

the
PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

OCTOBER-NOVEMBER 1977

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IS
AT HAND**



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The other day our managing editor, Brian Knowles, who was in my office to go over some *Plain Truth* copy for future articles, asked: "Would you mind if I gave you an idea or two which I thought our readers might enjoy in one of your 'Personal' articles?"

"Shoot!" I said. "I'm listening." I'm always looking for new IDEAS. Maybe you didn't know I was once the "idea man" for the country's largest trade journal—traveling constantly over the eastern two-thirds of the United States—just looking for IDEAS that could be worked into articles for the magazine. That was in 1913 and 1914.

"Well, here's a typed sheet full of suggestions," he laughed, handing the sheet to me.

"How the world has changed in your lifetime" was one of them. I, too, thought you might like to read that.

But you won't believe it! Just in my short lifetime of 85 years, the CHANGE in this world—and how it has changed our lives—is almost unbelievable.

But that, as they say, is only the tip of the iceberg! *Nearly all the change—or "advancement,"* as we like to call it—since Adam and Eve has taken place since the birth of my maternal great-grandfather Elon Hole, whom I well remember. And more than *half* of all the world's "advancement" since Adam has been made *in my lifetime*.

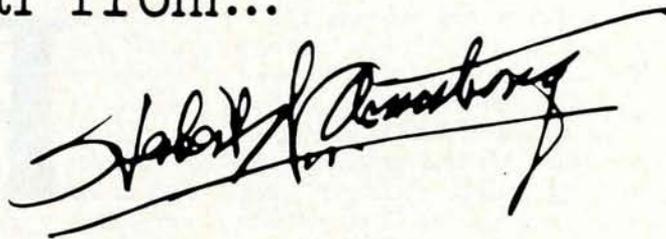
Up until my generation, there was practically no transportation—people weren't going anywhere. People in England knew little or nothing about Russians or Chinese. There was virtually no communication even between towns—let alone between countries.

How did the prophet Daniel know that until the last days (we are NOW in the LAST DAYS) people would not be able to understand what he wrote then? He said: "...shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the *time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased*" (Dan. 12:4).

Daniel couldn't write. "Many shall drive fast cars and fly to and fro around the world from country to country at 600 miles per hour."

The railroads were invented and

Personal from...



You Won't Believe It! Where This World Has Come Just in My Own Lifetime

first used not long before I was born. The "dinkey" streetcars were just replacing the horse-drawn cars when I was a boy. When I was eleven, we still called the first crude automobiles "horseless carriages," and Orville Wright flew the first plane about a city block. There were no paved roads between towns and cities. Only the main downtown streets were paved. And some towns of 5,000 people or larger had no street paving even downtown.

Radio and television? Send sounds and pictures instantaneously through the air? "Are you CRAZY?" one would have asked had you suggested such a thing.

Beginning at eighteen years of age I was an advertising man—but we didn't sell "commercials." We sold "space" in newspapers and magazines. Radio and television had not come yet. And come to think about it, even the printing press was invented only about 500 years ago.

Most of the great leaps forward in knowledge, most inventions, and most of what we call "progress" came *since the printing press*. Before

that books had to be written *by hand*—with pen and ink—one at a time. There weren't many books. People couldn't afford them. There was no diffusion of knowledge until about 100 years after the invention of the printing press. It took about that long to produce more presses, to write and print more books, to train teachers and organize schools. Of course, there were schools on the ancient Platonic model.

Only a FEW—mostly the rich—were "educated"—and they by private tutors. Until knowledge began to spread—until IDEAS could be disseminated and imparted *in print* to the many instead of the very few—how *could* our kind of civilization advance?

When I was a boy, only a small percentage got as far as graduation from high school. And less than five percent of high school graduates went on to college. Today nearly all graduate from high school in the United States, and in California, 95 percent of high school grads apply for college or university admission.

We know little of the first ap-
(Continued on page 39)

HOW FAR CAN YOU GET FROM BEING

“A Prophet of Doom”?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

In the April 11th issue of People, a weekly magazine produced by the publishers of Time, appeared a feature story on my son Garner Ted Armstrong. It was headlined “Prophet of Doom Armstrong.” Listen now to what Garner Ted and I proclaim worldwide, and tell me, how could we possibly proclaim a message farther from one of doom?

How far away from a “gospel of doom” could one possibly get? Sure, we proclaim what the Bible *says*. That includes the prophecies—and about a third of the Bible is prophecy. But did you know that the doom foretold in the Bible is the doom of all *this world's* evils? But, more importantly, beyond that, the Bible tells of world peace, universal happiness, joy, and abundance for all. That's the happy WORLD TOMORROW that we do proclaim. And we announce that it's coming in this very present generation!

But we go much further—because the BIBLE does. It portrays a fantastic, seemingly incredible human potential *beyond that*—greater, more wonderful, more awesome than your mind probably can conceive.

Read here the essence of what we proclaim to this world—to kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers; to those at and near the top of governments, the professions, business and industry; to those at the grass roots of the world's nations—

and tell me how we could possibly get farther away from what *People* magazine headlined “Prophet of Doom Armstrong.”

There may be “prophets of doom.” If so, we are not among them. And after that slanted and misleading headline, I think you deserve to know precisely what message of hope, of assurance, of happiness and peace we do proclaim to the millions worldwide.

What Really Is Prophesied?

Of course, if you mean the DOOM of evil; if you mean the DOOM of all this world's sufferings, unhappiness, poverty, sickness, troubles and wars, you may be sure the Bible foretells the DOOM of those evils.

But if you mean the DOOM of MANKIND, then you'd better blow the dust off your Bible, and see with your own eyes what it really *does* say about the actual and real potential of man.

Just how far from doom can you get? Well, it's probably a lot farther

than your mind can grasp—but that's what Garner Ted Armstrong and I proclaim to the world: the most fantastic, incredible extreme opposite of what an uninformed and careless press assumes and accuses.

The Bible foretells—prophesies—the most fantastically wonderful potential for man that the human mind can conceive and the real purpose for which man was placed on this earth. In this article I'll tell you what it is—and I won't pull any punches.

But did you ever stop to wonder *why* humanity was put here on earth? Was there *purpose*? Purpose with a fantastic, awesome *potential*? Or did we simply HAPPEN? Did we evolve from a single-celled amoeba, without purpose, without intelligence, without planning; did we just happen by blind, purposeless *chance*? Was the human mind developed by resident unintelligent forces less powerful than the mind they developed?

We do not believe that. Nor do

we believe we were put here on earth for the purpose of being obliterated in a final *doom* of humankind.

What, then, DO we believe? Nothing is so important for you to read and KNOW! What DO we proclaim—yes, even to kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers; to educators, men at the top of their professions, heads of commerce and industry; to common people all around the world?

This we know! We live in an unhappy world. Over 50 percent of mankind is illiterate or nearly so. Over 50 percent of all humans are living in or close to abject poverty, filth and squalor. We live in a world filled with violence. All is competition, strife, trouble.

WHY?

We recognize the conditions around us. The heads of state, the great and the near-great I meet around the world, know of the problems—problems greater than human minds can solve. They listen to me—and they do not listen to a forecast of *doom*, but of *hope* and of *assurance* more certain than either life or death.

It is all outlined in biblical prophecy—the causes of today's world conditions and where we are going from here! And it is NOT DOOM! Not for humanity!

But if we begin to learn what the Bible *does* reveal—what the wonderful, almost incredible *human potential* really is—by starting with today's conditions, it is like tuning in on a movie or entering a theater about ten or fifteen minutes before the end of a one-and-a-half or two-hour show. Not knowing what went before—what led up to the present conditions—one is only confused, bewildered.

A Jigsaw Puzzle

The human body has a skeletal structure that supports the entire body—yet we don't see it. It's covered up. Every modern skyscraper has a skeletal framework of steel and concrete, erected first, but covered completely in the finished structure.

In a sense not many realize, *the Bible is like that*. The real basic structure that holds it all together

has been overlooked, glossed over, or else deliberately rejected and left out of just about all religious teaching. It starts with prehistory and leads to the present. It reveals purposes, causes, beginnings—the MASTER PLAN—and the way it is going to *end*: in world peace, happiness, joy, universal abundance! But it is like a jigsaw puzzle which must be assembled piece by biblical piece (“here a little, there a little” [Isa. 28:13]).

That is the “doom” we proclaim—the doom of all that stands in the way of that final happy world—the doom of all misery, suffering, unhappiness.

But science has never discovered this basic truth. Religion has glossed over and failed to reveal it, though it's plain in the Bible. Education ignores it—because education doesn't know it. Education is in ignorance of it.

Jesus Christ came and proclaimed it—announced it (it is yet to come)—but, of the thousands upon thousands who heard His gospel message, only 120 believed it (Acts 1:15). And since before A.D. 70, it has been entirely *suppressed* (Gal. 1:6-7). God told it in person to Adam and Eve (Genesis 2), but they didn't believe what their Creator told them!

Would you believe it, even though God Almighty or Jesus Christ in person came and announced it today? *Would you?*

In the Beginning

I'll give you the briefest summary. You may believe it or not—but it is NOT a forecast of DOOM for mankind, but the very farthest you can possibly get from that. And believe it or not, it is TRUE!

In briefest synopsis, here is what religion has glossed over; science has never discovered; education, in ignorance, fails to teach.

The real beginning of the Bible is NOT Genesis 1:1, but in the New Testament, John 1:1-4.

In the beginning existed two all-knowing, all-powerful, all-perfect Superbeings. Each possessed supreme MIND and CREATIVE power. One is called “the WORD.” The other, superior only in authority, is called “GOD.” But the Word, it states, was also GOD—though a sep-

arate personage. Garner Ted is also Armstrong, though a different and separate person from me.

There existed at first *only* these two Superbeings—no matter, no other beings or life forms, no physical universe.

The *supreme accomplishment* is *creating*, and the supreme achievement of creation is righteous, holy, perfect character. They thought; they planned—for how long we do not know, ages perhaps. Being composed themselves of spirit, their first creative undertaking was to create *angels*—also spirit beings, somewhat like, yet somewhat lesser, than themselves. The Creator, of necessity, automatically remains greater than what He creates.

But the big problem, and therefore the chief objective, was the creation of righteous, holy and perfect *character* within these angel beings. And this, these two supreme Beings knew, could not be done automatically and instantaneously by fiat—else the created beings would be nothing more than mindless automations, like man-made machines that must perform as their maker designed and *set them* to perform, with no mind, reasoning power, thought or decision-making power of their own.

Therefore this character (whether good or evil) must be developed in separate entities possessing thought processes and minds able to think, to know, to reason, to make independent conclusions and choices. And that risked development of *evil* character. Actually, this righteous, holy and perfect character must of necessity come *from* the original perfect Beings, yet as a result of the thinking, reasoning, knowing, and actual choice and desire of the recipients.

That process required *time*. God's thought and planning stage, prior to any actual creation, required time. Aeons of time could have gone by—perhaps hundreds, perhaps billions, of years.

Remember God was supreme in authority, yet He and the Word were in all other respects equal. In mind they were in complete harmony and agreement. God created all things by and through the Word,

(Continued on page 33)



BUSTLING STREETS of downtown Taipei (left) symbolize booming economies of free Asia. The continued presence of U.S. peace-keeping forces, such as soldier standing guard in Korean DMZ (opposite page), has made Asia's rapid economic development possible.

BIG CHANGES AHEAD

Throughout the Orient, economies are booming. But there is one potentially fatal flaw. Much depends on America's defense commitments to its Asian allies. How certain is this commitment now?

IN ASIA

by Gene H. Hogberg and Keith W. Stump

We have just completed a three-week, six-nation fact-finding trip in Asia, and one overall impression stands out: There could be some momentous and far-reaching changes in that part of the world in the near future—and none of them augur well for the prospects of world peace.

But for the moment, despite the first ill winds of stormy political weather, economic fortunes throughout the places we visited—Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Singapore and the Philippines—are good, in most cases better than ever before in history.

Phenomenal Growth Rates

Everywhere we traveled, we saw prosperity at levels the nations of Asia have never before experienced. The big cities of Asia—Tokyo, Os-

aka, Seoul, Taipei, Hong Kong, Singapore, Manila—are fast undergoing face-lifts. New high-rise office buildings and hotels are going up at furious rates. Streets are being torn up for new subways or crosstown motorways.

The national economies everywhere are booming. Sights are set high. Everyone is trying to catch up, first of all, with Japan, then ultimately with America, in per capita gross national product. And of course Japan is by no means standing still, this year chalking up another enormous trade surplus.

But the Koreans and the Taiwanese are dogging Tokyo's heels, often irritating their big Asian rival by grabbing away business, such as supertanker construction, once thought to be a Japanese monopoly.

Everywhere the lot of the common man is steadily improving.

In 1961, the Republic of Korea's per capita GNP was a pitiful \$83. By 1976 it had zoomed to a shade under \$700. By 1981 it is hoped that it will rise to \$1,500. Korea's economy grew a phenomenal 15 percent in 1976, and the increase this year should range anywhere between 10 and 13 percent. This year alone, the Koreans are hopeful of generating \$20 billion in foreign trade.

On Taiwan an even greater economic miracle is being achieved. In 1976, per capita GNP stood at \$809; during the same year, Taiwan's economy grew at a rate of 11.5 percent, the industrial sector grew 23.7 percent, and foreign trade soared nearly 40 percent.

In Southeast Asia, the tiny (only 25 miles long and 14 miles wide) city-state of Singapore has written a remarkable economic success story. The pullout of the British from their naval base in 1966 dealt

the newly independent ministate a severe blow. But since then the hardworking Singaporeans have aggressively attracted industrial concerns from around the world to set up manufacturing branches on the island. After industry came banking. Over 70 percent of Singapore's banking is now handled by foreign banks located in a new "Wall Street" district, doing business in the booming "Asia dollar" market.

Singapore, too, has played a leading role in the affairs of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations), which is slowly but steadily elevating the economic fortunes of not only Singapore, but Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia and the Philippines.

Free of Fear

All of this hard-won prosperity, gained by countries poor in natural resources but rich in the human variety, could nevertheless quickly dissipate. This is simply because it is the American political and military commitment to the free Asian nations—now in doubt more than ever before—that has enabled them to develop their economic structures free of undue fear of their enemies.

For example, the Japanese miracle has been insured all along by the American nuclear umbrella. With the U.S.-prescribed no-war clause in its constitution, Japan has been free to direct the endless energies of its well-educated, disciplined work force toward economic development, devoting but a small fraction of its national budget to military defense. As a result, the Japanese have built the free world's second-largest economy.

During the Korean War, moreover, while Korea was being devastated, the Japanese were put on their postwar economic feet by provisioning the U.S. war effort across the Sea of Japan. Older Koreans, we found, have never forgotten that Japan, harsh overlords in Korea from 1910 to 1945, actually profited at Korea's expense. In marked contrast to Japan, South Korea today has to devote 35 percent of its national budget to defense. Yet the hardworking Koreans are still determined to surpass the Japanese economically.



Despite their resentment of Japan's success and knowledge that the United States is in no small way responsible for it, many Koreans we talked to realize that their own economic recovery would have been impossible were it not for the American commitment to their security.

Taiwan Sheltered Too

On Taiwan the feeling is much the same. Without the 1954 treaty guaranteeing Washington's ironclad commitment to defend Taiwan against its Communist enemy on the mainland, Taiwan could not have made such gigantic economic strides—would not have been able to "turn hell into heaven," as one Taiwanese scholar told us—and would not be able to hold high the torch of a new "model China" for Chinese across the Formosa Strait to see.

Throughout the remaining free nations of Southeast Asia it is recognized, but not always publicly emphasized, that it is the still formidable American military presence in the region, specifically in the huge naval and air bases in the Philippines, that holds Vietnam, the big Communist predator in the area, at bay. Even the Chinese, ever wary of growing Soviet naval might, have passed word to the Philippines that they wish to see the Americans remain.

Thus it is the continued American military presence throughout Asia that has, at least until now, preserved the political/ideological

status quo and made possible the dramatic economic and social advancement in country after country.

But winds of change are blowing out of Washington that could upset everything and ultimately result in great physical destruction and the loss of millions of lives.

Lack of Understanding

First of all, the Carter Administration's emphasis on human rights, we found, has upset many of America's friends and allies in Asia. They feel that the new (and often younger and somewhat idealistic) men in the U.S. State Department (as well as in Congress) do not understand the complex and often dangerous situations their nations are forced to live with day after day.

In South Korea, for example, a leading business executive told us that "you [Americans] have no Communist enemy facing you across the border, say, in Canada." Another drew the analogy of his divided country to a Communist power occupying half the United States up to the Mississippi River—then asked whether, under such conditions, the remaining half of the United States could enjoy the same full range of civil liberties it does today. Or wouldn't, this official asked, the U.S. also, as South Korea must, be forced to limit certain political activities for the sake of national security?

In the Philippines, a leading journalist we met was angered over

David Burnett—Contact

American criticism of his country's condition of martial law. Americans don't realize, he stressed, how much political and civil chaos prevailed before martial law was instituted as a last resort in 1972. Now there is stability. The economy is steadily improving. In village elections people are now being taught for the first time the value of a vote—that it is not to be sold for ten pesos to the highest bidder. When national elections are held once more, democracy, hopefully, will be appreciated to a much greater degree.

Almost universally, those we talked to stressed that the United States, imbued with its human rights zeal, should not judge another country—especially a friendly one—by certain presently unattainable goals. Instead the standard should be: Is the country in the free world and is it moving (and does it want to move) as safely as possible in the direction of greater individual liberties?

Few disagreed with the concept of human rights in principle. But the application of it as a policy has to be made, in each case, with full understanding and wisdom.

Korea Pullout

The human rights issue, however, can change. It appears to be somewhat flexible. But two other decisions in Washington are causing far greater concern. The first is the announced phased withdrawal of U.S. ground forces from South Korea over a five-year period. The second is the obvious intention of the United States to recognize the People's Republic of China, which can only be accomplished by simultaneously dropping ties with the Republic of China on Taiwan.

With regard to the troop pullout issue, South Koreans we talked to are unanimous in believing that the chances of war will be greatly enhanced once the U.S. forces are gone. The North Korean dictator, Kim Il-sung, has called for the withdrawal of American forces ever since the armistice ending the Korean War was signed in June 1953. "Why are you doing what he has demanded all along?" was a frequently asked question.

With regard to the Taiwan situ-

ation, diplomatic recognition of Peking by the United States can only be achieved on Peking's terms: Taiwan must be "derecognized" and the defense treaty between Taipei and Washington scrapped.

"How can America do this?" we were asked by officials in Taipei. The Taiwanese, for their part, have faithfully lived up to every jot and tittle of the treaty. What grounds can the U.S. give for terminating its solemn commitment? What effect would a break have on similar defense ties between Washington and Japan or between the U.S. and Australia and New Zealand (the ANZUS Pact)? What would be the effect on the NATO alliance?

These are huge issues—too big to deal with in this brief overview article. The Korea issue and the Taiwan dilemma will be explored in greater detail in subsequent issues of *The Plain Truth*.

Suffice it to say here that everywhere we went in Asia, government and business leaders are appealing to the United States to not rock the boat, to not change a winning game, to not slacken on its commitments to the nations of free Asia. On the issue of human rights, these same officials plead to be given the time to deal with what they perceive to be their own higher-priority human rights problems: that of first guaranteeing freedom from want and fear by continuing to build up their economies while maintaining politically stable societies. Once these goals are accomplished, then perhaps they can deal with loftier "Jeffersonian" principles.

But one wonders if America is listening to their appeals. One wonders, too, if the leadership in Washington took note of a very significant full-page advertisement in the July 17, 1977 edition of the *New York Times*. It was in the form of an open letter to President Carter by a committee of concerned Japanese citizens. The signatories included many professors of top Japanese universities, political affairs commentators, even retired generals of Japan's Self Defense Force. Their appeal read: "We the undersigned wish to urge you to exercise extreme caution in undertaking any policy changes in East Asia as you formu-

late the new foreign policy of the United States. We strongly believe that any precipitate withdrawal of American troops from the Korean peninsula or change in America's relationship with the Republic of China would have a dangerous destabilizing effect on security relationships in East Asia.

"For more than 20 years East Asia has enjoyed unprecedented peace and prosperity. But it would be a grave mistake to take this situation for granted. A continuation of the current U.S. role in the Republic of Korea and in the Republic of China is absolutely vital to the security of Japan and to that of East Asia in general.

"We also believe that criticism in the U.S. of the current governments of the Republic of China and the Republic of Korea is largely incorrect and unfortunate. America should take pride in its role in helping these two countries to achieve that success which they have. They are important countries. With a combined population of about 50 million people, they are about half the size of Japan, and they are two of the most impressive success stories in the developing world, having maintained incredibly high growth rates of about 10 percent a year for more than a decade, while at the same time achieving an exceptionally even distribution of income. What such a rapid growth rate means is a dramatic improvement in the standard of living of the people of these countries to an extent that would not have been considered possible a few decades ago

"More than any other part of the world, East Asia, through the spectacular success stories of Japan, the Republic of Korea and the Republic of China, demonstrates how peace and prosperity can be achieved in a free world under American leadership. To endanger this situation by a major change in the status quo would surely be a tragic mistake."

If Washington turns a deaf ear to pleas such as these, then all of Asia could be heading into a time of unparalleled instability—eventually culminating in war, destruction and suffering. And the impact upon America itself will be calamitous. □

Some people have falsely assumed that most biblical prophecies are merely dire, doomsdayish foretellings of catastrophic events of the wrathful vengeance of a harsh God who is about to descend with terrible fury upon His hapless subjects here below. But this is far from the real truth. Many of the prophecies foretell a time of peace, of happiness, of restoration, of joy, of great prosperity and physical wealth. Ultimately, the biblical message is one of lasting peace, right rulership, and radiant health for all races and nations around the world. It is a globe-girdling gospel. It announces the way to world peace and harmony; the way to end all famines, wars and terrorism. It is a message of firm hope in an age of utter hopelessness.

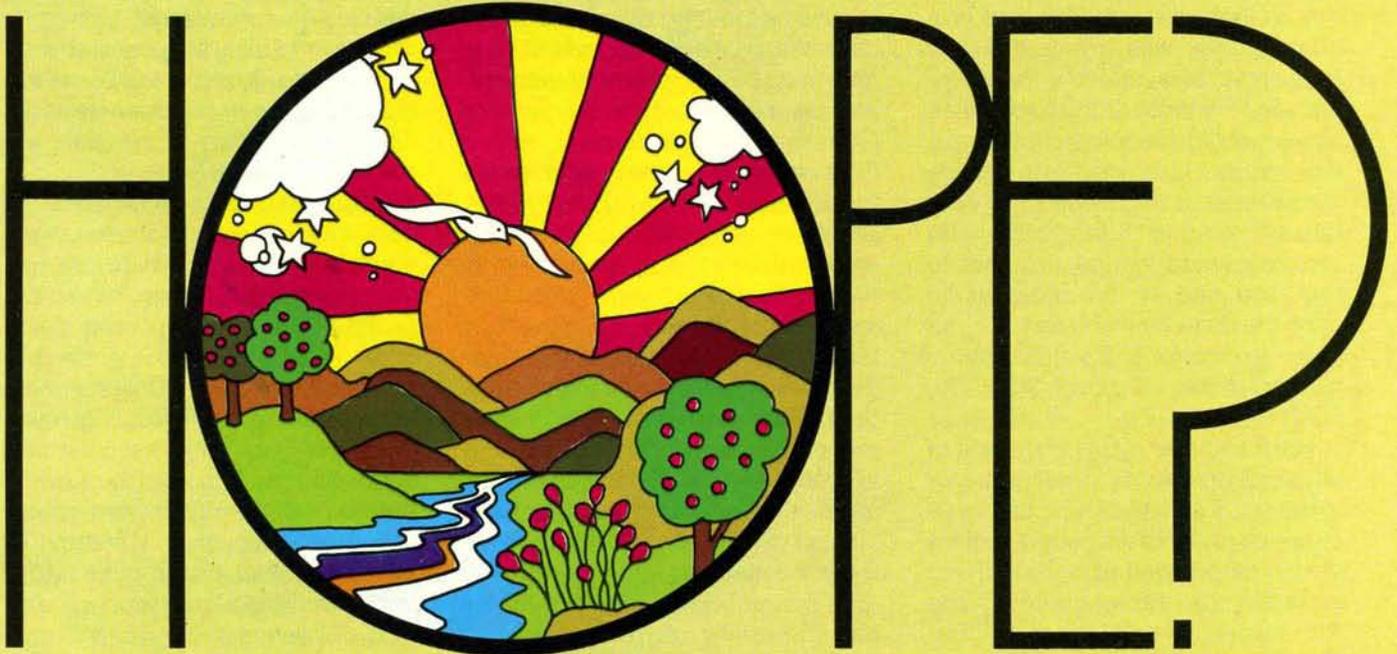
by Garner Ted Armstrong

I have both good news and bad news. The good news is that the gloomy predictions of an ultimate doomsday—the extinction of all human life from this earth—are *never* going to happen. And that is because there is a great news source which reveals a gigantic *master plan* for a world super-government. That major world news source, which world leaders and scientists have overlooked and left out of the picture completely, reports tomorrow's news today—

**DOES
THE
BIBLE
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MESSAGE
OF**

news of a soon-coming, peaceful and happy world tomorrow. In a world living under the shadow of the bomb, I can't give you any better news than that. But I would be less than honest with you—in reality totally dishonest—if I tried to hide the fact that we are edging ever closer to the brink of the disintegration of this present society. The signs of future breakdown, disorder, violence and utter bewilderment are all around us if we have the wit to see them. Yet in the spirit of what Jesus Christ of Nazareth said to the seven churches in Asia Minor, I will give you the good news *first*.

Millions of professing Christians simply do not think of Jesus as a prophet or a newscaster of future world events. Yet the very first verse of the book of Revelation states: "The revelation of Jesus Christ, which God gave him to show to his servants *what must soon take place* . . ." Yes, the One who is generally acknowledged in all of Chris-



“How beautiful upon the mountains are the feet of him that bringeth good tidings, that publisheth peace; that bringeth good tidings of good, that publisheth salvation; that saith, Thy God reigneth!”

Isaiah 52:7

tianity to be the spiritual Savior of the world, also forecast the overall, general sequence of events that would characterize the world from His time to now and right on into the future.

Jesus Christ of Nazareth was an up-to-date *futurist* in the truest sense of that term. He talked not only of the mind-bending, fast-moving, sometimes horrifying events to presage His second coming, but also of a wonderful world to come. He spoke directly of an altogether different kind of society that would envelop the earth in future ages.

The religious leaders of Jesus' day thought they had backed Him into a corner with a trick question about marriage and the resurrection. But He deftly sidestepped their picky question by informing them of the never-before-heard-of conditions of tomorrow's world. He specifically forecast: "But those who are accounted worthy to attain to that age and to the resurrection from the dead neither marry nor are given in marriage, for *they cannot die any more* . . ." (Luke 20:35-36, RSV).

Have you ever heard of a world in which people don't die any more? Visionary futurists of our day contemplate a fantastic world with a vastly lengthened life-span made possible by replacement parts for worn-out body organs. But

how many of them envision the ultimate: "They cannot die any more"? In perhaps the oldest Gospel account—that of the book of Mark—Jesus Christ entered into the country of Galilee, "preaching the gospel of God, and saying, 'The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand; repent, and believe the gospel' " (Mark 1:14-15, RSV).

In the Greek language, the word *euaggelion*, sometimes translated *evangelos*, is better rendered into the English language as "good news." Equally acceptable in the English language would be "the glad tidings," or simply "the gospel."

The Good News

So "good news" means the "gospel." When Jesus commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world as a witness, He could just as easily have said, had He been speaking in the English language: "Go you therefore into all nations, announcing the good news of my soon-coming Kingdom to rule the world." So the essence of the Great Commission to the Church of God involves preaching *good news*.

However, on the other side of the coin, the conclusion is inescapable that, excepting general statements and parables about the Kingdom of God and short declarations about "the world to come" (and those mostly in direct relationship to the problems and affairs *of this life*), there is not all that much material in the four Gospel accounts about the wonderful world tomorrow *per se*. In terms of sheer volume in the Gospels, Jesus Christ dealt mostly with the problems a human being has in this present life on his way into the Kingdom of God. Conditions in tomorrow's world are simply not the subject of whole chapters in the four Gospel accounts.

Of course, Jesus Christ of Nazareth continually referred to what was

written in the Old Testament as authoritative. He supported and endorsed its contents. And almost every prophetic writing in the Old Testament *contrasts* coming calamities brought on by massive disobedience with the good news of tomorrow's world.

For instance, the first chapter of Isaiah is a stinging indictment against a sick nation so satiated with sin that the whole country is plagued with putrifying sores from head to toe. Isaiah likens the whole nation to the vileness of Sodom and Gomorrah. He then calls for national repentance after telling them their "hands are full of blood" (meaning senseless, violent, brutal murders in their cities and towns). "Wash yourselves; make yourselves clean; remove the evil of your doings from before my eyes; cease to do evil, learn to do good; seek justice, correct oppression; defend the fatherless, plead for the widow" (Isa. 1:15-17, RSV).

Yet in chapter two, Isaiah goes on to tell of the time when "many people shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in his paths: for out of Zion shall go forth the law, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among the nations, and shall rebuke many people: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more" (Isa. 2:3-4, RSV).

Chapter three of Isaiah "lapses" back into warnings of stern punishments such as famine, the erosion of truly effective leadership, hatred between young and old, and many other evils sure to come on any disobedient nation. Chapter nine prophesies again of God's government with Christ at its helm here on earth. Chapter ten then condemns the political corruption and chicanery of this present evil world.

Then chapter eleven goes into a rather detailed description of utopian conditions in the world tomor-

row (including the total tamedness of formerly vicious wild animals).

Prophecy Is a Mix

The mix of good and bad prophecies continues throughout the book of Isaiah. Other prophetic books share the same distinction. Amos talked about a devastating round of famines, droughts and insect-induced crop failures (Amos 4:6-10). He got real specific about why God was so upset with the northern nation of Israel. He talked about the drastic increase in crime, graft, bribery and political corruption (Amos 3:9-10; 5:12-13).

Yet in spite of the fact that the nation was ridden with social injustice and was so morally bankrupt that God itemized that country's evils in the book, Amos' message was *not* all bad news. Though Amos minced no words in addressing the nation's problems, he concluded his book with a wonderful, long-term prophecy of agricultural prosperity (Amos 9:11-15).

As the biblical prophecies and the Bible as a whole are a mixture of good and bad news, so must the message of this Work be. Humanly, perhaps we have at times emphasized the one at the expense of the other. True, there is coming a new, a brighter, a different, and a totally better world than the one we know today—a prosperous, peaceful, restructured world tomorrow under the government of Jesus Christ Himself. And we must never neglect telling the world of the guaranteed reality of that future utopian society. But we *cannot* ignore the fact that today's world is in the death grip of an evil system that is automatically bringing more and more troubles on the world with the passing of every single year.

The predictions that Jesus made in His Olivet Prophecy (Matthew 24; Mark 13; Luke 21) are beginning to intensify in their overall impact. World confusion, hatred, strife, warfare and terrible destruction are sure to increase with rapid acceleration.

The Bible continually points out that there is a cause for every effect. Living a certain way brings a

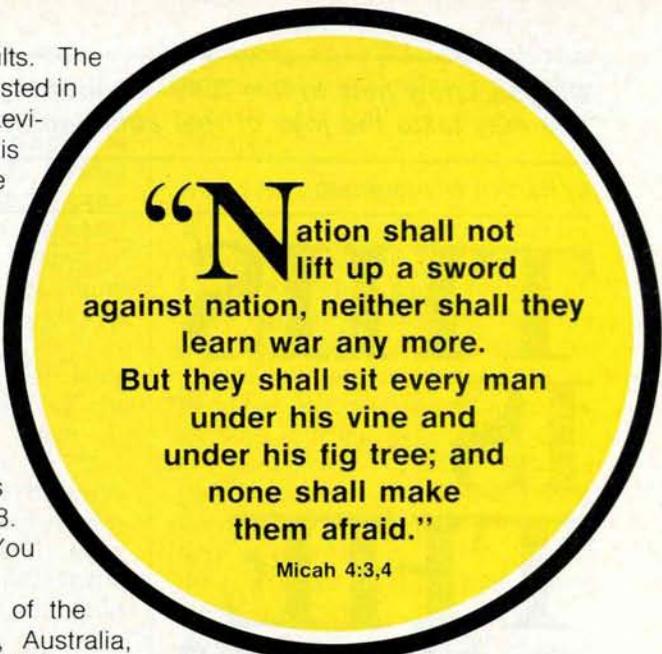
definitive bag of results. The blessings and cursings listed in Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26 are true to this pattern. Blessings are promised for obedience to the laws of God. Curses are sure to come when a nation insists on living a life of rebellion and disobedience. Our Western nations are plagued by the curses enumerated in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28. Is there a connection? You figure it out!

Because the citizens of the United States, Canada, Australia, Britain, South Africa and Rhodesia are breaking certain fundamental laws, they are facing, as surely as the rising of tomorrow's sun, increased race riots, social decadence, widespread crime, venereal disease, pornography and the continuing onslaught of runaway inflation. These are the fruits of disobedience to the Ten Commandments of God.

Evil Has a Cause

It's all a matter of cause and effect. We should be reaping long lives, peace and safety in our lands, children born minus any birth defects, rain in due season, a plenteous reserve of natural resources and all the other blessings God guarantees for obedience to His way of life. Instead our cities are cursed with violent, senseless, unbelievable crimes against the person; some of our most productive agricultural areas are in the grip of terrible droughts; children with birth defects fill whole hospitals—and I could go on and on with all the curses that plague our Western nations. And so long as the causes exist that produce these evil effects, this Work will continue to cry out to our nations to change—to repent of their filthy ways—to turn wholeheartedly to God on their knees.

And we hope against hope for the best results—knowing that even though our peoples as a whole may



“Nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more. But they shall sit every man under his vine and under his fig tree; and none shall make them afraid.”

Micah 4:3,4

fail to heed their God, at least some few are turning their lives around, shoring up their family lives, cleaning up their spiritual filth, and beginning to obey the laws of their God. We rejoice that people in Ghana, India, Australia, Western Europe, North, Central and South America, Indonesia and Mexico are being moved by the message of the Kingdom of God—their lives profoundly influenced and changed by the impact of this last-ditch effort of Jesus Christ.

Our task is so broad and so monumental that it defies description in just a few words. It combines the wonderful good news of the world tomorrow with the sobering commission of Ezekiel to his beloved nation of Israel. It includes the wonderful sacrifice of Jesus Christ and the fact that we are saved spiritually by His life. But it also entails the warnings of Elijah to the prophets of Baal and the stern correction of Jeremiah for the people of Judah.

We work in the hope that more and more people will heed our message and learn how to make their marriages happy; how to lovingly rear their children—in short, how to obey the laws God has given them for their good. And we do preach the message about how humanity will ultimately be saved in the wonderful world tomorrow. □

Do you know how to live fully—abundantly? In this article you will learn how you may taste the joys of real abundant living.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS IS THE LIFE!

Real Abundant Living

Why do religious people often seem to feel that their religious life must be one of giving up all the fun and the enjoyment of living—that in order to please God, they must endure a life of morbid gloom?

Sin to many of these people consists of things that many other people consider to be most desirable. To them, sin is going contrary to a number of "don'ts." "Don't smoke." "Don't dance." "Don't play cards." "Don't go to the theater." "Don't ever touch a drop of alcoholic beverage." "Don't do this!" "Don't do that!"

What's Wrong With Religion?

A prominent lawyer's wife once said to me, "I couldn't ever become a Christian. Why, if I had to give up smoking, dancing, card playing, the theater, and all the pleasures of life, what would there be left to live for anyway?"

A world-famous philosopher, editor, and lecturer whom I knew—and

who also had no use for religion—said that he did not desire to be repressed or to live a life of painful penance. "I desire," he said, "to be radiant, cheerful, friendly, and to meet people with a smile."

Apparently he assumed that such a happy life could not be a religious life.

But strangely, none of these people **KNEW HOW TO LIVE.**

Very few have ever found or tasted the true abundant life.

Now the Creator, who gives you the breath that you breathe, does

not desire for you to live an empty, depressed, or an unhappy life. You never please the Eternal by giving up happiness or anything that is good for you.

God Almighty has never given you a single "don't," except those things that are going to harm you, tear you down, bring on unhappiness later. Oh, of course, some of these things give you a thrill, or a little kick out of life temporarily, but there is always a boomerang. They exact a great penalty later, and the price is too high. It isn't good business.

God forbids those things that are bad for us, the things that are going to bring on unhappiness, and bring on a life of emptiness and gloom. But never does God Almighty forbid one single thing that is for your happiness, your welfare, your real well-being.

I'm reminded of an elderly man who was of the "shouting kind" of religion. He rose up one time in a church meeting and he shouted out a question to those assembled. He

EDITOR'S NOTE: *Mr. Armstrong's series of articles on healing is being temporarily discontinued with this issue. It may resume at a later time. In this issue we are reprinting one of his earlier articles which has proven very popular over the years. We hope you enjoy "This is the Life!—Real Abundant Living." It is available in reprint form.*

said, "Brethren, are you enjoying it, or are you only enduring it?"

Some people endure a solemn, stiff, and formal church service. And some, emotionally inclined, will go to the kind of church meeting where there is much shouting, and much emotional response, merely to have a good time during the meeting. The rest of the week religion doesn't seem to have a great part in their lives.

Others feel that if they become, as they call it, "saved," they must forever after live a gloomy life of giving up everything that they formerly enjoyed, and that their solemn, unhappy lives will somehow please their Creator. Of course, that kind of religion is more or less a superstition!

Christ Brought Abundant Living

Let's get this matter straight. The founder of the Christian religion, Jesus Christ, said that He came to this earth for a purpose. "I am come," said Jesus, "that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it more abundantly" (John 10:10). Jesus Christ came to bring us the "ABUNDANT LIFE." Do you know what that is?

God Almighty intended the real Christian life to be one of joy.

Do you know that if you have the real Christian life, if you have the Spirit of God within you, it's going to bring about this result? It's going to, as we say, "produce fruits." Now what kind of fruits will be produced in a real Christian life? Not the morbid, unhappy life. Here is the fruit. Here is what will emanate from a real Christian life. It is found in Galatians 5, beginning with verse 22. "The fruit of the Spirit"—this is the Spirit of God. This is the Holy Spirit that God imparts only to those who are truly converted. "The fruit of the Spirit is LOVE"—first of all is love—and the second is "JOY." Joy is happiness, brimful and running over.

That doesn't sound like an unhappy, empty, morbid life, does it? Here's love that will just flow, spontaneously, out from you!

The first "fruit of the Spirit of God" is LOVE. Love will mean that your face is beaming. It's going to

mean that you are really giving out. It's going to mean that you are radiant and happy. Love results in JOY, the second product of the Spirit of God. The third is "PEACE." Instead of going around quarreling, resentful, bitter, unhappy, and arguing—that's not peace, that's a kind of war—you'll be at peace in your mind and with your neighbor, and with your God!

And the next is, in the King James Authorized Version of the Bible, "longsuffering," which in more modern English is "PATIENCE." Impatience makes more people unhappy than almost anything else! If you can really learn the lesson of patience, you're learning one of the things that will make you happy, and make life worth living.

The next is "gentleness," and then "goodness, faith, meekness, temperance: against such there is no law." That is the fruit of the Spirit. It will spontaneously spring forth from you. That, you will be emitting from yourself, radiating from yourself, all the time, if you are a real Christian.

But Most People Are Not Christians

You read in Romans 8:9 that unless you have received, from *without*, the Holy Spirit of God, you are not any of Christ's! You are not a Christian.

There are millions of people that profess Christianity that are not Christians according to God's definition. They're not Christians at all!

Of course, in a Christian life, there are troubles. There are going to be even persecutions. Jesus Christ was persecuted. He said, "If they have persecuted me, they will persecute you." That comes from *without*. That's something that comes from other people. That doesn't necessarily need to disturb you inwardly. And the person who does have this inward peace, the person who has this joy and this love and this patience—and who has this tolerance for other people—isn't going to be too much disturbed because other people don't agree, and perhaps persecute.

Yes, you're going to face problems and trials. Those things are good for us. They come upon us for

a purpose—to help us develop character. And a real Christian understands. It doesn't make him unhappy.

We All Have Trials

We are going to have troubles, problems and trials just like everybody else. They come to test us. They come to strengthen, to build our character. And that's the very purpose of our being—to make us like God. We, like Jesus Christ, can be born into the Kingdom of God. Notice I Peter 4:12-13: "Beloved [this is speaking to real Christians], think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you."

Some people, when some of these trials and these problems come, think nobody else has ever had anything come upon them like that. It's some strange thing that is peculiar to them. That is not true! Every other person on earth is having problems. Everyone is having troubles. They have things to meet and to overcome, solutions to work out, the same as you do. It's not strange. And so here is the teaching of God. He says: "But REJOICE," yes, rejoice inwardly in these things, "inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings."

Christ suffered, but Christ also said to His apostles: "My joy I leave with you." "I am come," He said, "that you might have life, and that you might have it more abundantly." He came to give us THE ABUNDANT LIFE. He had that kind of life. He was happy. He was filled with joy, even though at the same time He was a man of sorrows—and why?

Because He LOVED all human beings, and He saw the way they were going. He saw how they were destroying themselves, how they were bringing unhappiness and emptiness, fear and worry, poverty, sickness, disease and sufferings on themselves. He thereby shared their sufferings. He was a man of sorrows. He was sorrowful for them. But He was a man who was happy *inside*. He was setting us an example of the kind of life that we should live. So we read here: "Rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's suffer-

ings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy."

Why We Can Always Be Happy Inside

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, which according to his abundant mercy hath begotten us again unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled" (I Pet. 1:3).

There isn't one person in 10,000 professing Christians who really knows and understands what that incorruptible inheritance really is. It is far greater—filled with far more splendor and glory, and far more happiness—than you probably ever imagined. That is what is in store for you if you will surrender your life to God. It's up to you!

Peter continues, saying that we are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation, ready "to be revealed at the last time." That means a time yet future, ahead of us just now, only a few years future in our time, at the second coming of Christ. Jesus Christ is coming back to this earth once again!

"Wherein," continues this scripture, "ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations" or trials and troubles that come upon us: "that the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth"—because this trial of our faith is developing character that will never perish. It's more valuable than gold.

When a trouble comes upon you, instead of griping, grumbling, moaning, and being unhappy and miserable about it, realize that something is come upon you to try you, to develop character, to develop something real and genuine in you that you will carry with you for all eternity.

But when troubles come, do you rejoice in them? Do you realize that something is come that is more valuable to you than a great sum of gold? Or do you grumble and complain and wish that such things had never come?

Jesus Christ came so that our lives

should be *changed* from what they are. They are to be changed from drifting, going the easy way, acting according to impulse—which builds no character, which is putting nothing into us that we can take with us, nothing that is real, that is lasting and permanent—to the life that finds the true values. He gives us a life that does meet and overcome obstacles and temptations, a life that is just filled with happiness, brimful and running over with joy, the real abundant life. We realize what is being accomplished, where we're going. You have a goal if you are Christ's. You have an objective. You know where you're going; you see the progress you're making. It gives you a thrill of happiness.

Material Blessings, Too

And, incidentally, if your life is the right kind that God desires, which is for your good, if you seek first the Kingdom of God, which is your objective in life—or should be—and His righteousness, the right ways of life, He says that all these material things shall be added.

God, perhaps, may not add material things early in life. He may not add them right away. It may be some little time, but He will give you all the material goods and necessities that you really need, and even a great many of the luxuries, if your life pleases Him. Yes, you can have those things when you know how to possess them and how to use them.

What is an abundant life? What is abundance? Here is the definition: "possessing an overflowing fullness." It means great plenty—great plenty of life and real living. It means exuberance. It means abounding. That's the kind of life that Jesus Christ came to reveal that we could have.

Not very many people understand it. Not very many people understand what real Christianity is. Not very many professing Christians know what a real Christian life is. They're making themselves so unnecessarily unhappy.

The true Christian life, then, possesses an overflowing fullness of the things that are the fruits of the Spirit of God—an overflowing fullness of LOVE (it's *God's* love, it's a genuine,

spiritual love), a fullness of JOY, and of PEACE, and of *faith*, of *meekness*, of *temperance*. Does YOUR life possess those things? Have those things come into your life to fill you?

I know that you fall a great deal short of all of that. Everybody does. *We all* still fall short. But that's our goal! That is the life that we shall live in the Kingdom of God. That is the life that we should strive for, and with God's help, we can gradually grow more and more into it.

That is the challenging life we grow into, the life of God's Spirit within us—that is the HAPPY life, that is the JOYOUS life, and the ABUNDANT life.

The abundant life must be a life that has abundant RESOURCES. If you have these resources, they have to come from somewhere, because if you look within, you will find that they are not there! We have some resources within, but they fall far, far short from the kind of abundant living that Christ reveals and I'm telling you about. You don't have this kind of resources within and you can't obtain them from the "around."

Look around you. You can't obtain them from other people because they don't possess these things either.

God Above Is the Source

We can have abundant resources if we know where to go to obtain those resources. But material wealth does not give anyone those resources. It can only add to them.

You don't have them *within*. You can't get them from the *around*. But you can receive them only from the *above*, from God Almighty. God Almighty is the great Giver, not only of life, but of life more abundantly. God is the Giver of the great resources. He is the Almighty.

God Almighty has a great deal of power to give you, to impart into you. You can receive from Him abundant FAITH, the resource of POWER, faith to drive out fear and worry, faith to drive out discouragement before obstacles, to know that it's going to work out every problem; *power* where you are now weak, to give you love to cover up

and to drive out the bitterness and the resentment when other people do you wrong.

The LOVE of God will cover all of that and drive it out. God will give the resource of WISDOM that you now lack. God has all knowledge and all wisdom. God says if any man lacks wisdom, let him ask of God that giveth to all men liberally. And if you really believe, it *shall be given*, and *understanding* too! And then *zeal* and *energy*—real living, driving energy that is needed to do the work that you must accomplish.

It Can Happen to You, Too

I am going to mention something personal. To conduct this work I lead a very busy, driving life, and expend a great deal of energy. A physician friend of mine once asked me: "Mr. Armstrong, I don't see how you do it. Where do you get this energy? How do you keep going so long and under so many hours of strain and stress, and still have that driving energy?"

I told him, "It's one of the resources that I get from above."

Of course, I find it necessary to observe the laws of health and practice moderation in all things. It requires self-discipline.

You, too, can have these resources that make you happy. These are the things that we all need. These are the resources that can come only from God. And these are the resources that will produce those fruits of love, and joy, and of peace, and of patience.

Most lives today are empty, absolutely *empty!* They are filled with boredom, with frustrations and fears.

It is as you read in Isaiah 55:1: "Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price."

Everyone is really thirsty for the good things of life, for the happiness, the pleasant things and, to some extent, even exciting and thrilling things in life that we could and should have. But most lives seem empty. The well is dry, and they're thirsty.

"Wherefore do ye spend money

for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not?"

What do you drink in? Jesus said that if you drink of Him, "He that believeth on me, as the Scripture hath said, out of his innermost being shall flow rivers of *living water*"—not stagnant water, but living water, sparkling water. "*But this spake he of the Spirit*, which they that believe on him should receive"—the Holy Spirit of God.

The Holy Spirit of God is pictured as living water. It comes into you. You go to Christ to receive it. You don't bottle it up and put a cork on it. It flows out from you. The Holy Spirit flows out in love, peace and joy, radiating *from* you. There is no other way to find these resources. There is no other way to live a happy life.

The laws of God are a way of life. The Bible in its whole is a way of life. Jesus Christ said that we must live by every word of God. If you live by every word of God, you will live according to the way of life that God has laid down in His book, the Holy Bible. It is the way of life that is the *abundant* life. It's the way of the happy, the cheerful life that simply *radiates*. It radiates sunshine and happiness, and it's always happiness within. The well is not dry. It's filled!

Now here is what this kind of life will mean. It means that you will be **RADIANT**. It means that God's Spirit in you will radiate cheerfulness and smiles, friendliness toward others, love, sincerity, vigor, calm courage, goodwill, and interest in others, instead of being so self-conscious, with so much overinterest in your own self.

If the Spirit of God is *in* you, you will be plain and simple, you will put on no airs. There will be no posing, as most people do in the world. You will be natural, and not pretending. You will be honest and frank and unaffected, clean in mind and in body. You will be humble. There won't be *self-confidence*. There will be *faith in God*, instead.

You will be humble, but you will have **THE FAITH** and **THE POWER OF GOD**, whose power is unlimited. You will be strong through this faith of God. There will be no weakness,

but great strength. You will have wisdom, and you will have courage. You will have everything, every resource you need.

You will be ready always to say "I don't know," if so it be. You will be ready, always, to admit error when it is so proved, to confess wrong and to *change* to what is right, wherever you are wrong. You will be ready to accept correction and reproof, and to act upon it no matter how humiliating or painful. You will diligently study to learn the right way and to live it, and you will study the Bible to find it. You will face every obstacle that comes along—every difficulty, every problem and trouble—unafraid, in the full faith of God, looking to Him for wisdom and knowing that He will guide you and deliver you out of it.

The Attitude of a Christian

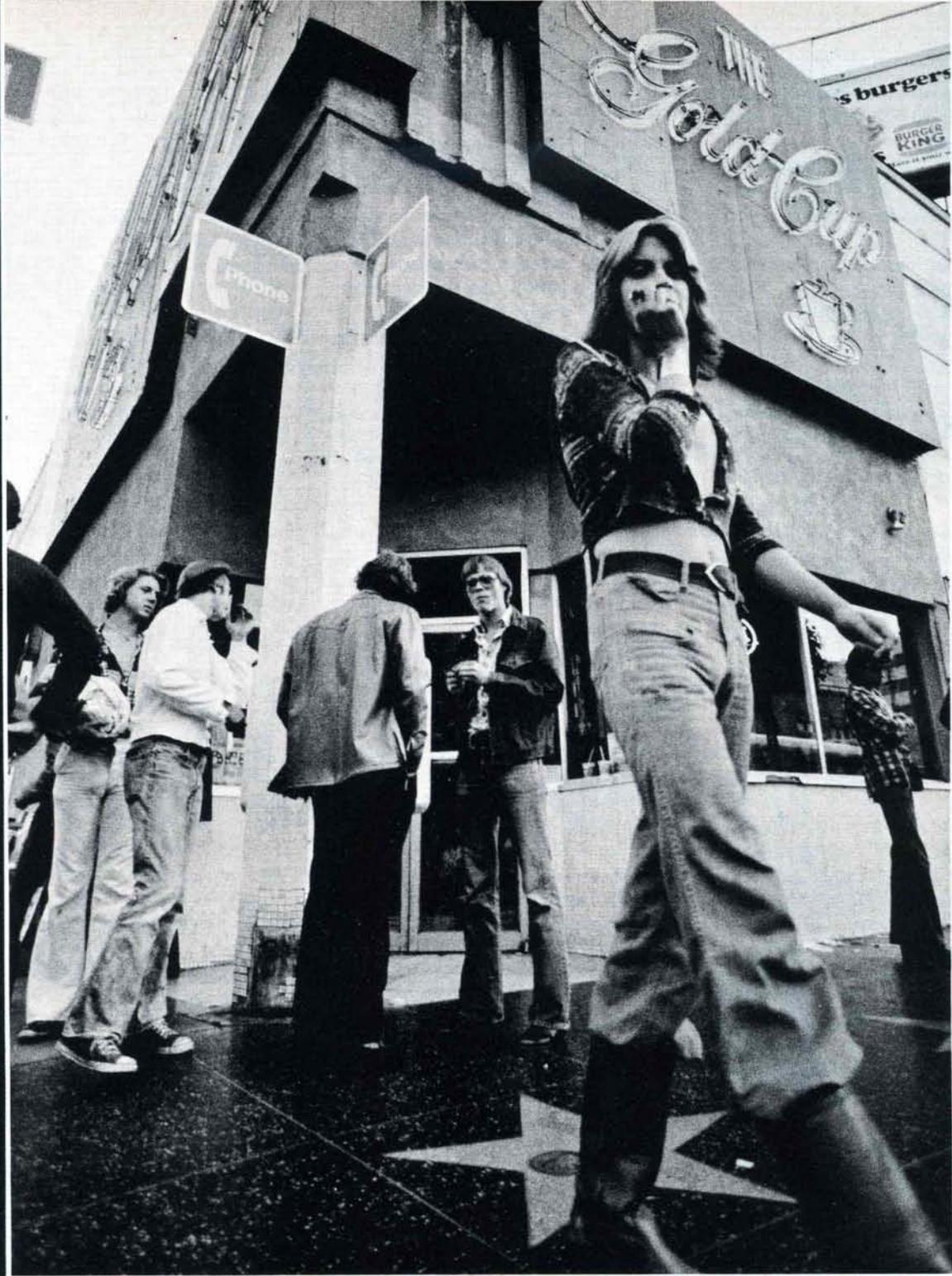
Here is the kind of attitude you will have. You will wish others to live their lives, too, up to their highest, their fullest, their best. You will be concerned for their welfare.

You'll try to help others every way you can, never to hurt or to injure. You will never meddle. You will never dictate, interfere, or give unwanted advice, or speak ill of, nor give gossip about others. Never will you go around griping, complaining and murmuring things that make you and others unhappy.

You will always be willing to help others by giving them a chance, and mainly you can help others by helping them to help themselves, by encouragement, by setting a good example, by thus inspiring and uplifting others, giving advice only when it's welcomed, and when they want it and are willing to open their minds to receive it.

You will hew to the line of the one supreme goal of life which should be to inherit the Kingdom of God, to be really born of God into the very family of God. You will be relentlessly pursuing this goal with zeal, with enthusiasm, with drive and with energy fired by godly ambition, with hope, with faith, living by every Word of God. The Bible will be the authority that you obey,

(Continued on page 33)



Michael Dobb

"KIDDIE PORN" **VICTIMS** **AND** **VILLAINS**

by D. Paul Graunke

A nation has been scandalized by the use of children—some as young as three years old—in pornographic films and magazines. But "kiddie porn" is only the tip of a much larger iceberg involving the sexual abuse and exploitation of thousands of young people.

Hollywood, California—A Local Restaurant (Night): Frank takes out his wallet and opens it for the reporter to see. It is bulging with ten- and twenty-dollar bills.

"How much do you have?" the reporter asks.

"Almost \$200," Frank replies. "Not bad for one day's work."

The day's work that Frank has just completed involved the selling of his body for sex with five male customers and posing in the nude for pictures for a sixth.

Frank is a male prostitute. He has just returned from a trick—a customer—and has decided to call it a day.

"How many tricks have you turned in your career?"

"I don't know," he replies, shrugging his shoulders. "Maybe two hundred."

"How long have you been turning tricks?"

"Over two years."

Frank is only 15.

"You must have a lot of money by now."

"No way!" He laughs at the thought. "I got a habit." He rolls up a sleeve and shows the needle marks dotting his arm. Heroin.

University of California at Los Angeles (Day): "Every year up to 30,000 children and teenagers pose for pornography in the Los Angeles area," testifies Sergeant Lloyd Martin of the Los Angeles Police Department before a House of Representatives subcommittee hearing on a congressional bill to curb child pornography. Martin heads a squad of five detectives who comprise a special unit of the Juvenile Division of the LAPD which investigates sexual exploitation of children.

At the same hearing, Representative Robert K. Dornan denounces the Los Angeles area, his home, as the center of the U.S. pornography industry.

"This county [Los Angeles] is perverting this nation with the vilest material that's ever been seen by man," he says. "This county leads the nation in distribution of hard- and soft-core pornography, bestiality, sadism, masochism, bondage and discipline, and child pornography."

Hollywood, California (Night): Frank, restless for another fix of heroin, gets up and leaves. Others are leaving also—it's almost closing time, anyway.

The restaurant sits on the corner of Hollywood Boulevard and Las Palmas Avenue. It is the first stop in an area of Hollywood called the "meat rack," the sexual supermarket where kids, called "chickens," display and sell themselves to customers, or "chicken hawks," who slowly cruise the area in cars, or ogle from seats in the restaurant.

At this time of the night, about a half dozen kids are loitering on the corner outside the restaurant. One looks no older than ten or eleven, but he says he's thirteen. Around the corner a couple of others thumb through magazines at a bookstall on Las Palmas, including gay magazines which, from time to time, feature nude photos of some of the chickens who frequent the restaurant. Still others are down the block on Selma Avenue waiting for the cruising chicken hawks. A couple of the young male prostitutes sit nonchalantly on the steps of the First Baptist Church on Selma sharing a cigarette.

New York, New York: If there is any one person responsible for the recent publicity about child pornography, it is Dr. Judianne Densen-Gerber, president of Odyssey Institute Inc., a private organization con-

trict) in January. She displayed two films depicting explicit sex acts involving children between the ages of eight and thirteen—films bought across the street from where she was talking. In addition, she showed magazines and even a deck of playing cards with youngsters in lewd positions.

Dr. Densen-Gerber claimed at that time that as many as 120,000 children in the New York metropolitan area are involved in some type of sex for money, including prostitution. "We permit our society's sickest members the license to sexually use three-year-olds."

Many of the participants in kiddie porn are runaways forced into the acts by unscrupulous operators and procurers, she said, but other children are engaged by parents or guardians who "live off their backs" through earnings from the illicit operations.

"These parents who subject their children to this type of environment are monsters who are sick and need treatment," she said.

Who are some of these villains?

North Bellmore, New York: An ex-aerospace engineer decides to make a few extra bucks. He places an ad offering "\$200 fee for girl model, 8-14 (must have parents' consent), one day photographic session." The response is overwhelming. Some adults actually appear in the pictures with their children. Others

At least 600,000 boys and girls between the ages of eight and sixteen become involved in pornography and prostitution each year in the United States.

cerned with various social problems such as drug rehabilitation. A year ago she became concerned about the increasing amount of child pornography. Since then she has, in her own words, "become a raving banshee" over the sexual exploitation of children.

To dramatize her crusade against child pornography, she called a news conference in Times Square (the heart of the city's porno dis-

merely allow their children to have sex with other adults. By the time the police break up the engineer's newfound business, some 18 children have had their pictures taken. The porn operation had grown into a \$250,000-a-year business.

Winchester, Tennessee: A defrocked Episcopal priest goes on trial, charged with taking in neglected children at his boys' farm and se-

cretly filming adult “sponsors” sexually abusing the boys.

New Orleans, Louisiana: A ring of men, including three millionaires, are charged with involving a Boy Scout troop in the filming of homosexual acts.

Los Angeles, California: A three-year-old girl, a five-year-old girl, and a ten-year-old boy are sold into the kiddie porn trade by their prostitute mothers.

Hollywood, California: How do the chicken hawks—the pederasts and pornographers—rationalize the sexual exploitation of youngsters? The reporter approaches several of them for an explanation. They come from all walks of life; they don’t fit into any stereotype. They are truck drivers and TV technicians, actors and executives. But their justifications do fall into a pattern.

One chicken hawk: “I love kids. I don’t mistreat them. I give them more attention and respect than they get at home.”

Second chicken hawk: “Some guys have taken these kids off the streets and given them room and board for months—even years. They’ve sent them through college. And all they asked for is a little sex now and then. Nothing in life is free.”

Third chicken hawk: “Before you make me a villain, just remember I’m a human being who needs sex. But in the gay world, the premium is put on beauty, youth. I’m not young anymore, and I know I’m not good-looking. I have to pay my hard-earned money to get what I want. It’s strictly a business proposition, and both parties get what they want. What’s wrong with that? It ain’t my fault if the kid’s going to take the money I give him and buy drugs. That’s his problem. If he didn’t get it from me for sex, he’d go out and steal it to support his habit.”

Chicken hawks and chickens seem to operate under a credo formulated by the basic impulses of lust and greed: “Everyone has his vice and his price.”

Hollywood Boulevard (Day): In addition to homosexual prostitution

along the “meat rack,” Hollywood is afflicted with heterosexual prostitution along famed Hollywood Boulevard and other streets in town. Police and an enraged citizenry waged a highly publicized and fairly effective campaign in 1976 against one form of prostitution—massage parlors. But efforts to clean the streets of male and female prostitutes, particularly the “meat rack” area, have not been as successful. Streetwalkers of both sexes still abound.

Hollywood Boulevard and Las Palmas (Night): Sandy, 16, has just arrived in town with a backpack on her shoulders. She has just run away from home, but won’t say where home is. Her mother is divorced, drinks too much, sleeps around, and, according to Sandy, “never talks to me unless she’s mad at me or is ordering me around.” So she ran away two nights ago and thumbed a ride to Hollywood. She has been propositioned three times already, she says, but has refused—so far. She’s confident she can get a job. But right now she has no money, and she hasn’t eaten in almost a day. She wolfs down a hamburger voraciously.

A couple of “more experienced” kids who eavesdrop on the conversation smile and snicker at her naiveté. They know better.

Hollywood Boulevard and Whitley (Night): Dressed in skintight shorts and a halter top, a girl, 16 at most, strolls along the street, keeping an eye on the passing cars. The reporter approaches and starts to ask questions. She looks at him with hardened eyes and tight lips. “I don’t have time for questions,” she says. The reporter persists. She points across the street to a black man in flashy clothes and white fedora who is watching them. “He’s my pimp. If I don’t hustle, I’m in trouble. And so will you be if all you want to do is ask questions.” She stalks away. The reporter watches her hustle. Within five minutes, a white station wagon pulls up to the curb where she is loitering. The man is middle-aged and dressed in a suit. They exchange a few words. She

(Continued on page 18)



Philip Stevens—The Plain Truth

DR. LUDWIG F. LOWENSTEIN

“Sexploitation Appears to Offer Him What He Cannot Find at Home—Affection, Love, Concern”

An Interview with
Dr. Ludwig F. Lowenstein

Dr. Ludwig F. Lowenstein, director of an assessment and guidance center in London and Winchester, England, deals with children who have a variety of problems, including neuroses and difficulties in relating to parents or fitting into the educational system. He has lectured and written a number of books and articles dealing with the problems of child rearing and juvenile delinquency in today’s society, including “sexploitation” of the young. His books include *Child Guidance and the School* and *The Art of Being a Parent*. Because the home and upbringing play such a vital

part in proper sexual development of the child and may determine whether or not he will be vulnerable to sexual exploitation, Plain Truth correspondent Peter Butler interviewed Dr. Lowenstein on what parents can do to inculcate a right approach toward sex.

PLAIN TRUTH: What should parents do to guard against any baneful preconditioning of the child's mind toward sex?

LOWENSTEIN: Parents have to give their children positive teaching to counteract the later negative influences they are likely to encounter. The only way to do this is through a relationship with their child that is warm, free and tolerant, because in this sort of situation the child is more likely to heed the advice given by the parents and also the example they set. They themselves must imbue the child with a sense of right and wrong and an understanding of *why* it is right to do some things and not others. It should not be merely a stern "This is right; this is wrong."

This kind of discussion should be a continuing process starting right from the beginning. Parents shouldn't try to set standards suddenly when their children are teenagers. This is where parents make a big mistake.

Q. Even if there is correct education in the home, is there an added danger if children are continually watching dubious TV programs and films which exploit sex?

A. The mass media is, of course, a powerful influence on a child's life, and on everybody's life. There have been investigations as to the effect of television on people, and there is no question that if you continue to see films which portray extremes of violence or sexual behavior which is sadistic or devoid of positive educational content, it will influence the way you live and treat other people. It can have the effect, on both the parents and the children, of either making them callous toward sexual behavior or preconditioning them to accept certain forms of "sexploitation."

Q. And yet at present the media presents sex with a certain amount of glamour which adds a respectability to its exploitation.

A. Yes, again, a one-sided view of things, and if youngsters haven't been imbued with any sort of standards by their parents, they become more susceptible to the attractions that such exploitation appears to offer. They might even come to consider it the accepted thing. This is particularly so in the case of children whose parents go so far as to teach them that there are no standards, or to imply by example that anything goes, or that sex independent of human emotion and concern is what is paramount. Their children don't ever see sex as playing a contributory part in a wonderful, wholesome and complete relationship between two devoted people, where sex is but one of a number of ways for showing love and affection.

Q. It has been said that a child who

"There is no concern for human feelings. Pornography might be defined as dehumanized sexual behavior."

doesn't find love and companionship in the home may seek solace elsewhere, and in so doing can be led into sexual relationships that he or she considers offer a warmth, a love and compassion that he or she has never found before. But in effect, this is only a kind of sexual gratification. Can you elucidate on that?

A. Sex is a very interesting phenomenon. It is a contact of bodies. This activity can be isolated to purely seeking sexual gratification, and there are people who have never experienced a warm, intimate relationship with another human being which involves tenderness, warmth and affection. The relationship is merely restricted to the sex act, and because that's all they've ever known, they become adjusted to accepting that this is what it is all about. Sexploitation will appear to offer them what they cannot find at home, yet it is not affection, really, but merely a kind of sexual gratifi-

cation. They do not consider there is anything else to a relationship.

This is the kind of experience to which children are prone who are not given proper instruction or shown proper affection in the home—a cold, shallow approach to sex which, however, appears to offer them more "love" than they ever got at home.

Now this isn't to say that sexual activity can go wrong simply because of your home life. It could go wrong because you have had a very unfortunate relationship with some member of the opposite sex when you were younger, and you say to yourself, "I'm never going to get involved again with anyone else. I'll just leave it at sex." But, again, this is not so likely to happen to young people who have been imbued with correct standards and given balanced instruction and a warm home relationship.

Q. Can pornography have the same effect, even if a person isn't actually involved in promiscuous sexual activity?

A. Yes. The sex act is portrayed as a mechanical operation in which the all-important thing is to seek merely for physical gratification. This is undoubtedly important. But the person who is oriented towards purely the mechanics can ultimately become bored with all the normal aspects and responses of sex and, in so doing, will need to seek more and more unusual ways of expressing himself or herself. This will never lead to a full and meaningful total relationship.

Pornography offers sensual delights in the form of pure eroticism without emotional linkage to another human being about whom care is felt. But we have to realize the relationship must come under one ultimate umbrella or another, i.e., does it come under the umbrella of compassion, warmth, love and a total relationship, or is the end in itself the purely physical seeking after more and more ways to get physical gratification, and totally ignoring the human aspects of the relationship? This is the danger of pornography. There is no concern for human feelings. Pornography might be defined as dehumanized sexual behavior. □

climbs inside and the car speeds away.

Selma Avenue (Hollywood): Jim, 16, is not a runaway. He commutes by bus on weekends from Glendale, a city a short distance northeast of Los Angeles, where he lives with his parents. Right now his eyes are somewhat glazed, his speech disjointed. He is stoned on Quaalude, a hypnotic drug.

"Do your folks know what you're doing—hustling here in Hollywood?"

"Naw. They don't care—they just think I've gone out to see a movie or somethin'."

"What about your drug habit?"

"They don't know. Too dumb about drugs, I guess. I've been stoned like I am now right in front of them and they never said nothin'."

Jim has been hustling for "about six months."

"Why? What made you do it?"

Sometimes you get a sensational reason such as child beating or neglect. Or maybe incest, the modern family's most secret sin. Studies indicate that many chickens and chicken hawks were sexually abused as children by parents or relatives. Or maybe you'll hear about families ripped apart by divorce, or alcoholic parents. More often, the reasons are the more traditional ones of "lack of communication" or "we don't get along." Occasionally, delinquent youths have no apparent reason for their behavior. By all conventional standards, they have perfectly decent families. Which happens to be the case with Jim.

"I dunno," he replies.

The reporter throws out all of the aforementioned reasons. Jim shakes his head. "My folks are all right. I got nothing against them." He pauses a moment, and then adds, "I'm here because there's a lot of money to be made. I'm here to get a piece of the action."

The reporter leaves Jim to his "action." Time is money for him. And time is short. By the time a male prostitute is 23, 24, 25, he is too old to sell himself for sex; the cars will no longer stop. He will only be left to offer, literally, free sex, and eventually he may end up pay-

ing some other youth for sex. The story will have gone full circle. The victim will become the villain.

Washington, D.C. (House of Representatives): Sgt. Lloyd Martin testifies before a House subcommittee: "A child who has been sexually abused will frequently turn to prostitution, pornography, narcotics or other criminal activity, or will be encouraged to engage in this activity by an abusing adult after having outlived his novelty as a sexual partner."

New York, New York. Dr. Densen-Gerber, still on the warpath: "At this stage of life, between eight and twelve, the child is getting work gratification. This is when the child learns how to study, learns how to feel good about himself. If you interfere with that and tell him the way to feel good about himself is through sex . . . these kids [will] learn that's the way to cope."

"And that's why we have the high incidence of over 40 percent of prostitutes who were sexualized as children and why our male patients [in the Odyssey drug rehabilitation program] are homosexually sodomized."

Dr. Densen-Gerber, Sgt. Lloyd Martin and others who have been dealing with the sexual exploitation of young people have screamed long enough and loud enough to arouse public outrage and action all the way from local communities to the halls of Congress. Police in cities across the country have cracked down on the peddling of child pornography.

At last count, three states have adopted new statutes to punish adult traffickers in such smut. And legislatures in at least 23 other states are debating similar tough proposals. Bills have been introduced into Congress. The FBI and the U.S. Postal Service have initiated investigations.

As a result of all the publicity and uproar, kiddie porn started disappearing from the shelves of adult bookstores around the country in March and April. But, in many cases, customers could still obtain it under the counter. When probing

reporters wrote headline stories about that, vendors refused to sell it to anyone they didn't know.

But the smut is still there, still available, and still selling. Officer Doug Elder of the Los Angeles Police Department points out that what stores have on their racks for public view and what they can procure for their steady customers can be quite different.

"If they know you're not the heat [police] or the press, they can get you all the chicken films, books, slides or magazines you want," he says. "This is a big business. A magazine half the thickness of *Playboy* will sell for anywhere from \$7.50 to \$15 a copy, and a 50-foot super 8mm film runs anywhere from \$50 on up." It costs about \$1.50 to \$2 to produce the magazine, \$4 to \$5 to make one film.

The fact of the matter is, pornography doesn't abide by any law of man or God. The only law it consistently obeys is the law of supply and demand.

The *demand* for kiddie porn by hundreds of thousands of sexual deviates is strong—very strong. No law can suppress it.

And the *supply* of young people who can be seduced into meeting the demand is inexhaustible. At least one million children run away from home every year in the United States. Perhaps two million. Nobody knows the exact numbers. They come to the big cities like New York, Chicago, or Los Angeles with no skills, no job prospects, and little or no money. There is only one way for them to survive: "Drop their pants or pull up their dress," as Sgt. Martin puts it.

Dr. Densen-Gerber estimates that at least 300,000 boys between the ages of eight and sixteen become involved in the production of pornographic books, films and magazines, and prostitution. She speculates that another 300,000 girls in the same age category may be involved.

What can be done about the sexual exploitation of young people? In the next issue of *The Plain Truth*, we'll take a look at the complex social and psychological issues involved and proposals for dealing with the problem. □

(To Be Continued)

Obedient Children Are Not Enough!

by Robert E. Fahey

Some parents are making a fatal mistake in their child rearing and heading for heart-break in the years ahead. You could be one of them. If making your children obedient is your only goal, you will probably find yourself with an uphill battle for 10 to 20 years, ending with disappointment and a generation gap.

What do you wish to accomplish in training your child? Have you ever stopped to consider?

What overriding goal do you have in mind as the ultimate end point of approximately twenty years of feeding, clothing, protecting and teaching your offspring from infancy on through childhood and the teenage years?

Unless you can see, and consciously work toward the right goal, right results cannot be guaranteed.

What Is the Right Goal?

The overall purpose of your child rearing should be to develop your children into balanced, happy, mature, well-adjusted, godly adults. They will need to become capable, reliable persons prepared for the responsibility of adulthood, and the problems of adulthood. Ideally they should be able to take their place in society without the hang-ups and complexes you have had to fight all these years! That should be your overall goal.

So how would you approach such a goal? Obviously the best of all examples to look to is that of your spiritual Father. God Himself is the ultimate Master in right child rearing.

More Than Just Punishment and Obedience

Some parents seem to think their only job is to discipline. They seem to feel the only thing that counts is obedience. Why? Actually it's often just because they are so selfish. Such

parents just want their children to stay out of their hair—to not “bother” them. Others may strive to have obedient children for vanity's sake. When friends or relatives visit, they show off. “Sit down!” “Go to your room!” they bark. Their children obediently trot off to bed. Guests are supposed to be impressed.

But what if the only way God worked with you was through discipline? What if every error received a sound whack? What if every wrong thought, selfish act, foolish mistake resulted in so many swats? What if not one sin passed unnoticed, and there was no warmth, no love, no evidence that God was concerned for you, except for a continual rain of swats, spiritual spankings, and a constant stern “no” booming in your ears?

You would become so discouraged, so despondent and terribly unhappy, that if you didn't openly rebel, you would turn inward, and your personality would shrivel up. You would feel that you could never really accomplish what your Father expected of you. And so you would probably quit trying—except just enough to keep from getting “swats.”

Your children will react the same way if treated that way! And you will someday wonder why your children, who seemed so obedient as youngsters, have become so distant, so heartless and unfeeling, as adults.

Discipline alone will not work! Some parents have tried it and ultimately have come to say something

like this: “I have spanked him till I am blue in the face and he still doesn't obey me.” Something important is lacking.

Your spiritual Father is known for His love and mercy. Even when He punishes, He doesn't give you what you really deserve. Rather, His heart is turned toward you. He forgives. Do your children think of you as merciful, like your heavenly Father? Is your heart turned toward them and their hearts toward you, with warmth, trust and affection?

A prophesied characteristic of God's end-time Work, bearing to the world the last warning message before Christ's return and preparing the way for His appearance, is expressed in the prophecy of Malachi 4:6: “And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers....”

Is your son's or daughter's heart turned toward you? Is yours turned toward him or her? If not, your basic approach to child rearing is wrong.

God gives you more than mercy. He constantly works to encourage you. He makes you laugh joyfully. He rewards your efforts with blessings, leading you gradually along the right way. This is the way you must lead your children.

Child rearing is synonymous with love and character building. Discipline is a part of both. But so are encouragement, affection, listening and positive instruction. If temporary obedience is your goal, and you use only discipline to get it, your

children may flee from you when they are able, just as the inmates of the concentration camps fled from their Nazi persecutors whenever they had the chance.

Many children have run away from home because of the intolerant behavior of parents. Each week thousands of children run away from their homes all over the world. Don't push your children into making a similar mistake which they'll regret later. Don't make discipline your only form of child rearing!

Training in Making Decisions

When your child is a baby, you must make all his decisions for him. You decide what he will eat, what clothes he will wear, where he will go and when. As he gets older, you can give him more freedom in these areas. Still maintaining overall supervision, you should gradually widen the area in which you let him make decisions.

Let your child decide what colors to use in his coloring book. Then, what clothes to wear. Still later, give him a chance to decide how to spend part of his savings or allowance.

Let him even decide to buy something, occasionally, that may be a waste of money. Better for him to waste a little when he is young and learn from it than to lose much more when he is older, with the responsibility of a wife and child of his own. Unfortunately, many have not learned the right use of money until the stakes are so high that permanent damage is done to their marriage and financial security.

God is teaching you to decide—on your own. He calls it building character. He guides you, giving you the principles involved; warning you that obeying His laws brings blessings, and not obeying them brings curses. He gives case studies in His Word. He even commands you to choose His way. But the final decision is in your hands. As God's son or daughter, you must decide—and bear the consequences of your decisions.

So teach your children to make decisions. When they start school, they will have to decide with which friends to spend time, what books to read, and later, whether to engage in premarital sex and drug use. You

will not be there to guide them at each crucial, decisive moment. They will have to decide by themselves. Equip them for that ahead of time! Give them practice now in making sound decisions.

The key is to have areas in which your child can feel free to make up his own mind. You decide whether he should put his hand into a fire. You dictate to him about going into the street. Those areas are not for him to decide for himself. But is it really so crucial which playsuit he wears? Or what toys he plays with, as long as they are suitable for the time and place?

Your daughter may feel she has invented a new way to sew. You know it won't work. Explain it to her. Show her why it won't work, without mocking her for coming up with such a childish idea. If she doesn't feel you know what you are talking about, let her try it! When it doesn't work for exactly the reasons you said, she will learn more than sewing.

And she will see you aren't as ignorant as she might have thought—which will be crucial for her when she is seventeen and deciding about avoiding drugs or sex before marriage—or whether to marry Freddie anyway when you tell her it would be a bad match.

But leave off the "I-told-you-sos" which only serve to tickle your vanity and widen the gap between you and your child.

Main Principle of Rulership

You are the ruler of your child. But you need to realize the cornerstone principle for God's type of rulership. "Ye know that the princes of the Gentiles exercise dominion over them, and they that are great exercise authority upon them," said Jesus Christ. "But *it shall not be so among you*: but whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your *servant*" (Matt. 20:25-27).

Have you ever thought of it this way? You are your child's servant. You are to serve him by preparing him for adulthood—not like a demagogue who will not tolerate any difference of opinion, nor any delegating of decision making, but like a wise teacher, instructing your child

in the ways to make proper decisions. He can only learn that by practice. And practice implies some mistakes. Your job is to make sure they are little mistakes, not life-shattering ones.

How much better it is to serve the children God has given you by helping them to learn that they do need their parents' advice as they walk the road of life. How much better that they learn that when mom and dad say "no," there is usually a very good reason. They have seen the proof. Let them get used to admitting, "I was wrong," without shame or jeering.

If you rule your children Christ's way, they will want your rule. They will learn it is for their good. They won't feel fettered by it, as if bound in a straitjacket. They will be free in it. They will respect you for it. And God will guarantee them a long, happy life for respecting their parents (Ex. 20:12; Eph. 6:1-3).

What to Teach Your Child

There are many other things to teach your child to prepare him to be a godly adult.

First, teach him to express himself. You can do this by letting a smaller child go over the day's events before bedtime. Sure, listening to him recount an event that happened while you were at work can require patience—but it's often profitable to the storyteller.

You should also teach your child to express himself by listening to and answering his questions—not squelching them. Treat his "foolish" questions with respect. A question that sounds nonsensical to you must have been in his mind before it came out of his mouth. And if it was there, it needs an answer!

Also, one question lays the groundwork for others. Sometimes the proper answer to one of these questions, if heeded, will save the child untold trouble. Too many parents squelch the "silly" questions, so they never get a chance to hear the big ones!

Third, teach your child to do things. Ever see a young boy standing awkwardly beside a swimming pool while all his friends are swimming enthusiastically? He can't swim. He is self-conscious. An out-

sider. And very unhappy. He is also losing valuable leadership training. Avoid allowing inferiority and other personality complexes to form—teach him to develop talents and abilities, such as swimming. Give your children opportunities to engage in sports, recreational activities, etc. that will give them confidence within their peer groups. Teach them to make things, such as cookies and doll clothes for girls and model airplanes and boats for boys. Go on hikes, picnics; buy a kite and help them fly it; take them to sports events.

Fourth, develop your child's interests as fully as you are able. His whole life will be richer. He will be able to mix with all kinds of people and realize his full leadership potential. Did you ever notice that many of the greatest leaders have a broad range of interests and well-rounded personalities?

Fifth, teach him the proper use of power. Money is a form of power. Your child should learn how to use it wisely. A car is power. So is a boat, roller skates, BB gun or a bicycle. Children will misuse these unless trained.

Sixth, teach your child to face trials bravely. A broken toy can be a major crisis if you're four. So can a dead pet. Take time to put these "trials" into perspective. A broken toy can open the door for you to explain the importance of buying quality items, or proper care of possessions, or even principles of maintenance and repair. The dead pet is different from a dead human. Teach your child the difference. Just sitting down and explaining the overview will take much of the sting out of the "trial." It also helps narrow any potential generation gap.

Your own example in facing your trials is also important. If you are dressed to go out and your child spills milk down your best outfit—you have a trial. If an otherwise calm and composed mother suddenly becomes a screaming witch, hurling abuse at a glass-shattering pitch, her child will learn by example not to face trials bravely. He will also tend to fly apart in the face of trials.

Actions speak louder than words. If you expect your child to stand

firm in a crisis, you must stand firm first.

Teach Them to Face the World

You should also teach your children that there are problems in the world—horrible, heartrending problems. Then demonstrate that God has the answers.

If someone becomes ill or involved in an accident, there are reasons—usually easily defined. Teach your child. Show him the principle of cause and effect. Show him how to avoid the effect by following God's way of life in the first place. Older children will see pregnant girls drop out of school. Show them the effect on the girl, her family, the boy and his family, and even on the unborn child itself.

But take care! All children are idealistic. They view the world through rose-colored glasses, and it's a good thing they do. If any of us could see all the evil, and all the trials and problems ahead of us, at once, we would feel defeated before we start.

The rose-colored glasses gradually have to go. But remove them gently; don't rip them from a child's face.

If you tell your child how rotten the world is, he will likely not believe it is so bad. And there is no purpose served by shouting, "You wait till you have to earn your own living. It's tough out there!" What you say is true. But you will make more progress by positive instruction. Show the fruits of the wrong way. When all the facts are presented in an atmosphere of reason, few children will knowingly and imperiously choose the automatic curses of the wrong way.

It is up to you to maintain an atmosphere of reason. If you continually discourage your child, he will become bitter and resentful. Then he will become more susceptible to wrong influences. You must maintain an atmosphere of reason by being reasonable and fair yourself. God says—and let's always remember it—"Fathers, provoke not your children to anger, lest they be discouraged" (Col. 3:21).

How to Teach Obedience

Finally, you should teach your children obedience mainly by setting

them an example of respect for the laws of God and man. Teach them to respond quickly when instructions are given. Be sure you have your child's attention, then tell him what you want him to do. Back up your words with discipline if necessary—in love.

Above all things, don't constantly use the phrase, "How many times do I have to tell you . . .?" or "Do you want a spanking?" or "If you don't do as I said, I'm going to" That is not effectively teaching obedience. Instead, you are encouraging delayed response, teaching the psychology of last-minute escapes and the deathbed repentance syndrome.

You should teach your children the principles behind obedience. In your regular Bible studies, point out the clear lessons of what happened to those who obeyed God and those who disobeyed. Always stress this vital principle so that the lesson is driven home.

Remember your real goal is long-term, willing obedience. It is not something short-term like getting your child to go to bed. You certainly cannot expect real lasting obedience to God or man if you take such a shortsighted approach.

Keep your long-term goal in mind. Solomon described it: "My son, if thine heart be wise, my heart shall rejoice, even mine. Yea, my reins shall rejoice, when thy lips speak right things" (Prov. 23:15-16). Solomon saw the proper goal was more than temporary obedience.

When your child is no longer a child; when he reaches maturity and enjoys a life of happiness, balance, wisdom and sound judgment, without the cares and kickbacks of disobedience, then you can say that your child training has been a success. You will have accomplished the real goal of child rearing! □

RECOMMENDED READING

The Worldwide Church of God publishes an attractively printed booklet entitled *The Seven Laws of Success*. Your children need to know about these seven principles. They apply to virtually all age groups. Write for your free copy.

J. H. Robinson—Photo Researchers

THE ICHNEUMON WASP'S BORING LOT IN LIFE

by George Ritter

For humans, reproduction is anything but boring. But for the ichneumon wasp, survival hinges on the ability of the female to be a very boring mother.

Steven Dalton—Photo Researchers



TEACHING JOHNNY TO WIN THE RIGHT WAY



Norman
Rockwell

Many of us have an obsession with winning. The passion to be "number one" permeates our entire society. But winning is not the only thing; it's not even the most important thing. We need to recapture the true spirit of sports competition.

by Edward R. Walsh

A lot of people today have become experts at winning, but they're only amateurs when it comes to losing. They know how to win with wild abandon; they don't know how to lose with quiet dignity.

There was a time when only sore losers were scorned as poor sports. Nowadays, losing itself often occasions ridicule and abuse. For example, in America, land of opportunity, unless you're on top, you're nowhere. The only winning number is number *one*. This same obsession with victory has leached the fun of competition out of sports spectacles around the world. When soccer games escalate into brushfire wars and Olympic competitions turn into propaganda devices, it's obvious the healthy urge to win has grown into a pathological obsession.

The Sports Fan's Bible

The 1977 Guinness Book of World Records gets it all together. This sports fan's bible bulges with accounts of the highest, the biggest, the fastest, the greatest, and the strongest in human sports achievement. The most stupendous chronicle of human and superhuman endeavor in history, boast the publishers. "It's got all the answers." Trouble is, the questions may not be worth asking.

But sports fans need not wait for their annual orgy of record breakers. They can gorge themselves on the daily sports page as one season merges into another. Newspapers blazon the good news, with copywriters outdoing themselves in forging hard-hitting headlines: "Yanks Blast Sox"; "Leeds Swamps Norwich"; "Knicks Bombard Bullets"; "England's Power Pack Crushes

Scots"; "Jets Slay Lions." Are these sports results or war bulletins?

While we heap honors on our winning athletes, rewarding them with fortune, fame, and frequently favorable press notices, we exact a terrible price from the losers. To the victors belong the spoils. That's the tradition. And to the vanquished? The ashes of defeat, the ignominy of not winning. Where in our games of noisy desperation can we find the spirit of once friendly competition? Where in our abrasive system does the exercise of skill, the discipline of teamwork, and the victory over self gain rightful recognition? Sports today demands winners, not just competitors.

Playing for Blood

The pros now play a brand of ball devoid of the friendly rivalry of earlier eras. They play for blood. What's wrong with our values that they compel us to win at any price? When rampant team jingoism, violence, and vindictiveness dominate our pastimes, maybe it's time to throw in the towel. With games gone sour, we should end the grim charade by blowing the whistle on them. Kids used to have the right idea: quit playing when it's no longer fun.

It's bad enough that adult athletes must suffer the disgrace heaped upon them in a losing cause. How unconscionable that we inflict such pain upon our children!

Terry Orlick, author and play psychologist at the University of Ottawa in Canada, details the fallout from our compulsive competitiveness: "[Children's sports] have often resulted in excessive competition, exploitation, frustration, destructive aggression, distress, feelings of fail-

ure, restricted participation, and outright rejection. Much of North American life, including games and sport, involves competition aimed at proving one's superiority over something or someone, rather than upon the improvement of our physical, social, and psychological state of being."

Contrary to popular belief, such values are not shared as part of the human tradition. John M. Roberts, an anthropologist at the University of Pittsburgh, has studied the patterns of games in 186 separate societies throughout the world. "Games with winners and losers are not culturally universal," he concludes. Ethnographers even consider such study too trivial for anthropological research, claims Roberts.

Yet in our Western world, sports have become a proving ground for masculinity, sometimes an obsessive way of life for those who can't cut it elsewhere. The image of the over-the-hill jock who refuses to retire his old uniform is more fact than fiction.

In some instances, sports have been credited with a nation's survival. Didn't the Duke of Wellington boast that the English victory at Waterloo was won on the playing fields of Eton?

Certainly in America, winning is the name of the game. Alex Wheaden, a national fencing champion in the under-16 class, tells why: "I love winning medals and I like to see people see me getting awards." That's a normal enough reaction, except for the fact that every winning performance produces disillusioned losers who blame themselves for failing.

The toll in human health and

happiness is devastating. "Uptight children are being raised by uptight parents who even direct the children's recreational activities into uptight games," complains Norman Whitney. Because such stressful activity inevitably leads to high blood pressure, adds Whitney, it's almost a certainty that these over-programmed youngsters will develop clogged arteries later in life.

Classroom Competition

Stressful competition in the classroom, a counterpart of uptight games, is ruining the health of countless students. "I get kids in third and fourth grades with ulcers, colitis, and psychosomatic illnesses of other kinds," states Dr. R.A. McGuigan, former medical director of the Evanston, Illinois, public schools for 25 years. "One youngster of seven, a second grader, had ulcers." His comments were occasioned by the drug suicide of a 14-year-old boy, seemingly despondent over his poor academic progress.

"The tremendous emphasis placed on winning is a significant characteristic of American culture today," says psychiatrist Dr. Louis Joslyn West. "Schools, clubs, YMCAs, business concerns—all are obsessed with producing or sponsoring winning teams. An inordinate emphasis on championships can easily lead to the neglect of the average performer whose life and health could nevertheless be greatly enriched by regular participation in sports."

Obsession With Winning

Commenting on Dr. West's statements, author Jack Griffin writes: "There is no evil, of course, in winning. There is great value in competition, if the values are properly scaled. . . . In demanding only victory, we are unable to live with defeat, and it can be crushing. It can also leave a long and terrible scar. . . . In our obsession with victory, we do strange things to ourselves and our sports heroes. In our adulation, we raise them to heights above normal men. Then we turn on them savagely when we discover that they are as mortal as we are and made of the same clay."

The evidence of our savagery is

played out daily on sports fields around the world. We cheer the athlete raucously one moment for his fabulous feats, then we boo him mercilessly the next when he falters. How capriciously loyal followers substitute goat horns for the halo. The staunchest of egos is bound to crack under such Jekyll-Hyde abuse.

Violence at the ball park is not confined to the playing field. When fans turn ugly, verbal abuse is sometimes supplemented with objects hurled from the stands. Frequently, warfare breaks out among hyped-up rooters at crucial contests, with the fighting spilling out into the streets. Bottle-throwing, beatings, stabbings, shootings, even homicides, have resulted from fan-incited riots.

If winning fever continues to rage unchecked through amateur and professional sports, many arenas may become like the ancient Roman Colosseum—bloody monuments to senseless contests. At best, these travesties of competition are Pyrrhic victories. Is winning worth it?

Winning—the Only Thing?

How can sports deepen character growth and moral development when winning becomes, in the words of the late American football coach Vince Lombardi, "not the most important thing, but the only thing"? Can you imagine one of our superstars kneeling in the locker room before a game and intoning Berton Brayley's "Prayer of a Sportsman"? "If I should lose, let me stand by the road and cheer as the winners go by!"

The win-at-all-costs philosophy perpetuates a system of violent, non-sportsmanlike competition. How much healthier is the value system of one of the winningest college football coaches in the U.S. today: "I tell my players that winning is not the most important thing," says Penn State's Joe Paterno. "Being ready for the challenge of competition and giving it your best shot is what it's all about."

To counter the win-at-all-costs attitude, perhaps we should stress the value of "cooperative" games for youth. Terry Orlick and Cal Botterill have written a book, *Every Kid*

Can Win, which urges just that. After critically examining the problems of kids' sports, they conclude that "the intrusion of misplaced values has created the mess." Give sports back to the kids, they urge.

Sports are not worthy of the worship often bestowed on them. Let's not forget that they were devised by mere mortals like ourselves. "The only thing sacred about them," claims Orlick, "is that they have been around a long time. Their originators probably never thought about behavioral objectives." While socialization has long been one of the stated aims of sports and recreation programs, little has been done, he says, to structure activity environments to accomplish this. While pursuing research, Orlick introduced kids to "cooperative" games and noticed "a dramatic change in cooperative social interaction."

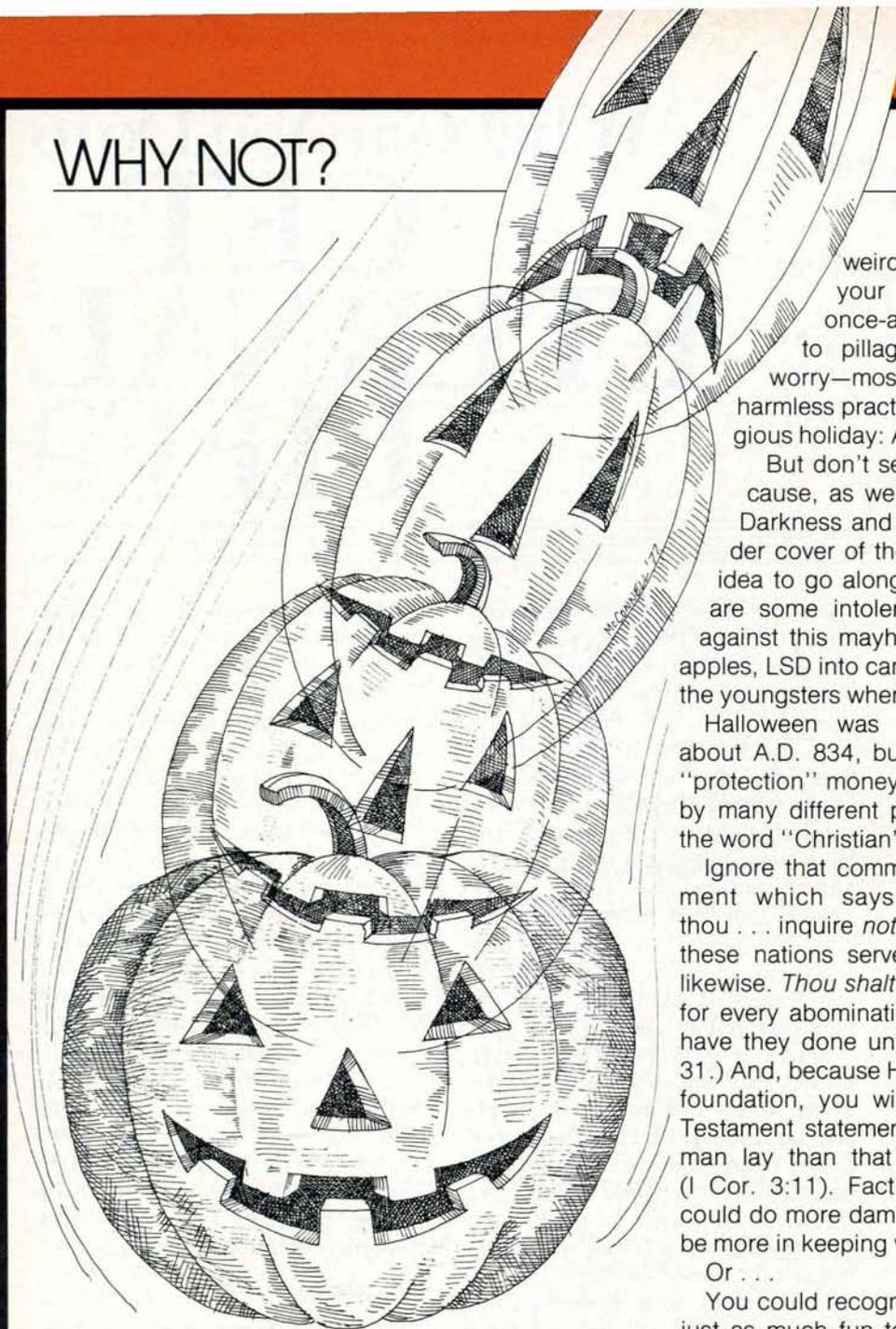
P. G. Zimbardo, in his article "The Social Disease of Shyness," states that social isolation is a pervasive problem in North America. Such isolation derives from cultural norms which overemphasize competition, individual success, and personal responsibility for failure. The most effective therapy, he suggests, may be to understand and change our cultural values.

Cooperation vs. Competition

Cooperation is critical for the survival of our species. As society grows increasingly complex and competitive, cooperating with others and deriving rejuvenating fun from our pastimes will become more important. Games and sports are the means we must use then.

"Where else can a child become so immersed in something so joyous and yet learn something so valuable about himself and others?" asks Orlick. "Opportunities for cooperative social interaction, self-acceptance, and sheer fun must be nurtured rather than destroyed in the games children play. Those of us concerned with overall quality of life, and more specifically with children's mental health, must work together so that confident, cooperative, care-free, jubilant children do not become an endangered species."

(Continued on page 33)



EXORCISE HALLOWEEN

Shades of Samhain—Lord of the Dead! By good old Druid reckoning, here we are at that time of year again. Dress your little kiddies up in the most demon-inspired outfits possible: witches, ghosts (unholy), skeletons, ghouls, black cats (they make the best mediums), monsters of every description (a modern touch), or any animal costume will do if it has a

weird and possessed look. Now send your little subjuveniles out for their once-a-year lesson in total delinquency to pillage, extort and vandalize. Don't worry—most laws are suspended for this harmless practice because it's a "Christian" religious holiday: All Saints' Day!

But don't send them out during the day, because, as we all know, Satan is the Prince of Darkness and the Devil does his best work under cover of the night. Also, it would be a good idea to go along as a bodyguard, because there are some intolerant adults who like to retaliate against this mayhem by slipping razor blades into apples, LSD into candy, or just scare the blazes out of the youngsters when they come "trick-or-treating."

Halloween was "baptized" in "Christianity" in about A.D. 834, but all the practices, including the "protection" money and gifts of food, were observed by many different pagan cultures long, long before the word "Christian" was ever coined.

Ignore that command from God in the Old Testament which says: "Take heed to thyself that thou . . . inquire *not* after their gods, saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. *Thou shalt not* do so unto the Lord thy God: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods . . ."! (Deut. 12:30-31.) And, because Halloween has a completely pagan foundation, you will also have to ignore that New Testament statement: "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ" (1 Cor. 3:11). Fact is, why not join the kids? You could do more damage, have more fun—and it would be more in keeping with the ancient pagan practice!

Or . . .

You could recognize Halloween for what it is, have just as much fun teaching your kids where it came from (request our free reprint article "Why the Strange Customs of Halloween?"), and maybe even "treat" a neighbor kid to a little intellectual enlightenment on this dark night of Satanism.

Just a "harmless day (night) for the kids to have a little fun"? Why not take the opportunity to explain that in ordered society vandalism is not "fun." That extortion (trick or treat) should be left to the Mafia and/or the politicians. That the Devil and his demons don't have to be bought off with candy and scare tactics, but that God is alive and in control, and the mere name of Jesus Christ is sufficient protection from the dangers of demonism.

Exorcise Halloween—why not?

What Can You Do to GET ETERNAL LIFE?

by Jon Hill

Fortunately for us, a young man asked Jesus about how to have eternal life—and we have Jesus' answer recorded!

Adam and Eve, way back there in the Garden of Eden, were told that they could have eternal life if they would just partake of the tree of life in the midst of the garden. Unfortunately, in the midst of the garden was also another tree which brought death. They made the wrong choice—egged on by Satan the devil—and each generation after them has continued in that wrong choice.

Each generation in its turn has continued in that way of error—tens of billions of human beings—most never knowing the answer that would ensure them of life after death. But you can know the answer from the giver of life—Jesus Himself. Let's eavesdrop on the conversation this unnamed young man had with Jesus about this most important question.

Now, this young man was rich. He was well educated, and very well off. He probably had elderly parents whom he was taking care of, fulfilling all the requirements of young, rich, educated, religious men of his generation. But he lacked ONE thing—and he knew it. He had no insurance on eternal life!

Summons of the Grim Reaper

All of us know that there is only one sure thing in life: DEATH. We say there are *two* sure things: death and taxes. Some manage to evade and avoid taxes—but nobody evades death!

Nobody cheats death. When your number is up, that's it. You go at the summons of the grim reaper. *You go*—nobody else goes in your stead.

So this young man, let's call him Sam, was bold enough to ask the One who knew the answer: "What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?" (Matt. 19:16.) He had everything else: youth, riches, health, education, intelligence, religion. Now what he needed to know was how he could ensure that he could keep on living, eternally enjoying all that he had.

Sam began by being as careful, polite and political as possible. There were a number of people present who were asking Jesus questions. There had been the usual tricky, picky questions which were thrown Jesus' way. Sam tried to ensure himself of a good answer by beginning: "Good Master," and addressing Jesus as if he recognized Him as a great Rabbi, a great teacher, a great instructor, giving Him a pat on the back as it were, and asking in a very polite way.

But Jesus answered and said, "Why do you call *me* good?" He answered, as His custom often was, with a question rather than a direct answer. He didn't tell Sam the answer right away, but called his attention to a very important point Sam should consider before he heard Jesus' answer. "Why callest thou *me* good? *There is none good but one, that is God.*"

Jesus was telling Sam something of prime importance to the question, if he had had the ears to hear

—because Jesus was a Good Master. He is a Good Master, He is God, He was the Son of God (born as a human being, true, but God's Son) and God's Son forever now. Jesus was telling Sam pointedly that *nobody* is perfect (good) but God—before Jesus even gave the answer, "Keep the commandments." He was telling Sam that no one so far in the history of mankind had been able to perform that requirement—but all were guilty of sin and had come short of the glory of God—or, as He was later to inspire the apostle Paul, "... in my flesh, dwelleth no good thing..." (Rom. 7:18)—or again, "... the fruit of the Spirit [not the flesh] is in all goodness..." (Eph. 5:9). He was letting Sam know ahead of time, that humanly, physically speaking, *no one*, Sam included, was *able* to be perfect in "keeping the commandments."

Just Believe?

I am sure that there are some theologians who are upset with Jesus' answer: "Keep the commandments," because it doesn't agree with their theology. It would have been much better for them had Jesus said, "Young man, you don't have to DO anything! Just believe on me. Have faith. By grace are you saved, not by works, lest the flesh should glory. Accept my name, and you will have eternal life." Of course, all of those statements are true, in and of themselves, and they are statements Jesus later inspired the writers of the New Testament to make. But those statements have been as much misunderstood, and

**“One came and said
unto him, Good
Master, what good thing shall I do,
that I may have eternal life?
And he said unto him, Why callest
thou me good? There is none good
but one, that is, God: but if thou
wilt enter into life,
keep the commandments.”**

taken out of context, as the statement He at this time gives to Sam: “Keep the commandments”! Certainly Jesus didn’t overlook faith, or grace, or belief, or the efficacy of His name!

Yet despite that, Jesus said instead: “If you will enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS”!

That’s what He told Adam and Eve. “If you will enter into life, *don’t* eat of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, but DO eat of the tree of life!” It was all very simple. The tree of life would have granted Adam and Eve the Holy Spirit. Joined with their minds, it would have enabled them to call on the Father in heaven and overcome any of the difficulties that they might come across. With the Spirit of God, they would have been able to resist Satan the devil and he would have fled from them. They would have not been deceived or conned into the eating of that fruit which brought death upon them—and us. But that’s not what happened. They broke the only commandment they were given by God and ate from the wrong tree!

Jesus’ answer to Sam’s question is embarrassing to some people who believe you don’t have to DO anything to inherit eternal life—and provides the total answer to others. Both groups are wrong!

Some of us have repeated Jesus’ statement “Keep the commandments” to wives, husbands, sons, daughters, uncles, aunts, cousins and grandmas, friends and employers, in order to sum up the essence of what we believe. That is, if you

are going to inherit eternal life, if you are going to get into God’s Kingdom, if you are going to be His Son, you’re going to have to keep the commandments. And that is, indeed, what Jesus answered—but He had much more to say, and the answer is not as simple as it appears!

Sam’s Pharisee Question

Remember, Jesus started His answer by first asking a question—by focusing Sam’s mind, if he would have but heard it, on the fact that NONE is “good” except God Himself. Sam’s question, “What good thing shall I do?” was a typical Job question, a Pharisee question. A typical question of the type of people who want to know where they stand, exactly, who like to have everything spelled out so there is no doubt at anytime as to the fact that they are headed directly on the path into the Kingdom—that they have all their goodies waiting for them where moth doth not enter and rust doth not corrupt and that everything is going well. God is in His heaven, and we’re here on the earth guided by Him in all our comfortable do’s and don’ts.

But Jesus did say, after all, “Keep the commandments.”

Well, Sam made another mistake, and asked, “Which?” Which commandments? Sam evidently assumed if he just knew *which* commandments he was supposed to keep, he’d have no problem.

What Sam should have asked is “How?”—not “Which?” Jesus had already told him nobody was good

except God—so the real question that needs answering is HOW!

Which Commandments?

But the reason Sam asked *which* commandments was because, being an intelligent Jew of his age, he realized that there were many sets of commandments. The Roman government was occupying Judea at the time and they had their laws, their commandments, their do’s and don’ts of civil government and even laws regarding how religions ought to be observed in order not to interrupt the imperial crown of Rome, Satan’s dominant power on earth at the time.

Sam also asked “Which?” because he knew there were over 600 laws, commandments, rules, regulations, oral law, which had been added by the elders of Israel to the laws of God, and in particular to the Ten Commandments. The idea behind these additions was that they realized the Ten Commandments were so holy, so pure, so good, that if they were broken they would bring death. So, they were going to create *another* law to “build a fence” around the Ten Commandments. When a person came up to break The Law, he had to break down the fence first and perhaps in so doing would realize he was about to break a Great Law and stop before he did! All a very fine, philosophical approach, a fine idea—only one problem: *It didn’t work!* What the fence did, in effect, was to obscure The Law so it couldn’t be seen, understood, comprehended, couldn’t enter into the hearts and minds and be

exercised in daily life. So, despite the over 600 fence-laws, The Law was still constantly broken by all.

In addition, there are other laws. Laws of sacrifices. Laws regarding going to war. Laws regarding divorce and remarriage. Laws dealing with all aspects of life you and I face. A law designating what to do if your ox gets out and gores the neighbor's ox. Many, many laws, so perhaps Sam's question was understandable in that he said, "Which commandments?"

Jesus' answer was specific and unmistakable: "Don't murder, don't commit adultery"—now, "Thou shalt not kill" is number 6, and "Thou shalt not commit adultery" is number 7. Jesus continued: "Don't steal, don't bear false witness," numbers 8 and 9, and then Jesus added, "Honor your father and your mother" which is number 5—Jesus was not giving any particular order, but answering conversationally, then summing it all up with the general law: "Love your neighbor as yourself."

An Integrated Whole

This Jesus was the One, remember, who spoke these Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai to Sam's ancestors. The same One who, in a unique experience, told a whole nation His laws. Jesus gave the Ten Commandments from Mount Sinai in a specific order, which began with, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me": He was the One who brought the Israelites out of bondage in Egypt and redeemed them, and He insisted they worship Him only! Then He added restrictions against idol worship, taking His name in vain and required the observance of the seventh-day Sabbath. Four specific laws governing man's relationship to God—then came the law: "Honor your father and your mother," beginning six laws governing man's relationship with his fellowman.

I'm sure Jesus hadn't forgotten the order. But in His answer to Sam, He left out altogether the first four, mixed up the order of the last six and left out one of them altogether: "Thou shalt not covet." But then, as He later inspired James to write, if you break any one of these com-

mandments you are guilty of breaking them all. They are an integrated whole. They are a compact one. They all deal with love: the first four with love toward God, the last six with love toward fellowman.

Well, Sam listened to all of those Jesus quoted. They were very familiar to him. He had them printed, undoubtedly, on the door post of his home as the custom of his people dictated. The order of the commandments over his door was the same as when God spoke it the first time, wrote it in stone two separate

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times for Moses and inspired Moses to record it twice, in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

Sam recognized *the* Ten Commandments.

Sam didn't have the same problem some people have who feel that any commandment which Jesus did not specifically REINSTITUTE in the New Testament is no longer in effect just because it was in the Old Testament. If that were so, then we would assume at this particular point that it's perfectly all right to have as many other gods before the true God as we want, because Jesus didn't mention that law. We can have idols and icons filling our houses, our churches and places of worship if we want because Jesus also left that law out here. We can curse the air blue and carry the name of Christ around on our T-shirts in vain and get away with it, because Jesus didn't tell Sam: "You shall not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain." And of course we

could break the Sabbath law with impunity, because Jesus left that one out too!

I'm sure you and I don't have any problem with reasoning like that any more than Sam did—we know that Jesus' answer to Sam didn't give anyone license to break the five of the Ten Commandments He didn't specifically mention.

Seven Leagues Ahead of Job

Unfortunately for Sam, his smug and self-righteous response to Jesus was, "Look, I've kept all these from my youth up. That's simple. You know, I've never murdered anyone—I've never stolen so much as a single penny!" Of course not. Sam didn't have to kill or be killed: he was living under Roman Law. He didn't have to steal anything, because he was a wealthy person. He had never lacked for anything all his life, food, clothing and shelter being more than adequate. Neither was bearing false witness necessary to maintain his style of living.

Let's face it: Sam was PERFECT—in his own eyes!

Sam knew he had kept these commandments. He knew he was perfect and upright. He knew he was seven leagues ahead of Job. He knew he was far beyond the heart of David. He knew that he was talented beyond all human beings, and was God's gift to mankind! Sam knew he was all of these swelling things of vanity that his answer obviously proved he felt he was.

But Sam was wrong, because in his heart and mind he wasn't keeping the commandments even if he were in the flesh, the letter of the law. He certainly wasn't observing the heart of it, the spirit, the intent and the purpose—and that's what Jesus was getting at, isn't it? We are to worship Him in spirit and in truth—we are to keep the heart and essence, the core, direction, meaning, purpose of those laws which He calls the Ten Commandments—those two great laws which direct love toward God and love toward mankind—that ONE LAW: LOVE!

Keep the Commandments

Even though there were only five laws Jesus mentioned, Sam knew He meant Sam to keep ALL TEN.

There wasn't any question in his mind, and we can't find in these scriptures an excuse not to keep the five Jesus didn't mention.

You can't have eternal life if you covet other people's goods, property, wife, husband. You can't have eternal life if you worship other gods before Him, or are an idolater, or take His name in vain, or break His Sabbath. It just won't work that way.

God isn't going to have anybody in His Kingdom who doesn't embody within himself at least a burning *desire* to love God, and his neighbors—to KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS.

Of course, as John points out, if any man says, "I have not sinned," he is a liar, and the truth is not in him! (I John 1:10.) So Sam, by the condemnation of John, the apostle, stands before Jesus his Savior—asking about how to get eternal life—and says, "I have not sinned, I've kept all those commandments, there's nothing to it, it's just like rolling off a log, easy, no problem—I've got it made!"

But he didn't, did he?

In fact, John in effect labels him a liar. And if he was a liar, he broke at least one commandment. And James tells us that if one is broken, we stand guilty before God on all counts.

We *all* stand guilty before the throne of God on any and all of these *Ten Commandments* at any given time.

What Did Sam Lack?

Jesus' answer seemed too simple to Sam. So Sam wasn't satisfied: "I've kept all these things from my youth up: *what lack I yet?*" Sam wanted more detail, specifically tailored for him. He wasn't satisfied with Jesus' answer so far. He wanted things spelled out. He *wanted* a list of do's and don'ts. He wanted to know *exactly* what he needed to do in order to GET eternal life.

That's the one thing he lacked. He just had physical life, human life. He just had a temporary life that he knew was sealed in doom like every other human being—and even though he was in the prime of life he could recognize with his mind that there would come a time

when his heart didn't beat and his lungs didn't pump, his blood didn't circulate; a time when he wouldn't be able to think any more, wouldn't see, smell, taste, hear anymore: *there would come a time when he would be dead!*

So Sam asked, "In addition to keeping the commandments, what else do I have to do?"

Jesus' answer at this point was, "Now look, Sam, if you really want to be totally perfect, the epitome of perfection: sell all your belongings, give everything to the poor and come and follow me!" (Verse 21.)

But that was not what Sam wanted to hear!

Maybe he was hoping Jesus would say Sam could have eternal life if he performed the twelve feats of Hercules, killed seven dragons, chopped off all the heads of the hydraheaded monster, swam the deepest ocean, climbed the highest mountain, or slipped Jesus seven million pieces of silver to buy his way into the Kingdom, or . . .

But sell *all* he had? and give *all* to the poor? and follow Jesus? *That was too much! The price was too high!*

Sam turned and left Jesus—sorrowful because the answer Jesus gave him was not the answer Sam wanted to hear!

The Lesson for Us

Just between you and me, do you suppose if Sam *had* sold all his possessions, had given all to the poor and followed Jesus, that Jesus would have given him eternal life? Could Sam have bought his way into God's Kingdom that way?

Well, as you and I very well know, you can't even earn it by "keeping the commandments," can you?

No, eternal life is the GIFT OF GOD. You can't buy it, earn it, bargain for it, blackmail it out of God, extort it, demand it, argue or reason it out of Jesus: *It must be a gift!*

You have to say, and mean, deeply and sincerely: "Lord, God, my Creator, I fully recognize that I am a sinner, that I cannot 'keep the commandments' of myself; I am imperfect and unclean, deceived of the devil and sentenced to death—but please forgive me for all these things

that stand between me and life, wash it all away with the blood of Christ, and grant me the *gift of eternal life*, I beg of you in deep repentance!"

That's what Jesus wanted Sam to see for himself. That's why Jesus continued to add requirements to His original statement "keep the commandments." He wanted Sam to see that of himself he could not qualify, could *not* keep the commandments; that Sam had indeed NOT kept all those from his youth up, because he was not willing to part with this world's goods—believe it or not he *coveted* that which he already had to such an extent he was not willing to part with it even to attain eternal life!

Sam never saw the light during his lifetime—maybe he will when he's resurrected. Maybe Sam will *repent* yet, when he has his opportunity. Maybe Sam will be *baptized*, have his sins washed away, buried with Christ, paid for by Jesus' qualified, perfect sacrifice. Maybe Sam will have hands laid on him and *receive the GIFT of the Holy Spirit* which will help him understand the intent of the commandments and give him a burning desire to live in obedience to them. Maybe Sam will *grow in grace and knowledge* over the period of time he's given, and, in his turn, be changed in a moment and a twinkling of an eye, changed from physical to spiritual, from human to divine—after he's "followed Jesus" minus all his worldly goods, and losing bit by bit his own self-righteousness along the way. Sam won't have to GET eternal life: Eternal life will be given to him.

Maybe *you* can learn from Sam's conversation with Jesus—maybe *you* can learn enough to be given eternal life NOW—and maybe *you* will be able to *help* Jesus give eternal life to Sam later! □

RECOMMENDED READING

Does salvation mean going to heaven? Is salvation a place, a destination, a condition, a reward—or what? *When* do you receive salvation? These questions are answered in the booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Salvation?* It is sent free of charge upon your request (see addresses on inside front cover).

LIBERIA'S PRESIDENT ESPOUSES "HUMANISTIC CAPITALISM"

by Stanley R. Rader

The author accompanies Plain Truth Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong on his frequent visits with heads of state and other leading international dignitaries.

LIBERIA, August 6, 1977: Mr. Armstrong and I have just concluded a three-day visit to Liberia, Africa's oldest republic.

We had both looked forward for some time to this opportunity, and we were not disappointed. Actually, we might have reached this part of the world much earlier if we had begun to carry the Announcement to the people of the African continent by moving counterclockwise around its continental perimeter. Instead, some years ago, we began in Egypt and moved in a clockwise manner down the eastern coast to the Cape of Good Hope, and at last reached the west coast countries of Liberia, Ghana and Ivory Coast.

We were greeted at the airport by the mayor of Monrovia. The capital and most important city in Liberia, Monrovia derives its name from United States President James Monroe, under whose administration the U.S. aided and encouraged the settlement of freed American slaves who formed the nucleus of the Western-style republic established in 1847. We were driven directly to the executive mansion for our audience with President Tolbert, a well-respected leader who plays an important role throughout the Africa of today.

Recently President Tolbert has decreed, or proposed, a new phi-

losophy for the nation and its people, which he calls "humanistic capitalism." It is a philosophy of government and of life that is based upon the concepts of free enterprise. Its principal objective will be the development of the individual, but will also require a sharing of the benefits with the least favored, the handicapped, and the persons dependent upon others for the necessities of life.

According to this philosophy, the individual will be accorded the right to acquire his own property by his own initiative without any restriction, and he will have the right to enjoy his possessions without risk of confiscation or interference. The individual's work and dignity will be regarded as supreme. President Tolbert hopes that the process of sharing with those less fortunate will become spontaneous rather than something that the more fortunate will consider as a burden or as an undesirable obligation.

President Tolbert's "humanistic capitalism" is not just philosophy. Vice President for 19 years under the presidency of his predecessor, President William Tubman, by whose death in 1971 he succeeded to that office, President Tolbert's incumbency has marked a new era of urgency and change, tempered by a gradual and experimental approach, but apparent in an expansion of freedoms, economic and bureaucratic reform and a newly aroused national pride.

In the President's discussions with Mr. Armstrong and myself, the principle of helping others to help themselves was also stressed, and,

on behalf of the Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, Mr. Armstrong was very pleased to enter into a program whereby the people in the city of Monrovia will be taking it upon themselves to improve the sanitary and transportation systems of that community. This is in the tradition of the part played in Liberia's founding by American citizens and government, spearheaded by the efforts of the American Colonization Society which purchased Cape Mesurado, site of present-day Monrovia, leading to its settlement in 1822 as an African haven for freed American slaves.

The descendants of those original settlers and later American Negro immigrants comprise less than one-third of the total population, but Liberia is a traditional friend of the United States, patterned in many ways after its example.

Liberian society has a strongly religious character. President Tolbert himself is a Baptist minister, former head of the World Baptist Alliance, and still spends considerable time preaching from the pulpit.

Liberia is one of the few democratic governments in all of Africa, with very close ties to the United States. Notwithstanding those ties, the Liberian government conducts itself vis-à-vis other nations in such a manner as to make every effort to normalize its relationships with the people and governments of this troubled world. Just recently Liberia has recognized the People's Republic of China, for example.

The combination of practical experience and enlightened idealism that President Tolbert brings to the problems confronting him as the leader of this only black African nation to escape colonial subjugation, and especially his active program of relating to and cooperating with the world community, should make him and his country a strength to this troubled and turbulent continent in the critical days and years ahead.

Prophet of Doom

(Continued from page 3)

and this mighty Word is the personage who, much later, became Jesus Christ (John 1:14). They were of complete togetherness of mind, intent, and purpose. It was through the Word as actual Maker that God created the angels.

Supreme Purpose

Now the tremendous supremacy of mind possessed by these two great God-beings (for the Word was also God) was exhibited at this point. They had in mind a tremendous objective for the angels—a purpose supreme. This required the creation of a new substance, MATTER, which comprises the whole vast physical UNIVERSE.

So now we come to Genesis 1:1. Genesis originally was written by Moses, as God inspired him. The word translated into the English word "God" there was *Elohim* in the Hebrew in which Moses wrote it—a uniplural name such as "family," "church," or "team"—MORE than one person forming *one* single FAMILY; more than one person, but only *one* single CHURCH; more than one player, but forming *one* single TEAM. There is but ONE God, but God is composed of more than one person and includes the Word, who also was "God" (John 1:1).

So the uniplural God now created the entire physical universe—including this earth. The Hebrew words imply a perfect creation. The angels shouted for joy because it was to be their abode (Job 38:1-7).

Now in matter are many properties—gravity, force and energy, power, electricity—the properties known to physicists and chemists.

Just as the creation of angels was not completed all at once, but in two stages—the second being the development of character, whether good or evil—so with the earth and all planets. God purposed that the angels utilize the raw materials and the many properties within the matter of the earth to COMPLETE its creation—for God is the author of beauty, harmony, peace, joy, perfection, and glory.

God gave them this assignment,

this WORK to do, plus the development of their finished character—either good or evil, as *they* chose—to complete *their* creation. But their mission on earth required them to work together in peace, harmony, oneness of purpose.

That is to say, it necessitated the *government of God* over them. The government of God is a WAY OF LIFE. It is the way that develops righteous, holy, perfect character. It is the way that produces peace, harmony, happiness, joy, abundance. It is the way of LOVE. And love is always outgoing, never incoming. It is love to God in implicit *obedience*, adulation, worship, reliance, and faith—knowing God Himself is LOVE! It is the way of giving, serving, helping, sharing—always outgoing!

So God established on earth a throne to administer His government. On it, He placed a super-archangel named LUCIFER (Isa. 14:12-13). This great Lucifer (the name means "shining star of the dawn," or "bringer of light and truth") was perfect as created. Next to God, this superangel was the most powerful and most mighty being that was possible for God to create. He was *perfect* in all his ways until iniquity (lawlessness) was found of his own free choice in him (Ezek. 28:15).

Rebellion of the Angels

This Lucifer led his angels (one-third of all the angels—and it is possible that it was this same third of all that populated the earth under Lucifer) into SIN—transgression of the laws of God's government.

Thus the angels SINNED (II Pet. 2:4). They rebelled against God's way. They deliberately formed within themselves *evil character*. They turned from God's government to vanity, lust and greed; jealousy and envy; competition leading to strife, violence, war. They resented any rule over them. They wanted to choose *their own way*, not God's way.

Thus the government of God was rejected, removed from the earth!

The creation of the angels was now complete. They had formed evil character. The angels became *de-*
(Continued on page 42)

Abundant Living

(Continued from page 13)

the authority that you look to for everything in your life.

You will be overcoming your own human nature and the world, resisting Satan, drawing nearer to God by constant daily Bible study and by prayer, and by occasional fasting and prayer. *That* is the Christian life. It's the *happy, the abundant life*.

It's yours for the asking. It's yours for the willingness to confess your sins to God and to repent of breaking His laws. It's yours if you're willing to DO what He says. □

JOHNNY

(Continued from page 26)

Brian Sutton-Smith, a developmental psychologist and children's play authority, sees global implications in the games people play. "Survival of our civilization," he says, "may well depend on the leadership of more and more people with a more highly developed sense of play."

We can put competition into perspective if we remember that it's not what Johnny does to the ball that counts. Rather, it's what the ball does to Johnny. The game must never be allowed to become more important than the player. Winning is *not* the only thing.

Yes, Johnny does need to win. But he needs to win more than medals and trophies—more than doting and fawning on the part of coaches, parents, and peers. Johnny needs somehow to win self-confidence and self-respect. He deserves warm acceptance for having done his best, no matter what the scoreboard reads.

Every Johnny *must* become a winner. He can if he gets guidance and good examples from caring adults—adults who can teach him to lose without bitterness and to win with grace and compassion. □

Edward R. Walsh is director of recreation for Westbury Village, New York, where he also teaches and writes.

Q & A

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q "On page 35 of the May *Plain Truth*, in the 'Questions and Answers' section, you made the following statement: 'But there is no biblical record of a single person ever receiving God's Spirit during Christ's earthly ministry.' May I courteously call your attention to John 20:22?"

W. T.,
Dallas, Texas

A John 20:22 reads, "And when he had said this, he breathed on them, and said to them, 'Receive the Holy Spirit.'"

Here on the evening following His resurrection Jesus was commissioning His disciples to go out into the world: "As the Father has sent me, even so I send you" (verse 21). For that commission they were to be given special and unusual authority: "If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained" (verse 23). To fulfill such an awesome responsibility, they would need the very Spirit of God. Therefore they were commanded to "receive" or "take hold of" the Holy Spirit when it would come a few weeks later.

In John 16:7 Jesus told them plainly: "It is to your advantage that I go away, for if I do not go away, the Counselor will not come to you; but if I go, I will send [it] to you." Here He was speaking of the Holy Spirit, which He said would not come unless He went away. And He was not speaking of a momentary departure—He was speaking of a centuries-long absence from the earth.

So the disciples could not have received the Holy Spirit at the time Christ symbolically breathed on

them, since He had not yet "gone away," or ascended to heaven.

Acts 1:4-8 confirms this. Just before His ascension, Christ "charged them not to depart from Jerusalem, but to wait for the promise of the Father [the Holy Spirit, which they had not yet received] . . . [and] before many days you shall be baptized with the Holy Spirit." Verse 8: "But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you [it hadn't arrived yet]" The Holy Spirit did come—on the day of Pentecost—as described in the second chapter of the book of Acts.

Q "I once heard a sermon on how to reconcile Genesis 46:27 with Acts 7:14 (whether 70 or 75 of Joseph's relatives went down into Egypt), but it didn't really seem correct upon close examination. How do you reconcile this apparent discrepancy?"

Jetze V.,
Clinton, Ontario, Canada

A In chapter 7 of the book of Acts, Stephen in his final speech before the Sanhedrin was apparently quoting from the Septuagint translation of the Old Testament. This version gives the number of Joseph's relatives as 75 (and lists five names not in the Masoretic text), whereas the Masoretic Hebrew text (the basis of the King James and Revised Standard versions of the Old Testament) gives the total as 70 (A. Rahlfs, ed., *Septuaginta*, pp. 77, 86).

The Septuagint (abbreviated LXX) was a translation of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek, done in Egypt over a period of a

century or more beginning about 270 B.C. It was extensively used by the writers of the New Testament (see *Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, article "Septuagint"), and it is evidently the version Stephen was using when he mentioned "seventy-five souls."

Interestingly enough, Stephen's figure is corroborated by a fragment of the book of Exodus in Hebrew found among the Qumran (Dead Sea) scrolls. This fragment, preserved at Exodus 1:5, also reads "seventy-five souls" (F. Cross, *The Ancient Library of Qumran*, p. 184).

Q "In your booklet *The Real Jesus*, you write that Jesus had brothers and sisters. But according to Matthew 27:56 and John 19:25 these were the children of Mary, wife of Cleophas, who was sister to Mary, Christ's mother. According to the usual style of Scripture they were called His brethren, that is, near relations to our Savior. If the Virgin Mary had all these children, one may assume that they married and had children. However, history records none of these children ever saying Jesus was their uncle."

Carmelo P.,
Sliema, Malta

A Matthew 13:54-56 clearly states that Christ had *four* brothers: "Coming to his own country he taught them in their synagogue, so that they were astonished, and said, 'Where did this man get this wisdom and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter's son? Is not his mother called Mary? And are not his brothers James and Joseph and Simon and Judas? And are not all his sisters with us?'"

The phrase "all his sisters" also implies that He had at least two sisters, and perhaps even more, since the word "all" instead of "both" is used.

Some claim that these were not literal brothers and sisters, but cousins. The Greek in this case, however, specifically expresses exact degrees of kinship and blood relations. The word used for brother, here is *adelphos*, and it does mean "brother." The word for "cousin" was *anepsios* (see Colossians 4:10 in the Revised Standard Version or

other modern translations), and general kinship was expressed by the word *suggenes* (Bauer, Arndt, Gingrich, *A Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament*, pp. 65, 78). Other expressions like "sister's son" (Acts 23:16) were also used to express relationships.

Although the word *adelphos* could be used to refer to a spiritual brother, there is no evidence that it meant "cousin" (*ibid.*, pp. 15-16).

Some contend that these were Christ's spiritual brothers and sisters, instead of His relatives. But John 2:12 makes a sharp distinction between His literal family and His disciples or followers. And John 7:5 shows that "his brothers did not believe in him." This obviously could not be referring to His disciples.

His flesh-and-blood brothers scoffed at His work at that time, but some, if not all, of His family were later converted. The apostle James was one of these. In Galatians 1:18-19, Paul mentions having seen not only Peter, but also "James the Lord's brother" in Jerusalem. If Paul were referring to James as a "spiritual brother," he would certainly have included Peter in this category, but he did not.

The *Church History* of Eusebius supports the New Testament evidence when it states that James, the leader of the New Testament Church, was Jesus' brother. According to Eusebius, James was succeeded in this office by a second brother, Simon.

Christ was referred to as the "firstborn" (*prototokon*) son of Mary (Luke 2:7). If Christ were an only child, the Greek word *monogenes* would have been used.

Some claim Matthew 12:46-50 is proof that when the Bible speaks of Christ's brethren, it is referring to spiritual brethren. These verses state: "While he was still speaking to the people, behold, his mother and his brothers stood outside, asking to speak to him. But he replied to the man who told him, 'Who is my mother, and who are my brothers?' And stretching out his hand toward his disciples, he said, 'Here are my mother and my brothers! For whoever does the will of my

Father in heaven is my brother, and sister, and mother.' "

However, if this scripture proves that Christ had no brothers or sisters, it would also prove that He had no mother. Actually, this very scripture is another case of obvious delineation between Christ's disciples (who were inside with Him) and His physical brothers (who were standing outside waiting to speak to Him).

Psalm 69:8 is a final piece of evidence showing Christ had physical brothers and sisters. This passage, which many recognize as a prophecy concerning Christ, reads: "I have become a stranger to my brethren, an alien to my mother's sons." Here Christ is certainly referring to His physical mother and brothers rather than His spiritual followers (Matt. 12:49-50; Rom. 8:16-17, 29). For more on the life of Christ, send for your free copy of the booklet, *The Real Jesus*.

Q "When does the Sabbath day begin and end?"

E. H.,
East Geelong, Victoria, Australia

A It should be emphasized that "the sabbath was made for man, not man for the sabbath" (Mark 2:27). God created the Sabbath day to serve man—not vice versa. Sabbath observance should not be allowed to become an end in itself. Rather, the day is to *serve and help* those who observe it. The Sabbath was created, as Christ pointed out, for the service of mankind.

In the beginning, the Sabbath was rendered "holy time" by God at creation. "Thus the heavens and the earth were finished, and all the host of them. And on the seventh day God finished his work which he had done, and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had done. So God blessed the seventh day and hallowed it, because on it God rested from all his work which he had done in creation" (Gen. 2:1-3). That period of time defined broadly as "evening and morning" was blessed and hallowed. To hallow or sanctify is to make holy or set apart for holy use. When originally defined, the days of

creation week were set only in the broad terms of "evening and morning," not specifically from the moment of sunset to sunset, although there is a rough relationship between evening and sunset (see Deuteronomy 16:6 and Mark 1:32). It is the individual's responsibility, whatever the local geographic configuration or latitude, to determine as best he is able the meaning of "evening" which begins a day. Scandinavians certainly have more need of a broad meaning of "evening" than do people who live in the tropics.

The Sabbath was a day upon which God "rested"—that is, ceased from His labors of creation—and "was refreshed" (Ex. 31:17). The example is clear. God rested. Man should rest from his weekly labors also. When man observes the Sabbath day, he is imitating his Creator and commemorating the creation itself.

For more information on this subject, write for the free booklets *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *The Ten Commandments*. □

WASP

(Continued from page 23)

old sirex when other *visible* prey would be much more accessible? Once she deposits her egg, she has no further "knowledge" of what its chances of future survival will be. So clearly trial and error would seem to be almost out of the question. Somehow the female wasp also knows that boring holes in tree trunks is the thing to do, but she obviously has no knowledge of *why* she does it. And looking at her ovipositor one would be hard pressed to deny that such a fearsome-looking tool was intentionally *designed* for drilling purposes. Yet by whom or by what? Presumably one could answer that blind, undirected forces of natural selection were responsible. But a much more reasonable conclusion would seem to include the work of a highly intelligent and creative God. □

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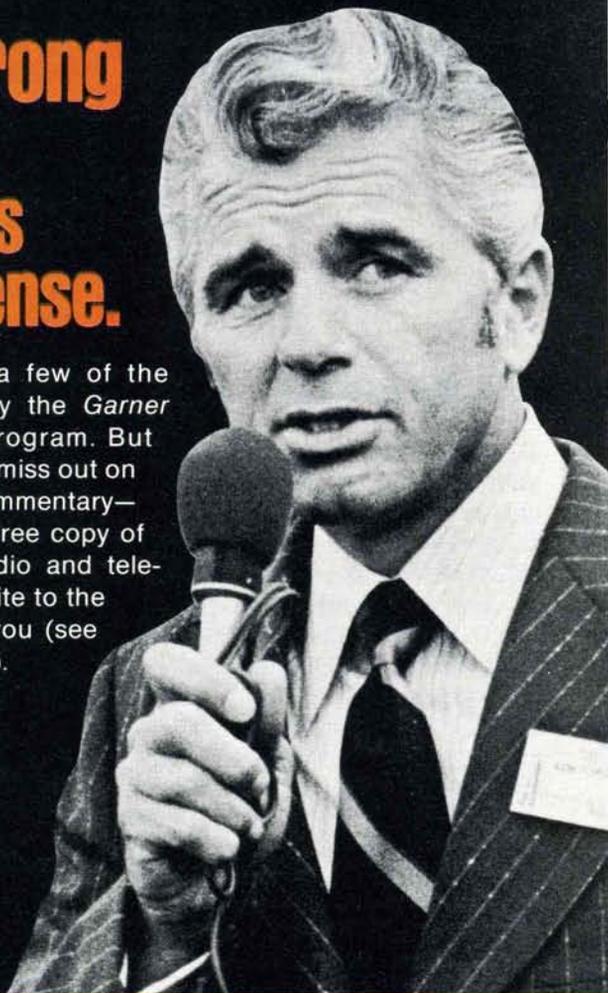
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SWIFT CURRENT — Channel 5, CJFB-TV, 11:15 p.m. Sun.

WINNIPEG — Channel 7, CKY-TV, 12 noon Sun.

YORKTON — Channel 3, CKOS-TV, 12 noon Sun.

Mountain Time

CALGARY — Channel 4, CFCN-TV, 4:00 p.m. Sun.

EDMONTON — Channel 3, CFRN-TV, 11:00 a.m. Sun.

LLOYDMINSTER — Channel 2, CKSA-TV, 9:30 a.m. Sun.

Pacific Time

DAWSON CREEK — Channel 5, CJDC-TV, 5:30 p.m. Sun.

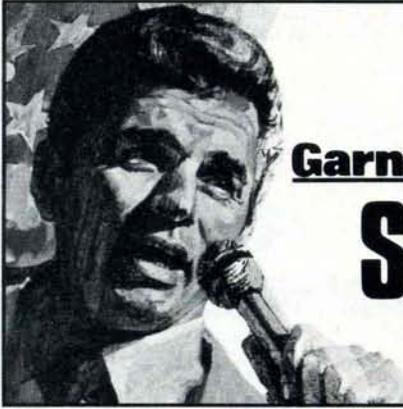
VANCOUVER — Channel 8, CHAN-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.

VICTORIA — Channel 6, CHEK-TV, 11:30 a.m. Sun.

WHITEHORSE — Channels 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, WHTV-TV, 7:00 p.m. Sun.

Please check your local listing for possible time or day changes.

* denotes new stations or changes.



Garner Ted Armstrong SPEAKS OUT!

The Real Jesus— Would You Recognize Him?

Today, Jesus sells almost as well as sex—so long as He's not the real Jesus. But the Madison Avenue Jesus—the Hollywood Jesus—the fictitious Jesus who has been created in the minds of millions through a combination of religious tradition, misinterpreted history, false assumptions, hazy notions, weird dreams, alleged visions, Byzantine and Renaissance art and literature—is a hot property.

So long as the fake Jesus is a homosexual, a liar, a plotter, a false religious leader, a megalomaniac, a "mushroom," a dissident, a hippie, or even a monastic dreamer whose quiet whisperings made the "birds hush their singing"—Jesus sells!

Judging from the cinematic and literary quest for the Christ of history, modern attempts to market the personage called "Jesus" through motion pictures, plays, books, articles, television, and rock operas manage to avoid any remote resemblance to the personality of Jesus revealed in the Bible.

One modern author proposed Christ was a fake who conspired with His disciples to bring about a sham crucifixion and a staged resurrection. His book has been made into a movie.

And one scholar has propounded the theory that Christ was an hallucinogenic "mushroom"; that His religion was a drug cult; that no such actual personality ever lived.

Quo Vadis, Ben Hur, The Robe and other movies have included a Jesus, however incidentally, in the script. Over the past few decades many moviemakers have seemed content to dress up actors in appropriately tattered, dirty, first-century-style rags, throwing in sufficient Roman citizens, gladiators, galley slaves, dancing girls and pontificating hoary-headed Peters and Pauls to create an illusion of historical accuracy. Millions of moviegoers over the years have gone away feeling not only entertained, but also positively enlightened on "how it really must have been."

And now a Western European film director, Joern Donner of Stockholm, is filming a motion picture which depicts a bisexual Jesus engaged in both heterosexual and homosexual activities.

But none of these speculative imaginings has much to do with the actual Jesus Christ of Nazareth.

It's time you met that Jesus—the real Jesus—the Jesus Christ of your Bible.

It's time you knew the Jesus who suffered through and overcame the entire panorama of human temptations, passions and emotions which are common to us all; who enjoyed good food and drink; who was attracted to beautiful women.

It's time you knew the Christ who could cry, shout, laugh and sing; who could enjoy the rough camaraderie

of men of His own age in an out-of-doors camp, yet appreciate the glittering setting of fabulous feasts in the most palatial of estates.

It's time you realized that Jesus was a Jew: that He looked like any common, average Jew of His day; that He was so nondescript He was frequently overlooked in crowds, even among people who were seeking to put Him to death.

It's time you were told that Jesus had a large family which included at least six brothers and sisters; and that He owned at least one and probably two homes of His own; that He paid taxes.

It's time you heard that Jesus did *not* come to save the whole world some 2,000 years ago; that He has *not* been trying to save it since; and that He is *not* trying to save it today. It is time you heard that He did not die of a broken heart; that He was not crucified on "Good Friday"; that He was not resurrected on "Easter Sunday"; that He was not born on or anywhere near December 25; and that much of what He taught lies abandoned in the dust of history.

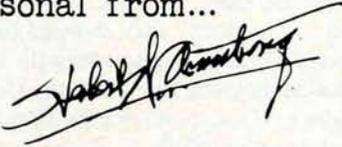
This Jesus—the *real* Jesus—may insult you, shock you, please you, challenge you, inspire you, surprise you, make you wonder. But He will never bore you.

There is a crying need for solid information on the real Jesus Christ of Nazareth, based on the true writings of those who knew Him best—the eyewitnesses who wrote the four Gospel accounts in your New Testament.

I have written such a book about Christ—rejecting all spurious and apocryphal writings, legends, alleged "lost books of the Bible," and special religious traditions. It's titled *The Real Jesus*, and we're going to run a series of articles in this magazine excerpted from that book. Watch for them beginning in the December issue—they'll help you get to know the real Jesus.

"The Real Jesus" is published by Sheed, Andrews & McMeel, Inc., and will be available in local bookstores throughout the United States and Canada in November. □

Personal from...



(Continued from page 1)

proximate 1,900 years since the creation of man on earth. But here again, to UNDERSTAND what's going on in our lives today and what's *been* going on in this world, we need to keep in mind the background—prehistory—what CAUSED the Eternal to create MAN and put humankind on the earth. WHY has what we call “progress” so suddenly sped up—and what of the *climactic* CRISIS we are now heading into?

Once again, remember God created angels first—spirit beings less than God. They were to be used in FINISHING the creation of the planets throughout the entire universe. But first, even their own creation could not be completed until CHARACTER, either good or evil, had been developed in them. Character, I repeat, CANNOT be instantaneously CREATED by fiat. That required time, and their own reasoning and decision-making process.

For this purpose—the completion of the creation of this earth and the development and creation of their character—God placed over the angels HIS GOVERNMENT, with the supercherub Lucifer placed on the earthly throne to administer the government of God. Lucifer's jurisdiction was the whole earth. He led his angels into SINNING (II Pet. 2:4), rejecting God's government based on His law (the way I call “GIVE” to simplify it).

They turned to the opposite way of “GET,” which is vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, competition leading to strife and violence, and resentment of God's authority. God's way of “GIVE” is giving to God obedience, adoration, worship, trust and faith, and a return of the LOVE which HE gives us.

Angelic sin brought physical destruction to Lucifer's entire jurisdiction—the whole earth—and I think it is indicated it brought waste and decay to the planets of the entire UNIVERSE, since that was the *potential* jurisdiction of Lucifer and the angels.

Of all spiritual beings, this left ONLY GOD (*Elohim*, ONE God consisting of “the Word,” who later became Christ, and GOD) to renew the face of the earth (Ps. 104:30) from the physical chaos and destruction caused by the angels' sin and to reform the earth for MAN.

On this renewed earth with sea life, bird life and animal life, God created MAN, male and female, out of MATTER from the ground.

God's transcendent AWESOME purpose was reproducing HIMSELF into, finally, billions of God-beings like Himself, with perfect, holy and righteous CHARACTER. It was the most ambitious, majestic, supreme project even the GREAT GOD could conceive and accomplish.

Angels, composed of spirit, could not be CHANGED, once their creation was completed with their own CHARACTER set in them.

MATTER, on the contrary, is *changeable and always* CHANGING. If man sinned, he could either: 1) be granted and voluntarily accept REPENTANCE—that is, CHANGE from the “GET” to the “GIVE” way—and completing a life of spiritual growth and character development, be made immortal; or, 2) be put to DEATH—become as though he had never been—if, on being offered forgiveness by God, he chose rebellion and the “GET” way.

First, God talked to Adam and Eve, the first and originally created humans. Through the reproductive process they were to become parents of all humanity. God freely offered them ETERNAL LIFE (the tree of life), if they chose the “GIVE” way—the GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

But then Lucifer—his name now changed to Satan—got to Adam through Eve. This first human pair then chose—without having experienced life under either of the two WAYS—the “GET” way of Satan. They rejected the government of God and flagrantly disobeyed God in TAKING of the forbidden fruit; *taking to themselves* the knowledge of good and evil; deciding for themselves what was right and what was wrong.

Adam cut himself and mankind off from God, and from contact with God, who alone has eternal life to give.

Anticipating this, God had designed a fail-safe 7,000-year master plan for working out His purpose here below. The first 6,000 years He sentenced man to carry out what Adam had demanded for the human race: to go its OWN WAY, cut off from God.

Satan had tempted and misled Adam into SIN. Satan, the former Lucifer who had the EARTH as his domain of government, must remain on his throne where GOD placed him UNTIL a successor has QUALIFIED to restore the government of God and been inducted into office.

So mankind started on his first 6,000 years with Satan actually ruling him, not directly and outwardly, but by deception. Man didn't know it, but he was subtly deceived into acknowledging Satan as the “god of this world” (II Cor. 4:4).

God had said to man, in effect: “Go, then, your own way. Form your own governments, your own religions, your own society and civilization. I will adopt a hands-off policy for the next 6,000 years — *except* that where it suits my purpose, I shall intervene in certain ways and on certain occasions. But YOU, mankind as a whole, are cut off from access to me.”

That is why Jesus said plainly, “NO MAN CAN COME TO ME, except the Father . . . draw him” (John 6:44). Except when God does intervene by *calling* one to repentance and salvation, NONE can come to Christ. WHY do not men understand that? Because they have accepted their own man-made religions!

I realize that the human mind is inclined to reason about WHY God does things *as He does*. Some might question: “WHY would God deliberately adopt a hands-off policy toward the whole human race (with the few exceptions where He has purposely intervened)?”

The answer, apparently, is that it was God's PURPOSE to PROVE, once and for all time, by 6,000 years of human EXPERIENCE that the “GET” way contrary to God's government is NOT good for those who follow it, and can result only in unhappiness, discontent, suffering, pain, discouragement, frustration, and utter complete FAILURE—just the OPPOSITE of

what man really WANTS. Too often, that which looks good may be very dangerous, harmful, UNDESIRABLE.

Apparently only a third of all the angels were involved in the SIN. Perhaps God wanted to prove His point to the other two-thirds of all the angels, as well as to mankind; to show what we shall become when changed into immortality in His Kingdom; to teach, by 6,000 years of EXPERIENCE, that only the holy, righteous and perfect CHARACTER of God based on His law and on His way of LOVE is really good for us. God had a reason for allowing man to so punish himself for 6,000 years under the delusion he was going the better way!

We know little of how man, CUT OFF from God (except for those God Himself called), developed prior to the Flood.

Man seems to have had *some* knowledge of God. Abel was called righteous by Christ; Enoch walked with God. Noah was perfect before God—yet it was God who called and chose Noah.

Cain built a city. Jabal headed a tribe that dwelt in tents and dealt in cattle. Jubal, his brother, was the father of those that handled the harp and organ. Tubal-cain was an instructor of every artificer in brass and iron. Cain was a farmer, and Abel a sheep-raiser. That's about all we know of the first approximately 1900 years (Gen. 4).

But God had no "soul-saving crusades" going.

Soon after the Flood, Nimrod rose up as the world's first despot, forming a government, and building a wall around his capital city. His mother-wife, Semiramis, according to profane history, founded the world's mother pagan religion—other pagan religions in ancient Egypt, Assyria, and even Greece and Rome, springing from it.

But for thousands of years humanity stumbled along with little change—little or no progress or development in material advancement—until, as I said, the printing press was invented.

Meanwhile, contrary to generally accepted religious belief, God made no effort to save the world—spiritually. Rather, the world had CUT ITSELF OFF completely from God.

Satan plied his cunning work of DECEPTION, and the WHOLE WORLD—ALL NATIONS—were deceived (Rev. 12:9).

Some 4,000 years after Adam, God sent Jesus Christ into such a world as a MESSENGER, bearing a message of hope and good news for mankind. It was the good news announcement that the government of God would, after all, be RESTORED by the KINGDOM OF GOD, which would be composed of the BORN family of God, ruling the whole world under His highest authority. Christ came with the good news that those called by God may be born of God and become God's own children, ultimately CHANGED from material to SPIRIT composition. But of MANY THOUSANDS who heard this message from Christ in person, only 120 believed what He said (Acts 1:15).

Jesus called and taught His twelve disciples His message of the coming Kingdom, and sent them out as apostles to ANNOUNCE to a world cut off from God the good news. But before A.D. 70 that message was SUPPRESSED by the fast-rising FALSE church and was never again proclaimed to the world until God started proclaiming it over radio through me, first in October 1933.

Finally, the world came to the development of technology and industry. Nearly all this modern development has come in the past 200 years, and far more than HALF of ALL the world's technology and scientific and industrial development has come in my lifetime!

I have lived through the machine age, the age of mechanized agriculture, the nuclear age, and the space age. I have seen the development of the railroad, the automobile, the gigantic transoceanic vessels, the airplane, radio, television, and a thousand and one kinds of labor-saving devices. Today millions of workers sit at machines, going through the same motions all day long. We have WONDERS in mechanical development—almost every kind of labor-saving device and every kind of entertainment and amusement. But, when we stop to think about it, IS IT GOOD FOR US?

Someday soon, we shall realize how BAD it all has been.

It has been the DAY OF MAN, subtly influenced and swayed by an invisible Satan endowed with superpower next to that of God Himself which He uses to foster the "GET" philosophy of life.

All this world's "progress" and development has been along the lines of SELF-CENTEREDNESS: "Get the best of the other fellow."

This present civilization is a colossal monument to VANITY, LUST and GREED; the spirit of competition—beating out the other fellow—which leads to destruction, violence, war and murder; jealousy and envy; resentment against real or imagined affronts; resentment against authority.

The DAY OF MAN has built a world of supreme UNHAPPINESS, DISCONTENT, NEEDLESS SUFFERING. It is a SICK world. It is a world of medical "science" that has doubled in medical and technical knowledge each of the past two decades, yet we have more sickness and disease than ever before. The medical establishment gets a few diseases, such as tuberculosis and smallpox, almost stamped out, only to be plagued with onslaughts of heart diseases, diabetes, cancer, and other ailments that puzzle and confound medical science.

Once again, as in the days of ancient Noah, we have come to a POPULATION EXPLOSION.

And for the first time, man has come in the past three decades to the development of means of MASS DESTRUCTION that can wipe all human life from this planet—probably in less than 24 hours—UNLESS there is an almighty great GOD who will step in and prevent human cosmicocide and save humanity ALIVE!

Now, at last, we see how 6,000 years of HUMAN EXPERIENCE, of God-rejecting MAN going *his* own way, taking TO HIMSELF the knowledge of what he SUPPOSES is good and what is evil, has PROVED that ONLY GOD'S WAY is GOOD—and *good for us!*

Also we see that man, left to HIMSELF, has finally become proof of the greatness of God because of the design of the human MIND. Man has been able to design and produce marvelous things OUT OF MATTER—intricate machinery, the fantastic

computer—and send men to the moon and back.

Yet, at the same time, this 6,000 years has PROVED that man's mind, without God's Holy Spirit, is confined to physical and mechanical things. His systems of education have become wholly materialistic, and all his motives have been based on the attitude of "get." He cannot live in harmony and peace with his neighbor. He is missing totally the greatest possible blessing during human life: a CLOSENESS with his Maker and his God, the warmth, satisfying PEACE, and ASSURED SECURITY of contact with God. That is why the human race as a whole is discontented, unhappy, harboring feelings of insecurity, suspicion and frustration.

God gave man—even God-rejecting man—the wonderful human MIND by giving him the human spirit, which imparts intellect to the physical BRAIN. Whale brain, elephant brain, dolphin brain—all larger than human brain—are almost identical to it, as are chimp and other smaller brains, but they lack the human spirit which adds intellect to the brain. What a marvel!

God formed and made it! But it is confined to knowledge of the PHYSICAL. God made the human brain to need *with it* another spirit—the Holy Spirit of God—to add SPIRITUAL comprehension as well as spiritual life and love. Without God's Holy Spirit, which Adam rejected, man is of all creatures most miserable!

For 6,000 years God sentenced MAN—at man's own choice—to live his own way, with PHYSICAL COMPREHENSION ONLY. THAT is why he is smart enough to go to the moon and back, but can't get along with his neighbor. He lacks the spirit of GOD'S LOVE. But even man's materialistic and mechanical development started slowly, gaining MOMENTUM, until more than HALF of all his "progress" has come in my lifetime.

For 6,000 years God's Holy Spirit has been withheld from mankind; given only to the infinitesimal FEW whom God has selected, called, and given His Spirit for a special Work which God wants done.

Spiritual salvation will be opened to ALL humanity after Christ comes

to take over the throne of the earth and RULE ALL NATIONS, and Satan shall be removed.

THANK GOD! We are now in the very last generation in this 6,000-year period.

Remember, this 6,000 years, NOW ENDING, is to be followed by 1,000 years of happy and joyous UTOPIA: WORLD PEACE in our PRESENT GENERATION; happiness, joy, universal abundance; universal right education for all; eternal salvation—with eternal life offered to all! No Satan around to plague and deceive us!

As I have indicated, God called only "righteous Abel" (Matt. 23:35), Enoch and Noah to have contact with Him and receive His Holy Spirit during approximately the first 1900 years. He specially called Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. He made the slave descendants of Abraham a special nation, called Israel, but never offered them spiritual salvation or His Holy Spirit. From then to Christ, only the prophets were given His Holy Spirit, in order to empower them for THE WORK He called them to do, almost altogether within Israel.

More than 1,900 years ago, he sent Christ, but of the unnumbered thousands who *heard* the GOOD NEWS announcement of His coming Kingdom, only 120 believed (Acts 1:15). He called and instructed His apostles to announce His gospel, but that gospel was *suppressed* and replaced before A.D. 70 with a false one which denied His Kingdom. He raised up His Church in A.D. 31 to back His apostles and make His Work through them possible, but persecution dispersed and sent the Church underground, as it were. From then the true gospel was not heard by the world, and even the Church, when I first came among them in 1926, had lost most of it.

Today God is adding to the Church until it has become larger than in all history to get done the greatest WORK in history. Today He gives us of His Church His Holy Spirit, first, to help me get out the ANNOUNCEMENT of His Kingdom, and second, to build within ourselves the CHARACTER to rule with Christ on His throne—and He gave the first as THE MEANS of attaining to the second.

We have reached the very last generation of this age—the generation when THIS world of man will END and the Kingdom of God will take over. We reached it when I was 40 years old. As God called Moses at 40, so He called me at 40. That was 45 years ago. Time is short, and getting shorter every day!

Jesus' disciples asked Him what would be the sign of the END of this present world of MAN. Jesus answered: "He that shall endure UNTO THE END [of this age], the same shall be saved. And THIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and *then* shall the END come" (Matt. 24:13-14).

I began preaching it locally in 1933, and to the world in 1953.

A few verses later Jesus said: "For then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]; but for the elect's sake those days SHALL BE SHORTENED"! (Verses 21-22.)

I am announcing the coming of Christ the Messiah to cut short those days, and usher in the WAY OF "GIVE"—the restoration of the government of God by the Kingdom of God.

After the millennium and Great White Throne judgment, there will be no more sickness, no more pain, no more unhappiness, no more poverty or ignorance, no more stealing—no more locks on doors or keys to carry around, no more discontent or getting feelings hurt!

Mankind is going to change from the way of "GET" to the way of "GIVE."

Some of us already have. How about you? □

RECOMMENDED READING

What is the kingdom of God? Is it the church? Is it something "set up in the hearts of men"? Is it "the good within you"? Is it "the millennium"? Each of these is widely taught—yet none is right! The shocking truth is made plain in the booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?* Be sure to request your free copy (address of our office nearest you is on inside front cover).

Prophet of Doom

(Continued from page 33)

mons. And the great Lucifer became Satan the devil.

But Lucifer's jurisdiction under the government of God was this entire earth. A kingdom must never be without a head. Therefore Lucifer, his name changed to Satan, although now disqualified to rule God's Kingdom, must remain on the throne where God placed him—that is, *until* a successor *qualifies* to restore the government of God, and is inducted into office. That is why Satan the devil is still, today, the god of this world, the prince of the power of the air, the deceiver of all nations, as the Bible reveals.

We need to backtrack just a trifle at this point. Remember that God created the angels with independent minds. He gave them freedom of thought, reasoning, decision-making. Therefore God *could not know in advance* what kind of character they would choose to *complete* their creation. Therefore He (with the Word) had provided a fail-safe alternative, just as manufacturers of airplanes do in case one of the plane's systems goes wrong.

God knew that *if* the angels chose evil character, it left Him as the only being in existence who could be positively relied upon NEVER to deviate from His government, its laws, and its way of life.

Second Phase of God's Purpose

So now we come to the second major step or phase in working out God's overwhelmingly grand purpose. We have come to the stage where the government of God—the means of building and instilling righteous, holy, perfect character—was abolished from the earth.

Now the *second phase* of God's supremely *great purpose* must be initiated. God *alone* possessed the perfection of character that could activate the billions of beings to complete the finishing stages of the creation of the entire universe.

God must have said, "There just are not enough of me." He needed millions or billions of perfect and righteous beings, governed by His government, to complete in all their

beauty, majesty and glory not only the other planets of our solar system, but of our galaxy, and the countless other galaxies of the limitless vast *universe!*

So now came the next phase of God's overwhelmingly grand purpose: REPRODUCING HIMSELF into billions of GOD-beings!

Angelic sin (II Pet. 2:4) brought destruction and decay to the planets of the universe and to this earth (Gen. 1:2, the Hebrew words *tohu* and *bohu* properly meaning "destruction," "confusion," "waste" and "decay"). The indication is that the same condition of waste and decay happened simultaneously to all planets of the universe.

Because of this, GOD CREATED MAN!

So in six days God RENEWED the

The Bible foretells the most fantastically wonderful potential for man that the human mind can conceive and the real purpose for which man was placed on this earth.

face of the earth (Psalm 104:30) for MAN (Gen. 1:26). Man was made after the image and in the likeness (same form and shape) of God. But, remember, God is composed of spirit, not matter. And the angels were composed of spirit. Once the creation of the angels which followed Lucifer was *complete* by the development of their character, which was evil, *they could not be changed!* Matter, however, is ALWAYS changing.

If man, composed of matter, first made the decision to follow Satan's way (and since man is a free moral agent, God knew he might), he could be CHANGED.

This fail-safe master plan had been thought out before the world was, as the Bible plainly says.

If man sinned, being composed of matter, *he could die*. So for man, the penalty of sin would be DEATH—nonexistence!

It must have been even before the physical universe was created that the Word offered to divest Himself of His mighty eternal glory and be born of a human woman *so that he would die* (Heb. 2:9). Being the actual MAKER (John 1:3-4) of all humanity, His life was of greater value than the sum total of all human lives, and thus His death would pay the penalty for ALL HUMANS. For, being God made human, being God as well as man, Jesus *knew* in advance He would be able to live *without sin*, even though tempted in all points like the rest of us.

Matter DOES change—it always is changing.

In six days God RENEWED (Psalm 104:30) for man (Gen. 1:26) the surface of the earth from devastation (Gen. 1:2) caused by angelic sin. Man, by process of reproduction (Gen. 1:27-28), was to fill the earth with humans.

Adam Rejects God's Government

As God first instructed the angels in their awesome potential, He now talked in person to the man and woman He had created; told them this potential could be theirs; outlined to them His government as the way of life that would bring that potential, and as a by-product, peace, universal happiness and abundance, joy, health and wealth.

But like Lucifer and earth's angels, Adam and Eve disbelieved God and preferred Satan's way of "GET"—vanity, lust and greed; envy and jealousy; competition, strife, violence and war—rebellion against God and His government.

They did not believe what God said!

Without having *experienced* living either under the government of God, *or* Satan's way of "GET," Adam rejected the government of God, took to *himself*, along with his wife Eve, "the knowledge of good and evil"—that is, rejected the law of God as the way of life, and determined to decide for himself what was right and what was wrong.

In other words, Adam, fountainhead of the whole human race, simply said to his Creator: "God, get your nose out of my affairs. I'll run my life my own way."

Thus he cut not only himself, but

the whole human family off from God and all contact with God! He brought DEATH (the first death) upon all humans (I Cor. 15:22).

Hands-Off Policy

Thereupon God had adopted a 7,000-year master plan for reproducing Himself through HUMANS. The first 6,000 years God turned man over to his own devices; God adopted, as it were, a HANDS-OFF policy toward humanity. For 6,000 years mankind would go *his own way*.

Of course, God knew man would adopt Satan's way—I call it the way of "GET" for brevity—actually the way of vanity, lust and greed, of jealousy and envy, of competition and strife leading to violence and war, of resentment and bitterness against every fancied wrong, of the desire to "get even," of rebellion against authority.

God knew Satan would sway mankind in this way—though Satan is so subtle, being invisible to human eyes, that man would not know he was really obeying Satan's rule!

In other words, God deliberately sentenced mankind to 6,000 years of this evil way of life, to form his own governments, religions, society; to prove, by 6,000 years of human unhappiness, discontent, suffering, violence, murder, war, and death, that Satan's way of "GET" is the *wrong way*, and leads to the unwanted wrong *result!*

So for 6,000 years, up to now, God has kept hands off mankind's affairs. Mankind has been cut off from God, by his own choice. God has made but a few exceptions, where necessary for His purpose.

During this 6,000 years, God has made no effort (contrary to nearly all religious teachings) to "save mankind" spiritually.

For example, none had contact with God for the first 1900 years except Abel, Enoch, and Noah. Then God called Abram, changed his name to Abraham, made all the promises of eventual human salvation to him. He dealt with Isaac, Jacob and Joseph.

Then, 430 years after Abraham, God called his descendants, then probably more than three million,

led them by miracles out of Egyptian slavery, offered them the greatest material and national blessings (but no spiritual salvation except to Moses and the prophets) for being His nation on earth, obeying His laws. They promised to live under His government, but rebelled utterly and ended up in captivity again.

Christ Brings Good News

Some 4,000 years after Adam, Jesus Christ came in the likeness of human flesh. He came with a MESSAGE—the gospel. What was that? It was the GOOD NEWS of GOD'S Kingdom and the ultimate grand potential of man, so great it surpasses the power of the human mind to conceive.

Christ qualified to replace Satan (the former Lucifer) and to *restore*

We recognize the conditions around us. The heads of state, the great and the near-great I meet, know of the problems—problems greater than human minds can solve.

the government of God to earth, this time over man. Then He proclaimed the good news of that coming Kingdom—the *extreme opposite* of "doom." He called His apostles, and taught them His tremendous announcement of this unsurpassable *human potential*. Then He died for our sins, was resurrected, and rose to God's heaven to be our high priest *until* He comes as King of kings to rule all nations of earth with the government of God.

The apostles went forth proclaiming this good news of the vast human potential. This started in A.D. 31, the year Christ was crucified and His Church raised up. But out of the remnants of the ancient Babylonian mystery religion, rose up in A.D. 33 in Samaria this pagan religion professing CHRIST, calling itself CHRISTIANITY, and persecuting and martyring all true Christians. Beside the *name* "Chris-

tian," they appropriated the doctrine of "grace" from Christ's apostles, turning it into license—permission to disobey—saying the laws of the government of God were done away.

Thus, we find that by A.D. 69 *another gospel* had gained public acceptance (Gal. 1:6-7). The good news—Christ's gospel—of the Kingdom of God was no longer publicly proclaimed to the world!

Few today know what Christ's real gospel was! Your Bible says all nations have been deceived (Rev. 12:9). Of course, most of you reading this do not believe that, because a deceived person does not know he is deceived, else he would not BE deceived.

Christ in person preached this good news to many thousands. But how many actually *believed what He said?* Only 120! (Acts 1:15.)

Today, the Bible outsells all books. The Bible is the Word of God—it is what God says. Yet millions who own Bibles never read them.

Other millions read the Bible at least once in a while, but scarcely any of them *believe what God says in it!* They do not know that the Bible foretells the DOOM of all ways that are *causing* our troubles, our woes, our evils.

Humanity right now is at the doorstep of the supreme crisis. It has reached the point where man now has the weapons of mass destruction to erase all human life from the earth. And, UNLESS the Great God that Garner Ted and I proclaim does intervene supernaturally and END this hellish state of affairs man has brought on himself, there most surely soon *would* come the *real* DOOMSDAY!

But because our God *will* intervene and save man from himself and set up the KINGDOM OF GOD—one WORLD GOVERNMENT ruled in love and justice by Jesus Christ—*there will be no doomsday!*

What Prophecies Reveal

Now open your eyes to some of the prophecies that foretell a little of the transcendent potential that really is man's.

Under the invisible influence of Satan, man is bringing on himself

the FINAL CRISIS of the 6,000-year day of man. Jesus' apostles had asked Him how we humans might know *when* the end of this present world, Christ's coming, and the beginning of the happy, peaceful WORLD TOMORROW would happen. Jesus answered that when "this *gospel of the kingdom* shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations . . . THEN shall the END [of this age] COME" (Matt. 24:14). The very message Garner Ted and I *are* preaching and publishing (Mark 13:10) worldwide follows in verses 21 and 22: "For then shall be great tribulation [man-caused], such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive (Moffatt translation)]; but for the elect's sake those days shall be shortened."

Man, swayed unknowingly by Satan, is already *beginning* to bring on this greatest time of *world trouble and chaos*, but GOD will step in and CUT IT SHORT, and save humanity ALIVE. WHY? For the most wonderful, transcendent human POTENTIAL you could possibly imagine!

Christ will come!

Satan will be bound! (Rev. 20:1-2.)

Then will follow 1,000 years of peace—WORLD PEACE—happiness, universal prosperity!

Then, after that thousand years will occur what the Bible calls the "great white throne judgment." At that time, all humanity who ever lived up to the beginning of Christ's reign shall be resurrected mortal. They will be given time to look back over the human anguish caused by *Satan's way*, which man chose, and given the opportunity to turn to *God's way*. Remember, they will be resurrected *mortal*, human, made of matter—and matter can change! Those who do change (and I believe that will be about 99 percent) will then, having learned the lesson of the right way of life, be given spiritual salvation—eternal life—changed from mortal to IMMORTAL, composed then of SPIRIT.

Just a prophetic glimpse or two into that time: "The WHOLE EARTH is at rest, and is quiet. . . . Yea, the fir trees rejoice at thee, and the ce-

ders of Lebanon, saying, Since thou [Satan] art laid down, no feller is come up against us" (Isa. 14:7-8). Then, speaking of Christ's rule over the whole earth in that day (and within our generation): "And the spirit of the ETERNAL shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and *understanding*, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and of the fear of the ETERNAL . . . But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth . . . And righteousness shall be the girdle of his loins, and faithfulness the girdle of his reins" (Isa. 11:2-5).

Man's Only Hope

Many world-renowned scientists have said the ONLY HOPE of saving mankind alive on this earth is a

God has kept hands off mankind's affairs. Mankind has been cut off from God, by his own choice. God has made but a few exceptions, where necessary for His purpose.

single world government—with only one army. But in the same breath they say it is impossible. With men it is. WHO would rule such a government? A human? He would rule for his own pleasure and profit. A committee? A committee would rule with a constant struggle for top power among themselves.

But THINK of a world ruled by the Christ described above!

Carry this prophecy further: "The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; and the . . . [other wild animals shall be tame] . . . for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the ETERNAL, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:6-9).

Then, after a thousand years with the whole earth ruled by the Kingdom of God, comes the *greatest, most stupendous good news of all!*

Here are some brief glimpses into it: "And God shall wipe away all

tears from their eyes; and there shall be NO MORE DEATH, neither sorrow, nor crying, NEITHER SHALL THERE BE ANY MORE PAIN: for the former things are passed away. And he that sat upon the throne said, Behold, I make all things new. And he said unto me, Write: for THESE WORDS ARE TRUE AND FAITHFUL" (Rev. 21:4-5).

UNDERSTAND THIS: For 6,000 years the Creator God has kept hands off man's activities and ways of life. Our first parents made a decision for themselves and their posterity—all humanity.

What will stagger the reader most of all perhaps, because he has been so deceived and blinded from God's *plain truth*, is that God has made no effort to redeem or spiritually save the world from that day of Adam until now—that is, except those specifically called. Satan wants you to believe God has been making a desperate effort to save all humanity, while Satan stands aside, injects within all people the "GET" attitude, and laughs at God, saying, "You see, God, I am mightier than you. I am keeping about 99.99 percent of the world 'LOST.'" This popular belief makes religion ridiculous and represents Satan as more powerful than God.

World Under Satan's Sway

So humanity, cut off from God—but NOT cut off from Satanic influence working within human minds—has for 6,000 years formed its *own kinds* of governments, its *own* religions, its *own* educational systems, its own systems of business, commerce and industry, financing and exchange, and its own society. And DOOMSDAY is indeed what humanity is bringing itself to. But God will intervene to PREVENT THAT!

Meanwhile, God has made His Word and His purpose known. Until Moses, He made His will known by word of mouth, speaking with certain ones such as Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph. Beginning with Moses, God made His will and His purpose known in *writings* that finally have been compiled together, called the Holy Bible.

In it God has made known that He has Himself chosen certain ones

for certain purposes through the ages. They have been predestinated, and, in due time, called into the service of God.

Man's Awesome Potential

Now we come to the final, most AWESOME, TRANSCENDENT potential of man—the *farthest possible away from one of DOOM*.

It was mentioned first by King David in the eighth Psalm.

David was inspired to ask: "WHAT IS MAN, that thou art mindful of him? . . . For thou hast made him a little lower than the angels, and hast crowned him with glory and honour. Thou madest him to have dominion over the works of thy hands; thou hast put all things under his feet" (Psalm 8:4-6).

But David probably did not, in his early days, realize the FULL EXTENT of that glory and that dominion. It is explained in more detail in Romans and in Hebrews in the New Testament. And lest you think my imagination is running away with itself, I quote this direct from the Bible.

Begin with Hebrews 2:5: "For unto the angels hath he not put in subjection *the world to come, whereof we speak*." The theme here—the context—is "the world to come"—not this present evil world. The implication is that angels *have been* in subjection over a previous world.

Continue: "But one in a certain place testified, saying, What is man, that thou art mindful of him? [here quoting Psalm 8]. . . . Thou madest him a little lower than the angels; thou crownedst him with glory and honour, and didst set him over the works of thy hands: Thou hast put *all things* in subjection under his feet. For in that he [God] put ALL in subjection under him [man], he [God] left NOTHING that is not put under him" (verses 6-8). The "all things," appearing also in Hebrews 1:3, is properly translated in the Moffatt translation as "*the Universe*." God has put—ultimately, but not in this life—the entire endless universe *under subjection to man*. But finish verse 8 of chapter 2: "But now we see NOT YET all things [the universe] put under him [man]."

Oh, NOT YET! But after the thou-

sand years of peace under Christ, and after the "great white throne judgment." After ALL humans ever born have been called, granted repentance if they will repent, and believed—and finally changed from human to DIVINE!

But continue on. What DO we see now, already? "But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels *for the suffering of death*, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man. For it became him, for whom are *all things* [the universe], and BY WHOM are *all things*, in bringing many sons unto glory, to make the captain of their salvation perfect through sufferings" (verses 9-10).

In Hebrews 1, the Moffatt translation shows Jesus Christ even NOW

Man, swayed unknowingly by Satan, is already beginning to bring on this greatest time of world trouble, but God will step in and cut it short, and save humanity alive.

is sustaining the entire universe by the word of His POWER!

Notice again, carefully, verse 10. "For it became him [Christ], for whom are all things [entire universe], and *by whom* are all things [God the Father created the universe by Jesus Christ], in bringing many sons unto glory. . . ." We HUMANS are those sons, who become *through* Christ HEIRS of all God has and CO-heirs *with* Christ; become actually BRETHREN of Christ, now, "in [His] bringing many sons unto glory." You see, Christ is the CAPTAIN (verse 10) of our salvation. In other words, He who was the first-born (Rom. 8:29) among many brethren—first to be BORN of God by a RESURRECTION (Rom. 1:4)—simply is our PIONEER who has gone on before the rest of us into this great and supreme glory. We see NOT YET the whole universe under man, but we DO see it all UNDER

CHRIST, and sustained by the word of His power (Heb. 1:3).

Glorious Liberty to Come

Now to Romans 8. This fantastic awesome potential of man is made even clearer in the book of Romans. I shall use the Revised Standard Version, for the King James is not accurate—apparently the translators in the year 1611 simply could not believe the Greek original COULD mean what it plainly says. Can you create in your imagination a HOPE as great as this?

The apostle Paul is inspired to write, beginning verse 18, Romans 8: "I consider that the sufferings of the present time are not worth comparing with the GLORY that is to be revealed to us. For the CREATION [universe] waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God [at the resurrection, when we shall become composed of SPIRIT]; for the creation was subjected to futility, not of its own will but by the will of him who subjected it in hope; because the creation itself will be set free from *its bondage to decay* and obtain the glorious liberty of the children of God. We know that the whole creation has been groaning in travail together until now; and not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the first fruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait for adoption [our resurrected birth] as sons, the redemption of our bodies [from mortal flesh and blood to immortal spirit]. For *in this hope we were saved*."

What a wonderful, majestic, tremendous hope!

That, and NOT DOOM, is what Garner Ted Armstrong and I proclaim to this world!

There may be "prophets of doom"—*but we are not of them*. No one else—but NO ONE—proclaims the full truth you have read here. It's ALL IN THE BIBLE—and the Bible is THE WORD OF GOD.

It's the most WONDERFUL HOPE your eyes ever read! Not DOOM—but qualifying to remake and beautify the universe! I believe it and look forward in joyful anticipation to it. Thousands today believe it and are grateful for the opportunity to have a part in helping us spread this message of real hope. No one else does! □

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