The use of Christmas wreaths is believed by authorities to be traceable to the pagan customs of decorating buildings and places of worship at the feast which took place at the same time as Christmas. *The Christmas tree is from Egypt*, and its origin dates from a period long anterior to the Christmas era."

And so when we examine the facts, we are astonished to learn that the practice of observing Christmas is not, after all, a true Christian practice, but a Pagan custom—one of the ways of BABYLON our people have fallen into!

### What the Bible Says About the Christmas Tree!

But if the Bible is silent about telling us to observe CHRISTMAS, or recording any such observance by the apostles or early true Church, it *does* have something to say about the Christmas tree!

This will come as a real surprise to many. But here it is:

Jeremiah 10:1-6 "Thus saith the Lord, *Learn not the way of the heathen . . . for the customs of the people are vain; . . . for one cutteth a TREE out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and gold; they fasten it with nails and hammers, that it move not.*"

There is a perfect description of the Christmas tree, termed by the Eternal as "the way of the heathen—the custom of the people." We are commanded NOT to learn that way or follow it! It is also viewed in this passage as idolatry. The fifth verse shows that these trees cannot speak—cannot walk—must be carried. "Be not afraid of them, for *they* (the trees) cannot do evil neither also is it in them to do good." They are not gods to be feared. Some people *mis*-read this to make it say there is no harm in having a Christmas tree, but that is not what it says.

### Isn't Exchanging GIFTS Scriptural?

But when it comes to the most important part of all, in this Christmas observance, the Christmas SHOPPING season—the buying and exchanging of GIFTS—many will exclaim triumphantly, "Well, at least the Bible tells us to do THAT! Didn't the wise men give gifts, when Christ was born?"

Again, we are due for some SURPRISES, when we learn the PLAIN TRUTH! First, let's look at the his-

toric origin of trading gifts back and forth, then see exactly what the Bible *does* say about it.

From the Bibliotheca Sacra, Vol. 12, pages 153-155, we quote: "The interchange of presents between friends is alike characteristic of Christmas and the Saturnalia, and *must have been adopted by Christians from the Pagans*, as the adinonition of Tertullian plainly shows."

The fact is, this custom fastened upon people of exchanging gifts with friends and relatives at the Christmas season *has not a single trace of Christianity about it!* Strange tho that may seem! This does NOT celebrate Christ's birthday or honor it or Him! Suppose someone you love has a birthday. You want to honor that person on his or her birthday. Would you lavishly buy gifts for *everyone else*, trading gifts back and forth with all your *other* friends and loved ones, but IGNORING COMPLETELY any gift for the one whose birthday you are honoring? Rather absurd, when viewed in that light, isn't it?

Yet this is exactly what people the world over are doing! They honor a day that is NOT Christ's birthday by spending every dime they can scrape together in buying presents to trade back and forth among friends and relatives.

But when the month of December rolls around, almost all professing Christians forget to give gifts to CHRIST and HIS CAUSE almost altogether! December always is the most difficult month to keep CHRIST'S work from dying! People are too busy TRADING gifts back and forth among themselves to think of HIM and HIS WORK, it seems. Then, in January and even into February, it seems they have to catch up from what they spent for Christmas, so they seldom get back to normal in supporting CHRIST and HIS WORK before March!

Now consider what the Bible says about giving gifts when Christ was born. It is in Matthew 2:1-11: "Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judea in the days of Herod the king, behold there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, saying Where is he that is born *King of the Jews?* . . . and when they were come into the house, they saw the young child with Mary his mother, and fell down, and worshipped him: *and when they had opened their treasures, they presented unto HIM gifts; gold and frankincense, and myrrh.*"

### WHY Gifts Presented to Christ

Notice, they inquired for the child Jesus, who was born KING of the Jews! Now WHY did they present gifts to Him? **Because** it was His birthday?

Not at all, because they came several days after his birthday! Was it to set an example for US, today, to trade gifts back and forth among ourselves? No, notice carefully!—they did not *exchange gifts* among themselves, but "they presented unto HIM gifts." They gave THEIR gifts to CHRIST, not to their friends, relatives, or one another!

Now WHY? Let me quote from the Clark Commentary, Vol. 5, page 46: "Verse 11. (*They presented unto Him gifts.*) The people of the east never approach the presence of kings and great personages, without a *present* in their hands. The custom is often noticed in the Old Testament, and still prevails in the east, and in some of the newly discovered South Sea Islands."

There it is! They were not instituting a NEW Christian custom of exchanging gifts with friends to honor Christ's birthday. They were following an OLD and ANCIENT eastern custom of presenting gifts to a KING when they come into his presence. They were approaching Him, born KING of the Jews, *in person*. Therefore custom required they present GIFTS—even as the Queen of Sheba brought gifts to Solomon—even as many people today take a gift along when they visit the White House for an appointment with the President.

No, the custom of TRADING GIFTS back and forth does not stem from this Scriptural incident at all, but rather, as quoted from history above, it is the *continuance* of an ancient PAGAN custom. Instead of honoring Christ, it invariably RETARDS His work, sets it back, at the Christmas season every year! We're IN BABYLON, and Haven't KNOWN IT!

Christmas has become a COMMER-

CIAL season. It's sponsored, kept alive, by the heaviest retail advertising campaigns of the year. You see a masquerader "Santa Claus" in many stores. Ads keep us deluded and deceived about the "beautiful Christmas SPIRIT." The newspapers, who sell the ads, print flowery editorials exalting and eulogizing this pagan season, and its "spirit."

A gullible people has become so inoculated, many take offense when told the TRUTH! But the "Christmas SPIRIT" is created each year, not to honor Christ, but to SELL MERCHANDISE! Like all Satan's delusions it appears as an "angel of LIGHT," is made to appear GOOD. BILLIONS OF DOLLARS are spent in this merchandising spree every year, while the CAUSE OF CHRIST must SUFFER! It's part of the economic system of BABYLON!

We are God's people ISRAEL! Yes, we're IN BABYLON, as Bible prophecy foretold, and we don't know it! "Come OUT of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her SINS, and that ye receive not of HER PLAGUES"—now soon to fall, is the warning of Rev. 18:4.

THIS YEAR, INSTEAD OF GIFT-TRADING, WHY NOT PUT THAT MONEY INTO GOD'S WORK, AND SEND YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES A COPY OF THIS ARTICLE, SO THEY'LL UNDERSTAND!

A small number of booklets reprinting this article will be sent upon request.

## NOTES on Crucifying SELF

"My life is not my own, but Christ's, who gave it.

And He bestows it upon all the race;

I lose it for His sake, and thus I save it;

I hold it close, but only to expend it;  
Accept it, Lord, for others, thru thy grace."

We have to die to live. That is the central law of life. We must burn to give light to the world. We cannot save ourselves, and at the same time make anything worthy of our life, or be in any deep and true sense an honor to God and a blessing to the world. The altar stands in the foreground of every life, and can be passed by only at the cost of all that is noblest and best.

All the practical side of religion is summed up in the exhortation of St. Paul, that we present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. Anciently, a man brought a lamb and presented it to God, laid it on the altar, to be consumed by God's fire. In like manner we are to present our bodies. The first thing is not to be a worker, a preacher, a savior of souls; the very first thing in a Christian life is to present one's self to God, to lay one's self on the altar. We need to understand this. It is easier to talk and work for Christ than to give ourselves to Him. It is easier to offer God a few activities than to give Him a heart. But the heart must be first, else ever the largest gifts and services are not acceptable.

"'Tis not thy work the Master needs, but thee,—

The obedient spirit, the believing heart."

"A living sacrifice." A sacrifice is something really given to God, to be His altogether and forever. We cannot take it back. One could not lay a lamb on God's altar, and a minute or two afterward run up and take it off. We cannot be God's today and our own tomorrow. If we become His at all, in a sacrifice which He accepts, we are His always.

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