

*The Good News of*  
**TOMORROW'S  
WORLD**

Nov.-Dec. 1970





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## More About Our Cover

What was Jerusalem like in the days of Jesus? In the cover picture our artist has endeavored to recapture a view of the Second Temple as seen from the court of the women. This scene is based on a scale model of the Temple, part of a replica of the entire city of Jerusalem as it looked two thousand years ago. Designed by Professor M. Avi-Yonah and located on the grounds of the Holyland Hotel in Jerusalem, this model is a "must-see" for visitors to the city.

The Second Temple, originally built by Zerubbabel but greatly enlarged and beautified by Herod, was one of the most outstanding architectural achievements of its day. It epitomizes the splendid Herodian structures which dotted the eastern Mediterranean region in the first century of our era. Read about the glory of the Holy Land in Christ's day, and the even greater glory to come, beginning on p. 9.

Ambassador College Art

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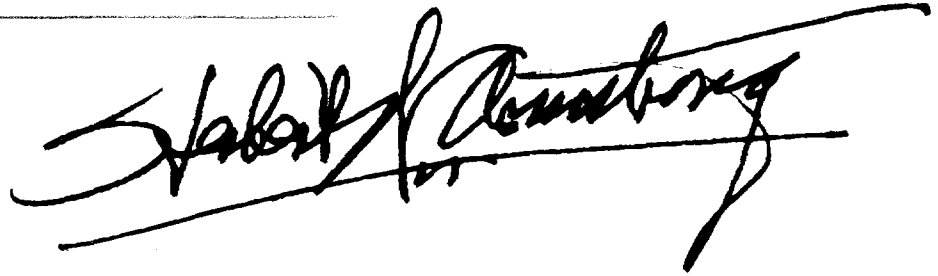
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# Personal from



SOME of the teachings in the Bible are a little hard for the average thinking mind to understand.

James tells us to count it all joy when trials, ordeals, reverses, beset us. *Troubles* a JOY? That's pretty hard to accept, isn't it? And, for the average person, a lot harder to put into practice.

Few find any pleasure, let alone JOY, in the obstacles and troubles they encounter. Yet this Biblical teaching says we ought so to count them. There is a *reason*, although *few* understand it.

In one of the Psalms you'll read that the righteous are going to have to bear *many* afflictions. But, it promises, the Eternal will deliver us out of them all — *if* we believe and trust Him!

Again, it is through *much tribulation* that we must enter the Kingdom of God. WHY? There's a reason!

Now consider another Biblical teaching hard for some to understand.

Several years ago I wrote an article, now available in booklet form, *What Do You Mean — Born Again?* In the fifth chapter of Ephesians you find a husband-wife relationship pictured as corresponding to Christ and the Church. Scriptural teaching assures us that, at His coming, Christ is going to *marry* the Church. Also, the Scriptures teach that the Church will, at His coming, be *born* of God, by a resurrection of all who have died, and the instantaneous conversion from mortal to immortal of those then living (I Corinthians 15:50-53).

So one man reasons: Could a full-grown MAN marry an infant girl baby, just born? If those in the Church are to be just then *born* of God, how can they marry Christ before they grow up?

This, too, seems difficult for some to comprehend. Yet the answer to James' teaching — the UNDERSTANDING of what James really means, is also the answer to this seeming inconsistency.

There is a third seeming inconsistency, hard for some to understand. About a year and a half ago in

this column I explained how, contrary to the thinking of many, a Christian may — and too often does — actually commit sin *after* he is converted. He *should not*, of course. But too often he does, and yet he still remains a Christian. The true explanation of James' teaching, first mentioned above, is also the explanation of this experience.

So *let's understand!*

WHY were we born, in the first place? What is the real PURPOSE of human life? God Almighty the Creator is reproducing Himself! As truly as we mortal humans have been given power to reproduce ourselves — to bring forth progeny in our own image, born with our very nature — even so the Great God is bringing forth sons in *His* image, born with His very divine nature!

The very PURPOSE of our existence is that we be begotten as God's children, and become BORN of Him.

And human reproduction is the very type of spiritual reproduction. What God created at the time described in the first chapter of Genesis was a *physical* creation. You'll find nothing spiritual there. In physical man, made of the dust of the ground, God created the MATERIAL *with which* He may mould, shape, form, and create the *spiritual* being. He pictures us as the clay, Himself as the Potter — forming us into the spiritual image of *His* designing.

Now human reproduction, I say, pictures spiritual reproduction. Each human, since Adam and Eve, started from a tiny egg, called an ovum, the size of a pinpoint. It was produced in the body of the mother. The egg is *incomplete*, of itself. It has a life of only about 48 hours, according to some authorities. Unless fertilized by the life-giving sperm cell from the human father within that limited lifetime, it dies.

Each human, spiritually speaking, is like an egg. The average human lifetime is said to be 70 years. Adam was created *incomplete*, and each of us was BORN INCOMPLETE — that is, we were made to *need* the Holy Spirit of God. And unless, within our limited

lifespan of some 70 years, we are begotten of God — by His Spirit which is HIS IMMORTAL DIVINE LIFE, entering to impart eternal life to us — we shall die — and that shall be the end — except that God has appointed a resurrection of all who have lived, and, for those who reject His gift of eternal life, the final second death in the lake of fire.

But, in the case of the human ovum, once fertilized as a begotten human, the egg — now called an embryo — is kept within the body of the mother, and is nourished and fed material food through her and protected by her. And there it must grow, being fed physically through the mother, large enough to be born. After a number of weeks, the embryo is called a fetus, and at birth it is a human baby.

In like manner, the Bible calls the CHURCH the “mother of us all.” That is, the mother of Christians — those begotten of God. It is the function of the Church to protect and feed, spiritually, on the spiritual food of GOD’S WORD, those begotten children of God, so that we may GROW SPIRITUALLY, in the divine character, ready to be born.

Surely this is a wonderful comparison. Yet types and antitypes are not always alike in every detail.

When a physical baby is born, it is not ready for marriage. When the spiritual child of God is *born* he will be fully mature for the spiritual marriage. How can this be? This is what one thinking man could not see.

The unborn human fetus is only growing *physically*. At birth, the human baby knows nothing. He is helpless. He must be taught. He must learn. He is born merely with a mind *capable* of learning, knowing, thinking. He is not yet of mature size physically or mentally. Many do marry who are still entirely immature spiritually and/or emotionally. But we do assume that one has reasonable maturity physically and mentally before marriage. In the human, this development takes place in the human state *after* the human birth.

Therefore, the human baby is not ready for marriage at birth.

But the spirit-born are different!

Just as the fertilized ovum — the embryo which becomes the fetus — must grow *physically* from material food, so the spirit-begotten child of God must grow *spiritually* before he can be born. *But there is a difference!*

The fetus does not attain to complete physical maturity before birth, and has no mental maturity. But,

in the spiritual rebirth, one must attain reasonable spiritual maturity *before* he is spirit-born.

Now what *is* spiritual growth? Just as the physical embryo-fetus must *grow* physically large enough to be BORN, so the Spirit-begotten Christian must grow *spiritually* or he will never be *born* of God. But spiritual growth is CHARACTER-DEVELOPMENT.

The Spirit-begotten starts out with a MIND from the beginning. God *is* perfect character — divine, spiritual character. God is also LOVE. And perfect spiritual character is THE WAY of LOVE! Such character is the attainment of the ability, in a separate independent entity of free moral agency, to be able to discern right from wrong — the true values from the false — truth from error — the right way from the wrong, and then to make the right CHOICE or DECISION, even against self-desire, impulse or temptation; plus the WILL and self-discipline to resist the wrong and to DO the right.

No human, with human nature, has the power — alone by himself — to do this. But God has made the spiritual power and help man lacks *available*. Man must desire to *know* — must hunger and thirst for truth; man must make his own decision, exercise his own will, even against the pulls of his nature. But without the help of GOD — without spiritual POWER from God — man is utterly unable.

That is why truly converted Christians sometimes *actually do sin*. They are like the Apostle Paul, as he describes himself in Romans 7. With his mind he *wanted* to go the way of God’s law, yet he found himself unable. Another law — human nature — warred within him against the good resolutions of his mind. But the sequel to Romans 7 is Romans 8 — the Holy Spirit chapter. WHO, Paul cried out, could save him from this body of death he struggled against in vain? The answer is, GOD, through His Holy Spirit.

A true Christian doesn’t want to sin — should not. But sometimes he finds himself caught in the vise of habit, or overwhelmed by temptation or by circumstances from which he is unable to free himself. Surely, had such a one been *continually* praying, keeping himself *close to God*, and detached from the world or its lures or the temptations of the flesh, he probably would have had sufficient divine help to have prevented the sinning. But *only Jesus Christ* ever did keep that close to God!

God looks on the heart. In such a case, the Christian does not sin maliciously, with malice afore-

(Continued on page 48)

# WHAT IS SALVATION?

*Why do we need salvation? How do we get it — and when?  
What do we receive when we do obtain it?*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**W**HY DO we find many religions in the world?

Some people today say that religion is merely a superstition. And others today spread propaganda that religion is the opiate of the people! But MOST of the people in the world embrace some ONE of the world's many religions!

How many of them ever stop to ask, sanely and candidly, why? Why do they need religion — and what does it offer them?

Of all the world's great religions, the only one that offers forgiveness of sin and salvation is the Christian religion. The sin question and the receiving of SALVATION is the very heart and center of the Christian religion.

But just what is this thing that is called "Salvation"? It is something everybody (who knows anything about Christianity) has *heard* about — and yet, do you realize that almost nobody — even of those who profess the Christian religion — really KNOWS what salvation is!

## Why World Is in Ignorance

A man 82 years of age, who had been for many years an elder in one of the major Christian denominations, came to me once and said: "I have heard many hundreds of sermons about Christ, and about salvation — but in all my 82 years of life I have never heard one explanation of the plain WHYS and WHEREFORES of SALVATION. What is this thing we call salvation, anyway?

WHY do we need it? How do we get it, and when? And what do we get, when we get it, anyway?" Those things he asked me. In his 82 years this man had never heard a plain and a simple explanation that made it clear.

Many of *you* have heard sermons *about* salvation, but not many OF YOU have ever heard a plain, clear *explanation* of just *what* it is, *why* you need it — and *most* of you have been deceived and unconsciously misled about *how* to obtain it!

The HOLY BIBLE is the only textbook of the TRUE religion of the Creator GOD, as brought and revealed by Jesus Christ. You can prove that! And you can *prove* that the *Holy Bible* is the inspired revelation of the Creator who created this earth and put life upon this earth; who is the very source of life, the Supreme Ruler of the entire universe.

Now the prophecies of the Bible say very plainly that all nations — with their many religions — are today deceived; and that even among professing Christians, it is the *many* who have been deceived — who have turned away from the truth, and accepted fables.

*It's time that we wake up and realize the state of religious affairs in this world today!* It's time to wake up to the fact that pagan doctrines and practices began, even 1900 years ago, creeping into Christianity — and that today most of us have been reared from childhood in the assumption that these pagan

teachings and practices are true, and that they came from the Bible. Most of you have never known any better. *Why should you?* — you haven't taken the trouble to look into the Bible *for yourselves* to see just what it *does* say!

## Only ONE Authority

Now let's see if we can understand plainly and clearly just what are the whys and wherefores of this thing called salvation.

The sole authority on this subject is the Bible. If the professing Christian world has turned from the truth (and remember that the Bible is TRUTH), and if it has turned to beliefs of MEN, then you must *expect* that what you are going to find, in the Bible, will be DIFFERENT from what you have been led to believe the Bible says!

Yes, it's going to be very surprising, so prepare yourself for some surprises — and expect to find something different from what you have believed!

The Apostle Paul, who was the Apostle to the Gentile nations, under inspiration of God, instructed the young evangelist Timothy *how to find* the true way of salvation. You will read of that in II Timothy 3:15-17.

"From a child thou hast known the holy scriptures." The only Scriptures that Timothy had known from a child were those that we call the Old Testament Scriptures. None of the New Testament had been written when Timothy was a child.

"From a child thou hast known the

holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus." Then he continued: "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness."

Before all of the NEW Testament had been written, God inspired Jude to write about SALVATION in Jude 3 and 4:

"Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the common salvation [he was writing about salvation], it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for" — what? "for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares." This was before 90 A.D., before all of the Bible was even written.

Even then there were "certain men crept in unawares, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into lasciviousness [license to do what you please], and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ," turning men away from THE WAY of GOD into the ways that might seem right to men.

Let us go back to the *faith once delivered unto the saints*, for it is only the Holy Scriptures which are able to make us "wise unto salvation." In them, in the Scriptures, we are to find the faith which was once delivered!

All Scripture is INSPIRED of GOD — and is profitable to CORRECT us where we have been in error! So you can expect some correction in what you have believed!

### What Is Salvation?

First, what does this word "SALVATION" mean?

The expression "to be saved" means TWO different things: 1) Deliverance from trouble or danger; deliverance from sin and its consequences, from DEATH. We often hear of the expression "to save someone from a house that is on fire." You would want to be saved, to be rescued from the penalty of sin. 2) Salvation means to *preserve* — to *keep*, i.e., to keep us *alive eternally* by the GIFT of eternal LIFE.

The Holy Scriptures do NOT say that the penalty of sin is to live forever in the torment of a hell fire. No, they say precisely the opposite! You've been taught that the Bible says that the wages of sin is eternal life in hell fire. Romans 6:23 says just the opposite! Notice — this is in your Bible:

"The wages of sin is *death*." That is the wages you're going to collect for sinning. *Death* is the thing that stares *you* in the face, that stares every man in the face.

"But the gift of God is eternal life." You do not now have eternal life abiding within you! It is a free gift of God, and you don't have it unless you obtain it. "The gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."

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**"For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord."**

Romans 6:23

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YOU need deliverance from the eternal DEATH penalty that you already have incurred — from that *everlasting* punishment, which is death, that you have brought on yourself as the *penalty* of violating God's Law. Everyone has sinned and brought that penalty upon himself.

In order to be delivered *from* total and eternal death, in order to *save* your life — that is, to KEEP or to PRESERVE you ALIVE forevermore, and throughout all eternity, you need to receive the gift of eternal life, because *you do not possess it* from natural, human, fleshly birth. It is not inherent in you — and it can COME to you ONLY as a divine GIFT from GOD!

What do you need to be saved FROM? From the *penalty of sin*. To be saved FROM the penalty of sin, *you must stop sinning*.

### What Is SIN?

But how can anyone stop *sinning*, unless he knows *what sin is*? Most people SUPPOSE that sin is doing something that *you think* is wrong — that hurts your *conscience*. Many seem to

think that *sin* is the BEST way to live, but which a harsh and stern God denies us — the forbidden fruit which is really sweeter. They think God isn't quite fair.

All right, now answer this: How many sermons have you ever heard in all of your life, explaining FROM THE BIBLE *what sin IS*? How many sermons have you ever heard giving you the Bible definition, reading right from the Bible, "SIN is . . ." and then giving you the definition of what it is? How many have you ever heard to read, right out of the BIBLE, the BIBLE definition of sin?

Not very many, I'm sure! No, it usually is just taken for granted that everyone automatically KNOWS what sin is — it is almost universally *assumed* that sin is doing what YOU THINK is wrong — or what society or each church denomination says is wrong — or that which troubles your CONSCIENCE! But the Bible says "there is a WAY that seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). Your Bible says that *what seems right to a man is the way that will end in DEATH*; therefore it is the way of sin. What one man THINKS is wrong, another thinks is RIGHT. And what hurts one man's conscience will not disturb another man's conscience at all!

Millions of people today believe that sin is the more DESIRABLE and ENJOYABLE way — the way that is BEST for us, and so they put off turning from sin just as long as possible. They want to ENJOY sin right up to the last minute, and then get in on a deathbed repentance just before they die!

Exactly *what* is sin? Here is *the plain Bible answer*: "SIN is THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW" (1 John 3:4).

Sin is what God, in His Law, says is wrong! Repentance means we quit breaking God's Law!

### Let's Come to UNDERSTANDING!

To understand the plain whys and wherefores of salvation, we need to be corrected, first of all, on two points: 1) that God created man MORTAL, not IMMORTAL, and 2) that God's inexorable spiritual Law is GOOD, and that

*sin is the transgression of that spiritual Law that God set in motion.*

So let's begin now at the very *beginning*. Let's turn, now, to the *Scriptures* that are able to make us wise unto *salvation* — and are profitable to *correct* us! The only Scriptures that Timothy had known from his youth were the Old Testament. So let's turn back to the very first chapter in the Bible, in Genesis, the first chapter. Beginning with the 24th verse:

"And God said, Let the earth bring forth the living creature *after his kind*, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth *after his kind*," that is, they would reproduce *in the same form and shape*, the SAME IMAGE, the same likeness, so that each calf looks just like its mother before it. They reproduce after their kind, the same form, *the same image*, exactly.

"And God said, Let us make *man* in OUR IMAGE."

Here, the word for God is *Elohim*, and it's a uniplural word. This was written, originally by Moses, in the Hebrew tongue thousands of years ago. The word translated into the English word *God* is, in the Hebrew language, *Elohim*. *Elohim* is uniplural. It means *more than one person*. In other words, one family, a *kingdom of persons*; one kingdom, but more than one person. *Only one God, because Elohim is not a person*. GOD IS A KINGDOM! God is a Family!

We have the mineral kingdom and we have the plant kingdom and the animal kingdom. There is an angel kingdom that God created, and then high above all is the *Creating Kingdom*, the GOD KINGDOM.

In the God Family there is the *Father*. Jesus Christ is called the *Son of God*, and *we can become sons of God*. There is a Father and a Son — a family relationship. And so, *God is more than one person*.

### What Is Man?

"And God said, Let us make man in OUR image, *after our likeness*" [the same form and shape], *after OUR kind*. GOD IS REPRODUCING HIMSELF!

That is the very purpose of God, to reproduce Himself. But, what *is* man? And what is man made out of? Let's

read a little further, now, in chapter 2, verse 7 of Genesis:

"And the Lord [Eternal] God formed man of the *dust of the ground*," not out of spirit. He formed man of the dust of the ground. Man is dust. "Unto dust shalt thou return," said God to the first man. "And [He] breathed into his nostrils the breath of life," just as He had done into the nostrils of animals. Man, too, became a living soul; not that man *has* an immortal soul, but *he became* a living soul.

The Hebrew word for "soul" is *nephesh*. It means "the life of animals, animal life, mortal life that is certain to die." That is the meaning as Moses wrote that word.

So man has NO IMMORTALITY. Man was made flesh and blood — the same as ANIMALS, and he is considered to be in the animal kingdom, mortal, subject to death.

BUT — since God is reproducing Himself, man can be *born* of God — *born* of the SPIRIT of God. Now Adam could have been begotten of God so that he could have been born of God. You will read in Genesis 2:8, 9:

"And the Eternal God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Eternal God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight, and good for food; the tree of *life* also in the midst of the garden." There was the tree that would have given the man immortality. He didn't have immortality, but it was made available in this garden through the tree of life. There was also another tree, the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

The Spirit of God was AVAILABLE through that tree of life. It was offered to Adam. God *freely* gave it to him so that he would be begotten as a child of God, but now notice verses 15 through 17:

"And the Eternal God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it. And the Eternal God commanded the man, saying, Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat." That included this tree of life and immortality. "But of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou

shalt not eat of it: for in the day that thou eatest thereof *thou shalt surely die*."

### Man Must CHOOSE

Man possessed FREE MORAL AGENCY. God made man a FREE MORAL AGENT. Man had to CHOOSE. The very fact that God said, "in the day that thou eatest thereof" — the very thing God condemned and forbade him to partake of — means that God allowed him to do it.

God said later to His people, "I have set before you life and death," the right way of living, and the wrong way, "blessings and curses." He said to man, "CHOOSE!" He commanded the man to choose the right way, but He allows man to choose disobedience and the wrong way. That's what God allows, and that is precisely what man has chosen.

God is the Supreme Ruler! God has decreed, as the Supreme Ruler, that man must CHOOSE. Man must make his own choice whether to *obey* God, whether to OBEY the laws that God set in motion, or whether to DISOBEY.

God is the Creator, not only of the LIFE of man and animals, but God is the Creator of force, and of energy and of every LAW that exists.

### God's Spiritual Law

God also set *spiritual laws* in motion that regulate man's happiness, that regulate man's relationship with his Maker, with his Creator, and with his neighbors. That Law was given in LOVE, and that Law is LOVE. It's the very essence of love. It is the very principle of God's nature. It is love toward God, so that we can have the blessings of God, and the things that we need to receive from God. It is love toward our neighbor so we'll be kept in a right relationship with our neighbors, and have peace and be happy.

That's the law that God commanded man to obey. And when man breaks that law, man brings heartaches and headaches, and he brings every kind of wretchedness and unhappiness that this world has reaped because of its disobedience to God.

Adam chose *disobedience*. Mankind

ever since has chosen DISOBEDIENCE. Adam, our first parent, the first created man, was driven out of the garden of Eden *and away from access to that tree of life*. Now turn to Genesis 3:22:

"And the Eternal God said, Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, LEST he put forth his hand, *and take also of the tree of life, and eat, AND LIVE FOR EVER . . .*" If man had taken of that tree, he would have lived forever, "therefore the Eternal God sent him forth from the garden of Eden, to till the ground from whence he was taken. So he drove out the man; and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden Cherubims, and a flaming sword which turned every way." Why?

"To keep the way of the tree of life" — *lest he go back and gain immortality*. The man did not have immortality. He did not have eternal life. He was born subject to death. God said that when he took of that wrong tree, he would die; *and men have been dying ever since*.

### World Is Cut off From God

From that very minute *mortal* man was *cut off* from contact with God! He was cut off from access to the Spirit of God and the gift of eternal life!

God imparted precious and sacred *knowledge* to the first man, knowledge of what man is, knowledge of God and contact with the Creator. But observe. Man rejected God's *knowledge* — and God *allowed* man to go his *own* way. He has been allowing it ever since.

God set apart 6,000 years for man to go his own way. That 6,000 years is just about up! But we're still rebelling against God, and the way of God, and the way that would bring us peace, happiness, joy, and everything that the human heart really wants and desires.

Later, humans multiplied and they spread out into different nations — cut off from God and from knowledge about the possibility of eternal life. Man then began to evolve *his own* religions, his own ideas. Man evolved and set in motion his own pattern of society — and his own kinds of governments — all cut off from God! Man set up ways on this earth and a civilization diametrically contrary to the

ways of God — ways that would have brought peace to the world and happiness and prosperity to all of the individuals in the world.

You people in the many different nations reading TOMORROW'S WORLD — you, too, are the children of this first man and this first woman, no matter what your nationality or your race. You, too, are mortal humans that were put here on this earth by the one Creator-God. You, too, were born *cut off* from God and from the *truth* about life, *cut off* from the way to peace, the way to happiness and the *gift* of eternal life.

About 4,000 years after Adam, God sent His own begotten son, begotten by God as a human son, born of the virgin Mary. This Son of God was also a son of man, because He was born of a human woman. Jesus Christ was human. But Jesus had within Him that which Adam had REJECTED, and had been separated from — the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD!

### What Is the Holy Spirit?

WHAT is this Holy Spirit that comes from God?

It is the very SPIRIT — the very LIFE — the very essence, of GOD the CREATOR! God, according to John 4:24, *is* a SPIRIT, but man is mortal. Man is flesh. God is composed of spirit. Spirit is not like matter. Man is composed of matter. Matter occupies a definite amount of physical space, and has weight. But God's spirit emanates from Him, like the air — like space. It is force, it is power, it is life, it is character! When God's Spirit emanating from the very PERSON of God enters into a man, it IMPREGNATES that man with the very LIFE of GOD — it plants within that man or woman the divine *nature* of God, to develop the very *character* of God, until we, through His Spirit, become LIKE God — until we think as God thinks — until we see things with the same attitude as God sees them, and we act as God acts.

### Christ Died in Your Stead

Jesus Christ HAD the Spirit of the living GOD! *And Jesus Christ was wholly OBEDIENT to the inexorable SPIRITUAL*

*LAWS that God had set in motion*. These laws are spiritual PRINCIPLES which regulate man's relationships and his happiness! Never once did Jesus Christ disobey, though He was tempted in every way as you and I. Never once did He sin — that is, never once did He transgress God's spiritual Law. Never did He bring the penalty — *eternal death* — upon Himself.

Therefore, He was able to take on Himself *your* penalty and to *pay it in your stead!*

Jesus Christ had received the gift of eternal life from God the FATHER! He did not *have* to die because of any penalty that He had incurred or brought on Himself. But because He loved *all* mankind — because of His great love for YOU, even before you were born — He GAVE His life for YOU. He permitted misguided men to nail Him to a cross — to pierce His side. He bled to death — dying IN YOUR STEAD, that by HIS SHED BLOOD ON THE CROSS, *your* transgressions of the LAWS OF GOD might be FORGIVEN! Jesus Christ had to die because you have transgressed the laws of God.

### How to Be Saved

Consequently, if and when you come to realize that sin is WRONG — and that God's laws are RIGHT and for *your* GOOD — and to REPENT of your disobedience of the Supreme CREATOR GOD — to fully SURRENDER to Him, and henceforth to be OBEDIENT to Him and to His laws, *then* you may in living FAITH *accept* Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour from your own folly — and by *your faith* in His blood and His resurrection, your guilty past is forgiven. The penalty that you have incurred is paid in full by your Saviour, Jesus Christ.

You are then *justified* of your guilty past, and since there is no longer any disobedience to cut you off from God, you are reconciled to God the Creator. *Contact* with Him is established and thereupon God has PROMISED *you the gift of His Holy Spirit*. He has promised that He will implant within YOUR MIND His Spirit — His LIFE — His NATURE — His ATTITUDE — His very CHARACTER!

By the very essence of the Holy Spirit



of God you then become a BEGOTTEN CHILD of the living Creator GOD!

Even then, you are still human. You still have your old human nature, also, and it will strive against this new nature of GOD which He has now implanted within you. You're not yet perfect as God is perfect.

You are now only prepared to start to live a NEW life of GROWING spiritually — of DEVELOPING the very character of God — of *resisting* all the desires and impulses of the flesh, which your newly SPIRIT-led mind will reveal to you are wrong and in disobedience of the laws of GOD.

You now start a life of growing daily into closer contact with God through daily PRAYER to Him — and through daily BIBLE STUDY of His inspired revelation of knowledge and of truth, the Holy Bible. You will encounter troubles, problems, trials and tests to try you, to develop CHARACTER within you.

But now you will be close to GOD — and you can take all of these troubles to Him in prayer — and He will give you wisdom to know what to do — He will even change circumstances to bring you out of them. He will give you strength and power for deliverance and for mastery.

Mortal man — cut off from God and the KNOWLEDGE that only God can reveal — has created his own religions, in which he has tried to assure himself that he already has immortality. Men, separated from the real truth which only GOD can reveal, originated the false idea of the immortality of the soul. *There is no such idea to be found anywhere in the one Book through which God Almighty reveals the truth to mankind!*

Man is MORTAL — and the most certain thing in mortal life is that we shall DIE — *unless* we turn to GOD, repent of transgressing HIS ways of life, surrender unconditionally to Him, accept Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, and gain contact with God the Father through Him!

Now, how are we to be saved?

### KEEP The Commandments!

A young man came to Jesus and said, "What good thing shall I do, that I

may have eternal life?" And Jesus said, "If thou wilt enter into life," if you want to inherit eternal life, "*keep the commandments*" (Matt. 19:16-17).

Peter said that the way is first to REPENT, AND THEN BE BAPTIZED, signifying faith in Christ. Baptism is the outward expression of that inner faith in Jesus Christ for the remission of sins. After baptism you are promised that you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38).

Romans 8:11 promises that if the Holy Spirit dwells in you, God the Father, who raised up Christ from the dead, will also immortalize, or make immortal your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwells in you.

### "If thou wilt enter into life keep the commandments."

Matthew 19:16-17

Turn now to I John 3:1, 2: "Behold, what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called *the sons of God*: therefore the world knoweth us not, because it knew him not." This is speaking of real Christians. "Beloved, *now* are we the sons of God," yes, already begotten as sons of God when we receive His Spirit, "and *it doth not yet appear what we shall be*: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is."

Do you know that Jesus Christ is now glorified in heaven as very God? His face shines like the sun in full strength. His eyes like flames of fire. We are to be like Him. "Our vile body [is to be] fashioned like unto his glorious body" — to be glorified fully with Him, to enter into the God family, the very Family of God, the Kingdom of God, and be born by a resurrection into that Kingdom (Phil. 3:21). That is what salvation means. That is how you get it.

These are the plain WHYS and WHEREFORES OF SALVATION.

### Personal Counsel

If YOU are ready to really REPENT of your disobedience to GOD — to HIS SPIRITUAL LAW; if you are now ready

to SURRENDER YOUR WILL to God, and you want to become one of HIS CHILDREN — if you are now ready to accept Jesus Christ as your personal Saviour in real living FAITH and live a life of OBE- DIENCE, write and tell me. We have dedicated, consecrated, converted, fully instructed and trained, ordained MINIS- TERS in all parts of the world — available to call on you, visit you in your home, answer your ques- tions, explain the Bible to you — IF YOU REQUEST IT! But none of them will EVER call on you, unless YOU of your own free will request it! Paul had visited the elders (ministers) at Eph- esus from house to house — BUT, regarding the general public, Jesus said, "Go NOT from house to house" (Luke 10:7).

Neither Jesus, nor Peter, nor Paul, nor any of the original true apostles ever approached people and personally URGED conversion on them. God has made every human a FREE MORAL AGENT. God compels each to MAKE HIS OWN DECISION, *and the true GOD* will never force you to be converted.

But if you, of your own volition, want to know MORE about the Bible — if you'd like to ask questions about it, why not write to the Editor and request a personal visit? We may be able to have one of God's own ministers call on you quite soon. And let me sug- gest that you jot down on paper the questions you are going to want to ask. I've learned, personally, by more than 43 years' experience, that you'll forget them unless you do.

Hundreds and hundreds — yes, thou- sands upon thousands — are being *con- verted* — their lives CHANGED — by this WORK OF GOD, through *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast world- wide, through *The PLAIN TRUTH*, the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, through this magazine, TOMOR- ROW'S WORLD, and other vital free literature we send upon request.

But if you have any questions about the Bible, or the Christian LIFE, write me. I cannot call and visit with you personally any more (as I used to do and wish I still could), but God has now given me many truly called and chosen men who CAN. □

# "Man shall not live by bread alone"

**May 10, 1942, DAVAO, MINDANAO: The Imperial Japanese Army captured the Fifth Air Base Group of the U. S. Air Force and interned them at Davao. During the next two years the average American prisoner of war at Davao lost 80 pounds on a starvation diet of white rice — his every thought was about the food he was going to eat once the war was over.**

ONE of the most terrible experiences a man can endure began innocently enough on the evening of June 5, 1944, when the Japanese Command unexpectedly gave us our hearts' desire — large quantities of sweet potatoes and soybeans.

"We have decided you can eat as much as you want tonight, for tomorrow we are going to put you on a boat for Japan. We want you to leave happy!"

Our last night at Davao was the happiest night of our entire three and one-half years of captivity. I can still remember the joy we felt as we sat around all night eating, and eating, and eating — laughing and talking and joking, and eating.

We were happy even though our stomachs were not used to such large amounts of food, even though we threw up what we ate almost as fast as we gulped it down. This was the first time in over two years we were able to eat all we wanted. It was so much fun to eat, we kept coming back, again and again for more. We didn't stop gorging ourselves until about 11 o'clock the next morning when we were loaded into trucks, hauled to the harbor at Davao and ordered aboard an old freighter loaded with salt.

For some reason the Japanese officer in charge of the boat decided that he would not give us any water that day. In no time at all, in the steamy heat of the tropics, we became frantic with thirst. There were very few of us who didn't comment, "Man, it's even worse to be thirsty than it is to be hungry."

We were soon to discover there is an

agony far more terrifying than the agony of hunger and thirst.

Shortly after dark an American officer dove overboard into the South China Sea — miles from shore, into shark-infested waters, in a desperate effort to escape.

No sooner had Col. McGee hit the water than the Japanese forced us — at bayonet point — down below the decks into a small dark hold where there was barely standing room.

In a matter of minutes many of us began to see the magnitude of the mistake we made the night before in gorging ourselves with sweet potatoes and soybeans. By now, most of us had violent, vicious, convulsive cases of vomiting and diarrhea.

To make matters worse, the Japanese Command refused to let us have toilet facilities, no, not even so much as a bucket. The stench was nauseating.

Then to our horror, our captors put a wooden cover over the hatch and covered it with a tarpaulin. They even closed the door that led down the gangway into the hold and stuffed paper into the crack under the door.

Without a source of fresh air, the room temperature rose higher and higher. A thermometer one of the officers carried broke at 120.

Gasping for breath in the airtight room, I suddenly realized that I could be hungry — that I could be thirsty — yet still live.

But as men around me began to die and my life seemed to be ebbing away, I saw that I couldn't live without air. It became painfully obvious that it is far worse to be without air than it is

to be without both food and water.

I prayed desperately, perhaps for the first time in my life, "Oh God, just give me a breath of fresh air, and I'll never complain again — no, never!" Just when I thought we were *all* going to die, the Japanese lifted the cover off the hatch and let us live.

Somehow I continued to survive crisis after crisis until September 6, 1945, when we were rescued by the American Air Force and taken back to the States.

Once back home I ate all the food I could hold, drank all the water I wanted, and breathed all the fresh air I needed.

While a prisoner I thought, "Just give me food, water and air, that's all I'll ask out of life." Yet once I made it back to the States, I soon ate my fill of food and water — I now wanted a family, a position and security.

I went after what I wanted and got it! Life came back to normal.

What more could a man want out of life than three square meals a day! A home. A wife. A family. A good job. I had it all!

Still I wasn't satisfied. There was something more that I wanted out of life. I didn't know what it was. I kept searching for the unknown.

One evening I accidentally heard *The World Tomorrow* broadcast.

In the weeks and months that followed, I listened to the broadcast and I checked every word in each piece of Ambassador College literature sent to me. The answer became apparent. I knew I had found what I had been searching for. I knew I had found *the way* of life.

The full abundant life — much more than the food, water and air I had been longing for while a prisoner.

I came to understand that man needs, in addition to food, water and air, a direct contact with his Creator.

This direct contact with God shows us the way to a happy abundant life. And that *is* the purpose of *this* Work: to show you how to have that contact with your Creator so you too can know that "...man doth not live by bread only, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of the Lord doth man live" (Deut. 8:3).

# THE HOLY LAND—

## *Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*

*The Holy Land of Jesus' time was totally unlike what people imagine it to have been. And it was far from being a backward country full of itinerant shepherds and oriental casbahs. It was a land of wealth and beauty — one of the greatest exponents of Greek culture in the ancient world. Yet all of its present and former glory fades into obscurity in the light of the prophesied preeminence the Holy Land is to have in God's Kingdom — soon to come!*

by Ernest L. Martin

### Jerusalem

**T**ODAY the land of Israel is often described as a land of contrasts.

Major cities rise on what were formerly just sand dunes. Where there was once desert or swamp, one sees thriving farms today. But why the desert and swamp to begin with? Was this not the "land of milk and honey"?

Today one is still staggered by the

denuded slopes of the central mountain chain — they are treeless and so dry. Has it always been this way? What had happened to this land which was once the envy of the world? What was it like in the time of Christ?

Most of us have associated this ancient area with camels, donkeys and people dressed in Bedouin garb. But this is nothing like it formerly was. Eye-

witness reports give us an astonishingly different description.

The most important witness was Josephus, the Jewish historian who lived in the first century. Williamson — who has given us one of the finest translations of Josephus — graphically sums up his overall description. He notes how Josephus brings "before our eyes the cities, palaces, and temples



which filled this little land *with beauty* and made it *one of the greatest creations of Hellenism, as different as could be imagined from the Palestine of our Sunday School memories . . . a country filled with such a wealth of architectural and artistic splendor as has perhaps never been elsewhere since the world began, and [subsequently] reduced by crimes and follies to a desert, a mass of shapeless ruins"* (Introduction, Penguin Ed.).

These two statements of Josephus' translator begin to tell us how the Holy Land really was. It was nothing like it is today!

### Herod the Great — Builder Extraordinary

The building up of this area, making it one of the most prosperous areas in the world, was started two centuries before Christ. But the greatest activity came in the time of Herod the Great. We need to recognize the cultural advances implemented by Herod and his successors. They made this country into a showplace of Greek culture and Hellenistic splendor which turned it into a prime example of classical grandeur in the first century.

Herod's accomplishments occurred just before the birth of Christ. The darker side of his life has been adequately penned by Josephus and the Gospel writers. Yet there was a trait in Herod's character which may, in one way, allow the historian to give him his common title, "the Great." The reason? He was one of the most *prodigious builders of all time. His structures were never ordinary in size or common in esthetic values. No one could match Herod in his lavish outlays of resources for the building of whole cities, temples, harbors, theaters, amphitheaters, hippodromes, palaces, as well as parks, gardens, roads, etc. Not only did his building enterprises extend through his own territory, but his generosity spread throughout the Eastern Roman Empire. What he created in the three decades of his rule was such a prosperous kingdom that "its external splendour recalled the traditional magnificence of Solomon"* (McClintock and Strong, *Cyclopaedia of*

*Biblical, Theological and Ecclesiastical Literature*, Vol. IV, art. "Herod").

What a comparison! Herod's kingdom became much like Solomon's in its riches. But where did his wealth come from? Could the land of Herod and his surrounding domains support such extravagant building expenditures? The answer is most decidedly YES! This land was different in those days. The whole area was very prosperous.

### Josephus Describes Galilee, Samaria, Judaea

Speaking of the land in general, Josephus relates that the fruitfulness of

thanks to *the natural abundance* the innumerable villages are so densely populated that the smallest has more than 15,000 inhabitants (Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, III, 3, 2).

What about Judaea and Samaria in the southern and central regions? The hillsides were not like the barren, treeless, arid landscapes that we see in many parts today. Josephus tells us that both Judaea and Samaria

*...are made up of hills and plains, with soil easily worked and repaying cultivation. They are well wooded and prolific in fruit, both wild and cultivated; for nowhere is the soil arid by nature and rain is generally ample. All their streams are remarkably sweet, and lush grass is so plentiful that the*



Ambassador College Photo

A view of the Sea of Galilee from its surrounding hills — green and productive as in the days of Josephus.

the land made it like "a garden of God in which there grow the most precious and most beautiful trees in amazing variety."

Of Galilee in particular — the northern region of the Holy Land where Christ had His home and where He conducted most of His ministry — Josephus states:

The whole area is excellent for crops or cattle and rich in forests of every kind, so that by its adaptability it invites even those least inclined to work on the land. Consequently every inch has been cultivated by the inhabitants and not a corner goes to waste. It is thickly studded with towns, and

milk-yield of their cows is exceptionally heavy. The final proof of their outstanding productivity is the swarming populations of Judaea and Samaria (*ibid.*, para. 4).

Where did Herod get his abundance of wealth which became proverbial throughout the Roman world? It came from the land and from the productive people that lived on it. In the time of Christ, it was one of the wealthiest areas in the whole Roman Empire! All people of the time knew it. Josephus admitted that "of all the cities under Roman rule, our own

(Text Continued on Page 12)





# It happened in Jerusalem 70 A.D.

**W**HEN JESUS looked out over Jerusalem, He wept (Luke 19:41). Why this outburst of emotion?

It was not merely the realization that the city would soon be destroyed in a devastating war (verse 43, 44). It was concern over what the populace of that glittering metropolis was doing to itself to bring that devastation about.

Precisely the same human nature — the same vicious attitude of mind — which was (and *is*) extant all over the world was then being unleashed in Jerusalem. And the people there could no more resist it than could any other people in any other city at any other time.

Outwardly the Jerusalem known by Jesus had reached the pinnacle of grandeur, wealth and architectural achievement. But under the surface were vices only too familiar to the urban America of 1970.

The country was wealthy, and the stakes were high enough that politicians surrendered to the dictates of greed. Herod's descendants pitted themselves against one another in a fratricidal power struggle that eroded all respect for royal authority. Successive Roman governors sent to administer the province of Judaea became bolder and bolder in their quest for personal power and wealth. Florus, under whom the Jewish War broke out, surpassed all his predecessors in out-and-out legal brigandage. This governor, Josephus relates,

Stripped whole cities, ruined complete communities, and virtually announced to the entire country that everyone might be a bandit if he chose, so long as {Florus} himself received a rake-off (*The Jewish War*, translated by G. A. Williamson, II. 14.2).

In Jerusalem the people courageously sought to break the bonds of Roman oppression. And they quite understandably became desperate. Young hotheads grew restless. Rioting became a favorite pastime. In fact, unscrupulous government and civic leaders found it convenient to cover up their own crimes by inciting the mobs of the city to riot.

The favorite scene for mob confrontations and riots was Jerusalem's splendid Temple of God, where hundreds of thousands of worshippers congregated on religious festivals. It was, in fact, on the festivals — Days of Unleavened Bread, Pentecost, Feast of Tabernacles — that civil strife reached its zenith (*Wars*, II.1.3; II.3.1). Violence finally became so common that armed guards were posted on permanent duty in the Temple during feasts "to forestall any rioting by the vast crowds" (*ibid.*, II.12.1).

Even so, political, religious and professional agitators, gang leaders and revolutionaries still did their part. Oftentimes, the frustrated passions of an oppressed people became vented in a tragically self-destructive manner. To modern-day Americans these mob scenes would have a familiar ring.

But in the afternoon a number of men with revolutionary ideas collected, and began lamentations {complaints} of their own... piercing wails, weeping in chorus, and beating of breasts, that resounded throughout the whole city (*ibid.*, II.1.2).

Just to test the government's sincerity, the mob began to make large demands: tax reduction, abolition of sales tax, and release of prisoners.

In short, the Jerusalem of the first century A.D. enjoyed all the fruits of an intricate multifaceted urban civilization with which we are becoming too painfully familiar in our own day. There was violence, crime, racial conflicts among Samaritans, Jews and Greeks, arson, looting of stores and burning of credit records, raiding of armories, gang warfare and political assassination.

Unscrupulous rulers blamed the riotous mobs in order to divert attention from their own crimes.

Finally,

The revolutionary party in Jerusalem cast off all restraint... Every scoundrel, surrounded by his own gang, stood out from his followers like a bandit chief or dictator and used his henchmen to rob respectable citizens (*ibid.*, II.14.1).

The end of this spree of licentious prosperity was the War of 66-70 A.D. Jerusalem was destroyed and the land of Judaea turned into a wilderness. As Josephus commented,

Of all the cities under Roman rule our own reached the highest summit of prosperity, and in turn fell into the lowest depths of misery... and for our misfortunes we have only ourselves to blame (*ibid.*, pref., 4).

And what occurred in Jerusalem more than 1900 years ago has a particular significance for today. Not for the Jerusalem of today. But rather for the urban areas of the United States and British Commonwealth. In a direct prophecy to these peoples, the Prophet Ezekiel wrote, "The land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (Ezek. 7:23).

Especially American cities. But how many of us weep over America the way Jesus wept over Jerusalem?

G. Freibergs

[Jerusalem] reached the highest summit of prosperity" (*Wars of the Jews*, Preface, 4).

It can easily be demonstrated why it became so prosperous. Other areas of the Roman Empire (other than certain regions of Asia Minor, Syria and Egypt) were no match for wealth. Vast tracts in Italy — the very heartland of the Empire — were veritable wastelands created by the Hannibalic, Social and Civil Wars. Greece was in shambles — not even a facade of its former self. Spain and Gaul were undeveloped. It was the East that carried the financial burden of the Empire, and proportionately it was the Herodian region that led most others. Even Titus, the later Roman Emperor, stated that the land of Herod "had become richer than Rome itself" (Josephus, *Wars of the Jews*, VII, 1, 2).

### The Building Projects of Herod

Herod was a great Hellenist — a great exponent of classical Greek culture. His buildings had the stamp of classical Greece all over them. The cities he built were not like the typical ones found in the Middle East today. They were thoroughly "Greek" with many special embellishments created by Herod himself. The guiding principle which motivated Herod and his architects was to make things bigger and better than any other in existence. Splendor was the keynote.

One of his monumental buildings, which the people of the Roman world admitted to be the most impressive structure on earth, was the Temple which Herod rebuilt on Mount Moriah in Jerusalem. With all its magnificence, scope, grandeur — gold, rare woods, lavish marble decorations and colossal walls — no building of the twentieth century could begin to compare with it. Herod built the Temple to be one of his crowning achievements — and so it was. It took over 70 years to complete. But strangely, it was finished about 6 years before it was destroyed by the Romans. All that remains today is some of its platform on which the outer courts of the Temple stood, and part of its walls (the famous western — or "Wailing" Wall).

The Temple was an immense struc-

ture. It was built on a gigantic stone platform with walls on all sides. These surrounding walls were about a mile in length, 200 feet high and in some places 18 feet thick. Josephus said that "the wall was itself the most prodigious work that was ever heard of by man" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XV, 11, 3). Surrounding the Temple enclosure and abutting to the inside of its massive walls was a covered arcade or walkway 45 feet wide and supported by Corinthian columns. Each of the columns — about a thousand in number — was made of single stones, circular in shape, with Corinthian capitals decorated in gold. The ceiling of this arcade was panelled with cedar. "The natural magnificence of it all, the perfect polish, the accurate jointing," said Josephus, "afforded a remarkable spectacle."

But beside the colossal walls and arcade, there was the sanctuary itself near the center of the platform. The sanctuary was made of the finest marble and was the height of a ten-story building. All its gates were covered with gold and its many decorations were of the best workmanship imaginable.

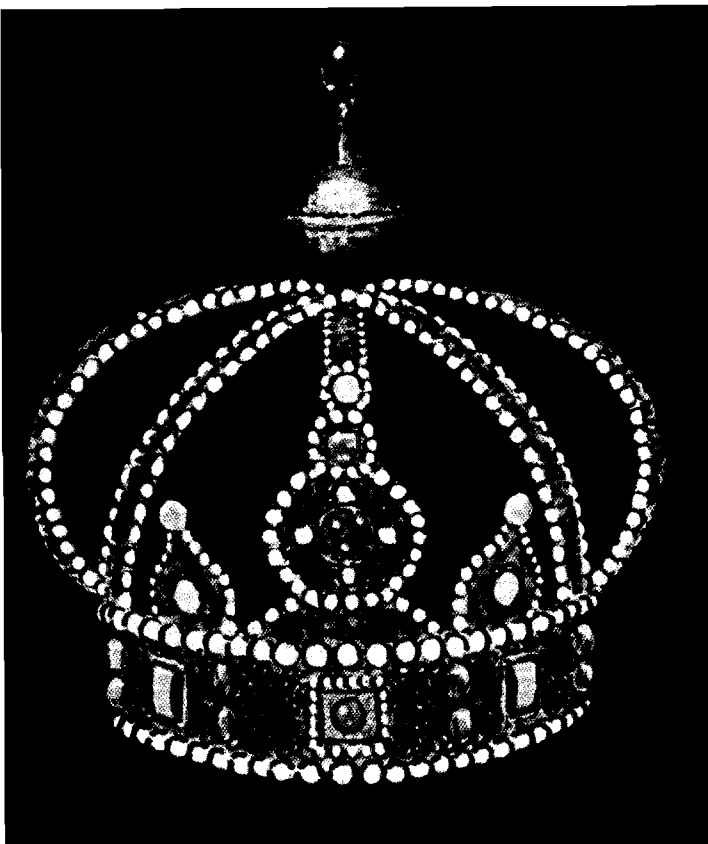
The Sanctuary had everything that could amaze either mind or eyes. Overlaid all around with stout plates of gold, in the first rays of the sun it reflected so fierce a blaze of fire that those who endeavoured to look at it were forced to turn away as if they had looked straight at the sun. To strangers as they approached it seemed in the distance like a mountain covered with snow; for any part not covered with gold was dazzling white (*Wars*, V, 5, 6).

The present archaeological excavation at the southwestern angle of the ancient Temple walls — an excavation sponsored jointly by Hebrew University and Ambassador College (see pictures on page 44) — is uncovering some of the relics associated with this fabulous structure. The archaeologists on the "dig" keep remarking about the sheer majesty and glory of these remains. Herod did nothing in a small way. As an example, the "dig" has been excavating the foundations of piers that supported the largest bridge ever constructed in the Roman Empire — a bridge so enormous that a modern super-highway could be placed on top quite easily. There was certainly nothing common about Herod's building enterprises.

An example of this is another building which almost took the breath away to view it. This was the palace which Herod built for himself in Jerusalem. It was so splendid that Josephus said no tongue could possibly describe it. Leaving aside Herod's own beautiful quarters, this magnificent palace contained immense banqueting halls and quite a number of guestrooms, each having spaces for 100 beds. All the stones of the floors were of different colors — stones that everywhere else were looked on as rare were found in Herod's palace in great profusion. No two of the many rooms were designed alike, and they were all luxuriously furnished mostly with gold and silver. And adjacent to the many rooms were open spaces of green lawns surrounded by columned arcades. There were all kinds of trees along the walkways and these were flanked by watercourses and pools adorned with bronze statues through which water poured out. Josephus said this palace was so wonderful that it almost made the Temple itself seem insignificant.

But there were many marvellous structures that made Jerusalem one of the most beautiful cities on earth — buildings which put ancient Athens, Rome and Alexandria in the shade. Right next to the Temple, Herod built one of the largest citadels in the East. It was described as being more like a sumptuous castle or palace than a fortress. Then there was the amphitheater, which looked much like the later colosseum built in Rome. To this amphitheater were brought many wild animals, great quantities of lions, and other beasts which were rarely seen in the Roman Empire. These beasts fought either one another or men in gladiatorial fights. Herod also built in Jerusalem a Greek theater as well as a hippodrome (where chariot and horse races, gymnastics and athletic events were held in imitation of the Olympic Games). Besides all this and numerous other buildings of elegance, there were public parks, many fountains, pools and extensive gardens found throughout Jerusalem.

On the cultural side, Herod surrounded himself with a circle of men  
(Continued on page 43)



Ambassador College Art

# *Just What Is the* **KINGDOM OF GOD ?**

**Is the Church the Kingdom of God? Is the Kingdom merely an emotional feeling inside your heart? Here is the Bible answer — God's answer — made plain!**

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**P**ERHAPS no subject excites more curiosity — and creates more *confusion* than that of the "Kingdom of God."

Many *differing* ideas have been taught concerning God's kingdom.

Here is an example:

"By Christians everywhere working together to bring peace, tolerance, and brotherly love, the *kingdom of God* may at last be established in the hearts of all mankind." Have you heard this kind of talk?

Probably you have, because these vague, spiritual-sounding ideas about the kingdom of God are widespread.

Is the kingdom of God something *you* can *really* understand? Or must it remain buried in a mire of nebulous, spiritual-sounding phraseology, or couched in vague, hazy theories about physical empires or churches?

*How can you KNOW what it is?*

Jude exhorts every one who earnestly

desires the real, *plain truth* that, "It was needful for me to write unto you, and *exhort* you that you should *earnestly contend* for the faith which was ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS" (Jude 3).

The kingdom of God cannot be understood by laboratory tests, nor through the physical sciences! *Neither can it be understood by reading the writings of men about the Bible*, or listening to the vague *ideas* of mere men!

WHAT ABOUT IT? Do you really know what the BIBLE says about the kingdom of God, or have *you*, like thousands of others, just *taken for granted* what is taught today? Most of you have been hearing a vague, sentimental gospel which DENIES the message Jesus Christ brought from the Father about a soon-coming *world-ruling* kingdom — the *kingdom of God*!

Let's begin *getting back* to the faith ONCE delivered! Let's *search the Scriptures* and PROVE all things!

## What Is a Kingdom?

The same people who just glibly accept nebulous ideas about the actual kingdom of God *all know* what is meant when one speaks of, for example, "the United Kingdom." We immediately visualize Great Britain — a literal, actual *government* of one of this world's great nations. Is Great Britain REAL? Is it something that is just "set up in your heart," or some hazy, unrealistic "spiritual" term?

OF COURSE NOT!

*And neither is the kingdom — THE GOVERNMENT — of God a hazy, unrealistic spiritual term!*

Primarily, *any* kingdom is a GOVERNMENT — a nation and the government which rules it. And especially in this Biblical sense, there is the DUAL meaning of the nation, or that which is governed — the citizens or subjects — and the GOVERNMENT *by which the citizens are ruled*! Often, in the Bible usage, a Kingdom is a *family* from a single parent grown into a NATION.

Four things are necessary to constitute a KINGDOM: 1) the *territory*, with its specific location and definite boundary lines, of 2) a KING or



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supreme ruler or governing agent, ruling over 3) SUBJECTS or citizens *within* that territorial jurisdiction, with 4) LAWS and a form of GOVERNMENT. If we leave out *any* of these vital requisites, we do not have, and cannot believe, the true gospel for this time!

### The Territory of the Kingdom

Let's go through the subject step by step, point by point, proving the *truth* from the Bible, and not carelessly assuming what *seems* to be acceptable.

Any kingdom, as has already been explained, *must* occupy a certain given TERRITORY. It must *govern* its subjects within a marked boundary which constitutes the *limits* of that kingdom.

Many try to "spiritualize away" the real meaning of the kingdom of God — *in spite* of the gripping fact of the chaotic times in which we live, and of the prophesied doom of this present world by God's intervention in human affairs! The "kingdom of God" is used as a sort of catch-all phrase to define the state of idealism which men hope to attain some day *through their own efforts*. Many believe that the churches will someday "evangelize" the entire world, or will unite into a common group — and *this*, they feel, would become the "kingdom of God."

ALL OF THESE CONCEPTIONS DEPEND UPON MAN'S INGENUITY!

Luke writes: "The law and the prophets were until John: since that time the *kingdom of God* is preached"

The kingdom of God is not the British Empire. But the kingdom of God in Tomorrow's World will be like kingdoms in today's world — in that both have a territory, a king, subjects and laws. Seen above is the investiture of Prince Charles in July of 1969.

(Luke 16:16). The Gospel Christ brought as a messenger from God the Father was the message of the coming KINGDOM (*government — rule*) of God! (John 14:24.)

WHERE did Christ say this kingdom would *be*?

Jesus likened himself to a certain nobleman who went into a far country to RECEIVE for himself a kingdom and to return (Luke 19:12). He very plainly told His disciples He would COME AGAIN, "...that where I am, there ye may be also" (John 14:3). Where is Christ going to be? Notice Acts 1:10-11. The angels said to the disciples, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? *this same Jesus*, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come* in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven."

Jesus Christ is going to return — LITERALLY — TO THIS EARTH!

The Prophet Daniel writes of the *stone* (Christ) which was cut out without hands, and smote the image (which represents the four successive world-dominating kingdoms down through history) upon the feet. The *feet* were representing the *last* world-ruling kingdom to exist, at which time Jesus Christ is to RETURN to this earth! "...and the

stone that smote the image became a great MOUNTAIN, and filled the whole earth"! (Dan. 2:35.)

God speaks of a *kingdom* as a MOUNTAIN in the Bible. Notice Micah 4:1.

God's kingdom, God's NATION, will finally *fill the whole earth*! This stands *proved* — *your Bible* says so!

### Christ's Return to Earth

When Jesus Christ comes to this earth, He will bring His reward *with* Him (Rev. 22:12), and will render to every man according to his works! Many cite I Thes. 4:16-17 to infer the elect shall *return to heaven* with Christ. Notice, "For the Lord himself shall DESCEND [*come down*] FROM heaven... and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them..." WHERE? Into heaven? No! NOTICE: "...*in the clouds*, to meet the Lord *IN THE AIR*: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." He is coming with CLOUDS (Rev. 1:7). Clouds, the AIR, are physical earthly compositions of certain gases and vapors. They are a PART of *this earth's atmosphere*!

The Bible tells us what takes place immediately *after* Christ gathers His elect, "And his feet shall stand IN



THAT DAY upon the mount of Olives..." (Zech. 14:4).

If a friend of yours is *coming* to your home, and you go out to MEET that person, wouldn't it be STRANGE if you were to then accompany that friend *back where he came from*? Of course it would! When you go to MEET someone, you accompany him back to his destination — *your home*! The elect will MEET Christ in the AIR (this earth's atmosphere) and then accompany Him TO the Mount of Olives!

Is that not enough proof? Notice Rev. 20:4, "and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years..." Wherever Christ is — there are the saints also, living and *reigning*, GOVERNING, *with* Christ for a thousand years! "And we shall reign ON THE EARTH" (Rev. 5:10).

"But in the LAST DAYS it shall come to pass, that the *mountain of the house of the Lord* [Eternal] shall be established in the *top* of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and *people* shall flow unto it.

"And many *nations* shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob... And the Lord [Eternal] shall *reign* OVER them, IN MOUNT ZION from henceforth, even for ever" (Micah 4:1-2, 7).

God's kingdom is going to be set up, LITERALLY, *on this earth*! Jesus Christ is going to return, LITERALLY, *to this earth*!

This EARTH is the TERRITORY that will be occupied by the kingdom of God!

### Its King or Supreme Ruler

At Christ's return, He will come as KING OF KINGS, and Lord of Lords, to *put down* the stiff-necked rebellion of sinning mankind who *want their own way* (Rev. 19:16). Christ said to His disciples, "... ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). Christ came to this earth to QUALIFY as its future ruler, to DEPOSE Satan the Devil by withstanding him in the greatest contest ever fought! Notice Matt. 4:1-11. Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, and Satan played on His *emotions*, on His human nature. Christ WON that great battle! He said:

"GET THEE HENCE, SATAN!" Christ was the One in command, He was the One in authority — and the devil OBEYED that authority!

Jesus, by crying out to God *constantly*, with *tears*, was able to resist the human nature, the desire of the flesh (Heb. 5:7). He was tempted in EVERY POINT like as we are, yet without sin! (Heb. 4:15.)

By living a life of PERFECTION, *without sin*, Christ condemned *sin* in the flesh (Rom. 8:3) and disqualified Satan, the author of sin, or lawbreaking (John 8:44). Christ revealed Satan as the god of THIS WORLD (II Cor. 4:4) who actually has a *kingdom*! (Matt. 12:26.) Satan is the present ruler of *this world*, soon to be *removed* at the literal return of Christ.

Christ triumphed in the great day-to-day BATTLE He fought to become your Saviour and mine! He qualified to become the very One to RULE *this earth*. HE will be the KING of God's coming kingdom (Zech. 14:9).

### Its Subjects or Citizens

Perhaps no other question has excited more controversy and argument than the IDENTITY of those within God's kingdom.

The Prophet Daniel wrote of the time when "... many of them that *sleep* in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt" (Dan. 12:2). Jesus taught His disciples during His earthly ministry of the coming RESURRECTION of the dead! Notice Christ's statements in John 5:28-29. "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the *graves* [dead and buried] shall hear his voice, and shall come forth..." Christ spoke of the RESURRECTION of the dead!

The apostles constantly stressed the RESURRECTION of the dead! When they were preaching in Jerusalem immediately after the Day of Pentecost, the Sadducees were disturbed because "... they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead" (Acts 4:2).

The Apostle Paul, when disputing with the "learned" men of Athens,

"... preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection"! (Acts 17:18.)

Jesus Christ came preaching a message that you and I may be BORN INTO the Kingdom of God! *That rebirth is by a resurrection*! When the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, tried to trick Christ, He revealed the NATURE of those who are raised from the dead by the coming resurrection. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES, nor the power of God. For in the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, *but are as the angels of God in heaven*" (Matt. 22:29, 30).

Angels are SPIRIT BEINGS (Heb. 1:7) and are not capable of marrying or reproducing. That which is *spiritual* is *eternal* — and Christ said WE will be LIKE the angels in the kingdom of God.

### A Rebirth

When Nicodemus came to Christ privately, after dark, Jesus explained the *condition* of those who are finally REBORN into His kingdom. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto you, except a man be BORN AGAIN, *he cannot see the kingdom of God*" (John 3:3). Christ went on to explain: "Except a man be BORN of water and of the SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (verse 5).

Before anyone may enter the kingdom of God, he must be REBORN, of the SPIRIT!

Only one person has been *born* of the spirit at this time!

That One is Christ!

"That which is BORN of the FLESH is FLESH; and that which is BORN of the Spirit is SPIRIT." Many who believe they have had a "born again" experience can perform a simple test to PROVE whether or not they have actually been BORN OF THE SPIRIT! (Verse 6.) Can such persons be SEEN? Are they VISIBLE? Do they still have BLOOD in their veins?

CERTAINLY!

Remember! That which is BORN of the Spirit is — they are literally COMPOSED of — SPIRIT!

But Christians today are still FLESH — BORN OF THE FLESH — FLESHLY, PHYSICAL, *human* BEINGS!

But that which is BORN of the Spirit

will be just as the *wind* is, **INVISIBLE!** Notice verse 8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and thou hearest the sound thereof, but canst not tell whence it cometh, and whither it goeth: *SO* IS EVERY ONE THAT IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT"! They will be **INVISIBLE** to the natural human eye — just as **WIND** is invisible!

The Church is **NOT** the kingdom of God! The British Empire is **NOT** the kingdom of God! "Now this I say, brethren, that **FLESH AND BLOOD cannot inherit** the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption" (I Cor. 15:50). The physical, fleshly people of Great Britain are **HUMAN** beings, and so cannot inherit the kingdom of God so long as they are human! The Church is composed of **HUMAN** beings, and so has not as yet **INHERITED** the kingdom of God!

The kingdom will be composed of those who are **BORN** of God, just as *Christ* was **BORN** of God, either by a *resurrection*, or by an immediate **CHANGE** at the second coming of Christ (I Cor. 15:51-52). They will be no longer human, but now **CHANGED** — transformed **INTO** spirit! Jesus Christ is the *firstborn of many brethren!* (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:18; I Cor. 15:20.)

Those who will be **BORN** of God, who will be finally **CHANGED** into spirit beings, will be a part of the actual *governing agency* — co-rulers *with* Christ (Rev. 20:4). The subjects, or those being governed, will be physical, carnal nations on this earth! Notice again Zech. 14:16-19. God will send *plagues* to chastise those physical, carnal nations who do not want to **OBEY** His immutable laws! The scripture already quoted from Micah the 4th chapter shows God's kingdom which is composed of those who will be **BORN** of God, actually doing the **RULING over** the nations of this earth, who are physical, *human beings!* "And many **NATIONS** shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain [nation, or kingdom] of the Lord..." God shows through Isaiah that the **INHABITANTS**, or the *citizens* of the earth shall be scattered abroad, and, although He will furiously punish the inhabitants of the earth for their sins, there will be a

**FEW MEN LEFT** to repopulate the earth in the 1000 years (Isa. 24:1, 5, 6).

### A Job to Be Done

When God's literal kingdom is established, those who are co-rulers *with* Christ will be instrumental in **TEACHING** all nations the correct **WAY TO LIVE**. Notice Isaiah 2:2-4, "And it shall come to pass *in the last days*, that the mountain [kingdom] of the Lord's [Eternal's] house shall be established in the top of the mountains [earthly kingdoms] and shall be exalted above the hills; and *all nations* shall flow unto it."

"And 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...*" God's government will then be **ENFORCED** on those who still choose to be disobedient! "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."

Whenever physical, sinning people begin to turn out of the **WAY** of God, those who are in the very kingdom of God **WITH** Christ will say, from their **INVISIBLE** vantage point, "**THIS IS THE WAY, WALK YE IN IT**" (Isa. 30:21).

### Laws and a Form of Government

God's kingdom will be a world-ruling governing kingdom, set above the kingdoms of **THIS** earth, judging and carrying out the **RIGHTEOUSNESS** of God! God's government is accomplished through **HIS LAWS!** God *alone* is **LAW-GIVER!** (James 4:12.)

God's immutable laws, summed up in the ten commandments, **STAND FAST for ever and ever!** (Psalms 111:8.) Jesus Christ was a living example of God's laws — and taught that man is to live by "*every word of God*" (Matt. 4:4). Jesus set us the perfect example, that we should follow in His steps (I Peter 2:21).

Since Jesus Christ is the **SAME yesterday, today and forever**, He will be **KEEPING** the Ten Commandments of God within **YOU** and within **ME** just as He kept them within the Apostle Paul!

"I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me...*" (Gal. 2:20).

Paul also wrote that God's law is **SPIRITUAL** (Rom. 7:14). He said that he *served* the law of God with his mind, with his volition, his will-power! (Rom. 7:25.) When a young man came to Jesus Christ and asked Him the way to eternal life, Christ turned to him and said, "**KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS!**" (Matt. 19:17.)

The only ones who will finally *inherit* eternal life, who will be **BORN** of God, are those that have a contrite spirit, and **TREMBLE** at God's Word! (Isa. 66:2.) The keynote of the entire Bible from cover to cover is **OBEDIENCE** to God's laws! God's method of governing is through His perfect laws, which express, in the first four points, **HOW** to love God — and in the last six, **HOW** to love your neighbor! John tells us if we **PROFESS** we *know Christ*, and yet do not **KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS**, we are **LIARS**, and the truth is not **IN** us! (I John 2:4.)

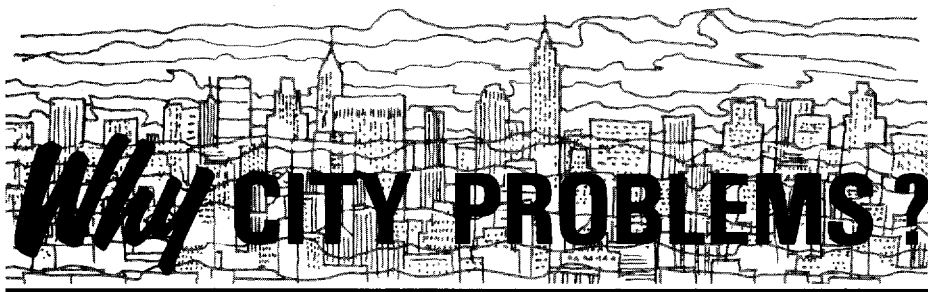
Solomon, in his excellent wisdom, summed up the matter when he wrote, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: **FEAR GOD**, and **KEEP** his commandments: for *this* is the *whole* duty of man" (Eccl. 12:13).

God's kingdom, His own **FAMILY** of persons who will have been **BORN into** that God family by a resurrection or by being changed while yet alive, will rule with Christ *on this earth*. The **LAWS** with which they will rule will be the **SAME** laws God instituted at creation! For God says, "**I CHANGE NOT!**" (Mal. 3:6.)

**HOW PLAIN!**

*And what glorious, GOOD NEWS!* God is going to **STEP IN**. He will soon *intervene* in His almighty **POWER** to **SAVE** man from his wretchedness, his poverty and crime, his total degradation and degeneracy! The kingdom of God will **NOT** be a teetering, disease-ridden, chaotic system set up by **MAN**.

Instead, it will be the **PERFECT**, joyous, happy, **UTOPIA OF THE WORLD TOMORROW** — the time of **GOD'S RULE ON THIS EARTH!** God grant that **YOU** will strive with *all your heart* to qualify as a citizen of this soon-coming kingdom! □



Many people today *still* think that all the action — the good life — is to be found in our grossly overpopulated cities. The lure of bright lights, night life, improved goods and services, job opportunities, cultural benefits, money and entertainment combine to draw people like some magnetic force. What kind of impact is this having and what problems are being created?

**F**ARM regions and small towns, especially in the South, were once the home of many of these people. But no more. A mass exodus has been occurring as people, white and black, are moving away from the land and into the cities and suburbs — especially in the North.

The majority of these black people in transit are invariably squeezed into the overcrowded cores of our central cities. Intolerable living conditions and grinding deprivation prevail to produce a social powderkeg! Crime and failure in life are the tares being reaped by many of the denizens of these asphalt jungles. The conditions in the ghetto areas are appalling!

For example, back about 1962, Negro Harlem had perhaps the highest population density of Negroes anywhere in the world — 500,000 in a small, confined area. To illustrate the problem, if the then total population of the United States had been jam-packed into the five-borough area of New York City — Brooklyn, Manhattan, Queens, Bronx and Staten Island — a similar population density would have prevailed as existed then in Harlem, and no doubt still does today.

No one should have to live like this! Overcrowded conditions create “people problems” and loss of personal identity. The city dwellers then become futile,

frustrated and fatalistic toward their environment. It becomes a monumental job to assimilate large numbers of people — many without special skills and many not well educated — into the competitive job market and hectic life of banal, urban America.

This formidable task is aggravated by the equally back-breaking burden of relief loads, housing demands and school needs. City fathers are probing for answers. But the only solution offered by politicians is “spend, spend, spend.” Even the black mayors now in office in over 40 townships in the “deep North” as well as the deep South are hard pressed to provide solutions. This is because the problems of the cities are not a matter of the complexion of the skin but rather of the complexity of human nature.

Stop to consider. People who inhabit metropolitan areas today — of whatever color — are denied many experiences and outlets that are important for right, balanced living, and mental health.

The need for “creative endeavors” is certainly one of them. Life in our cities, for all peoples, is frenzied. Much of man’s work is specialized and meaningless, depriving him of the opportunities for creative expression formerly associated with work.

Today, apartment-style living, assembly-line work, TV, automobiles, loosely knit families, divorce, different ethical values, materialism, etc., have all changed the pattern and pace of living. Our instant-this-or-that, ready-made society dulls intellectual curiosity. People lack constructive diversion. People lack mental and spiritual challenges. They lack real goals and purposes.

*All* of us have a need for these things. Even real physical and mental fitness seems missing today. The mechanical nature of life around us — TV, auto, noise, factories — has been largely

responsible for much of the tension, boredom and restlessness affecting the health of the average city dweller. Automation and mechanization are creating a style of living that affects the functioning of the human body and the human psyche. We today have less contact with the land than ever before. We are thus deprived of appreciating firsthand the beauty and design of this creation and drawing closer to the God who made us.

God intends for us to be happy through contact with Him. How many of you take time out of your hurried existence to contemplate the how and why of the universe, to identify with something greater than yourself?

Living as we do amidst man-made structures and society, we have little knowledge or concern about the God-given sources of our food, shelter and clothing. David wrote, “The earth belongs to the Eternal, and all the earth holds . . .” (Psalm 24:1, Moffatt). The creation itself is a witness to the existence of a great and Almighty God. The Apostle Paul wrote: “For since the beginning of the world the invisible attributes of God, e.g. his eternal power and divinity, have been plainly discernible through things which he has made and which are commonly seen and known . . .” (Romans 1:20, Phillips translation).

Jesus said, “. . . I came that they may have and enjoy life, and have it in abundance — to the full, till it overflows” (John 10:10, Amplified Bible). The personal profile of Christ Himself pictures Him on the go, working, traveling, living, worshipping, and ministering in a more rural, open and relatively unspoiled environment. Very soon now He will return to set up a world government and a society which will produce abundant, happy human lives.

When that day comes, then the present day frustration, tension, maladjustment, crime, racial strife, boredom, restlessness and the other problems created by our man-made societies and festering in our man-made cities will be eradicated. And man’s greatest need — the need for spiritual satisfaction — will be fulfilled at long last.

# Are All TEN COMMANDMENTS in the New Testament?

**Have the Ten Commandments been replaced by some new Commandment? Have only part of the Ten Commandments been approved in the New Testament? Have some been altered or changed? Here is the surprising answer from inspired NEW TESTAMENT scriptures.**

by L. Leroy Neff

**M**ANY PEOPLE believe that all of the Ten Commandments were *done away* at the cross. Some say that the commandments were reinstituted later in the New Testament. Others believe that a new commandment has taken the place of the Ten.

Just what is the truth?

Jesus said, "If thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments" (Matt. 19:17). Did He mean the Ten Commandments or some other commandments?

If you love Jesus Christ you will want to know for sure which commandments He was referring to. Your eternal salvation is at stake!

There is no reason for confusion. The Scriptures will show the *truth* if you *diligently* search for God's inspired answer.

## Which Commandments?

The young man who was speaking to Jesus had the same question we are asking. "He saith unto him, WHICH?" (Verse 18.)

In answer Jesus quoted *five* of the TEN COMMANDMENTS listed in Exodus 20.

"Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother..." (Matt. 19:18-19).

He then summed up these five com-

mandments (verse 19) by saying, "Thou shalt *love* thy neighbour as thyself." The five commandments that Jesus mentioned concern our relationship with our neighbors. They were the commands concerning murder, adultery, stealing, lying, and honor to parents.

Obviously, when Jesus used the word *commandments*, He was referring to the TEN Commandments of Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5.

Even though Jesus mentioned half of the Ten Commandments here, someone might suppose that things changed after the cross. In order to *make sure*, we ought to *search* and see if the other New Testament writers mentioned all or just part of the commandments. We will see if all *ten* commandments are found in the words of Jesus *and*, in addition, the letters of the *apostles*, particularly the writings of Paul, the *apostle to the Gentiles*.

We cannot love God properly if we do not love our neighbor, so let us see if the *last six* commandments concerning our *neighbor* are reiterated.

## Love Thy Neighbor as Thyself

The *fifth commandment* from Exodus 20 states: "Honour thy father and thy mother..." We have already read what Jesus said in Matthew 19:19: "Honour thy father and thy mother." Did Paul, the apostle to the Gentiles,

mention this commandment in his writings?

He most certainly did! He repeated it almost word for word, and in addition explained the *spiritual intent* and purpose of this law: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Eph. 6:1). Paul's next statement quotes the fifth command, adding the fact that this is the *first command with promise*.

The sixth commandment against committing murder has already been given by Jesus in Matthew 19:18: "Thou shalt do no murder." He explained the spiritual intent and purpose of this command in Matthew 5:21, 22: "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: but I say unto you, that whosoever shall be angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment."

This command is therefore more binding in its spiritual intent and purpose in this New Testament time than it ever was before. Jesus Christ was fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah proclaiming that the Christ, when He came, would "*magnify* the law" (Isaiah 42:21).

Paul repeated this command in Romans 13:9. It is *still* a sin to murder another human being.

The next command forbids adultery. Many people want to do away with this command today. But Jesus showed that it is *more encompassing* now than before the New Testament period. He also emphasized its *importance* and the *spiritual* application today when He said that it is wrong now even to *lust* after a woman. "But I say unto you,



that whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). Paul repeated this same command and showed that it was still binding even on the Gentiles (Romans 13:9).

The eighth command prohibits stealing. Jesus said, "*Thou shalt not steal*" (Matt. 19:18), and this same command is repeated word for word by Paul in Romans 13:9. He said, "Let him that stole steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good . . ." (Eph. 4:28). Clearly this command is also binding today, just as it was at Mt. Sinai.

Today it is difficult to find a completely truthful person. It almost seems that the whole world consists of people who shade the truth, tell "white lies" or just plain "black lies." Christ commanded His followers to never lie (Matt. 19:18). Paul taught this same doctrine in Romans 13:9. "Wherefore putting away lying, speak every man truth with his neighbour: for we are members one of another" (Eph. 4:25). It is still a capital or major sin to lie!

The tenth commandment against coveting was not mentioned by Jesus in Matthew 19. Did He do away with this command? No, you will find it in Luke 12:15: "And he said unto them, Take heed, and beware of covetousness: for a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth." Paul wrote to the Gentiles at Rome, "I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust, except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7).

Paul also gave this same commandment in Romans 13:9. In fact the sixth through the tenth commandments are all given here: "For this, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not kill, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Thou shalt not covet; and if there be any other commandment, it is briefly comprehended in this saying, namely, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself." Notice that he agreed with Jesus and summed up the keeping of the last six commandments

by stating that this is the way to love our neighbor (Rom. 13:9-10).

### How to Love God

If it is sin to violate one of these last six commands, then it surely must be sin to violate any of the first four, which explain the right way to LOVE God. Certainly our relationship to God is more important than our relationship with other people.

God said, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me" (Exodus 20:3). Jesus showed plainly that this command was still in effect when He rebuked Satan — "And Jesus answered and said unto him, Get thee behind me, Satan: for it is written, *Thou shalt worship the Lord thy God, and him only shalt thou serve*" (Luke 4:8).

This command against idolatry is mentioned many times elsewhere in the New Testament. Notice Paul's instruction to the church at Corinth, in I Corinthians 10:7: "Neither be ye idolaters, as were some of them [the ancient Israelites] . . ."

The second commandment, which prohibits the worship of or bowing down before images, is given in detail by Paul in Romans 1:18-25. In this place he shows that the pagan philosophers, who knew God, did not worship Him as God. Instead they began to worship the things that they made with their hands. These people were violating the command of God against making images and then using them in their religious worship.

Jesus taught that God is a Spirit and we must worship Him in spirit and in truth (John 4:24), not through idols, or the things made by man.

The third command prohibits the use of God's name in vain. It is often referred to as a sin of blasphemy. This sin is mentioned several times, including Paul's statement in Colossians 3:8: "But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth."

Jesus showed that this commandment and several of the others are still in force today by the following teaching: "For out of the heart proceed evil thoughts, murders [sixth commandment], adulteries, fornications [both of these last two are included in the

seventh command], thefts [eighth command], false witness [ninth command], blasphemies [third command]" (Matt. 15:19).

There are many additional scriptures which plainly show that these commands are still in effect. The most thought-provoking of these is found in II Timothy 2:19: "Let every one that nameth the name of Christ [that is, calls himself a Christian — taking the name of God] depart from iniquity [iniquity is sin, and sin is the transgression of God's Ten Commandments — I John 3:4]."

### Is the Sabbath Forgotten?

"Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy . . ." is the fourth command and the one which most people have forgotten! This is the command that many people falsely claim was forgotten and left out of the New Testament. Is it reasonable that God would have left out any of the Ten Commandments in the New Testament when David said these commandments "...stand fast for ever and ever"? (Psalm 111:7-8.)

The fourth commandment is shown plainly to be in the New Testament. Have you ever read this inspired scripture? "It is therefore the duty of the people of God to keep the Sabbath" (Heb. 4:9, New Testament from Aramaic, Lamsa).

You probably have not known about this important scripture before, because the King James translation of the Bible, along with certain others, has sought to hide the real meaning of this verse. The original Greek writings and some marginal renderings make it very clear.

Notice it in the King James translation: "There remaineth therefore a rest to the people of God." This chapter tells of the millennial rest to come for God's people who are faithful and inherit the promises of God. A rest is mentioned several times prior to verse nine. The Greek word for rest in the first part of this chapter is *katapausin*; however, in verse nine the word rest comes from an entirely different Greek word, *sabbatismos*. This word literally means, as most margins show, "keeping of a sabbath." The Sabbath rest each week is a memorial of creation and a

picture of the soon-coming millennial "rest."

*Correctly rendered* this verse reads, "There remaineth therefore the *keeping of the Sabbath* to the people of God."

Notice these points about this verse. This keeping of the Sabbath **REMAINS**. It is **NOT** *forgotten*, or *done away*, or nailed to the cross. And, it remains for *the people of God*. The rest of the world has forgotten that it still remains. If it still remains, then it is **STILL** *holy to God*. We ought therefore to *remember* it and *keep* it holy as God has *always* commanded. This day pictures the rest that God had on creation week and therefore honors the fact that **HE** is Creator. It also foreshadows the fact that He is soon going to bring a millennium of peace, the seventh thousand-year period, to this world. The government of this world will then fall and Jesus Christ will establish His government over all the world.

The command to keep the Sabbath today is also proved by several other scriptures. Paul instructed us to follow him as he followed Christ (I Cor. 11:1). Peter also told us that we ought to walk as Christ walked (I Peter 2:21). The Apostle John said the same thing in I John 2:6.

Christ **ALWAYS** *kept the Sabbath!* It was His custom (Luke 4:16), and He was continually showing His disciples and the *religionists* of that time the **PROPER** way to keep it. He showed this by the perfect example He set. The disciples were to follow His example and teach others the same things. His parting instruction was, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: teaching them to *observe* all things whatsoever I have *commanded* you: and lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world" (Matt. 28:19-20). This makes it plain that His commands, including the *Sabbath*, are to be *observed* today!

Paul followed Christ in always keeping the Sabbath (Acts 17:2) and taught the Gentiles as well as the Jews on the Sabbath (Acts 13:42, 44 and 18:4). There are several other scriptures in the New Testament, particularly in the book of Acts, which show

plainly that the Church, as it started out, kept the Sabbath. Sunday on the other hand was *always* a *work day*. Jesus said that He was Lord of the *Sabbath*, not Lord of Sunday (Luke 6:5). Sunday is *not* the Lord's day, and it never has been, contrary to many very cherished beliefs.

For further information about this command, write for the free booklet *Which Day Is the Sabbath of the New Testament?*

### A New Commandment

We have now seen that each of the Ten Commandments is commanded in the New Testament. But what about the "new commandment" that Jesus and the Apostle John spoke of? Just what was this new commandment, and does it abrogate or do away with the Ten Commandments? "A *new commandment* I give unto you, That ye *love one another*; as I have loved you, that ye

friends, if ye **DO** whatsoever I *command* you" (John 15:14).

That is the *kind of love* that Christ was talking about when He told His disciples about the new commandment.

Yet how could this be a *new commandment* when Israel in ancient times was commanded plainly to love God and NEIGHBOR? (Deut. 6:5 and Lev. 19:18.)

Notice II John 5: "And now I beseech thee, lady, not as though I wrote a new commandment unto thee, *but that which we had from the beginning*, that we *love one another*." Love is ever *new* and yet *old*.

That kind of love that Jesus and John spoke about is not just affection.

People today have come to think that lust is love. Lust is getting, but love is *giving* and serving others in the way *defined* by God. The first four commandments define the *WAY* to show love to God, and the last six show the *WAY* to express love to neighbor.

Any other way is *not* love at all, but is only lust, greed, and selfishness. The commandment of *love* is therefore not only the one which was given at the beginning of Christ's ministry to His disciples, but also a *way of life* given to the first man, Adam.

This kind of love is further affirmed by John: "For *this is the LOVE* of God, that we *keep his commandments*: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

Instead of the *new* commandment of love doing away with the old Ten Commandment law, this scripture shows plainly that it **ESTABLISHES** it in this New Testament age more firmly than before.

### What Will You Do?

There are many religious teachers in the world today who *will not* keep God's commandments and, for that matter, teach that we are under a curse if we do keep them. They claim that they know Christ. Christ says differently through the Apostle John: "He that saith, I know him, and *keepeth not his commandments*, is a **LIAR**, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

Such people have claimed in various tracts and articles that *only* part of the  
(Continued on page 32)



Ambassador College Photo  
For a thorough study of how each of God's Ten Commandments applies to us today, write for this free booklet.

also love one another" (John 13:34).

People assume that all we have to do is *love* one another. Then they interpret *love* to mean that they do not *necessarily* have to *obey* God's commandments. They take for granted that love is *just affection*. They do not realize *how much* Christ loved His disciples. He had the **KIND** of love described in I Corinthians 13, the *kind* which always **OBEYS** God's Ten Commandments. He had the *kind of love* which caused Him to instruct His disciples, "Ye are my

# Are You a Hearer— or a Doer?

**T**HERE ARE basically two categories of people reading this magazine: (1) those who intend to *live* by what they learn from the Word of God, and (2) those who read but *do not apply* what they learn. Which are you? Does it really make that much difference?

If you are a reader who sincerely wants to please God and do His will, if you deeply desire to be in the Kingdom of God and inherit eternal life, then you do *need* to understand what the inspired Scriptures say about being a “hearer” or a “doer” of God’s Word!

Notice this prophecy in the book of Ezekiel, “Also, thou son of man, the children of thy people still are talking against [the Hebrew could just as well be rendered, *about*] thee by the walls and in the doors of the houses, and speak one to another, every one to his brother, saying, Come, I pray you, and hear what is the word that cometh forth from the Lord. And they come unto thee as the people cometh, and they sit before thee as my people, and they *hear* thy words, but they *will not do them*: for with their mouth they shew much love, but their heart goeth after their covetousness. And, lo, thou art unto them as a very lovely song of one that hath a pleasant voice, and can play well on an instrument: for they *hear* thy words, but they *do them not*” (Ezek. 33: 30-32).

Even as this applied in the days of Ezekiel, it applies today!

Many today “hear [or read] thy words, but they do them not”! What difference does it make? A *warning* is given in this same chapter of coming war and destruction. Those who will be protected and saved alive are those *living* by the laws of God! (Read verses 14-16.)

Jesus Christ taught this very same thing in the New Testament. He said, “Therefore whosoever *heareth* these say-

ings of mine, and *doeth* them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house, and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And every one that *heareth* these sayings of mine, and *doeth them not*, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rain descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell: and great was the fall of it” (Matthew 7:24-27). Those who *live* by the teachings of Jesus will not fall in the day of calamity. God will help and protect those who *obey Him*. The “doers” are called wise. The “hearers” only are foolish. Jesus said, “And why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and *do not* the things which I say?” (Luke 6:46.)

Some have erroneously thought that we teach “salvation by works.” That is *not true*. The Bible *clearly* teaches that salvation is the free *gift* of God (Romans 6:23). We are very familiar with Ephesians 2, verses 8 and 9, which say, “For by *grace* are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: not of works, lest any man should boast.” We believe this! But we *also* believe verse 10: “For we are his workmanship, created in Christ Jesus unto GOOD WORKS, which God hath before ordained that we should *walk in them*.” God says we were created to walk (or live) in good works! Put it all together. God’s free gift of salvation will be given to those who are willing to *obey Him*, keep His laws, and strive to live a life of good works!

[For information about being saved by grace and the importance of having good works, write for our article “What’ll You Be Doing in the Next Life?”]

The Apostle Paul, truly a man of God, wrote: “For not the *hearers* of the

law are just before God, but the *doers* of the law shall be justified” (Romans 2:13). He spoke of God’s Law as being holy, just and good (Rom. 7:12).

The Apostle James also wrote, “But be ye *doers* of the word, and not *hearers* only, deceiving your own selves. For if any be a hearer of the word, and not a doer, he is like unto a man beholding his natural face in a glass: For he beholdeth himself, and goeth his way, and straightway forgetteth what manner of man he was. But whoso looketh into the perfect law of liberty, and continueth therein, he being not a *forgetful hearer*, but a *doer* of the work, this man shall be blessed in his deed” (James 1:22-25). He refers to God’s Commandments as the “perfect law of liberty” (James 2:8-12). Whoever will *do them* “shall be blessed in his deed.”

God inspired James to write that “*faith without works is DEAD*” (James 2:17-20).

*Listening* to *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast or *watching* it on television (if it’s in your area) is *not* enough. *Reading The PLAIN TRUTH* or this magazine is not enough. You must be willing to change *your* way of life. You must begin to *apply* the things you are learning through this Work of God!

If you really desire to change and want to obey God’s laws — but are not exactly sure on some points or have certain questions — we would be *more* than happy to help you. Our Personal Correspondence Department will be happy to help you find the answers to your spiritual problems, or you may request a *personal visit* by one of our Ambassador College-trained representatives. These men are ordained ministers of the True God and are dedicated to *serving* those who sincerely want to be served. Our only purpose is to help you in obeying your God. Don’t hesitate to write!

# ANSWERS to your Questions

● “Why have the Jews named their country Israel when it was called Judah in the time of Jesus?”

Many people often confuse a nation with the name of the land that nation is occupying. A nation is *not* a land but is a *family* of humans with a common ancestry, or ancestors. Anciently many lands were named for the people who dwelt in them; for example, the term “land of Canaan” (Gen. 12:5) comes from the Canaanite people (Gen. 12:6) who descended from Canaan the son of Ham (Gen. 10:6).

Later, when God gave that land to the nation of Israel the land of Canaan came to be known as the land of Israel. Even in the time of Jesus, after the northern ten tribes of Israel had been taken captive and only the house of Judah remained, the *land* was still known commonly as the “land of Israel” (Matt. 2:20).

Anciently the land of Judaea or Judah referred only to the southern district of the land of Israel. This was the original territory of the tribe of Judah. Other districts were Galilee, Samaria and Gilead.

After the war of 66-70 A.D., the Romans, out of enmity toward the Jews, renamed the land after the Jews' ancient enemies, the Philistines. They called it Palestine. The Jews are correct in calling their *land* the land of Israel. As for the Jewish *nation*, it is a nation descended from the patriarch Israel, but it is not the *only* nation descended from Israel. To learn why the Jews — Judah — were the only tribe to retain their identity as descendants of the patriarch Israel, and why the identity of the other nations of Israel was lost, request our free book, *The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

● “Why did Jesus cry out, ‘My God, my God, Why hast

thou forsaken me?’” (Matthew 27:46).

Few have realized that Jesus was actually forsaken of God the Father in order that He might become our Saviour.

“For he hath made him [Christ] to be sin for us, who knew no sin” (II Cor. 5:21). When Christ took our sins upon Himself, *He* became sin for us. All the sins of all mankind of every age were heaped on Him. Now it is sin that cuts one off from God (Isa. 59:2). Because Christ, *who never sinned* took our sins upon Himself, He was forsaken, *temporarily*, of His Father and allowed to die a horrible death.

● “Is breaking traffic laws a sin? I often have to break them when in a hurry.”

In Romans 13:1 we are commanded, “Let every soul be subject unto the higher powers. For there is no power but of God: The powers that be are ordained of God.” God would have us be subject to the laws of the land in which we live and that *includes* traffic laws. Obedience to traffic laws is a mark of good *character*, which God requires of all who are to be in His Kingdom.

But that is not all. Traffic laws are designed to assure maximum safety to both motorist and pedestrian. When you violate them you increase your chances of destroying the property of *others*, hurting or permanently maiming others, or even *killing* someone. When you violate traffic laws you are *not* loving *your* neighbor as yourself! On the contrary, you are inviting death and disaster. You need our vital article written in cooperation with the California Highway Patrol entitled, “Death Rides the High Road.” Send for your *free* copy.

● “Do you publish any sort of Bible reference books? My Bible has no reference section and it is very hard for me to find certain scriptures when I need them.”

We ourselves do not publish any Bible reference books. There are however a number of books which we feel would be beneficial to use along with your Bible in studying the Scriptures. Please note, however, that though we recommend certain books, every one of them is subject to human error.

## Concordances:

*Cruden's Complete Concordance*

*Young's Analytical Concordance*

*Strong's Exhaustive Concordance*

## Miscellaneous:

*Rand McNally Bible Atlas*

*Halley's Bible Handbook*

*Smith's Bible Dictionary*

*Peloubet's Bible Dictionary*

*Unger's Bible Dictionary*

*Dictionary of the Bible*, ed. by James Hastings, revised by Grant and Rowley

*A Harmony of the Gospels* by A. T. Robertson

*The Life and Works of Flavius Josephus* translated by Whiston

*Critical and Experimental Commentary* by Jamieson, Fausset and Brown

*Clarke's Commentary*

Some of these books can be found in the reference section of larger public libraries. The rest can be obtained from or ordered through Bible or regular bookstores.

● “Matthew 5:29-30: ‘And if thy right eye offend thee, pluck it out, and cast it from thee.’ Also, ‘if thy right hand offend thee, cut it off, and cast it from thee.’ What exactly did Jesus mean by these statements?”

An eye or a hand as such cannot cause one to sin. Likewise, the absence of an eye or a hand will not prevent one from sinning. Sin is committed in the mind. The point is that any wrong practices involving eye or hand — or what have



you — should be rooted out of our lives.

The idea of plucking out or cutting off a part of one's body would not solve the problem because one can still sin in the mind. Such practices of self-flagellation have long been associated with various *pagan* religions (I Kings 18:28).

● **"In Matthew 22:30 Jesus said, 'In the resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, but are as the angels of God in heaven.' In your article, 'The Teenagers' Tomorrow,' you ask men and women if they would like to be wives and husbands in this kind of world. Isn't this the opposite of what Jesus said?"**

Jesus was talking about the Kingdom of God which is the soon-coming family or *government* of God that will rule the earth. Those humans who will be born into this governing family will be spirit beings and will not marry one another. They were, as the Church in this life, affianced to Christ, and in the resurrection will be married to Him — not to one another.

Many mortal people will, however, live on into the era when the government of God rules. In Tomorrow's World, they will still be *physical*, flesh-and-blood human beings. They are the ones who will marry and raise families in this coming utopia. They will have their opportunity to be converted in a world of peace and happiness, and, when they have completed their lives, be born into the Kingdom of God.

For a more thorough and detailed explanation of who will actually be in the Kingdom of God and who will be ruled by it, request our free booklets, *Just What Do You Mean the Kingdom of God?* and *Why Marriage?*

● **"I have just read a very disturbing statement in TOMORROW'S WORLD. You state, 'Even God doesn't know.' Is this a slip of some sort or some mistake?"**

God, in His greatness, could know all things. (Read Isaiah 40.) But if He did choose to know whether one would ultimately be saved or lost, God would then have to *force* men to behave

like automatons according to His foreknowledge — which would eliminate free moral agency and thereby destroy God's ultimate purpose for human life as described in Gen. 1:26.

In Hebrews 6:6, speaking of those who fall away from *the truth*, God does not say, *when* they fall away, but *"IF they shall fall away."* Likewise, Jesus said to a certain young man, *"IF you will enter into life, keep the commandments"* (Matt. 19:17). Although He *could* have, Christ did not choose to know what choice this young man would make.

Peter tells us God is "longsuffering to us-ward, not *willing* that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance" (II Peter 3:9). Would God be patient with us, waiting for us to repent if He knew which way we would ultimately go? Remember when Jesus Christ said to Abraham, *"Now I know that thou fearest God, seeing thou hast not withheld thy son, thine only son from me"* (Gen. 22:12). Christ did *not* know that Abraham was *willing* to give up his only son *until* He had tried him.

Some have mistakenly thought that each individual is predestined from birth to be saved or lost. Our free booklet about *Predestination* discusses this subject in detail.

● **"Matthew 27:9 is purported to be a prophecy from the book of Jeremiah. Yet it cannot be found in that book. Would you explain?"**

Notice Matthew 27:9 again — *"Then was fulfilled that which was SPOKEN by Jeremy [Jeremiah] the prophet. . . ."* This prophecy was SPOKEN by Jeremiah — *not written*. The prophecy was written by Zechariah at a later time (see Zech. 11:13).

● **"Isn't it wrong to borrow money? Doesn't the Bible teach us that we must owe no man anything?"**

The one verse that has caused some to suppose the Bible forbids borrowing is Romans 13:8. As translated in the King James English, it reads: *"Owe no man anything, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."*

Actually, it can be translated: *"You do not owe your individual fellowmen anything, but love."* At least that would make the MEANING clear.

*Clarke's Commentary* explains this verse correctly:

*"In the preceding verse [read it in your own Bible], the apostle has been showing the duty, reverence, and obedience, which all Christians, from the highest to the lowest, owe to the civil magistrate; whether he be emperor, king, proconsul, or other state officer; here [verse 8] he shows them their duty to each other; but this is widely different from that which they owe to the civil government: to the first [government] they owe subjection, reverence, obedience, and tribute [taxes]; to the latter [individual man] they OWE nothing but mutual love, and those offices which necessarily spring from it. Therefore, the apostle says, Owe no man; as if he had said: Ye owe to your fellow brethren nothing but mutual love, and this is what the Law of God requires, and in this the Law is fulfilled. Ye are not bound in obedience to them as to the civil magistrate."*

Romans 13:8 is explaining what the Law requires. Man's law — man's government — requires that we owe taxes, obedience to laws and ordinances, etc. But to fellowman, God's Law requires we owe him LOVE — that is all. IT IS NOT SPEAKING OF MONEY DEBTS!

It is NOT wrong to borrow money — or to loan it!

However, one should consider very carefully before borrowing money. Our free booklet, *Managing Your Personal Finances* discusses credit in detail.

● **"Why do the Jewish people celebrate the new year in September?"**

Actually, the Jewish people recognize *two* new years. Notice what God says: Exodus 12:2 — *"This month [Nisan, the month of the Passover, in the spring] shall be unto you the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you."* Coming in the spring, Nisan is the start of the sacred year, and God's Holy Days are reckoned from this new year (Lev. 23). The *civil* year originated at creation week and begins on the first day of Tishri — which is the seventh month of the sacred year. Tishri falls in September/October.

# News of the Work

*This month we share with all our readers what our family of Co-Workers already knows. Each month Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong writes to every Co-Worker a personal letter on the "state of the Work." Two of his recent letters cover matters of such vital importance and interest we take this opportunity to present excerpts from them, here, for you.*

September 28, 1970

Dear Fellow Co-Workers:

I'M WRITING YOU from 38,000 feet, over a desolate portion of Australia, en route from Sydney to Singapore. With two other officials in this great Work, we are on a very important around-the-world trip. . . .

It is very important that I speak to all our new incoming students each year in Freshman Orientation, to get them off to a right start. After Orientation on the Pasadena campus, and the opening Faculty Reception, I flew to the Texas campus. Then on to the campus in England, attending Orientation and Faculty Reception at each campus. We stagger the opening on each campus to make it possible for both myself and Garner Ted Armstrong to attend all three.

From England we flew on to New Delhi, capital of India. A conference had been arranged with the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi (daughter of former Prime Minister Nehru). However, she was at the time in Africa, attending the Congress of Nonaligned Nations in Lusaka, Zambia. So Dr. Singh, secretary to the President of India, V. V. Giri, arranged for me to visit the President. Even he was away at the time, in Bangalore, in the far south of India. We were entertained at a luncheon at Dr. Singh's official residence. Arrangements were made for us to fly to Bangalore, en route to Singapore. The President's personal car, with the presidential flag flying at mast in front, met us at the Bangalore airport, and drove Mr. Stanley Rader (our chief legal counsel) and Mr. Gotoh (Japanese member of our faculty) and myself, to the

palace of the Governor of the State. There we had a nice visit with President Giri. I presented him with a small gift, and a copy of the college students' yearbook, *The ENVOY*. He, in turn, presented me with a large photograph of himself, in a handsome silver frame with his special presidential monogram at the top. President Giri promised to come to Pasadena to speak before an assembly of our students. I have devoted my next "Personal" page in *The PLAIN TRUTH* to our visit in India. You may read the rest of it there.

Mrs. Gandhi had expected to see us, and I was told that if we could remain or return on the 18th, we could have a meeting with her. However my own commitments did not allow, and so we were invited to return in December.

At Singapore, we visited a number of top officials. The Prime Minister was in Europe, but since he was away we were privileged to meet with the Minister of Education. He already had a copy of our booklet *This is Ambassador College*, and I presented him with a copy of *The ENVOY*.

He surprised me by saying he wanted to send his 19-year-old daughter to Ambassador College at Pasadena. I asked if I might interview the girl. He had her in his office within ten minutes. And she will begin attending on our Pasadena campus in January. We also have the son of a member of the Japanese Diet (their "congress") enrolled this year.

At Singapore I was invited to be the speaker at a Rotary Club luncheon. I was followed by a very brief speech by a prominent local member, head of one of

the colleges. I was surprised to hear him say he was a subscriber to *The PLAIN TRUTH*, praising it highly, telling the local Rotarians they should all become subscribers. I am also writing an article for *The PLAIN TRUTH* about Singapore.

We have just visited our offices in Sydney and our printing plant there, and we also flew over to New Zealand to see our office and staff there. While in Sydney, Mr. McNair, Mr. Rader, Mr. C. Wayne Cole, one of our Vice-Presidents in charge of all operations in the Far East and Australasia, and I were luncheon guests of the *Reader's Digest* at their own large office building in Sydney. Their four top officials for this area hosted the luncheon.

Then, through their good offices, we were able to host a reception in a private room in our hotel last evening. Present were about 30 executives of radio and TV stations, newspapers and magazines. Handling things in this manner is very vital to this great world-wide Work. Last evening's reception was of untold value to the Work . . . .

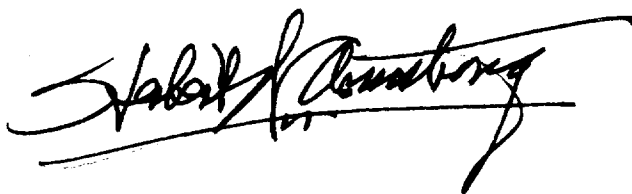
It is certainly interesting, to say the least, that I have been able to meet so many world leaders and heads of state in so many nations that are of prime

importance right now, with world conditions moving as they are. I have sought NONE of these meetings, yet the occasions arise. They are aware that through our media of *The PLAIN TRUTH*, our broadcasts, telecasts, etc., we reach and influence into the hundred millions of people WORLDWIDE, and it is significant that I have been given FAVOR in their sight. . . .

Co-Workers, I think this gives you an idea of the tremendous progress of the Work. As world conditions worsen RAPIDLY, heading on into the grand smash CLIMAX that will END this age and this society, this Work is *speeding up*, AS NEVER BEFORE, to GET THE JOB DONE, before it is too late.

We cannot know, now, just how much more time we have. But this we DO know — we must get back of this great Work to our UTMOST, as never before! Our GREAT REWARD is not far ahead, now. And in the meantime GETTING THE JOB DONE is all that matters!

With love, in Jesus' name,



October 28, 1970

Dear Fellow Co-Workers:

**S**INCE I WROTE YOU a month ago, many things have happened. . . .

Suddenly doors are being opened wide for me personally to have meetings with heads of state of many important nations. I have not sought nor taken the initiative in arranging these important meetings. But they are significant, and another signal of the fast-approaching END of the present civilization and the ushering in of the WORLD TOMORROW — a world of peace, happiness and universal well-being.

When I wrote you a month ago, I was in our jet aircraft, returning from Sydney, Australia to Djakarta for my conference with President Suharto of Indonesia. An appointment had been set, but he was unable to see me until the following day. On that following day I had an appointment with President Marcos of the Philippines at his palace in Manila. I felt it incumbent on me to keep that appointment, and so was unable to wait over in Djakarta.

I had an important meeting with President Marcos. And while I was in Manila, President Suharto tried personally to reach me by telephone to arrange

a meeting the next day. Prior commitments did not allow time to fly back down to Djakarta. As a result, I am now looking forward to meeting General Suharto the middle of December.

In Tokyo we met Dr. Binyamin Mazar, Director of our big archaeological exploration in Jerusalem, and also Professor Werblowsky, of Hebrew University of Jerusalem, who is professor of Comparative Religions. They were invited with us to the dinner hosted by Prince Mikasa (brother of Emperor Hirohito), and his wife and daughter. Next day, at 2:00 p.m., we met the Prince at the Palace grounds. He took us first to the Palace office building, where a number of candid camera shots were taken. Then to the beautiful new Palace, completed since I was there two years ago.

Then at 4:00 p.m. I addressed a group of the very top professors of several Japanese universities, arranged by Prince Mikasa. The professors invited were those whose principal area of interest is the Middle East. All were greatly interested in archaeology. After I spoke, Dr. Mazar showed them many slides of our archaeological project.

In my talk before them, translated as we proceeded by Osamu Gotoh, head of our Japanese

Department on the Pasadena campus, I mentioned the following:

About 150 years ago, leaders of science decided the human mind was so nearly perfect that society could safely discard its swaddling clothes, throw away the "crutch" of religion and reliance on God. Science had come to the place it could deliver the world from all evils. Given sufficient knowledge, science could solve all problems, they believed. So gradually moral and spiritual values were dropped. Colleges and universities began putting emphasis solely on the intellect, and instruction in the professions, technologies, and sciences. World Wars I and II shot moral and spiritual values to the cesspool.

As scientists and educators added to the world's fund of knowledge, the world's troubles and evils increased. During the past ten years knowledge DOUBLED — *and likewise, troubles and evils have DOUBLED* in the same decade! Today world-famous scientists are frankly frightened. It is now possible to erase all human life from this planet. Human survival is the number one world problem. Scientists and heads of state say publicly the only HOPE is a super world government, and at the same time admit its utter impossibility. Then I told them that we have now come to the place where, as a leading news magazine had intimated some time ago, it would seem that our sole hope of survival rests in the SUPERNATURAL intervention of an unseen "STRONG HAND FROM SOMEWHERE."

I told them how, if we are to place credence in the Hebrew Bible, the entire fault in the production of knowledge took place in the Garden of Eden, in the account of the "forbidden fruit," or the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." The Creator had set in motion an invisible but inexorable law to CAUSE every GOOD result. That invisible spiritual LAW is the cause of all GOOD. Its transgression is the cause of all evils. When Adam took of the fruit of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, he took *TO HIMSELF* the divine GOD PREROGATIVE of producing the knowledge of what is good and what is evil. Rejecting the revealed KNOWLEDGE of God, and DISOBEYING that Law revealed by God, man became an adversary of God, and always has tried to decide for himself what is right and what is wrong. All his KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION has been of the way of life that transgresses that CAUSE of all good. Consequently his knowledge production has brought only EVILS. As knowledge increases, so do the problems and evils.

I told those scholarly professors that they are betting their very lives on the existence of the Creator GOD, and His soon SUPERNATURAL INTERVENTION in world affairs, to save humanity alive. No one sneered or jeered. Those high-ranking professors were SOBERED. They KNOW world conditions. They knew what I said made sense — it was the TRUTH.

Afterward, Prince Mikasa talked to them for some fifteen or twenty minutes, saying some very nice things about my address.

Co-Workers, this new turn of events throwing me personally into direct contact with heads of state of many great nations is highly significant. It is a door through which God is, I feel, using me to get His WARNING MESSAGE to the leaders of nations. It is an additional signal of the fast-approaching END, and the soon coming of the living Christ as KING of kings, setting up the GOVERNMENT OF GOD to rule all nations.

World conditons are WORSENING as never before. YOU KNOW THAT! This great Work of God must now LEAP FORWARD *as never before!*

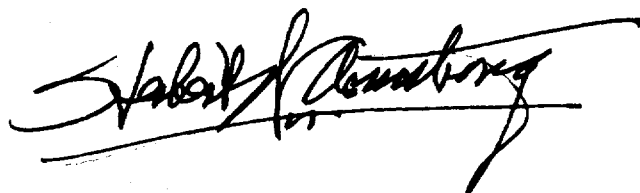
You have YOUR PART. I am plunging harder than ever into my part. Since my return from the round-the-world trip, I have spoken in person before large audiences in France, England, Canada and SIX large audiences in the United States — speaking 17 times in 8 days, before an aggregate of 70,000 people. This was a grueling experience, starting exactly one week after the trip around the world. I am pushing myself on, now, faster than ever before in my life. But I can do little without YOU and your generous *help*. NOTHING ELSE IS IMPORTANT ANY MORE.

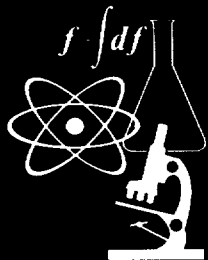
Let's sacrifice, GIVE, that this vital last Message may be given, as never before!

New radio and television stations are opening to us. We MUST get *The PLAIN TRUTH* back on the *every-month* basis starting December. Also TOMORROW'S WORLD. It's only possible if YOU do YOUR UTMOST as I'm doing mine!

What a WONDERFUL PRIVILEGE to have a PART in this great Work! Let's all respond as never before!

With love, in Christ's name,





# Science vs. Theology?

## COSMOLOGY\*

### "There Can't Be a God, Because Man Is So Bad"

So states Bertrand Russell, the renowned scientist and philosopher, in his classic and caustic 1935 treatise, *Religion and Science*. Only Sir Bertrand establishes his point with a bit more elegance: "If I were granted omnipotence, and millions of years to experiment in, I should not think Man much to boast of as the final result of all my efforts." And it sounds so blasphemous. But is it really any more blasphemous than the "Christianity" which Russell observed in the Western world?

**W**HY DID Russell so vehemently reject religion? There were two primary reasons:

- 1) The irrational dogmas of an unscientific Christianity.
- 2) The inherent wickedness in human nature.

And both factors are *absolutely correct*.

Russell *was* on the right track. But he terminated his investigation too soon. He never came to realize that the Bible itself — the book which was *supposedly* the source of unscientific Christianity — had thousands of years before him pronounced precisely these same two statements of fact!

1) Russell felt that the irrational dogmas of an unscientific Christianity proved that the entire Bible — Old and New Testaments alike — were *in toto*

wrong. Little did he know that the Christianity which he was talking about was not only disassociated from the Bible in doctrine and diametrically the opposite in spirit, but furthermore that the Bible itself was all the while *condemning* this same *false* Christianity even *more* strongly than he was (Gal. 1:6-8; II Cor. 11:4, 13-15; etc.)!

2) Russell decided that the inherent wickedness of human nature denied a Cosmic Purpose in man and denied an Omnipotent Being as his Creator. His deduction is perfectly understandable, since all traditional religions teach that man is basically good and that God is struggling to save his basically good "soul" out of its prison — the body! Both of which are obviously hard to swallow. And both of these ideas are vigorously denied by the whole Bible! Does that sound strange? Sure, strange to ears conditioned by the religions of this world. But not to ears attuned to the Bible. Read Jeremiah 17:9: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked."

So the problem with Russell's conclusion is neither his facts nor his reasonings. Because his conclusion is **RIGHT**. But remember, Russell is only dealing with the religious ideas of *this* present world — ideas which are almost always in direct contradiction to the Bible.

So let's backtrack — and watch as these religious concoctions of *men* feel the cutting edge of Russell's incisive logic.

### Unscientific "Christianity"

What respect and what confidence could a rational man like Sir Bertrand feel for a religious system which almost flippantly "transferred [to quote Russell] the seat of authority in religion, first from the Church and the Bible to the Bible alone, and then to the individual soul."

In other words, our sharp-thinking friend saw a Christianity which is constantly shifting its foundation. And with respect to any "absolute truth," which is seemingly required for any religion *to be* a religion, well, just read the following: "It gradually came to be recognized that the [Christian] religious life does *not* depend upon pronouncements as to matters of fact, for instance the historical existence of Adam and Eve [was at first believed and then discarded]."

Thus Russell sees a slippery Christianity squirm its way out of "inconvenient Bible texts" — which were quickly "interpreted allegorically or figuratively." And he also watches the historical process as Christianity surrendered many of its outward doctrines in a wistful attempt to protect its (pseudo-spiritual) "inward core." What faith could *anybody* put in such a system? Who could ever believe that *this* was *the one true religion* of the Creator of heaven and earth?

As Russell puts it, "No real excellence can be inextricably bound up with unfounded beliefs; and if theological beliefs are unfounded, they cannot be necessary for the preservation of what is good in a religious outlook." In other words, if Christianity is *based* upon falsehoods — the changing doctrines — why bother dissecting out its "good points" just to preserve the traditionally comforting "religious approach" to life? How much better it would be to discard the whole error-laden package, and begin anew to generate a more perfect philosophical system of accurate knowledge and pure understanding — devoid of all religious foolishness!

So how can we fault the man for choosing science over religion when all he knows is a medieval Christianity

\* COSMOLOGY — that branch of philosophy which deals with understanding the character of the universe as an orderly system.



deciding such questions as "whether Jupiter has satellites, and whether bodies fall at a rate proportional to their mass . . . *not* by observation but by deduction from . . . the Bible [supposedly], the dogmas of the Catholic faith, and (almost equally) the teachings of Aristotle"? No, we must rather give Lord Russell all the credit he deserves for so accurately analyzing the present world in which we live.

Let's face facts. *If* what we now see of religion and *if* what we now see of man is indeed *all there is to see* of both religion and man, then Russell is *wholly* correct: 1) *religion* should be totally preempted by science, and 2) *man* should indeed become more modest than thinking that he is an adequate motive for an Omniscient Being to create the entire universe.

But Russell did *not* tell the whole story. And it is *not* his fault. He at least was intellectually honest with the facts at his disposal, no matter how pessimistic his conclusions might seem—this being in stark contradistinction to the twaddly platitudes and contradictory compromises which mark some religiously oriented scientists and all too many scientifically oriented theologians.

### Evil Human Nature

Going further, common Christianity informed Russell that *man* is *the* great "Cosmic Purpose" which underlies "the good intentions of the universe."

But when Russell candidly looks at the *history* of man — what we have done (wars) and what we are doing (more wars) — we just do not appear all that "*good*." Observe his penetrating reasoning in action:

"They [theologians and philosophers] say that we think certain things good, and that since these things are good, we must be very good to think them so. But this is a circular argument. A being with other values might think ours so atrocious as to be proof that we were inspired by Satan. Is there not something a trifle absurd in the spectacle of human beings holding a mirror before themselves, and thinking what they behold so excellent as to prove that

a Cosmic Purpose must have been aiming at it all along? Why, in any case, this glorification of Man? How about lions and tigers? They destroy fewer animal or human lives than we do, and they are much more beautiful than we are. How about ants? They manage the Corporate State much better than any Fascist. Would not a world of nightingales and larks and deer be better than our human world of cruelty and injustice and war?"

Now back off from yourself. Look at the situation "coolly" and unimpassionately. This is Russell's rigorously logical point of view. And the man *has* a point. Because he reasons with what he sees. And all he sees is a CHRISTIANITY as it *is* in *this* world and a MANKIND as it *is* in *this* world — neither of which seems particularly representative of some "Ultimate Good" of the entire universe — the former disqualifying itself by its vicissitudes and contradictions, the latter by its inherent hatreds and evils.

### Conclusion

What Russell has proven, then, is the *secondary* thesis of this "Science vs. Theology?" feature — that *the religion of this world is completely contradicted by the science of this world*.

Insofar as our *primary* thesis is concerned — that true religion *as defined by the Bible* is totally confirmed and corroborated by true science — we must refer to other articles.

Obviously an in-depth discussion of the doctrines of false Christianity, the wickedness of human nature, the facts about Creation, the historicity of Adam and Eve, the purpose of human life, God's hands-off policy to this present world, etc., are all subjects well beyond the scope of this short report. Suffice it to say that the purpose of TOMORROW'S WORLD is to fully answer *all* of these questions. Some back articles of interest which are available upon request: "Why Must Men Suffer?" — "Why Does God Hide Himself?" — "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?" — "Why God Is Not Real to Most People."

— R. L. Kuhn

# COSMOGONY

## What's That?

Many *assume* the Bible says that the universe is only six thousand years old. Others believe that the universe has always existed. This question is a fundamental problem of cosmogony — which is the study of the origin of the universe.

Now consider this fact.

Perhaps the clearest established fact about the universe is that it is *running down*. The Second Law of Thermodynamics states that physical processes tend toward disorganization. To put it simply — it is easier to scramble the egg than to unscramble it! Energy — light, heat, matter, etc. — in the universe at large is being continually dissipated. The physical universe will ultimately "die" when all energy is uniformly distributed. And this is exactly what the Bible says (Heb. 1:10-12).

Now consider the situation: Since the universe *is* running down — but has not *yet* run completely down — we can only conclude that the universe has *not* always existed. This is scientific proof that there had to be a BEGINNING! And the Bible says that there *was* a beginning (Gen. 1:1). However, the Bible does NOT say the beginning was only six thousand years ago. The age of the universe is not revealed in Scripture. It therefore is either knowledge man might discover for himself — and therefore did not have to be revealed — or it is knowledge unavailable to man and incomprehensible even if it had been revealed.

By studying the "life spans" of stars, scientists have estimated their ages to be about a *few billion years* (1 billion = 1,000,000,000). The decay rates of radioactive elements are assumed to make it possible to estimate the age of the solar system in which we live. Radioactive elements occurring naturally on earth and those contained in meteorites *both* show a possible age of from one to several billion years. So *all* of the radioactive elements prove that time

since the beginning is greater than 6000 years.

The galaxies at the limits of the observable universe are believed to be moving away from us at tremendous speeds. Calculations based on these speeds lead to the likely conclusion that these galaxies could not have *begun* moving away more than a *few billion years ago*. So here is another proof of a universe that cannot always have existed.

Now it is not merely a coincidence that the calculations of the ages of galaxies, stars, meteorites, and the earth itself *all* give ages much longer than 6000 years. Yet some, assuming the Bible says the *universe* is six thousand years old, reject these undeniable scientific measurements. On the other hand, others reject the Bible because this scientific evidence contradicts certain doctrines which are *supposed* to come from the Bible but which in fact do not. These contradictions arise out of a lack of understanding of either the Bible or science or, more often, *both*. As we have shown here, what the Bible *actually* says and what man has discovered are in harmony.

— W. Stenger

## ANATOMY

### The Appendix — Another "Useless" Organ?

**E**VER SINCE the days of Darwin, vestigial organs have supposedly provided one of the strongest arguments for the theory of evolution. In man, these apparently "useless" structures are thought to represent "leftover scaffolding" that once performed an important function in man's "pre-human" ancestors but are no longer of any value. Some have even felt that "it is difficult to explain the presence of useless vestiges upon the basis of special creation without imputing to the Creator some lack of skill in planning or construction" (P. A. Moody, *Introduction to Evolution*, p. 42, 1962).

The classical example of a vestigial organ in the human body is the *appen-*

*dix*. Darwin referred to this narrow, wormlike structure in the abdomen as not only "...*useless*, but it is sometimes the cause of death" (Darwin, *Descent of Man*, p. 263, Britannica Great Books). Some of his contemporaries waxed even more eloquent. One asserted "there are undoubtedly cases where we know that certain vestigial structures are not only useless to man but *worse than useless*. Coming under this category is perhaps the *most striking* of all the vestigial organs, the vermiform appendix of the caecum. Here is a structure which is not only of no use to man now, but is a *veritable death-trap*. ... In the human subject, owing to its diminutive size, it can be of no use whatever ..." (Henry Drummond, *The Ascent of Man*, p. 121, 1896).

Many modern textbooks still perpetuate the assumptions of these early evolutionists. The medical educator William Boyd in his authoritative *Textbook of Pathology* (1961) states the appendix "has no known function in man and must therefore be regarded as a *vestigial organ*, albeit a very troublesome one" (p. 758). Another physician suggests that "... this *apparently useless* structure can be the source of serious, or even fatal illness" (B. F. Miller, *The Complete Medical Guide*, p. 96, 1967).

Other authorities have not been so willing to continue building on Darwin's original assumption. Many have been of the opinion that the appendix as well as other "vestigial" organs is not only functional but is of *positive value*. Even some evolutionists reject the idea that the appendix is the "remnant" of evolutionary change. Professor A. S. Romer, a leader in the field of vertebrate paleontology, charged that the appendix "is frequently cited as a vestigial organ supposedly proving something or other about evolution. *This is not the case*: a terminal appendix is a fairly common feature in the cecum of mammals, and is present in a host of primates and a number of rodents. Its major importance *would appear* to be the financial support of the surgical profession" (*The Vertebrate Body*, p. 344, 1970).

The days when the function of the

appendix was merely a matter of opinion now appear to be over. Current research has been turning up new evidence that this organ is *anything but useless*. As a recent report discloses, "The human appendix, that tiny anatomical curiosity whose importance has long been doubted and debated, may all along have been protecting organs of the body against attacks of *cancer*" (*Medical Times*, p. 263a, September, 1966). Several studies have pointed out that a significant number of persons developing cancer of the colon, lung, and breast had had their appendix removed some years before (see *Cancer*, 17:929, 1964; 21:109, 1968).

While these findings indicate the appendix is *far* from useless, the exact mechanism of operation is still being investigated. It seems to be part of the body's natural defense mechanism. The appendix may actually be involved — along with the spleen, thymus, and tonsils (the latter two have also been considered vestigial organs) — in the production of antibodies that protect the body against cancer-causing viruses. Whatever exact function this wormlike organ performs, the recent studies certainly emphasize, "The vermiform appendix in man is *not a functionless vestigial structure*" (*Cancer*, 21:118, 1968).

The concept of "vestigial" organs is the result of men groping for evidence to support the theory of evolution. The whole idea was based on a *lack* of knowledge about how the human body functions and how it came to be. For almost a hundred years men have been cutting out of the body an "apparently useless" organ that is now proving to be a valuable structure. This whole "comedy of errors" could have been avoided if men would have admitted what is now becoming quite obvious. The human body is not the result of haphazard evolutionary change but a unique creation of exquisite design. It is the product of a Master Designer who has placed each organ in the body as it pleased Him (I Cor. 12:18). Man was designed and created according to a definite plan (Gen. 1:26). Facts are now making obvious what man has been reluctant to admit.

— D. Winnail

# CHRISTMAS QUOTES

"I HATE CHRISTMAS," said one department-store manager in California. "I hate the hypocrisy, the one-day Christianity of Christmas. I hate the commercialism — and I'm part of it. People don't even know *WHY* they're giving."

What a paradox. At Christmas time, millions of families are drawn closer together while simultaneously more people are depressed, deep in debt, discouraged, drunken, and dying than during any other month of the year. Acts of charity — and acts of violence — reach their yearly peak, while "birthday gifts" to Christ, as represented by total church contributions, drastically decline.

The season has been both lauded and lampooned, blessed and blasted, loved and loathed by peoples of every major nation on earth. Sentimentalists sing its glory, while social scientists, psychiatrists, other specialists — and statistics — chronicle its dismal failure to live up to the platitudes accorded by the sentimentalists.

Here is what some of these authorities say:

The *FBI* says, "The peak monthly rate [for murder and manslaughter] almost invariably occurs in December. This may have something to do with the approach of Christmas, which leads to an unusually large number of family rows and holdups. 'Peace on earth,' we say. But it looks very doubtful that we really mean it at Christmas. Not when families are suffering such heavy crime statistics."

A seasoned *divorce lawyer* wrote, "Lawyers usually see an influx of new divorce clients immediately following the Christmas and New Year holidays. Too much holiday cheer touches off the smoldering conflicts that have been under control all year."

A large *chemical company* wrote, "On a week-for-week basis, more people commit suicide during the holiday season than any other period of the year."

A *policeman* wrote, "I have been an officer for over 19 years... We get more calls from neighbors to go out and settle family fights on Christmas Eve than on any other night of the year, including New Year. You walk into a house that is gaily decorated, the tree is aglow, beautifully wrapped gifts are under the tree and the husband and wife are throwing things at each other. The kids are crouched in the corners scared out of their wits."

A *psychiatrist* says, "At Christmas, the lonely begin feeling lonelier, the tension-prone tighten up as pressures mount and the illusion appears of ecstatic happiness for all just around the corner. Christmas is the worst season of the year for the mentally ill."

A leading *neurologist* says, "There are certainly more depressions, suicidal gestures and cries for help at Christmas than any other time."

Four *sociologists* have described instances of Christmas-induced "overeating, hives, crying jags, dishonesty, sexual deviation, and just plain orneriness.... The commonest of all Christmas symptoms is *reactive depression*." That's the "everybody's happy but I'm not" type of pouting many indulge in at Christmas.

A famous *physician* says the Santa Claus myth is a fantastic web of lies which can cause your child — when he "finds out" — confusion of mind, possible schizoid splits in his personality, or even physical ailments resulting from the emotional letdown of "losing" so close a friend (Santa). One psychology professor even laid part of the blame for the generation gap and emerging hippie sub-culture onto the Santa Claus myth.

The Better Business Bureau says it is the season to be *wary* of seasonal shy-sters, shoplifters and sidewalk salesmen. They say any charity should be investigated before a donation is made.

A Los Angeles psychiatrist summed it

all up: "What we really need is a *new kind of holiday!*"

You could quote some authorities who would praise certain aspects of Christmas, but lately many authorities have shown much convincing evidence, based on scientific studies, that there is precious little "Joy to the World" at Christmastime.

Of course, you can take or leave the facts and opinions offered by the authorities quoted above. But there is one more authority left for us to quote — one from which there should be no argument. That authority, if you have taken the time to prove it to be so, is your Bible!

Almighty God reveals much about the keeping of days, seasons, and customs in His instruction book to mankind. "Listen to the word of the Eternal for you, O house of Israel; here is what the Eternal says:

"Never learn to live like pagans, dismayed at portents in the sky; pagans are dismayed at them [this refers to the fear pagans had as the winter solstice approached. Each December 17-25 they held frantic rites to the sun god to coax it "back to life"].

"But their rites are *inane*. Here is a tree felled from the forest, trimmed by a woodman's axe, decked out with silver and with gold... then propped with nails and hammer, to keep it from falling! Idols [notice God calls this obvious reference to a Christmas tree an *idol*]... cannot hurt you — no, nor help you!" (Jeremiah 10:1-5, Moffatt translation.)

Some will answer, "But I don't worship the Christmas tree. It's not an idol to me." Don't make the mistake of assuming that God says idols are *only* carved images toward which ignorant religious savages pray. "Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to *obey*, his servants ye are to whom ye obey..." (Romans 6:16).

In this case, if you claim to observe Christmas "to Christ," you are saying that Christ *requires* you to keep it. If you see that God condemns it, yet you continue keeping it, the object of your devotion is Christmas, not God. For many people, Christmas is such an *idol*.

We should ask, "What is the source

(Continued on page 37)

# What about FALSE PROPHETS ?

*Do you know what a false prophet is? How would you recognize one if you saw one? Or heard one? Are they easily identified — or are they shrouded in obscurity? Are false prophets in the minority — or are they to be found in abundant supply? Does it pay to be a false prophet — and is there any future in it?*

by Brian Knowles

**S**OME DEFINE “a false prophet” as any minister with whom THEY DO NOT AGREE! Simply because a man says something that sounds strange or *different* from the religious statements they are accustomed to hearing, does that make him a “false prophet”? To many it would.

People have odd ways of evaluating a minister's authenticity! Some consider the *size of a man's following* as the measure of his worth. Others feel it is his *personality* or *approach* or *appearance* that identifies him as a true servant of God! Others still feel that a minister's *credentials* or the *letters after his name* or perhaps his linkage with the *religious establishment* is the crucial criterion.

## A False Prophet Is NOT a True Prophet

Yet, in plain point of fact, *NONE* of these “popular signs” is the sign of a *true* minister of God — if we are to judge using *the Bible* as our standard.

To understand what a *false* prophet is, it is easiest to define the contrast of a *true* prophet, a true minister of God. This is the shortest approach because there is only *ONE* true ministry, but there are *MANY* false ones. If we define a true minister, then all the *others* who do not fit that definition will fall into place.

Stop and ask yourself some candid questions. When Jesus was active in His ministry, did the religious establishment of the day accept Him? No! Christ was *not* endorsed by the local ministry as He preached the Gospel of the Kingdom of God in every town He visited. Just the opposite. They sought, and finally *took*, His LIFE! Nor did Christ teach the old established ideas that the people were accustomed to hearing. What He said *astonished* everyone! They realized He spoke with *authority*! Read it in your own Bible in Matthew 7:28-29.

Jesus had no papers or credentials from any of the then-existing schools of theology. He was not a Pharisee, a Sadducee or an Essene! In fact, people wondered at His lack of credentials and questioned how He could preach with such authority and do such miracles! They pointed out that He was merely a carpenter's son (Matthew 13:54-57). His authority was constantly in question (Matthew 21:23 and Mark 11:28).

Nor was Jesus Christ an outstanding man in appearance or stature — He was certainly not the movie-idol type. Isaiah described Jesus' appearance in chapter 53:2. Christ *never* stood out in a crowd — and especially not because of His allegedly long hair! In fact, the Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write that it is a *SHAME* for a man to have long hair!

(I Cor. 11:14.) Surely we can see by now that a true prophet or minister of God is not measured by his appearance, following, credentials or his association with established religion! *None* of these things marks a man of God!

## A Real Man of God

Well then, what *does* identify a genuine servant of God? The Bible certainly does not leave us ignorant on this vital question! Here are three vital qualifications:

**One:** A true minister of God must study, preach and *live by* EVERY word of God! If a man tells you something that he knows *disagrees* with God's revealed Word, he instantly disqualifies himself from being a true minister of Christ! Isaiah 8:20 and Matthew 4:4 confirm this!

**Two:** A true minister must teach the SAME GOSPEL JESUS TAUGHT: The Gospel of the Kingdom of God. Of course he must teach *repentance* of sin, acceptance of the blood of Jesus Christ to atone for that repented sin. But more, he must teach the *purpose* of repentance, the *purpose* of Christ's shed blood: the eternal life God offers us in His Kingdom, His own Family, as His born Son, ruling with Him in God's Kingdom.

**Three:** A true minister must be busy *doing* the Work of God! Busy warning

a sick and cynical world where its sin is leading it, busy broadcasting the Good News of the soon-coming Kingdom of God (Matt. 24:14), and busy publishing the Good News of an ever-loving God coming to save mankind from committing cosmocide! (Matt. 24:22.)

What a man PRODUCES as a result of his ministry is another important thing to look for. What kind of fruit is being borne by his efforts? Are lives being *changed* for the better? Are problems being solved? Do his words contain ANSWERS, or are they mere platitudes and the quoting of poetry? God tells us a true servant can be identified by the fruits of his ministry! [If you would like to meet and counsel with one of God's true ministers — let us know and we'll put you in contact with one in your area — Editor's Note.]

These are key points. Unless a man fulfills these absolutely basic requirements, he is an imposter, merely *masquerading* as a minister of Christ!

### Many False

Maybe you are thinking, "Well, surely there are *very few ministers* who would dare to deliberately *twist* God's Word and deceive people! Any ministers I know are *sincere* and honest. Fine men." And undoubtedly *there are* many very sincere men in the ministry! But it is possible to be sincere and yet also be very much *deceived*! It is entirely possible to be *sincerely* WRONG!

You see, God did *not* say the false prophets would be in the minority! God tells us there will be *MANY* such individuals! "For *MANY* [not a small minority, but the *MANY*!] shall come in my name [claiming to represent Christ], saying, I [Jesus] am Christ [proclaiming Jesus of Nazareth as Saviour and Messiah]; and shall *DECEIVE MANY*." So says your Bible in Matthew 24:5, 11!

Here God shows us that *vast numbers* of people would be deceived by *great numbers of false ministers* who would falsely claim to represent Christ! In fact, God tells us that the *whole world* is being deceived! Read it yourself in Revelation 12:9.

Now you know how to recognize the true man of God and also how to pin-

point a false prophet. But there is still one question left to be answered! Is THERE ANY FUTURE IN BEING A FALSE PROPHET?

### Any Future Profits?

This magazine is called "TOMORROW'S WORLD." There is a *REASON* for that. We in this *WORK* are proclaiming a message about conditions on this earth in the world just around the corner — in *tomorrow's* world. We are preparing the way for the return of Jesus Christ, to take over the reigns of WORLD GOVERNMENT! Jesus will set up a system of government that will disseminate the Truth of God around this earth to the extent that it will saturate all the world like a giant ocean of priceless knowledge! (Isa. 11:9.) In that world there will be *no room* for *false* prophets! Any such individuals who are fortunate enough to make the transition from this end-time age into the society of tomorrow will find themselves facing the task of learning a *new profession*! You might say the false prophets of today will be the *FUTURE FARMERS OF TOMORROW*! Notice how Zechariah describes the conditions of tomorrow's world!

"And in that day the *false* prophets shall *everyone* be ashamed of his vision when he prophesies. No one will be boasting *then* of his prophetic gift! No one will wear prophet's clothes [men of 'the cloth'?] to try to fool the people then! No, he will say, I am *not* a prophet, *I AM A FARMER* . . ." (Zech. 13:4-5, Amplified and Living Prophecies versions).

And so it will come to pass that this anecdote will come true: A young man once came to a true minister of God and said, "I had a dream last night and my future was made plain to me. In the sky appeared two great letters: 'PC'! And so I know that I must be a minister and Preach Christ!" But the minister answered the young man and said, "You may indeed have seen the great letters 'PC,' young man, but you gave them the wrong significance. For *you* 'PC' does *not* mean Preach Christ — it means Plow Corn, Pluck Chickens and Pick Cotton!"

False prophets of today's world — PREPARE TO PLOW! □

# TEN COMMANDMENTS

(Continued from page 20)

Ten Commandments appear in the New Testament. This is a very convenient way to "*do away*" with any command that one does not want to obey, or does not want others to obey. The Bible plainly labels such teachers.

We have already seen how *EACH AND EVERY ONE OF THE TEN COMMANDMENTS* is still in effect today!

Are you going to follow those who want you to *disobey* God and *forfeit* eternal salvation or are you going to obey *all* of God's commandments?

[Editor's Note: If you do not have a copy of our comprehensive *free* book on *The Ten Commandments*, write for it immediately.]

### God's Plain Truth

It should be crystal clear now that *ALL ten commandments* are to be OBEYED TODAY! It is obvious from hundreds of Old and New Testament scriptures that they are to be followed as a *way of life*. These commands of God are in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation.

The scriptures show that Jesus Christ of the New Testament was the *only* God ancient Israel knew. Therefore it was Christ who said, "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep *all my commandments* always, that it might be well with them, and with their children *for ever*!" (Deut. 5:29.)

Do you want things to go well with you or do you want the curses that come from disobedience?

In the very last chapter of the whole Bible it is again made clear that they are still to be *obeyed*. "Blessed are they that *do his commandments* [all of them], that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" (Revelation 22:14).

This is the way to live *happily* and *abundantly*. It brings the right kind of results. It is the way, *through Christ*, that we may inherit His free gift of eternal life.

Will YOU *obey* and LIVE? □



# *The* STORY of MAN

*for children five to one hundred five*

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FORTY

## A RIGHTEOUS KING

**H**EZEKIAH's messengers were sent throughout Israel and Judah to spread news of the reopening of the temple at Jerusalem. But they were scoffed at and threatened by idol-worshippers, especially in the territories of Manasseh, Ephraim and Zebulun. (II Chronicles 30:1-10.)

### Greatest Passover Since Solomon

"Don't try to convince us we should worship someone we can't see!" the messengers were told. "Go back to your temple and prostrate yourselves, or you might find yourselves prostrate here in Israel for reasons you won't like!"

But not all the Israelites laughed at or ridiculed the messengers. Many of Manasseh, Ephraim, Asher, Issachar and Zebulun welcomed the news from Judah. Most of these, among many others, managed to get to Jerusalem before the appointed time, inasmuch that the city swarmed with people eager to observe the Passover.

Filled with zeal, bands of them roamed through streets and buildings, ferreting out hidden altars and pagan images that had been used during the reign of idolatrous Ahaz. The altars were torn down and thrown into the gushing stream called Kidron, to be washed far from Jerusalem by the spring torrent.

The king of Judah was elated at the way the Passover turned out. It proved to be the greatest in attendance, as well as the most joyous, since the time of Solomon! There was only one temporarily adverse note. A few of the people, even including some priests, had failed to properly prepare themselves, ceremonially and mentally, for a fitting observance of the Passover.

When Hezekiah discerned this, he asked God to pardon the careless ones. Because he was obedient to God, his prayer was answered, and for a week there was joyous worship in the Days of Unleavened Bread, a time that God's Church still observes by praising the Creator by word and music, but not through meat sacrifices on altars.

The people were so enthusiastic that the government and church leaders took counsel and decided to continue worship services for another week. Hezekiah and the princes gladly arranged for two thousand bullocks and seventeen thousand sheep to be brought in to make more feasting possible. On the last day the priests asked God's blessing on those present, who dispersed with thankfulness that they had been able to come and enjoy the occasion. (II Chronicles 30:11-27.)

After leaving the temple, all the people didn't return to their homes immediately. Most of the men traveled throughout Judah, seeking idols and idol-worshipping places as they had done in Jerusalem. Zealously they smashed the images, cut down sacred groves and tore apart the altars. Those few who still favored these objects offered no resistance, not wishing to be recognized as idolaters.

The horde of idol-destroyers then swept northward into Israel to successfully continue the purge, but not without opposition. Some of the owners of images there tried to defend them, but failed because of the inspired eagerness of the followers of God. Ultimately they cleaned most of the pagan objects out of all Israel. Then they returned to their homes. (II Chronicles 31:1.)

Meanwhile, Hezekiah set about reestablishing a

more permanent order of matters at the temple, including the specific ranks, courses and duties of the priests and other Levites. He planned how functions could be improved by more closely conforming to the manner in which they were carried out when the temple was new. (I Chronicles 23:1-6.)

Hezekiah also decided how much the king should contribute for offerings. (II Chronicles 31:3.) David, Solomon and other conscientious kings of Judah had furnished much for special offerings. Hezekiah wanted to follow their example. (II Samuel 8:9-12; I Kings 8:5, 63; I Chronicles 22:2-4, 14-16; II Chronicles 7:4-5, etc.)

### It Pays to Tithe

Also, in the times of the kings who followed God, the people supplied the needs of the Levites and the temple by paying tithes. Hezekiah reminded the people of this tithe. The response was more than enough. During the months that followed, there was such a surplus of animals, grain, wine, oil, honey and valuables that places had to be prepared to store or keep them.

This overabundance from the people reflected God's blessing on Judah because of the obedience of the king and his example and influence. (II Chronicles 31:2-12, 20-21.)

This change for the better didn't mean that there would be no trouble in the nation from then on. Judah was still under the burden of paying regular tribute to Assyria because of the heavy commitment made by King Ahaz. Besides, the Philistines were a constant threat from the west.

At that time the army of Judah wasn't very powerful, but in time Hezekiah patiently brought it up to much greater strength. A surprise attack on the Philistines pushed them back westward to the city of Gaza, their capital, only a few miles from the Great Sea (Mediterranean). Thus were regained some of the towns that had formerly belonged to Judah. (II Kings 18:1-8.)

Encouraged by this triumph over one ancient enemy nation, Hezekiah continued to build up his army. About twelve years after he had become king, he at last felt that his fighting force was strong enough to repel invasion by the most formidable army of that time — that of Assyria.

Hezekiah then did something he had long wanted to do. It was time for paying the regular

tribute to the king of Assyria. Instead of paying it, the king of Judah sent a message to Sennacherib, king of Assyria, informing him that Judah could no longer be considered one of Assyria's vassal nations, and therefore it owed no tribute. (II Kings 18:7.)

This was a bold act against such a powerful leader, but Hezekiah felt that it was a necessary step. He wasn't overly concerned about Sennacherib's reaction. As a matter of further preparedness, however, he heightened Jerusalem's walls and strengthened the fortifications. He believed in doing all he could to prepare for the worst. Whatever he couldn't do for Judah would have to come as protection from God. (II Chronicles 32:5-8.)

### The Conquering Assyrians

A few months after Hezekiah's message was sent to Sennacherib, a startling report was speedily carried into Jerusalem.

"Hordes of Assyrian soldiers are swarming southward west of Samaria, and are invading us through western Judah!" Hezekiah was informed. "They're swallowing up all our towns that are in their path!" (II Chronicles 32:1; II Kings 18:13.)

"It would be foolish to pursue them," one of Hezekiah's officers observed. "Perhaps they're going to invade Egypt. If they plan a full-scale attack against Judah, why would they travel so far beyond Jerusalem?"

"That's what I want to know," Hezekiah said. "Send scouts and lookouts to find out all they can and report as soon as possible."

When the scouts sent messengers back to Jerusalem, they took the discouraging news that the Assyrians had thoroughly plundered the towns in their path, and had made captives of the citizens. They had halted at the walled city of Lachish on the main highway to Egypt. They were besieging Lachish, which could indicate that Lachish was as far west as they planned to go.

The king of Judah was troubled. It was evident to him that this invasion was the result of his refusal to pay tribute to Sennacherib. A showdown at Jerusalem obviously wasn't very far away. Hezekiah called an immediate meeting of his advisors to determine what should be done next for the defense of the capital.

They decided that the most effective thing they

could do, in the probable event the Assyrians came to Jerusalem, was to cut off the water supply by plugging up wells and springs outside the city. This was done after rural residents had stored much water in hidden places, although this measure was certain to bring hardship to farmers and stockmen. A crew of many workers even managed to divert and cover the stream called Kidron, so that it wouldn't be recognizable or easily accessible.

The king carried out every possible emergency measure. More shields and weapons were hastily produced, including machines that would loose showers of arrows and spears. Officers and leaders were assigned to various areas of people to keep them organized for resistance to invasion. (II Chronicles 32:2-6.)

By this time a large part of the citizens of Jerusalem and its environs were filled with fear, having heard that a gigantic Assyrian army was about to swallow up the whole nation of Judah and take the people into slavery as the invaders had done with the unrepentant inhabitants of the kingdom of Israel. (II Kings 18:9-12.)

Hezekiah was troubled by this fearful mood of his subjects. Now that so many of them had turned back to God, he had hoped that their faith in God would be stronger. But at the same time he realized that it was difficult to be calm with many thousands of enemy soldiers not many miles away. He tried to encourage them by going to the main gates of the city, where he could contact the largest crowds and speak directly to them.

"Don't be dismayed by what you have heard of the Assyrians," he told the people, who gathered in large numbers to hear him. "The army of the invaders is truly a powerful one. But our power can be even greater if we trust in God to strengthen us. Remain obedient to Him, and there will be no reason to be afraid."

The king's remarks soon spread to others who hadn't been present, giving them assurance and greater will to prepare and to resist if necessary. (II Chronicles 32:7-8.)

### The King Wavers

Later, alone in his quarters, the king paced the floor. It wasn't that his faith in God's protection had suddenly vanished. It was that he was wondering how much more hardship and loss of life God would



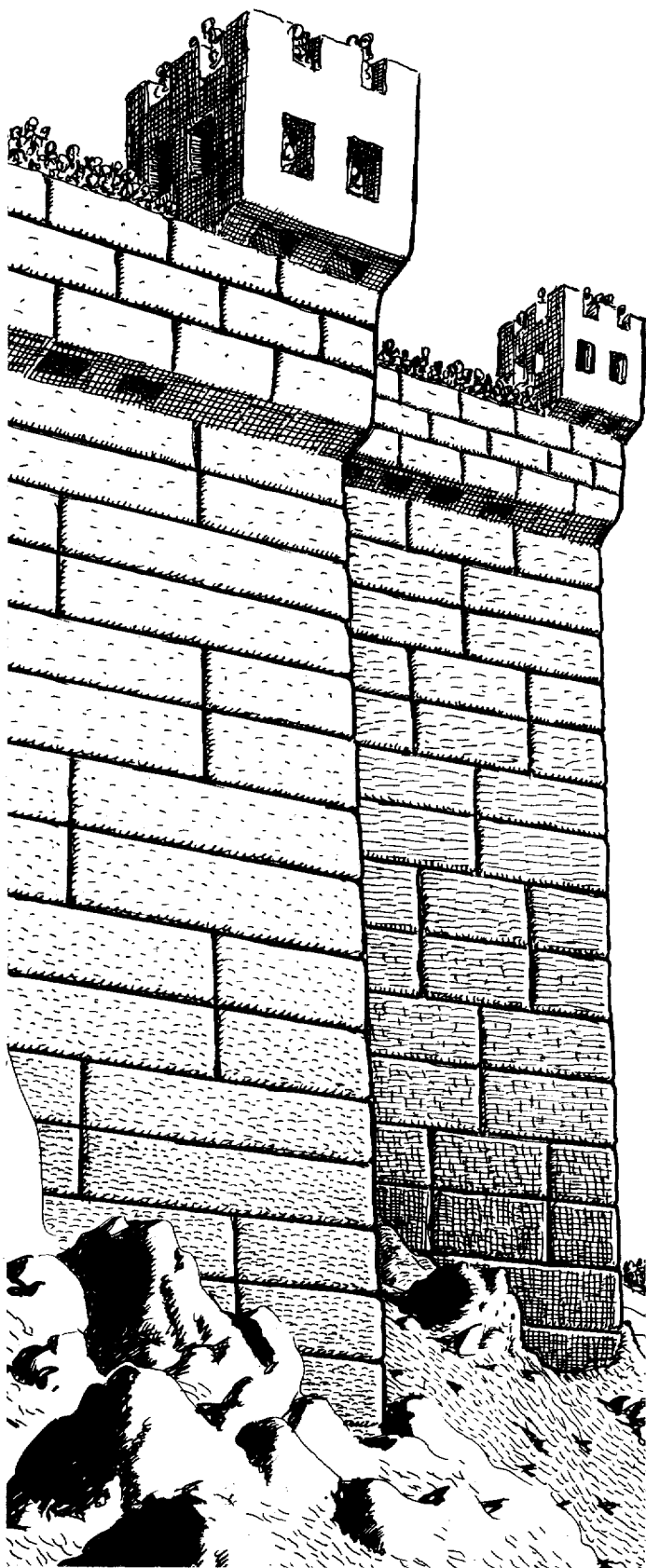
The king of Assyria grinned when he received Hezekiah's message in Hebrew, but he grinned even wider when his interpreter revealed the content.

allow in Judah before rescuing the nation from the Assyrians.

"Perhaps I have been too stubborn," Hezekiah thought. "Perhaps my refusal to pay tribute will cost the lives of many of my people."

The king of Judah thereupon made a decision that changed matters somewhat, though not necessarily for the better. Messengers shortly afterward delivered a message to the Assyrians at Lachish. (II Kings 18:14.) It was for Sennacherib. Hezekiah

Soldiers and civilians of Jerusalem crowded up to the wall tops to watch the Assyrian invaders.



trusted that it would be forwarded to the Assyrian emperor, wherever he was.

The message reached Sennacherib, whose face broke into a satisfied grin as he heard these words interpreted for him in his native tongue:

"It is obvious that my decision not to pay tribute to you has caused you great offense, for which I am regretful and ask your pardon. My nation does not want to indulge in war. Advise me what you require of Judah for the departure of your entire army without warfare. Whatever you ask will be paid."

(Signed) Hezekiah, King of Judah

Not long afterward Hezekiah received this reply from the king of Assyria:

"Deliver to me three hundred talents of silver and thirty talents of gold. Then I will take my army back to Assyria in peace."

(Signed) Sennacherib  
King of Assyria and the World

Hezekiah was stunned by this demand, which today would be equal to several millions of our dollars. Nevertheless, the king of Judah had promised to pay it, and he was determined to do so in spite of a difficult situation. That situation was that he didn't have the required amount of gold and silver. His personal finances and palace treasures couldn't meet such a demand. Taxing the people, even locally, would require too much time. Besides, such a measure wouldn't be good for the morale of his subjects, to whom he had recently spoken concerning faith in God for their protection.

There was only one resort — the temple.

Much as he regretted having to do it, Hezekiah gave confidential orders to the Levites that the gold and silver of the temple, including the precious metal that had been applied to the doors and pillars, should be removed and brought to the palace. This, with what Hezekiah could supply from palace treasures, added up to the amount Sennacherib had demanded. The total treasure, intended to insure Judah against war with the invaders, was dispatched to the Lachish area and turned over to Sennacherib's officers, who had it conveyed to their emperor. (II Kings 18:13-16.)

### The Insolence of Plunderers

Anxious days passed for Hezekiah. He constantly hoped to hear that the Assyrians were starting

to clear out of Judah. Instead of receiving encouraging news, he was shocked by the report that thousands of Assyrian troops and cavalry were heading toward Jerusalem.

At first Hezekiah tried to calm himself with the thought that the Assyrians were simply going to pass by the capital of Judah on their way to their home country. Perhaps Sennacherib was going to stop and thank him for the gold and silver. This wishful thinking came to an end when he saw the first columns of the tremendous army come over a rise and soon spread out around the city.

Thousands of soldiers and civilians flocked to the broad wall top to watch the invaders mass before them. Three Assyrian officers and their aides took up a position from where they could command the best attention of the onlookers. (II Kings 18:17.)

"I am Tartan, King Sennacherib's treasurer and general!" one of the richly uniformed men loudly shouted. "My king has sent us to give a message to your king! Send him out on the wall to hear it!"

"Sennacherib's general has a message from his king for you, sire," an excited servant quickly informed Hezekiah.

"I know," Hezekiah nodded. "I heard his raucous voice and his insolent tone. I don't intend to

jump at his command. If the king of Assyria must use representatives, so shall I."

A little later three of Hezekiah's men of top rank appeared on the wall. They were Eliakim, Shebna and Joah. These were the steward of the royal household, the king's chief secretary and his official recorder and keeper of the archives. After they were introduced, another of the three Assyrian officers waved for attention.

"I am Rab-shakeh, chief of the wine cellar and cupbearer to the world's greatest king!" he called out in Hebrew. "We didn't think that your king would dare expose himself to us! My king wants to know how the faint-hearted Hezekiah can protect his nation from destruction by locking himself and his army inside high walls! Surely he wasn't foolish enough to believe that the miserable bribe he recently sent would buy freedom from us!" (II Kings 18:18-20.)

Standing by a window where he could hear every spiteful word, the king of Judah suddenly felt very ill when he learned that he had made the tribute payment in vain. The treacherous Sennacherib's promise to leave Judah without more war was merely a ruse to bring reproach on Hezekiah before the mighty Assyrian army moved to strike at Jerusalem!

*(To be continued next issue)*

## CHRISTMAS QUOTES

*(Continued from page 30)*

of our religion?" Religion is the obedience, service, and adoration rendered to the object of one's worship — a system of faith and devotion to a superior authority — the profession, practice and observance of whatsoever belief and practice is required by that superior authority.

Can you observe pagan customs "to Christ"? Here is God's frank answer: "Beware of letting yourselves be beguiled into copying [pagan peoples], ... beware of resorting to their gods, asking yourselves, 'How did these nations worship their gods? — that I may do the same.' *You must NOT worship the Eternal your God thus; for they offered their gods all that*

is abominable and hateful to the Eternal..." (Deuteronomy 12:30-31, Moffatt translation).

The 1968 edition of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* makes clear the origin of Christmas. "During the later periods of Roman history sun worship gained in importance and ultimately led to what has been called a 'solar monotheism.' Influence from Oriental [Babylonian] sun cults contributed to an already existing tendency," wrote the *Britannica* under the article "Sun Worship."

"Both Christ and Mithra acquired the traits of solar deities. The feast of *Sol invictus* (unconquered sun) on December 25 was celebrated with great joy, and eventually this date was taken over by the Christians as Christmas, the birthday of Christ."

But Christ was not born on, or anywhere near, December 25! [Request the article, "When Was Christ Born?"] The

Bible nowhere commands keeping of Christ's birthday. The New Testament Church never kept it. Not until over 300 years after Christ's death did pagan Romans force the religious authorities to accept their festive *Saturnalia* and stamp Christ's name on it.

Notice further what the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* has to say about Saturnalia. "Saturnalia became associated with all forms of license... moral restrictions were eased. The streets were infected with a Mardi Gras madness... the seasonal greeting *io Saturnalia* was heard everywhere; presents were freely exchanged... houses were decorated with greenery and lights... keeping the feasts was *required by patriotism*." Does any of this seem to represent the traditional "Christmas spirit"?

For further proof of the pagan origin of the long-cherished days of so-called Christianity, write for our free booklets on *Easter* and *Christmas*.

G. Alexander



# Your PRAYERS can work MIRACLES

*Prayer to many seems religious, old-fashioned, obsolete — a superstitious ritual of the ancient past. But there is a POWER in fervent prayer known to very few — a power that can work miracles!*

by William F. Dankenbring

**M**OST MODERNS have discarded such “superstitions” as faith, God, and prayer. God, to them, is unreal, vague or far off. Prayer itself is looked upon as a balm for the soul — a psychological trick to calm agitated emotions.

But is prayer out-of-date? Is it just an emotional release? Just what is prayer? And how can you make sure your prayers are answered?

## The POWER of Prayer

When Abraham prayed, God heard, and gave him a son miraculously in his old age. When Moses prayed, an entire nation was saved from total destruction. When Joshua prayed, the sun stood still in the heavens. When Samuel prayed, an earthquake terrified an alien army and sent thousands of troops fleeing away. When David prayed, God intervened and won battles for Israel. When Hezekiah prayed, the army of Sennacherib was destroyed in a single night, and the sun retreated ten degrees in the sky.

When Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego (Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah) prayed, God delivered them from a roaring furnace of fire. When Daniel prayed, he was delivered from hungry, voracious lions.

When Jesus Christ prayed, the Father gave Him spiritual POWER to perform miracles, daily. He received power to

heal the sick, give sight to the blind, and to raise the dead back to life!

When the apostles called on God, in the name of Christ, earthquakes rent the earth, miracles of healing occurred, enemies of the truth were blinded or struck dead.

Here was *POWER*!

But what about you?

Are *your* prayers answered? If not, why not?

## Why So Little Power Today?

We live in an age of materialism. The world has lost the knowledge of God and the knowledge of the power of prayer. Consequently, we live in an age of very limited spiritual power. The churches, today, are empty shells. They, too, have forgotten the power of prayer and lost the knowledge of the true God!

No wonder Jesus Christ, speaking prophetically of our generation today, said, “When the Son of Man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?” (Luke 18:8.)

When people *do* pray today, so often it is just some sort of “religious exercise.” They pray because they feel it is expected of them — a duty to perform. They don’t expect an answer. If there were a tremendous answer from God, why, they would be speechless, dumbfounded!

No wonder there is so little spiritual POWER in the world, today!

How can YOU begin to pray more effectively — with more success — more POWER — more *results*?

## What Prayer Is

First, let’s understand just what prayer is. The most often used Hebrew word for prayer in the Old Testament is *tephillah* and means “intercession, supplication.” It comes from the word *palal*, which means “to judge, entreat, intercede, pray, make supplication.” The *literal* meaning of the word, in the Hebrew, is “to prostrate oneself,” or “to bow down.”

Prayer, then, is simply intercession with God — or earnest, intense *supplication*. It is done in an attitude of humility, contrition and deep respect. Since the word itself means “to bow down,” the general way to pray is *on one’s knees*. Most examples in the Bible show the usual position of prayer is on one’s knees, bowing before God. The most important thing, however, is not the literal position (one can pray hanging upside down in a well, if he needs to!), but the *ATTITUDE* of humility, reverence and respect for God!

*Supplication* means to “make a humble entreaty, to ask for earnestly and humbly.” To *entreat* means “to ask

earnestly or *urgently*, intercede, *plead*."

All these definitions are contained in the one word "prayer." To most people today, "prayer" conjures up in their minds an act of sanctimonious piety, and reciting a psalm or liturgy. Such an idea is far from the truth, but the religions of this world have *perverted* even the true meaning of prayer, and turned it into a thing of ridicule and superstition!

Prayer is **NOT** mental magic, or mumbo-jumbo. It is not a psychological "pep talk" that people give themselves to feel better.

Prayer — *true* prayer — is communication with the Almighty God, and Jesus Christ at His right hand. Prayer is *talking*, in an attitude of humility, reverence, awe and respect, to *GOD*!

What is so weird or strange about that?

But how should you pray? What should you pray for? How can you be *sure* your prayers are ANSWERED?

### Obedience a Key

"God heareth not sinners" (John 9:31). Sin is the transgression of God's Law (I John 3:4). Therefore, if you want to have your prayers heard and answered by God, you must first *want* to REPENT of any sins which separate you from God. Isaiah was inspired to write, "Behold, the LORD's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: but your iniquities have *separated* between you and your God, and your sins have *hid his face* from you, that he will not hear" (Isa. 59:1-2).

There is the crux of the matter. Most prayers are not heard and go unanswered because of SIN! If you purposely and maliciously harbor lawlessness and rebellion in your life, you will not be heard — your prayers will be an abomination to God (Prov. 28:9; Psalm 109:7).

But if a person departs from sin, and cries out to God from his heart, his prayer **WILL** be heard! Notice what an angel told Daniel: "Fear not, Daniel: for from the first day that thou didst *set thine heart to understand*, and to chasten thyself before thy God, **THY WORDS WERE HEARD...**" (Dan. 10:12).

Our God is very merciful — He

will hear us from the moment that we *begin to want* to communicate with Him. *In essence, then, a WHOLE-HEARTED DESIRE is the only pre-condition to prayer.*

God surely does not hear sinners who want to *remain* sinners — but God will quickly respond to sinners who *want to change, even while they are yet sinners.*

And notice again, what God inspired the Apostle John to write, for us: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we *keep his commandments*, and *DO* those things that are *pleasing* in his sight" (I John 3:22).

In order for your prayers to be heard, you must want to serve God with a sincere, faithful, devoted heart. You must strive to obey Him, and please Him in your actions, thoughts and words. Write for our free articles "What Is Real Repentance?" and "What Is a Real Christian?" They will show why so few, today, are close enough to God to have their prayers heard.

But obedience, alone, is not enough. You must also have FAITH in God, in order to be heard!

### The Power of FAITH!

The Apostle Paul wrote, "But *without faith* it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God *must BELIEVE* that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him" (Heb. 11:6).

Jesus Himself gave a vital principle we must understand when He declared: "ACCORDING TO YOUR FAITH be it unto you" (Matt. 9:29).

Lack of real, tangible faith is a prime reason millions of prayers go unheard — unanswered.

James wrote, "If any of you lack wisdom, let him ask of God, that giveth to all men liberally, and upbraideth not, and it shall be given him. But let him ask in FAITH, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed. *For let not that man think that he shall receive any thing of the Lord*" (James 1:5-7).

What about you? Do you have real FAITH in God? Faith is the belief or assurance that what God says in His

Word is **TRUE** — that God will do that which He has promised.

How can you obtain more faith?

There are two vital keys to increasing faith. "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing by the word of God" (Rom. 10:17). If you study God's Word, and drink in of it daily, you will become stronger in faith; you will learn more intimately how God's many promises contained in His Word apply to **YOU**!

Faith is a gift (Gal. 5:22-23). It is not an emotion which you must work up yourself, struggling and agonizing to attain. You don't have to strive to have faith in God. It is a gift of the Holy Spirit!

As a person turns away from sin, yields his life to God, and surrenders to His government, God will give him the indwelling power of His Holy Spirit — the Spirit that imparts faith, the very faith Jesus Christ had (Gal. 2:16, 20; Phil. 3:9).

If you desire more of God's Spirit, and more faith, then go before God's throne and *ask* Him for it. Jesus said, "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you" (Luke 11:9).

### Walk With God

Another secret of powerful prayer is walking with God. Abraham walked with God. So did Noah, Moses, Elijah and David. They came to know God intimately. They obeyed God faithfully, loyally. Abraham kept *all* God's commands, statutes, laws and ordinances (Gen. 26:5).

These men prayed to God often. They spent long hours in prayer, communing with God. But those people who "pray" today, usually spend mere minutes (or seconds) in "prayer." No wonder they have no spiritual POWER!

If you want power in your prayers, and spiritual POWER in your life, then you must *walk with God*.

Notice what the Prophet Micah wrote: "He hath shewed thee, O man, what is good; and what doth the LORD require of thee, but to do justly, and to love mercy, and to *walk HUMBLY with thy God*?" (Micah 6:8.)

Walking with God means spending time with Him — instead of with

*material* things of the world. It involves TIME spent studying His Word, learning His truth, meditating on His principles and laws, and praying to Him for greater understanding, wisdom, guidance, and faith.

How can you WALK WITH GOD?

God will not walk with the proud, haughty, high minded and conceited. He is far off to them (I Peter 5:5). He walks with the HUMBLE in heart and mind (verses 5-6). The proud will not have their prayers answered (Luke 18:9-14).

But notice. God says, "... to this man will I look, even to him that is poor and of a contrite [humble] spirit, and TREMBLETH at my word" (Isa. 66:2).

### HOW Should You Pray?

The first point to understand is that prayer is for *our* benefit. We should look forward to talking with our Creator. Consequently, we must never allow prayer to decay into a meaningless ritual.

So there can be no set rules for when to pray, how often to pray or how long to pray. A fervent, deeply felt short prayer is obviously much better than a lukewarm, lazy, long one.

Nonetheless we do need examples to follow. And God has provided them.

When should you pray? Jesus Christ rose up early in the morning to pray and commune with His Father. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35).

The early morning hours, when all is peaceful and still, and your mind is uncluttered from the day's routine, is a wonderful time to spend in prayer. God wants us to give our *best* time to Him!

Jesus spent *long hours* in prayer to His Father. One particular time when He was facing tremendous decisions and knew that He needed special wisdom and inspiration, He spent all night in prayer (Luke 6:12).

In the days of Christ and the apostles, it was customary to pray at certain times of the day — called "the hours of prayer" (Acts 3:1). There were three such times during the day —

in the morning, at noon, and in the evening. David declared: "*Evening, and morning, and at noon, will I pray, and cry aloud: and he shall hear my voice*" (Psalm 55:17).

The Prophet Daniel, a man greatly beloved in God's sight, prayed three times a day, even in the face of death! Knowing that the Persian government had passed a law against prayer, "...his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees *three times a day, and prayed*, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Dan. 6:10).

Why was Daniel such a wise, useful, effective servant of God? Where did he get the understanding and wisdom for which he was famous? (Dan. 1:17; 2:19-23.)

God gave him wisdom and understanding, because Daniel was faithful, walked with God, sought His guidance at *all* times, and prayed *regularly*.

Daniel made fewer mistakes in his work, accomplished much more that was worthwhile because he stayed close to God and sought Him REGULARLY! He did not allow daily duties, business, or physical activities to crowd out the time he spent with God in prayer, as many are prone to do today.

If *YOU* lack wisdom and understanding, it may well be due to your failure to pray constantly, regularly, and often to your Maker and Ruler in heaven!

### Wrestling in Prayer

Most prayers today are namby-pamby, weak, insipid, ineffectual. They accomplish nothing at all and are a complete waste of time.

Wishy-washy, spineless, weak-kneed, "milk-toast" prayers, lukewarm prayers *never* have achieved miraculous results, and never will!

When you pray, do you put your *heart* into your prayers? Do you pray fervently, earnestly, pouring out your heart before His Throne of Grace?

Are you filled with ZEAL when you pray? Are you motivated with spiritual energy and alertness?

Can you imagine the insult it would be if you appeared before the President of the United States, in a private

audience in the White House — and you became drowsy, droopy-eyed, and began to mumble your words and soon fell asleep?

How much more *disrespectful* is it of our heavenly Father when we come before His glorious, awe-inspiring throne and mumble our words while we're half asleep!

When Elijah prayed, he prayed *FERVENTLY*, and God caused a great drought to come on the land. Later he prayed fervently, and God brought rain in abundance. James wrote, "The effectual FERVENT prayer of a righteous [obedient] man *availeth much*" (James 5:16).

The original Greek word for "fervent" is *zelos* and means "heat, zeal, ardor." Moffatt translates this verse, "the prayers of the righteous have a POWERFUL EFFECT." The *Amplified Bible* says, "The EARNEST (HEART-FELT, CONTINUED) prayer of a righteous man makes TREMENDOUS POWER AVAILABLE — *dynamic in its working*."

One of the keys to powerful effective prayer, therefore, is ZEAL.

Hannah wept sorely when she prayed. She was *really* zealous. She poured out her heart in her prayer to God — AND HE LISTENED! As a direct result, God opened her womb, and gave her a son who became the Prophet Samuel (I Sam. 1:9-15).

When Christ prayed in the Garden of Gethsemane, He was so earnest and intense that "being in an agony he prayed *more* earnestly: and his sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44). Christ's prayers were HEARD (Heb. 5:7).

An example of how to "get through" to God is found in the book of Genesis. Perhaps you never thought of it this way before.

Jacob was in a mental quandary. He was returning home to his native land, but was fearful of his brother Esau. With humility, Jacob confessed he was not worthy of God's mercy, but prayed for deliverance (Gen. 32:9-12).

That night, Jacob was left alone, "and there wrestled a man with him until the breaking of the day. And when he saw that he prevailed not against him, he touched the hollow of his

thigh; and the hollow of Jacob's thigh was out of joint, as he wrestled with him. And he said, Let me go, for the day breaketh. And he said, *I will not let thee go, except thou bless me.* And he said unto him, What is thy name? And he said, Jacob. And he said, Thy name shall be called no more Jacob, but Israel [that is, a prince of God]: for as a prince hast thou **POWER** WITH GOD and with men, **AND HAST PREVAILED**" (Gen. 32:24-28).

Notice this account carefully. Jacob wrestled all night with this person — the One who became Christ (verse 30). He did not give up. He was persistent, tenacious in wrestling. He was like a bulldog — he wouldn't let go.

Seeing this characteristic in Jacob, Christ changed his name to "Israel," meaning "a contender with God," "a prince of God," "striver-with-God," "he who strives with God." Jacob wrestled all night, showing he had *power* — he was not a spineless jelly-fish. He was tenacious — determined. He wrestled until he **PREVAILED**!

God *blessed* him for his tenacity and perseverance — his "never-give-up," "never-quit" attitude.

This principle also applies to prayer. Jesus Christ said men should pray "and not to faint." Moffatt puts it, "never losing heart." The *Amplified* has it, "not to turn coward — faint, lose heart and give up" (Luke 18:1).

### NEVER Lose Heart!

Many lose heart in prayer. If the answer doesn't come right away, they give up. They quit praying. But Jesus said men ought **ALWAYS** to pray — to importune God, persisting, persevering, continuing in prayer, **NEVER** losing heart.

Jacob's example should inspire us to put our hearts in our prayers, to be tenacious, and to *wrestle* as long as it is necessary in prayer.

This kind of wrestling is not selfish. God will not hear selfish prayers. But often God does put us to the test, to see if we have "staying power," stamina, endurance — to see if we are willing to endure *patiently* until the answer **DOES** come!

God does not always answer prayers immediately. But He knows best. He

knows what we need the most. He promises — and He cannot break a promise — to provide our every need (Phil. 4:19) in Christ.

Therefore, when the answer does not come right away, we should not grow discouraged, give up — or lose faith. If we **KNOW** what we ask is right and good, then we should continue praying, faithfully, fervently, persistently — until God **DOES** give us the answer!

If what we ask is good and is according to God's will as revealed in His Word, then we can have complete **CONFIDENCE** that the answer is *on its way*!

As the Apostle John wrote, "And this is the **CONFIDENCE** that we have in him, that, if we ask anything **ACCORDING TO HIS WILL**, he heareth us: and if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him" (1 John 5:14-15).

### Pray With **POWER**!

You can pray with power. Your prayers can get *results*! Through your prayers, **MIRACLES** can be accomplished for the Work of God! *Your prayers* may influence countless thousands to hear *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast, to read *The PLAIN TRUTH*, to study *TOMORROW'S WORLD* and to write for the *Ambassador College Correspondence Course*. Your prayers may lead thousands to become Co-Workers together with us in this great end-time Work! Your powerful, *persistent*, humble, **FERVENT** prayers can **WORK MIRACLES**!

Jesus Christ said, "I can of mine own self do nothing" (John 5:30), but He added, "...the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10).

Christ went on, "Truly, truly I tell you, *he who believes in me will do the very deeds I do*, and **STILL GREATER DEEDS** than these. For I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in my name, that the Father may be glorified in the Son: I will do whatever you ask me in my name" (John 14:12-14, Moffatt).

Jesus *meant* what He said. Is He working through **YOU**, as His instrument? Is He performing His same great Work through *you* — through your prayers on the behalf of His Work?

Are you holding up *your part* in the

great Commission God has given us, today?

### What You Can Do

When ancient Israel came out of Egypt, they were attacked by fierce Amalekites. Moses sent troops under Joshua to fight the enemy raiders. Meanwhile, Moses climbed to the top of a promontory overlooking the scene of battle, carrying the rod of God in his hands.

"Whenever Moses raised his hand, then Israel won, whenever he lowered his hand, then Amalek won.

"As the hands of Moses grew tired, they put a stone below him, on which he sat; Aaron and Hur *beld his hands up*, one on one side and the other on the other side, so that his hands remained steady till sunset, while Joshua laid Amalek low, giving no quarter" (Ex. 17:11-13, Moffatt).

This example was written for us!

Are *you* holding up the hands of God's servants today, in your fervent, powerful, earnest, zealous **PRAYERS**?

Are you doing your part in prayer and personal dedication and sacrifice?

Are you praying faithfully for God's servants around the world — His ministers, writers, researchers, and all those full-time in His great Work?

Are you praying for those who publish, print, and mail *The PLAIN TRUTH* and *TOMORROW'S WORLD*?

Do you pray that God will send more Co-Workers into His great Work so we can accomplish fully the great Commission God has given us? Do you pray for more laborers, more helpers, more called and dedicated servants?

Do you pray that God will give us peace so we can do His Work unhindered and unhampered? Do you pray for world leaders, so they will make decisions which will benefit the Work of the living God?

Your prayers — yes, *yours* — can accomplish **MIRACLES**! They can have tremendous impact. They can have enormous effect for good.

But it is up to you. It depends on you — your obedience, your faith, your humility, your zeal and earnestness, and your dogged perseverance!

Make your prayers count! God's Work is waiting — and depending — on *you*! □

# GOD'S WORK

**T**HOUSANDS of ministers and missionaries on every continent claim to be the servants of God today. Hundreds of churches claim to be doing God's work in our age.

But how many men or churches do you suppose God was using back in the time of the Flood? How many was He using at the time of the Exodus? Or in Elijah's day? Or when Christ walked the roads of Judaea?

How many is God using *in our day*?

Perhaps you feel God is working through *all* who are *sincerely* doing their best to follow Him; but what a shock it will be someday when thousands of spiritual leaders find out that God *isn't* using them *at all* — that they are preaching about Christ and spreading His name *all on their own*.

What spiritual leaders think doesn't matter!

What churches claim doesn't matter!

**WHAT GOD SAYS DOES MATTER!**

Perhaps there were hundreds of different religious groups in Noah's day — each having a different philosophy about getting saved. And they all, undoubtedly, scorned Noah.

But God said that Noah was the *only righteous man* — he was just and perfect in his generations (Gen. 6:8, 9).

When the flood waters began to rise, all the religious leaders, *and* those who thought it didn't make any difference which church they went to, *and* all who thought it was really impossible to find out who was right, *ALL found out that it DID MATTER*. But then it was too late.

When it came time for God to bring the Israelites out of Egypt, He chose **ONE MAN** to lead them — Moses. God talked with Moses, worked miracles through him, and prophesied to him. Moses was the **ONE MAN** through whom God dealt with Israel.

Miriam and Aaron began to think, "Who does Moses think he is, saying

he's the only one that has the truth?" Read it in Numbers 12:2. "And they said, Hath the Lord indeed spoken only by Moses? hath he not spoken also by us?"

God acted quickly to shake Moses' sister and brother out of their wrong attitude. Instantly Miriam was leprous. She and Aaron learned very quickly that, indeed, there was only **ONE MAN** through whom God was working. There was only **ONE WORK OF GOD**.

During the reign of Ahab, king of Israel, God's chosen people departed very far from His **WAY**. But even then God was dealing with them through **ONE MAN** — Elijah. The vast majority of the people had gone after Baal. Oh, they made a pretense of honoring God and His Word, but they really enjoyed following the pagan customs of Baal worship.

Elijah got pretty discouraged.

In I Kings 18:22 Elijah told the people of Israel, "I, even I only, remain a prophet of the Lord; but Baal's prophets are four hundred and fifty men."

The popular religions in Elijah's day had many, many followers — and many priests. There were probably many variations within Baalism — a different variety to suit every individual.

Baal worship was so popular that even the king and queen were drawn into it. After all, that was the accepted, "normal" religion to follow.

But there was only **ONE SERVANT OF GOD** — one man through whom God was dealing with the entire nation of Israel.

And there was only **ONE** Jeremiah in Jerusalem.

There was only **ONE** Daniel in Babylon!

And still later, John the Baptist found that he was *completely alone* in doing the Elijah Work of preparing the way for Christ. He was the **ONE**

**MAN** chosen by God for that Work. The popular religions of his day didn't accept him. He called the Pharisees a generation of vipers; and because he preached the **TRUTH OF GOD**, John the Baptist finally lost his head — but not before he had prepared the way for the coming of the Son of God.

One of Christ's principal functions during His three-and-one-half-year ministry was to **TRAIN ONE BODY** of men to carry out a Work after His death.

That **ONE GROUP** — that **ONE TRUE CHURCH** — wasn't very popular with all the other brands of religion in its day.

But it was **ONE BODY, ONE CHURCH, ONE ORGANIZATION, doing ONE WORK**.

Paul wrote in I Cor. 12:25, "That there should be **NO SCHISM** in the body; but that the members should have the same care one for another."

That's a description of the **TRUE BODY OF CHRIST**.

Where is the **ONE BODY** that fits that description today?

Where is the **ONE CHURCH** that is doing the **WORK** of Elijah — preparing the way for Christ's second coming? Where is the **ONE BODY** doing His Work — not 10 or 50 or 150 differing, bickering, arguing groups?

Remember, it doesn't matter what anyone *says*!

What does matter is, **WHO IS GOD USING? WHAT DOES GOD SAY?**

Jesus Christ prophesied of our decade in Matt. 24:5. "Many shall come in my name, *saying*, I am Christ; and shall deceive many."

God's **WORK** of warning this world and preparing the way for Christ's second coming isn't being done by **MANY CONTRADICTING GROUPS**. It's being done by **ONE BODY** — by **ONE UNIFIED CHURCH** that has Jesus Christ as its Head.

If you're sincerely searching for that one true Body of Christ, write for our free articles "Should You Join a Church?" and "Why So Many Denominations?"

And then don't simply accept what we say!

Believe and obey what God says!

— R. A. Wiedenheft



# THE HOLY LAND

(Continued from page 12)

accomplished in Greek literature and art. The highest offices of state were entrusted to Greek rhetoricians. Scholars and professional men came from all over the Empire to take advantage of Herod's generosity in the liberal arts and natural sciences. Herod was so infatuated by the Greek way of life that he even boasted of being more nearly related to the Greeks than to the Jews.

he constructed a great temple to Caesar of the finest stones available. Then about 10 miles south of Jerusalem he raised up an artificial mountain more than 300 feet high and on top constructed a fortress so magnificent that it is described as being more of a palace than a citadel. He also fortified lavishly the famous Masada, and sites east of Jordan.

But even these things did not contain Herod's ambitions for building. Selecting a spot on the Mediterranean Sea where there was a small town in the state of decay, he decided to build —

harbor which he had now created, he built a temple to Caesar with a statue of the emperor so large (it was over 40 feet high) that it matched the Olympian Zeus — one of the Seven Wonders of the World. The rest of the buildings and statues of this new city were of the largest scale — many other works in the Roman Empire being dwarfed by comparison. Because this new city was one of the greatest creations of the time, Herod named it after Caesar, calling it Caesarea. The city is mentioned in Acts 10:1.

This, however, was not all. The old city of Samaria in the hill country of Ephraim was completely reconstructed on a scale almost equaling Caesarea. Herod also built two complete cities near Jericho. Then he rebuilt the coastal city of Anthedon, which had been destroyed in war, with his customary grandeur. And we must not forget the great commercial city of Antipatris which he raised up in the Plains of Sharon.

Herod's close friendship with Caesar Augustus, the Roman emperor, gave him many natural advantages needed to undertake these magnificent building projects. And to show his thankfulness to Caesar, Josephus says,

I cannot think of any suitable spot in his kingdom that he left without some tribute of esteem for Caesar. When he had filled his own country with temples, these tributes overflowed into his provinces, and in city after city he erected a Caesareum [a temple to Caesar] (*Wars*, I, 21, 1-8).

But there was more. Not only were Herod's provinces so rich that he made his kingdom the showplace of the world, he also showered his generosity on many far-flung cities and areas.

For Tripolis, Damascus, and Ptolemais he provided gymnasia, for Byblus a wall, for Beirut and Tyre, halls, colonnades, temples, and marketplaces, for Sidon and Damascus theaters, for the coastal Laodicea an aqueduct, for Ascalon baths, magnificent fountains, and cloistered quadrangles remarkable for both scale and craftsmanship; in other places he dedicated woods and parks.... Corn he bestowed on all who needed it. To Rhodes he over and over again gave money for naval construction, and when the temple of Apollo was burnt down he rebuilt it with new splendor out of his own purse. What need be said of his gifts to Lycia or Samos, or of his liberality to the whole of Ionia [this means the



Ambassador College Photo

These rare gold coins were found in the later Arabic strata of the dig. (The vast majority of the coins found are small copper ones.)

In short, there was hardly a Hellenistic city anywhere in the world that could compare in grandeur to the city of Jerusalem in the time of Jesus.

## Herod's Other Achievements

The Holy Land was dotted with cities and towns based on Greek architectural designs. Herod beautified a new Jericho — constructing in the city a palace and a fortress. He also gave the inhabitants a theater, amphitheater and hippodrome, plus a good number of public buildings. At Paneum, near the source of the Jordan River (the Caesarea Philippi of the New Testament),

with tremendous natural odds against him — a brand-new city and harbor. Spending a vast amount of money, he first lowered into the water gigantic rectangular stones to form a breakwater. Most of the stones were 50 feet long, 9 feet deep and 10 feet broad. Beginning from the shore he continued this breakwater out into the Mediterranean in a circular fashion until some of the stones were being lowered into 120 feet of water. After bringing this breakwater to the surface, he then built a mole on top which was 200 feet wide. On this were erected many buildings for seamen and fishermen. Opposite this artificial

cities of Ephesus, Smyrna, Troas, etc.], sufficient for the needs of each locality? Even Athens and Sparta, Nicopolis and Mysian Pergamus are full of Herod's offerings, are they not? (*ibid.*, para. 11.)

And then, as though this were not enough, he was able to help one of the greatest cities of the East — Antioch. That city did not have enough money to pave even its principal street. But what did Herod do? He paved  $2\frac{1}{4}$  miles of it with the finest polished stone available. And to secure his fame in that city he built an arcade over the street supported by sumptuous Corinthian columns from end to end. This was to keep the rain off the people using this creation of Herod's.

And when the Olympic Games in Greece were in danger of ceasing because of a lack of funds, Herod donated such a gift of money for their upkeep that the committee made him president of the Games. And to perpetuate the memory of this honor, he "endowed them for all time with an income big enough to ensure that this presidency would never be forgotten" (*ibid.*).

To sum up, Josephus says:

As for his other benefits [to various nations], it is impossible to reckon them up, those which he bestowed on cities, both in Syria and Greece, and in all the places he came to in his voyages (*Antiquities*, XVI, 5, 3).

There can be no doubt, Herod's kingdom was one of the richest in the Roman Empire. As Josephus said, the Holy Land had reached "the summit of prosperity."

### The Roman-Jewish War Ended It All

This land in the time of Christ was the jewel of the East. Its buildings were so beautiful, its fortresses so strong, its financial capacity so great, that no one would have imagined that all of it would be reduced to ashes and complete ruin within a generation.

But there was someone who knew. That person was Jesus Christ!

Not long before His crucifixion, Jesus climbed to the summit of the Mount of Olives overlooking Jerusalem on the east. When His disciples called attention to the grandeur of the Temple and



the city, He answered, "Seest thou these great buildings? there shall not be left one stone upon another, that shall not be thrown down" (Mark 13:2).

Who could have believed such a prophecy? The most prosperous area in the Empire being reduced to oblivion? This seemed absurd and beyond belief! But this is what Christ prophesied, and within a generation it had come true — so true. Christ had said that "when ye shall see Jerusalem compassed with armies, then know that the *DESOLATION* thereof is nigh" (Luke 21:20).

When the Jews revolted against the

The countryside like the City was a pitiful sight; for where once there had been a lovely vista of woods and parks there was now nothing but *DESERT* and the stumps of trees. No one — not even a foreigner — who had seen the old Judaea and the glorious suburbs of the City, and now set his eyes on her present *desolation*, could have helped sighing and groaning at so terrible a change; for *every trace of beauty* had been blotted out by the war, and nobody who had known it in the past and came upon it suddenly would have recognized the place (*Wars*, VI, 1, 1).

The Romans took away to various parts of the Empire much of the remaining people and also carted away

upon another. With that war, the external splendor of the Holy Land — a glory that approached that of Solomon's, completely disappeared. The Roman-Jewish War began its decline. The wars that came in its wake, over the centuries, have further reduced it to the state that it is in now. But has this glorious land of Christ's time with its beauty and prosperity been banished forever?

### Restoration Prophesied

The time is soon coming when the Holy Land will regain its prosperity — and even on a grander scale than the times of Solomon and Herod put together! The prophet Joel said that the Lord will "be jealous for his land, and pity his people. . . I will send you corn, and wine, and oil, and ye shall be satisfied therewith . . . for the pastures of the wilderness do spring, for the tree beareth her fruit, the fig tree and the vine do yield their strength . . . the floors shall be full of wheat, and the vats shall overflow with wine and oil . . . ye shall eat in plenty, and be satisfied, and praise the name of the Lord your God, that hath dealt wondrously with you. . . And it shall come to pass in that day, that the mountains shall drop down new wine, and the hills shall flow with milk, and *all the rivers of Judah* shall flow with waters" (Joel 2:18, 19, 22, 24, 26; 3:18).

A start in this direction is already being made. Reforestation has started in many areas. Cities are becoming more modern and areas are being cleaned up and beautified. Even the Hebrew University and Ambassador College archaeological dig is helping to clear the debris that has covered Zion for the past nineteen hundred years. God has started the rejuvenation already. Yet the complete fulfillment of Joel's prophecy will come when Gods' true Messiah, Jesus Christ, returns to this earth. This is when the area will return to its pristine glory — becoming again a land of milk and honey, the true Promised Land of God. It will then become the center of the earth — politically, culturally, economically and spiritually. The glory of the Holy Land will return, but on a much grander scale. God speed that day. □



Ambassador College Photos left, above: courtesy of Hebrew University

Opposite are some views of the Mount of Olives: (top) an olive tree on the Mount, and (bottom) looking at it from across the Kidron Valley on the Temple Mount. In Herod's time the hillside was covered with gardens and olive trees. Above are shots of typical ruins found in the many archaeological excavations in Israel.

Romans, the Roman armies surrounded the city, but then, for some unknown reason, suddenly retreated. This gave the followers of Christ a chance to heed His command to flee the city. But who could have believed that Jerusalem's desolation was nigh at hand, except those who trusted in the prophecy of Christ? Within months it was all over — the once-beautiful Jerusalem and Judaea, the pride of the world, lay in utter desolation. Listen to Josephus' melancholy description of Judaea and Jerusalem after the war was over:

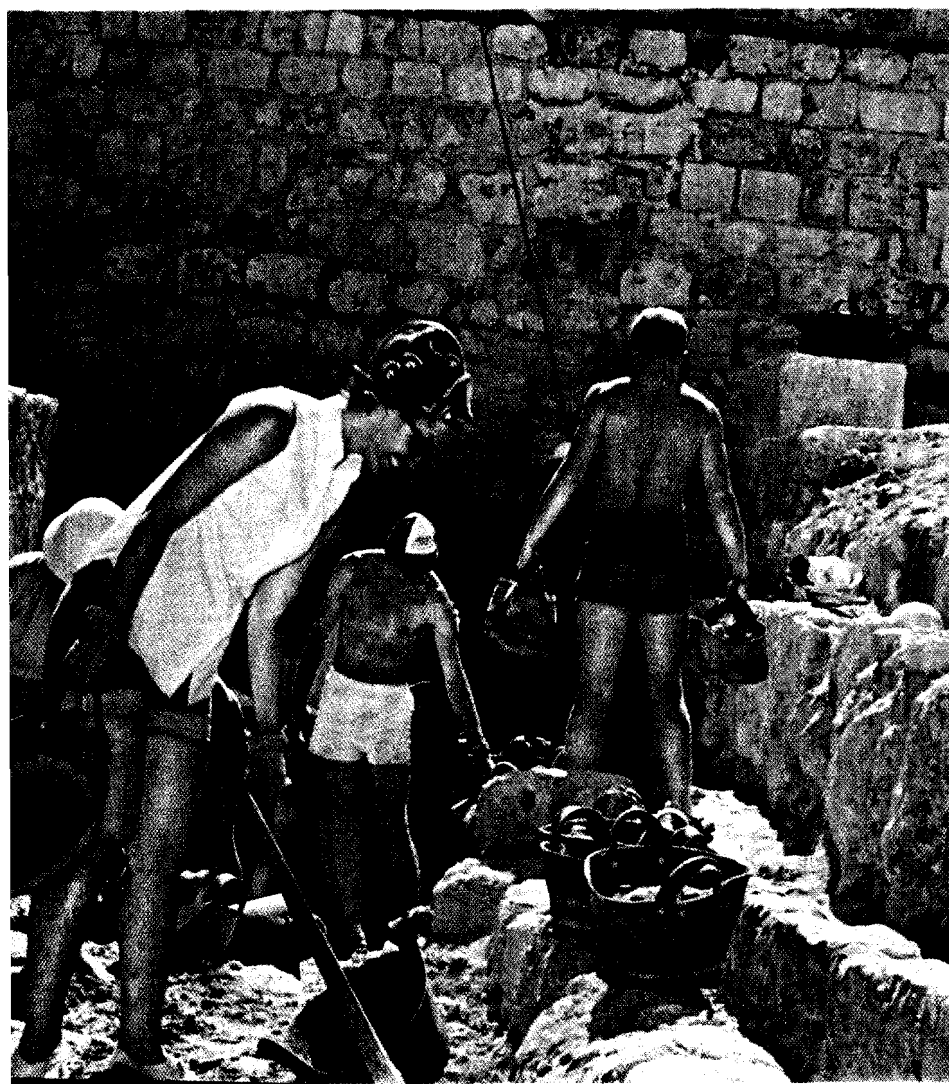
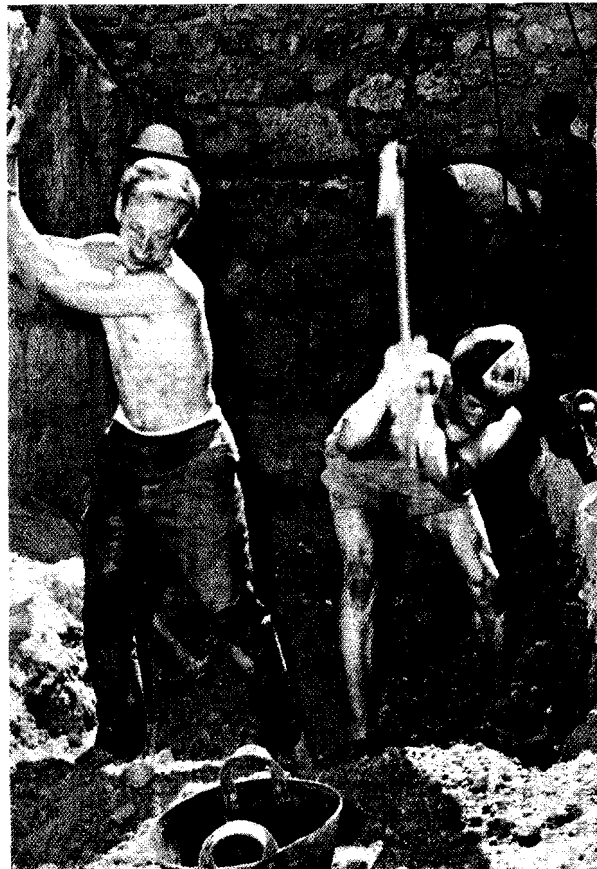
many of the beautiful stones and other fineries that made up this once-glorious land. It has been said that if the ruins of these Herodian cities, buildings and temples had been left rather than taken away, classical admirers would not be going to Greece or Western Asia Minor to see the remains of the Hellenistic world. They would be coming to Jerusalem and the surrounding area. But almost all of it was taken away over the decades that followed the disastrous Roman-Jewish War. And of the Temple building itself, not one stone remains

# UNCOVERING 3000 YEARS OF HISTORY-

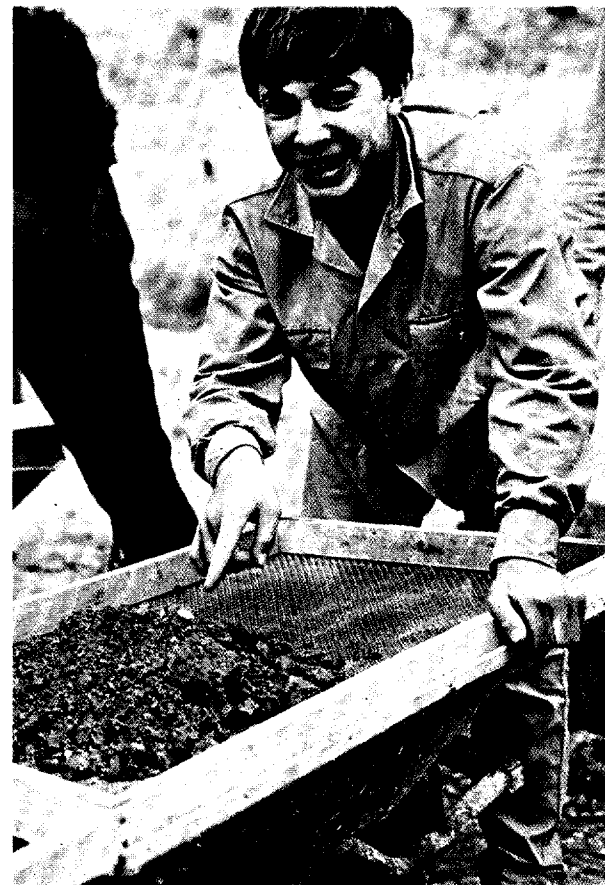
Bordering on the site of the original city of Jerusalem, known as the City of David, a tremendously important archaeological project is under way. Buried beneath tons of rubble, accumulated through the centuries and millennia, an enormous reservoir of information is waiting to be uncovered. From David, Solomon and the kings of Judah up through the time when Jesus of Nazareth walked these same streets, the entire history of Jerusalem will be unfolding.

Ambassador College is honored to participate jointly with the Israel Exploration Society and Hebrew University in this formidable endeavor — which could well be the most exciting in history. Seen in the accompanying photos are pictures of the "BIG DIG" in full progress. Last summer over 70 Ambassador College students lent their minds, backs and arms. And more are expected next summer. Tomorrow's World will keep you posted on all developments.

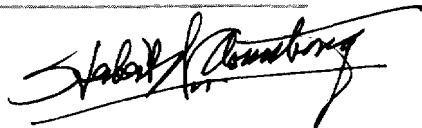
*Ambassador College Photos*







## Personal from



(Continued from page 2)

thought. He is merely caught in the vortex of a temptation which sucks him helplessly down into the sin. Then he is terribly sorry. He is disgusted with himself. He repents. He goes to work to overcome. He may not succeed, due to human weakness, at once. But he remains determined and finally does, with God's help, overcome completely. Many a true Christian has had such a struggle over a particular human weakness and temptation, and after even several setbacks, finally, through God's power, won the victory and fought his way free.

God looks on the heart. God FORGIVES in such cases. The living Christ, our High Priest, has compassion, is filled with mercy — as long as the attitude is right, the *desire* of the inner man is to conquer the flesh and overcome the temptation and be FREE from it entirely. In the end, it is GOD who gives the victory. But, in such a struggle, the Christian DEVELOPS CHARACTER.

Now character, I have said many times, is something God does not create automatically. It is *developed*, against the opposing pulls of human nature, with the decisions and wills and struggles of the individual, and through EXPERIENCE.

The development of that CHARACTER is the very PURPOSE of our being alive. Also the development of that character, unlike the purely physical growth of the unborn baby, actually is growing toward SPIRITUAL MATURITY, right now in the *begettal* stage prior to spirit BIRTH — in this present mortal human life.

Notice how the "mother of us all," the Church, is to protect and *feed* those in it, until they reach spiritual MATURITY. In I Corinthians 12 you'll read how God gives spiritual gifts for various administrations, or functions of service. In Ephesians 4:11-14, Christ has given special spiritual abilities or talents to certain ones in a chain of authority

under Him in the Church — and notice for what PURPOSE:

"And his [Christ's] gifts were that some should be apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, for the equipment of the saints, for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ [the Church], UNTIL we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, *to mature manhood*, to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (RSV).

In other words, *to full spiritual maturity!*

Now WHY should we count the troubles and problems and temptations that beset us as all JOY?

Simply because we *cannot* hurdle these obstacles successfully in our own power. They drive us to seek help from God. To go to God for the wisdom to know *what* to do, and the power to be able to do it, requires FAITH. This is a *living* faith. It is ALIVE. It is active.

When we meet such trials, we often do not know what to do. We lack the WISDOM to make the right decision. So open your Bible to the first chapter of James. Notice verse 5.

If you lack wisdom, in such trials, GO TO GOD for it! But ask IN FAITH — no wavering — no doubting. *Be SURE* God will not fail, but will give you this wisdom. Depend upon Him for it. If you waver, you are like a wave in the ocean — tossed back and forth — going nowhere! So, instead of wavering, BE STEADFAST. And if you don't get the answer immediately from God, have PATIENCE. Don't give up. Trust Him.

Now notice verses 2-3: "Count it all JOY, my brethren, when you meet various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces steadfastness" (Revised Standard Version). These trials force you to your knees. You must have FAITH to meet them. They *test* your faith. They *develop* spiritual CHARACTER!

In the King James Version, it says the trying of your faith produces patience. It produces that kind of patience that is steadfastness. THAT IS CHARACTER!

Sure, it may be unpleasant for a while. But, Paul assures us that if we

suffer with Christ, we shall REIGN with Him — and the GLORY *to be* revealed in us is so incomparably greater than anything we now are, that this promised future for eternity is something to REJOICE over!

Yes, count it all JOY! Even if unpleasant. It is maturing you, now, for the marriage to Christ. The CHURCH of God shall be BORN into the KINGDOM OF GOD! The Kingdom of God will not be composed of spiritual know-nothings and infants.

When we are born again — born of God — resurrected in spirit bodies, those bodies will not be small, like a human physical infant which must *grow* to full physical size. We shall *look* as we do now, so far as form and shape and features are concerned. But the resurrected body will be a *different* body — composed of SPIRIT instead of flesh and blood (I Cor. 15:35-44).

The original twelve apostles were Christ's *witnesses*. That is, they were actual eye-witnesses that Jesus rose from the dead — that the living resurrected Christ was the *same* Jesus who had been crucified. They were with Him forty days after His resurrection. But nobody will be foolish enough to suggest that when Christ was BORN very Son of God by the resurrection (Romans 1:4) that He was resurrected in a tiny infant's body composed of spirit. He was resurrected FULL GROWN, as He had been when crucified. How did the apostles *know* He was the *same* Jesus? Because they knew what Jesus had looked like — and in His born-again resurrected body *He looked the same*, except He now was composed of *spirit* instead of matter!

The resurrected Christ was PERFECT — He was very God! But He did not grow up into perfection *after* He was resurrected. It was during His human lifetime, setting us the example, that He *was made perfect*, as you read in Hebrews 2:10 and 5:8-9.

Thus it is plain that we must develop spiritual character, growing to spiritual adulthood, *during this life* — not after our resurrection in GLORY! *This* is the *spiritual* growth, of which the *physical* growth of the unborn child, from tiny embryo to a size and weight of some six



to eight pounds at birth, is a type. The physical growth of the unborn human is a growth of physical size and weight. The *spiritual* growth of the begotten but yet unborn *spiritual* child of God is a growth in spiritual CHARACTER, not of physical volume, size or weight. The human baby merely grows large enough to be born prior to birth — NOT TO PHYSICAL OR MENTAL MATURITY. But he *does* grow. And this physical growth

is the TYPE of the spiritual growth by feeding on the Word of God, and prayer, and Christian fellowship, and participation in the Work of God in the life of the begotten child of God.

The *difference* is merely the difference between matter and spirit. One is a material growth. Material growth is measured by volume, size, weight. The other is spiritual growth, measured by character development.

Jesus was BORN very Son of God by His resurrection (Romans 1:4). He was born fully *mature*. He was born in a spirit body, which was manifested to His apostles in the same apparent size and shape as when He died. When He appears on earth the second time, in His spirit glorified body, we shall be resurrected, or instantaneously changed, to a body that will be *like Him* (I John 3:2) — *full grown — adult!* □

# Letters to the Editor

## Personal from the Editor

I especially liked the Editorial you wrote, for it is exactly correct. During the years I've seen and heard of many similar experiences of people turning away from any kind of religious programs, etc., because they felt they were being "forced" to listen against their own will. Many feel those trying to "talk" religion to them are not "qualified" to do so — there is a time when every person is more receptive to the Word of God, and to discover it themselves in their own way and time leaves them with an "open mind" to accept it without any "resentment" from an outsider.

J. E.C.,  
Warren, Mich.

Thank you very much for your July-August *Tomorrow's World* "Personal from the Editor." It caught me just in time, before I made the mistake of antagonizing my family and friends.

Mary T.,  
Cordele, Georgia

Your superb "Personal from the Editor" of July-August 1970 in *Tomorrow's World* has clarified the mixed feelings I had about the work you were doing. The enclosed check is my confidence in your work (\$100).

Frida L.,  
Newark, N. J.

## America, Listen!

I want to become a Co-Worker. I have listened to the World Tomorrow broadcasts for over fifteen years. But, it was *not until the America, Listen* program came to Nashville last June, that I became so aware of the need for a change in my life. I was able to attend every performance and talk to many of the students from Ambassador College. It was an experience I will never forget. I have never seen so many truly happy and radiant faces. I now realize that no other goals in life will satisfy, except seeking the Kingdom of God first. I am anxiously awaiting your reply. Thank you.

Tommy B.,  
Nashville, Tenn.

## News of the Work

I am sure that, like myself, all the Co-Workers will be especially helped by the encouragement you have given in showing us just what we are privileged to be part of. Please keep these articles coming on "News of the Work," for it is difficult while living and working in the world to keep a positive picture of just how we are being used.

Mrs. C. J.,  
Yorkshire, England

## New Co-Worker

I read and feel I thoroughly understood your article on tithing in *Tomorrow's World* magazine. I feel obliged to turn my fullest gratitude to you for having revealed to me this financial law of great importance. So I wish to begin now as a Co-Worker. I enclose in here the sum of R2 as my first tith.

Mr. O. M. L.,  
Maseru, Lesotho, Africa.

## Baptism Request

I wish to receive the Holy Spirit — I would like to be baptized. I have finished reading your article on "Just What Is the Church?" in *Tomorrow's World* magazine. I agree with every word you said. Therefore I would like to live by every scripture of the Holy Bible including Acts 2:38. I would like to follow the example Jesus Christ of Nazareth gave us and be baptized.

Robert L. S.,  
Hope, Arkansas.

• *We have already sent your letter to one of God's ministers (an Ambassador graduate) in your area — he will be contacting you as soon as possible.*

## Willing to Change!

Your article "Are You Willing to Change?" in the Sept.-Oct. issue of *Tomorrow's World* has caused me to change. For quite some time now I've been hearing your broadcasts and receiving literature on many subjects. I've even been paying my tithes. But I never prayed, even after receiving and believing this true knowl-

edge. Your article showed me that I was being weak and led by human nature. Tonight I humbled myself and prayed and I hope God heard.

Glenn L.,  
Brooks AFB, Texas

• *Excellent! God DOES hear a REPENTANT person's prayer. For better understanding of prayer, read the article in this issue — "Your Prayers Can Work Miracles" — and also request our reprint article "The Answer to Unanswered Prayer."*

## God's Promise

I would just like to mention that I'm very impressed with the *Tomorrow's World* magazine. In the July-Aug. issue there is a small article entitled "God's Promise" that has given me so much encouragement and I'm really grateful for it. Indeed, trying to live a Christian life is so difficult and right now that one small article has done more to boost my morale than anything else I've read or heard.

Richard McC.,  
West Liberty, Ohio

## Tithing

*Tomorrow's World* is a very important magazine for "today's world." The July-August issue was outstanding. It successfully answered my questions concerning the *True Church*, "Hell," and "Heaven." But getting more to the point of this letter, it has helped me understand the tithe ("About Tithing," p. 33, July-Aug., 1970) and has awakened me to my responsibilities in this area. I would like to offer 10% of "my" savings and earnings to God's Work here on earth. Even though this amount is not great it can help in some way. I will be continuing to tithe any further income that I receive. Actually it is a very small "repayment" for the many benefits your Work has given me and for the many articles you have given me. I hope you will please accept my tithe.

Chuck C.,  
Flint, Mich.

• *Thankfully accepted — and put to work in God's Work for others.*

# Coming:

**TOMORROW'S WORLD**  
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