

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

Nov. 1969



FAMINE—
Can We Survive?

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More About Our Cover:

Famine is no longer just an ugly threat. It is a reality in every nation round the world — in some worse than in others. Ambassador College is now in the process of publishing a new booklet entitled "FAMINE," which explores the haunting question, "Can We Survive?" Be sure to write for your own personal copy of this new booklet. And between now and the final publishing date, read the article beginning on page 18 which reveals what God has to say about — "Famine in Prophecy!"

Wide World Photo

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Personal from the Editor

DID YOU ever stop to ask: “How *far* may I safely go, in doing what I *want* but know I *ought not*?”

In this column, where I can talk *personally* with our readers, I like to discuss things which give us something to *think about*.

Do you remember reading about an Old Testament character by the name of Balaam, who, as you read in the Book of Revelation (second chapter), in the words of Christ, caused ancient Israel to sin?

Let me give you some interesting new facts about this Balaam.

Balaam, it now appears, was in his time successor in office to Nimrod (Genesis 10), founder of the world's pagan civilization. Balaam was the greatest prophet of the time — in the pagan religion — the Pontifex Maximus of the pagan world — the chief oracle of paganism.

Does it, then, seem strange that he prayed to God and appeared to be a servant of God?

When King Balak of Moab sent emissaries to hire Balaam to put a curse on the people of Israel, Balaam asked the emissaries to remain overnight, so he could go aside and pray, and ask God if he might go with them. If he was the chief *pagan* prophet, actually sitting in SATAN'S SEAT, as head of Satan's religion on earth, WHY would he pray to God about it?

I feel quite sure that most people who have read this account have supposed Balaam to be a prophet of God — not of Satan. Did he not do *right* in consulting God? Surely Satan would not do that!

Take just a quick look at the incident.

The children of Israel, under Moses, had pitched camp in the plains of Moab, on the east side of the Jordan river, near Jericho. The King of Moab, Balak, saw what these Israelites — there were at least two or three million of them — had done to the Amorites. He was struck with fear. The Moabites were far outnumbered.

So King Balak sent messengers to Balaam, who lived at Pethor in Mesopotamia — far distant, near the Euphrates River. They took with them the fees for divination, to hire Balaam to curse the Israelites. “They are too mighty for me,” was Balak's message to Balaam, “for I wot [know] that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.”

When the elders of Moab and Midian, Balak's messengers, delivered the message to Balaam, notice what he said:

“Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD shall speak to me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam” (Numbers 22:8).

God said to Balaam, “Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed.”

“And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you” (verses 12-13).

Again King Balak sent messengers to Balaam — this time more noble princes of higher rank, and more money. Again Balaam asked them to remain overnight, “that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more” (verse 19). This time God allowed him to go with them, but forbade him to curse Israel. Yet the angel of God stopped Balaam's donkey on the way. WHY?

Now doesn't all this sound as if Balaam were God's prophet, not Satan's?

Yet, see what we read in the New Testament!

Peter speaks of false prophets “following the way of Balaam . . . who loved the wages of unrighteousness” (II Peter 2:15).

Jude writes: “Woe unto them! for they have gone in the way of Cain, and ran greedily after the error of Balaam for reward . . .” (verse 11).

Jesus Christ says to the Church of the Pergamos era: “But I have a few things against thee, because

thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balak to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel . . ." (Revelation 2:14).

So Jesus Christ, Peter, and Jude all tell us Balaam was a *false* prophet. When we research into his actual identity, we find that Pethor, where he resided, was the headquarters of the highest priest of the pagan Babylonian Mystery religion. In reading through Numbers 22, 23, and 24, one might suppose Balaam was just some ordinary fellow of no consequence. Yet here was the king of a nation. He passed up his own highest priests, magicians and astrologers of the pagan religion. He sent his highest princes, with rich rewards and highest fees. He sent them a great distance, to Pethor, near the Euphrates, in Mesopotamia. He would not have sent them to any but the most powerful practitioner of divination.

Other scriptures show that these higher magicians of divination were often demon-possessed. This Balaam could have been DEVIL-possessed, so that it was actually Satan himself in possession of the human Balaam, working in and through him. WOULD SATAN CONSULT GOD ABOUT DOING THIS?

The answer comes sharp and clear!

Satan himself *would* consult God, precisely as Balaam did, under such circumstances! Biblical "scholars" and commentators have assumed Balaam had been a true prophet of God originally. This is not true.

The answer is found in the first two chapters of the Book of Job. Satan himself is here pictured in conversation with God concerning the righteousness of Job. God *allowed* Satan to afflict Job — but God placed a limit on how far Satan could go! God is SUPREME RULER of the universe. At first, God allowed Satan to take all Job possessed, but not to harm Job's person. Job failed to crack under the test. Satan argued that a man would give up all he possessed to save his own life — but if only he could afflict Job's *person*, Job would turn against God. So God now gave Satan permission to go this much further — but to spare his life.

In like manner, the Satan-influenced (or Satan-possessed, as the case may be) Balaam well *knew* God had set limits to his powers. Satan is the god and invisible ruler of this world — yet God is SUPREME RULER over all. Every ruler has authority and power *only* within his own boundary lines or jurisdiction. There are NO boundary lines on God's rulership — but there are on Satan's. And he well knows it!

There could be no sin — no evil — unless God *allowed* it! And if God did not allow it there could be no free moral agency — no free choice — and that would nullify God's PURPOSE!

Notice that even Satan's ministers talk about God, and masquerade as His ministers (II Cor. 11:13-15). This high priest of Satan knew that Israel was God's own nation, under God's protection. This divine protection set a boundary line on his power to harm God's nation. Satan is well aware that there are limits set on his powers.

Balaam would have been overjoyed to be able to curse, harm, or destroy Israel. But he *knew* — he was *fully aware* — that doing this was beyond his power — *unless*, as God allowed Satan to go further than originally allowed in afflicting Job, the Almighty would now allow him to curse and harm Israel. Balaam *wanted* to curse Israel. He *wanted* the fee!

Now, with this in mind, notice what Balaam said. When the highest princes of Moab came, on the second visit, he said: "If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, *I cannot go beyond* the word of the LORD . . ." (Numbers 22:18).

It was not a matter of Balaam being willing. He was willing to harm Israel. It was a matter of *having the power* to do so. After he went with the emissaries of Balak, he said to the king:

"Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now *any power* at all to say anything? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that *must* I speak" (Numbers 22:38 — RSV).

Later, Balaam said that God had blessed Israel, "and *I cannot reverse* it" (Numbers 23:20). Of Israel, Balaam said, "The LORD *his God* is with him, . . . there is NO ENCHANTMENT against Jacob, neither is there *any divination* against Israel" (verses 21, 23). Notice, God is the God of Israel — HIS God — not Balaam's God. Balaam practised divination and enchantment — and God did not allow it AGAINST ISRAEL.

Balaam *wanted* to go *JUST AS FAR* in the *wrong way* as he dared.

That is Satan's way!

Now just *how far* may YOU safely go, in doing what you *want*, instead of what you *ought* to do?

Haven't you often compromised on this? Haven't you often *wanted* to do something you knew you really

(Continued on page 34)

FALSE CONVERSION!

Millions have been led to think they are "saved," who are only deceived, and don't know it! Here is a frank, daring article, making the truth PLAIN!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT'S DIFFICULT to believe, but it's true. In *today's* religious confusion *millions* have supposed they had salvation spiritually — they have believed on Jesus Christ — and *are not saved!*

Would you suppose one could actually worship Christ — and all in vain?

Can One Worship Christ — IN VAIN?

Do you know *what* Jesus Himself said of these people who want to worship Him without *obedience* to God's Commandments?

Listen to His words: "Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . . Full well ye reject the commandment of God, that ye may keep your own tradition" (Mark 7:7-9).

Back to the Faith Once Delivered

But what does GOD tell you in His Word?

Through Jude, God says: "Beloved, when I gave all diligence to write unto you of the *common salvation*, it was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should earnestly contend for *the faith which was once delivered* unto the saints. For there are certain men crept in unawares . . . ungodly men, turning the GRACE of our God into lasciviousness, and denying the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Yes, even before the New Testament was completely written, ungodly men had crept inside the Church to corrupt it — turning GRACE into LASCIVIOUSNESS.

And what is "lasciviousness"? It means "license" — unrestrained liberty

— abuse of privilege. In other words, license to do that which seems *right* in human eyes — according to human *conscience* — though it *disobeys God's LAW!* And that is exactly what those ungodly men, even in the first century, did — turned GRACE into unrestrained privilege to disobey God's Law and turned to *human conscience* as a guide! And once introduced, the practice has persisted and spread over the whole world until today!

This is one of the FABLES the Apostle Paul warned us men would turn to. Paul said: "But evil men and seducers shall wax worse and worse, *deceiving, and being deceived!* . . . For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts [lasciviousness — *human reasoning*] shall they . . . turn away their ears from the *truth*, and shall be turned unto FABLES" (II Tim. 3:13; 4:3, 4).

But, one will argue, Jude said these men would *deny* the Lord Jesus Christ. Do *not* the men who teach a "no works" doctrine *believe in Christ?* Do *they* deny Him?

Yes, *they* DENY Him! God says: "They *profess* that they *know God*; but IN WORKS they *deny* Him, being abominable, and *disobedient*, and unto every GOOD *work reprobate*" (Titus 1:16). The way of human reason — that *seems* RIGHT — is often DISOBEDIENCE to God!

What the Saviour Himself Taught

These deceived teachers have just one favorite text. They quote Acts 16:31: "BELIEVE on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved."

Now that text from the inspired pen of Paul means what it says. But there are *two kinds* of BELIEVING — the *living* faith that brings salvation, and a

dead "no works" faith that produces only DEATH!

But WHY do they, in their tracts and their sermons, never quote *what the Saviour Himself said* in answer to the question? WHY?

Jesus was asked: "What shall I do to inherit eternal life?" (Luke 18:18.) Some might try to tell you that the SAVIOUR Himself did not know, or teach, the way of SALVATION — He was teaching Old Testament religion. Well, He was asked HOW to gain ETERNAL LIFE. Is that salvation? It certainly is! Old Testament religion teaching lasted until John — not until the cross — not until "Pentecost." Just UNTIL JOHN (Luke 16:16). Jesus preached the SAME Gospel He commanded His disciples to teach ALL nations — Gentiles included — the same Gospel Paul preached to Gentiles. He preached *only* the NEW Testament Gospel. He revealed THE WAY OF SALVATION.

Here is His answer — that of the SAVIOUR HIMSELF on HOW TO BE SAVED:

"If thou wilt enter into LIFE, *keep the commandments.*" And He enumerated enough of the Ten Commandments to show it was this particular law that must be obeyed AS A CONDITION to receiving eternal life as God's GIFT. Jesus said "IF" — (there was a CONDITION) — "IF" we are to be saved, by God's grace, WE MUST KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS! God lays down His own terms and conditions. His FREE GIFT is conditional — you get it ONLY if you "keep the commandments."

You can't EARN it. God GIVES it — but only to those who "KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS." God will not GIVE you eternal life *in sin*. And what is *sin*? "SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW" (1 John 3:4).

Some who pervert God's truth insist

Jesus did not name ALL of the Ten Commandments in the above scripture. Sin is the transgression of THE LAW. It is a COMPLETE LAW. He named enough of its points to designate WHICH LAW He was talking about. And James says that Law has "POINTS" — and, if we break any ONE of the ten points of the Ten Commandments, we BREAK THE LAW, and are sinners! (James 2:8-11).

The very same day the Holy Spirit came — the very day the NEW TESTAMENT Church commenced — thousands, hearing the inspired Peter's sermon which struck straight to their heart, asked: "What shall we do?" — YES, WHAT SHALL WE DO TO BE SAVED?

The inspired answer was:

"REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Jesus said, "REPENT YE, and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL." We must BELIEVE not only in Jesus as Saviour, but we must believe also THE GOSPEL He brought and preached — the Gospel of the Kingdom of God — the AUTHORITY of God and the WORD of God *over our lives — a message not preached today by most organized churches!*

After His resurrection, in His parting instructions to His disciples for preaching the way of salvation, Jesus said: "Thus it is written, and thus it behoved Christ to suffer, and to rise from the dead the third day: and that REPENTANCE and remission of sins should be preached in His name among all nations, beginning at Jerusalem. And ye are witnesses of these things" (Luke 24:46-48). This is the Gospel for ALL NATIONS!

But *what* must we repent of? WHAT IS SIN? Do you realize that VERY FEW people know? Very few know the BIBLE definition of SIN.

God's inspired definition of sin is this: "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Paul would not have known what was sin, except by the Law. But *what* law? The very law which says: "Thou shalt not covet" (Rom. 7:7). That law is the Ten Commandments.

This Law is summed up in the one word — LOVE! It is further defined in the two Great Commandments, LOVE to God, and LOVE to neighbor. But the same Law is further defined, and divided into ten points, by the Ten Commandments — the first four of which tell us how to love God, the last six of which tell us how to love neighbor.

James' Inspired Answer

And thus it is explained in James: "If ye fulfill the royal law according to the scripture, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself, ye do well" (James 2:8). Here is the Royal Law — the whole Law — as a general principle.

The Law is LOVE — and LOVE is the fulfilling of the Law. Jesus fulfilled it, setting us an example that we, too, should fulfill the Law. We fulfill it *with* LOVE — not any natural, carnal love in human nature, but "the love of GOD is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5). The Holy Spirit in us is merely GOD'S LAW IN ACTION IN OUR LIVES! And so, if we fulfill this Royal Law we do well — but if not, we commit sin (James 2:9). Now read verse 10. If we keep the WHOLE LAW — the general principle of LOVE to neighbor — yet offend *in one point*, we are guilty — we have broken the law — and the penalty is DEATH, not eternal life.

Notice, please, the Law is divided into points! And it is divided into TEN POINTS — the Ten Commandments. These are merely the ten points, or subdivisions, of the General Royal Law, LOVE to God and to neighbor. "For He that said [or, that law which said], Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery" — if you do not break that specific point — "yet if thou kill" — you just break that one point — "thou art become a transgressor of the law" (James 2:11). So you see the TEN COMMANDMENTS is the very Law it is sin to transgress.

It is a SPIRITUAL law (Rom. 7:14). It is fulfilled by the SPIRITUAL LOVE which is God's precious gift to us — His love placed within us. "Wherefore the law

is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY, AND JUST, AND GOOD" (Rom. 7:12).

To REPENT of sin means to turn from sin. It means to QUIT SINNING! And that means to *stop transgressing God's holy Law*. And the way to stop breaking it is to begin KEEPING God's Commandments — ALL OF THEM, for if you break only one, you bring on yourself the penalty — ETERNAL DEATH, and you *lose salvation*.

Now Jesus "magnified the law, and made it honourable" (Isaiah 42:21). When we put a spiritual "magnifying glass," so to speak, on the Ten Commandments, it is enlarged in spirit and principle into many more points. And in a larger aspect the ENTIRE BIBLE is a magnification of God's Law. The Law is the basis of all Scripture. It defines THE WAY of life — THE WAY to happiness, joy, eternal life!

Notice how *like God* it is! The Law is GOOD (Rom. 7:12). God is good.

The Law is HOLY (Rom. 7:12). GOD is holy!

The Law is JUST (Rom. 7:12). GOD is just!

The Law is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14). GOD is spiritual!

The Law is PERFECT (Psalm 19:7). GOD is perfect!

The Law — including all His Commandments — is immutable, ETERNAL, stands fast FOREVER AND EVER (Psalm 111:7-8). And GOD is eternal!

Of course — for the Law is the very character, the very nature, of God! It is the WILL of God.

Conscience Not Your Guide

But in the modern-day Babylon — confusion of conflicting teachings — you may have been taught, falsely, that YOUR CONSCIENCE tells you what is sin. But your conscience only troubles you when you do what YOU THINK is *wrong!* And what you think is wrong, *another* may think is *right!* Your CONSCIENCE IS NO GUIDE!

Sin is not the doing of what you think is wrong. Not the transgression of conscience — sin is the transgression of God's LAW (I John 3:4). Sin is thinking and doing what GOD SAYS is wrong — and He says it in His Law.

One who does what he thinks is right

may be committing a great deal of sin!

God says: "There is a way that seemeth *right* unto a *man*, but the end thereof are the ways of DEATH!" (Prov. 14:12 and 16:25.) Again, "The way of a fool is right in his own eyes" (Prov. 12:15). And: "All the ways of a man are clean in his own eyes" (Prov. 16:2). The world has been going the WAY that seems right to man for some 6000 years. But this WAY has brought only unhappiness, emptiness, discontent, poverty, sickness and disease and finally, CHAOS and DESPAIR all over the world! It has produced NOTHING GOOD!

God says: "SEEK YE the Lord while He may be found, call upon Him while He is near; let the wicked forsake HIS WAY, and the unrighteous man HIS THOUGHTS: and let him return unto the Eternal, and He will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon. For MY THOUGHTS ARE NOT YOUR THOUGHTS, NEITHER ARE YOUR WAYS MY WAYS, saith the Eternal" (Isaiah 55:6-8).

And *there* is THE WAY of salvation! There is THE WAY to find GOD! SEEK HIM, by forsaking — WHAT? Forsaking YOUR WAY — your thoughts! The way you have THOUGHT to be right.

The WAY of SALVATION

The first step toward salvation is to REPENT, and that means forsake your way — the customs and traditions you have been following, the ways of man, the ways you have been living. FORSAKE YOUR OWN WAY. Turn to God's way — the way of HIS LAW! The way of HIS WILL! Yes, the WAY of success, achievement, doing good, of prosperity — the WAY of ETERNAL LIFE!

Since the entire Bible contains the magnified explanation of GOD'S LAW, the Bible becomes OUR GUIDE FOR RIGHTEOUS AND SUCCESSFUL LIVING! That is why Jesus said man shall live by every word of GOD!

True repentance means you give your SELF to God. And the only kind of repentance that is prerequisite to the gift of eternal life is COMPLETE AND UNCONDITIONAL SURRENDER TO GOD

— to His will, which means to His LAW. You become HIS, literally, and wholly, with no reservations! Repentance is a COMPLETE CHANGE in your life — in your *attitude* TOWARD *life* — your *purpose* in life — your THOUGHTS and *your* ACTIONS.

It means forsaking some of your old friends and companions — if they are living the worldly life that seems *right* to MAN. It means turning from and forsaking worldly social and religious customs, interests, pleasures that are contrary to GOD'S WAYS.

It means THE BIBLE becomes the SUPREME AUTHORITY over your life — your *guide* to *living* — yes, to happy, abundant, gracious living, and SUCCESSFUL and righteous living, henceforth and forever — to live your life from now on with GOD'S HELP, and BY His POWER, according to the spirit and principle, as well as the letter and precept of His Commandments. You henceforth STUDY THE BIBLE — not just carelessly read, but STUDY, to learn GOD'S WAYS, and to LIVE BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!

Now ask yourself, candidly: How MANY people who profess salvation — who have "accepted Christ" — do you believe have REALLY COME TO THIS KIND OF REAL REPENTANCE? "Except ye REPENT," warned Jesus, "ye shall all likewise PERISH" (Luke 13:3, 5). And again, "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). Yes, MILLIONS ARE DECEIVED!

But if millions are deceived about the prior CONDITION of repentance, just as many millions are deceived today as to the KIND OF FAITH that really SAVES!

The FAITH That SAVES

Now *think* a moment! Use your REASON! We are taught, and rightly, that we cannot EARN our salvation — it is the GIFT of God. It is by GRACE — and "grace" means *undeserved pardon* and *free gift*. Yet, notice how inconsistent people are! They argue there must be NO WORKS — no OBEDIENCE to the Commandments, or doing GOOD — no recognizing of God's AUTHORITY over your daily living — because

salvation comes by GRACE — God's free GIFT. And yet they seem to believe that somehow WE must supply the FAITH that brings salvation! If WE work up, or if WE supply this FAITH by which we are saved, *would not that*, in fact, amount to our producing *our own salvation* by the very WORKS of *supplying this* FAITH?

So notice, briefly! Notice more CLOSELY than you did before! "For BY GRACE are ye saved through FAITH; and that [that FAITH] not of yourselves; it [this saving FAITH] is *the gift of GOD!*" (Eph. 2:8.) The faith that really saves is GIVEN TO US by GOD — it is a GIFT from HIM! YOU don't supply it, or work it up.

Did you ever notice that before?

Well, what then? In Gal. 2:16, Paul explains a man is justified only "by THE FAITH of *Jesus Christ*." Notice, he does not say, by the man's faith IN Jesus Christ — he says by "the faith of Jesus Christ" — which means CHRIST'S FAITH — the faith HE has and uses — the same faith with which He performed all His miracles — the same faith by which He lived — His faith, placed by a miracle, as a gift direct from God, into the man!

So, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! Salvation is GOD'S GIFT. You do not, cannot, earn it. God GIVES it. But — and here is where people become mixed up, and stumble — God will GIVE it only on condition! Yes, there are terms and conditions! God has set these terms, and you can't alter them, and He won't change them!

I want to make this perfectly PLAIN. It is not *your* faith in Christ — a faith YOU supply by BELIEVING in Him as Saviour — that saves you. It is CHRIST'S faith, which He supplies and places in you by His Holy Spirit, which actually IMPARTS ETERNAL LIFE. But WHAT, then? Is it not necessary for YOU to believe, with YOUR OWN faith, in Christ?

Now let me make this PLAIN! Salvation is GOD'S FREE GIFT — it is by GRACE ALONE. Yet the very purpose of God demands TWO prior CONDITIONS on YOUR part. First, you must REPENT! Second, you must BELIEVE *in* Christ as

Saviour. But you cannot believe in Christ unless you also believe His message — the gospel of the Kingdom of God (Mark 16:15-16). But NEITHER your repentance, your obedience, NOR YOUR faith earns any salvation! They are merely prior CONDITIONS. But when you supply these two ingredients, then God STANDS BOUND BY HIS PROMISE to impart to you by His Holy Spirit, HIS *righteousness*, and CHRIST'S *faith* — and THESE, *supplied by GOD*, are the ingredients that SAVE and impart ETERNAL LIFE!

Paul explains: "Even *we have believed* in Jesus Christ, *that we might be justified* BY THE FAITH OF CHRIST" (Gal. 2:16). You must repent and believe *in Christ*, as a condition, a prerequisite, IN ORDER THAT you may receive, and be saved *by the faith of Christ* — by HIS faith placed within you!

Cut Off From GOD

All have sinned!

All have gone the way that seems right in human eyes. And our sins have cut us off from God: "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid His face from you, that He will not hear" (Isa. 59:2).

Now salvation — eternal life — comes from GOD. But your sins have cut you off from GOD. The connection is SEVERED. YOU severed it! God will not GIVE you His gift of eternal life until you are reconciled to Him!

But He SO LOVED you, that He GAVE His only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, to DIE FOR YOU so that you need not perish — but, through Jesus Christ, be brought into contact with Him so He can GIVE you eternal life!

The PENALTY of transgressing His Law is DEATH! Jesus paid that penalty in your stead. If, and when, you TRULY REPENT, as I have explained at length, and BELIEVE on Jesus Christ as your Lord and personal Saviour from sin and from sinning, then by and through HIM you gain access to GOD THE FATHER.

The two conditions of turning FROM sin, and *accepting* Christ (including baptism), YOU *must* DO YOURSELF! That's what YOU must do! That is NOT

what saves you! It merely *reconciles* you to GOD — brings you into CONTACT *with God*, so that *God will then GIVE YOU His HOLY SPIRIT* — and HIS SPIRIT imparts the *gift of the FAITH that saves* — and it is also the Spirit of UNDERSTANDING, of *knowledge, of the LOVE* that FULFILLS the Law, and imparts GOD'S *righteousness*.

Millions have been *deceived*, and *falsely* believe that they *have* a salvation which they do NOT yet have at all! GOD HELP US, then, to UNDERSTAND.

What You Should Do

Now, finally, just HOW shall you go about it?

Must you go down the aisle in a church? Must you go to a public altar, and shed tears in front of others, and pray aloud before others?

Being converted is not an initiation into a lodge or secret society! It is not a rite or ceremony! It is a matter of turning FROM the old life that was false, yet may have seemed right to you — of turning TO a new and TRUE way of life in Christ Jesus, living by every word of God, in and by the power of God's Holy Spirit! When you UNDERSTAND the real MEANING and the PURPOSE, you'll see that it is something that takes place down deep in your HEART and not a matter of THE PLACE or THE SURROUNDINGS, or the presence of other people. What Jesus said about confessing or denying Him before men did not refer to a rite, or ceremonial form of being converted. Being converted is the receiving of the Holy Spirit — the *very life* — of God.

You CAN, of course, make this full surrender and consecration to God in front of others, at an altar. You *can*, also, make it just as sincerely and fully, in a private room at home, all ALONE with God! You can pray in church before others and do it sincerely from the heart. Yet Jesus said, "When thou prayest, enter into thy closet [any private room], and when thou hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly."

WHEN you have *really* repented — repented of what you *are* as well as what you have *done* — WHEN you come to this *parting of the ways* from the old

life — when you come to the place of making this COMPLETE CHANGE — this total unconditional surrender to God — this complete consecration, GIVING your SELF to Him, accepting Christ as your personal Saviour — turning FROM your sins, and TO GOD'S way of life as you'll find it in the Bible, you'll want to PRAY! Yes, you'll want to throw yourself completely on God's mercy, and ask Him through Jesus Christ to FORGIVE YOU all your past sins and transgressions against Him.

The Apostle Paul reveals how. He confessed: "For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth *no good thing*: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not. For the good that I would I do not: but the evil which I would not, that I do" (Rom. 7:18-19).

He saw human nature in its gruesome reality. He struggled with it — fought against it — only to find that it was more powerful than he!

What could he do?

Paul cried out, "O wretched man that I am! Who shall deliver me from the body of this death?" Read the answer to the problem in the Moffatt translation: "Miserable wretch that I am! Who will rescue me from this body of death? *GOD WILL!* Thanks be to him through Jesus Christ our Lord!" (Verses 24-25.)

It is not, perhaps, of great consequence *where* you do it! But the IMPORTANT thing is to DO IT! The longer you put repentance off the harder it will become. WHY it should be difficult to just go and throw yourself on God's mercy, and ask His forgiveness, and give your SELF to Him, is hard to understand — yet something in the human nature within you will keep tempting you to PUT IT OFF. That temptation is not of God, you may be sure.

If you are sick and tired of the empty, fruitless, materialistic life you have been living — IF in your heart you DO want to turn from it to the FULL and JOYFUL life filled with God's SPIRIT, then WHY DELAY? This is *just the start* of the real Christian life. Don't look for a certain feeling, but repent and believe. □

TODAY'S teen-agers have the greatest challenge of all times! *Only twice in all history has it been so bad, and it's due to get worse!* Perhaps we should label today, "the sick, sick sex age." You teen-agers are fed a steady diet of sex! It seems to be on everyone's mind from the lowest laborer to the highest-ranking officials of the land. You see sex on the billboards, in the funnies, news, TV and in the flesh.

You have sex poked at you from morning till evening. Even the commercials on TV are loaded! The man of today, if you believe the ads or the movies, would rather fight than switch, drink martinis for breakfast, have 18 brassiere-bursting girl friends draped over his straight-eight, doublebarreled, TV-equipped convertible, with another half dozen slinky sex pots lounging around his bachelor apartment for decor. The guy is barely getting by on two grand a week obtained by all-night gambling in a dimly lit, smoke-filled, back-alley bar on the north side of town.

You live in a jungle of swill, pornography, rape, lying, cheating, killing, hating, butchery — demented, perverted, drunken, black- and white-power, race-rioting, opium-smoking, wretched, evil times. You live in the Sodom and Gomorrah predicted by Jesus Christ when He said, "as it was in the days of Lot" (Luke 17:28).

It's crazy, weird, sonic, luring, degenerating, captivating, mixed-up living!

You're in it up to your ears! It takes a special breed of wise, determined, cream-of-the-crop teen-agers to bear up under the rot and swill of this evil, darkened, gloom-infested kingdom of Satan. You gotta have *real willpower, real character* — only the very, very wise will make it!

Every teen-ager has asked himself, at one time or another, is it worth the effort? Should I continue and resist the pulls of this world and society? Why not join the mob, take the easy route? Why not live it up, "eat, drink and be merry for tomorrow we may die!"

Is GOD fair to

Teen-agers?

Are you, if you obey God, cheated of a fun-filled life? Are the other kids down the street, the live-it-up generation, having all the fun? Don't be fooled! This is the sick, sick sex age of the Soaring 60's and 70's. This article makes plain the future, an opportunity of a lifetime, so colossal, as to defy the imagination. What the future holds for you, if you have eyes to see and ears to hear, will be all the riches of Tomorrow's World! Do you have what it takes to meet the challenge?

by Paul S. Royer

That's the philosophy of the vast majority of today's teen-agers! Is there anything really wrong with such a philosophy?

Let's take a candid look, let's look to tomorrow and see! What are the end results of sin? What are the end results of obedience?

Sin's Bad — Not Good

Sin is like the first step down an open elevator shaft. It's a real thrill on the way down! A short thrill that ends in a heap of rubble. In I John 3:4 God says sin is the breaking of His Law — that's bad! In the end sin brings sickness, degenerate minds, unhappiness and miserable lives.

In the beginning God made man — "it was very good" (Gen. 1:27, 31). He gave man every good thing — a beautiful, wonderful world just like the one soon to come. He gave man a perfect environment. The hunting, fishing and camping were out of this world! The air was crisp and clean, the skies blue with wisps of white cotton-like clouds. He polished it all off by giving the first man a female that had more sex appeal, more

beauty, looks and personality than fifty of today's beauty queens all rolled into one. He said, "That's good." He said, "She's all yours, Adam. Take her and care for her. She's your wife; you are one flesh." (Gen. 2:18-25.)

Along came Satan. He said, "That's bad. Sin's good!" (Gen. 3.) So man "took him wives of other men." He perverted every good thing of God. He was duped by Satan into believing black was white — that everything bad was good. He traded all his wealth for a few cheap trinkets and a yard or two of bright red cloth. Murder, sodomy, hatred and wretched living replaced the good. Evil became rampant on the earth. The earth was filled with violence. It was a time of race riots everywhere. The world was corrupt. All flesh had corrupted God's way upon the earth. Then God sent the flood to teach man that sin was bad! All flesh that moved upon the earth died. Only one family was saved alive! (Gen. 7:21-22.)

When God says, "This is right and that's evil," that's right, that's good. When He says illicit sex, teen-age love

is bad, He knows what He's talking about. He made us male and female from the dust of the earth. He said, "No adultery. No fornication. That's bad! That's sin!!"

King David for a time forgot sin was bad. He committed adultery with another man's wife. He was drawn by the flesh to believe that bad was good. A few moments of stolen love cost the life of a man and a child. It cost David his kingdom and almost his life by the hands of his own son Absalom. David lived to see his wives abducted. They were seduced and raped out in the open for all to see. He lived to see the sickening, heartbreaking rape of his beautiful daughter, Tamar, accosted by his very own son in an unparalleled rape — a smashing blow to happiness and joy that could have been so different — if he just

A slight correction of direction in a vehicle traveling as far as a Mariner spacecraft results in an overwhelming change in final destination.

Jet Propulsion Laboratory,
California Institute of Technology



hadn't forgotten that bad wasn't good. David repented. He said, "God's right. Good is good; bad is bad. God surely knows what He's talking about. I give my life, this example, my unhappy story as evidence that sin is bad." (II Sam. 12, 13; Psalm 51.)

Correction Pretty Important

On December 14, 1962, the U.S. spacecraft Mariner II completed a voyage to Venus that began August 27 of that same year. The spacecraft traveled 180.2 million miles in 109 days. That's 19 miles per second! In September it was determined the spacecraft was *slightly* off course. On September 5 a trajectory maneuver was made. The velocity of the spacecraft was changed by as little as .7 foot per second. Without this minute correction the spacecraft would have strayed 233,000 *miles off course!!*

God's correction is pretty important, too! Without it you would miss your purpose, the reason you are on earth.

Without God's correction you'd stray by a far greater distance than Mariner II. David learned a painful lesson. He was sternly corrected by God. It would have been so much easier if the correction had come earlier when he was *just a little off course* — when his mind first entertained the thought of sin. If he would only have remembered the instruction of his Father in heaven. God says correction gives understanding (Prov. 15:32). Another place He instructs the "wise son" as one hearing his father's correction (Prov. 13:1). It keeps him on course. Therefore, children, don't be weary of correction

(Prov. 3:11). It's for your good! Find your course, the right course, the good course. Stick to the right way — hit the right goal dead center. Listen to God! Listen to Dad and Mom!

Unfortunately, some of you teenagers are products of a broken home. Your parents may be divorced and involved in all sorts of iniquity. After all, we are living in the *Last Days* of a 6000-year period just prior to Christ's return. He said it would be the way it is — men and women would be "eating and drinking, marrying and giving in marriage," really living it up just like they did in the days of Noah when God had to destroy all but eight adults (Matt. 24:36-39, Gen. 7:23).

Some of you may have to stand alone and obey God, like Noah did just over 4000 years ago. During Noah's time it was so bad that when God looked down on the earth He was only able to find one righteous man obeying and keeping His Word. Everyone else was corrupt, the earth was filled with violence (Gen. 6:9-13).

If Mom and Dad aren't the right examples, then you may have to look to God alone as your example and obey His commandments. However, you should remember that obeying God includes honoring your parents even if they are disobedient to God (Ex. 20:12).

It's Not Easy

Most teen-agers at one time or another experience the desire to do good. You really do want to obey your parents, the government of God — it's just that it's so difficult.

I agree it is difficult and so does God's Word. He says "strive," work hard. Many weak and of poor character will make half-hearted attempts and will not "enter in." They won't have what it takes; they won't "be able" (Luke 13:24). Any treasure, anything worthwhile comes at "great price." The good things, the really big things are "worth it"! It's worth the extra striving for even the blessings in today's world, not counting what's beyond — just a few years away!

What is waiting for you *physically* is *priceless!!* Few teen-agers have heard or realized what God has in store for the

obedient, God-fearing teen-ager of this generation. All it takes to receive this fabulous, physical, a-few-years-away future is real "he-man" character, determination and real guts!

No sissy will ever find it! It takes boys that have a great deal of masculinity and girls with depth, wisdom and fortitude. The next few years are going to be tough. It will take stamina, determination and wisdom to come through!

The Apostle Paul speaks of "this way" — the necessary work, strife, and effort to obtain — as being a "fight." The calling that you teen-agers have been given is so great that it is not without price. The greater the value, the bigger the price.

Your opportunity through obedience is stupendous, colossal! Never again will teen-agers in all of life on earth have the opportunity that you could have — *right now*; the opportunity that's within your immediate grasp! — not the distant future. I'm not necessarily thinking of the Kingdom of God now! That comes later.

A few of you teen-agers have read, heard about, or in some way come across the scripture back in Ephesians 6:1-3, "Children, obey your parents in the Lord; for this is right." If you believe in God, if you are obeying God now, then you know this passage is right; it's true!

You Should Know the Time Is Short

If you have your eyes open, if you're observing the time, the "around," if you know anything at all about God's plan of salvation, the Millennium, or the purpose of life, then there should be no doubt in your mind that we are living in the "end times." You probably know that somewhere there is one true Church of God. You have, if you are observant, convinced yourself that the varying denominations, all preaching different doctrines, can't all be right.

If you have been studying the booklets printed by the editor of this magazine, if you have been studying them in conjunction with your Bible (booklets such as *Why Were You Born?* and the *Wonderful World Tomorrow — What It Will Be Like*), then no one has to convince you that you're not going to

sprout wings and fly off to heaven to float around on cloud nine, strumming on the old banjo at the end of your life on earth. If you've looked into life's purpose or been exposed to *the right way to live* at all, then you should *understand* and know God's way really pays off. That it is the happy way for teen-agers to live! Unfortunately, not all teen-agers who are exposed to the right way to live want to or intend to follow and obey the way they KNOW to be right!

Some of you aren't quite convinced it's WORTH IT!! You feel gypped, left out, oppressed by "this way of life" as the Bible phrases it, the right way to live. A few of you, who have parents who know right from wrong, may even resent the unfortunate circumstances of having parents who respect God's Word and your unhappy predicament of being *forced* to live and obey the way God would have you live.

Is God Unfair to You?

Many of you feel robbed, cheated and oppressed. You think God hasn't been fair with you. The "other kids," the worldly teen-agers, who know nothing of the right way are the "lucky ones"! They get to "sex it up," kiss, hug and even go the limit!! You look, you see, you desire. Your mind begins playing tricks on you! It tries to convince you that evil is good — that good is bad! You say, "Oh, if I could only have lived a while before finding out the truth, the right way to live."

You may never have had the chance to sow your wild oats, to make illicit, secret love, smoke, curse or get drunk. Time is running out. Jesus Christ is returning and you "*haven't lived*"!!!

The worldly kids are really having the fun — or are they??

Don't Bug Me With the Facts

Right about now some few of you are saying, "Come off it! I know what you're getting at! You're not going to trick me with the truth! My mind's closed — I mean made up. I'm going to break loose the first chance I get, and all hell is not going to convince me otherwise. Don't bug me with the truth, Dad

— I'm gonna live, man — live a little!!"

To you I'd say, go to it — live it up — have fun. No one can help you — YET!! Give it a few more years, a few broken skulls, throw in a tribulation and a thousand years or so; and maybe, just maybe, you'll be lucky enough to come up with your life in the Great White Throne Judgment Day! That's a 100-year period of time at the end of the Millennium for those who are too rebellious to obey now and have not known about God's true way to live.

To the rest of you, you who are a little wiser, keep reading. Maybe, just maybe, I can convince you the right way of life PAYS BIG DIVIDENDS FOR TEEN-AGERS as well as adults. The right way really is beyond your fondest, wildest dream! The false, perverted way is a greased toboggan slide to oblivion — to sick, degenerate minds.

The one-way trip to oblivion starts with feeling gypped with the truth and believing the other kids are having all the fun!

If you don't know about the right way of life, you ought to write in and ask for literature that would explain and show you where to find it in your own Bible. For openers try "What is a Real Christian?" "What is Real Repentance?" and "This is the Life — Real Abundant Living"!

Talk About Living

Let me tell you about the guy I met in Karachi, India. These were the "good ole days." I was doing a bit of living myself. One morning I woke up in the base hospital, felled by a mosquito. They called it Gandhi fever. All night long I wondered why I didn't die. It was the one time in my life that I really wanted to!

At age 22 I had come to India, then China, to be a hero. Two Jap "zeros" — the second to prove the first wasn't an accident — captain's bars and the Distinguished Flying Cross were all that I wanted. The fellow beside me, with his .45 pistol slung over the foot of his hospital bed, had already successfully achieved this goal of mine. In fact, he had surpassed it.

He was the first of the AVG (Ameri-

can Volunteer Group, Flying Tigers in China), a very handsome young man, clean-cut, a good tan, broad shoulders, a warm smile, white teeth — the works. You teen-age girls would have swooned. He filled me in on the details of combat in China. As I remember, he had five or six “zeros” to his credit. I listened and planned how I’d get my two, the medals, fame, and at the same time help win the peace.

Only one thing was wrong. My friend hadn’t told me why he was in the hospital. However, I found that out later — one morning after he shot himself!!

I was sleeping next to the wall that separated our room and the shower. A shot rang out—just one! The duty nurse ran through the room into the shower and screamed!! There sat my friend in the shower with the top of his head blown off. The .45, his own, lay in a pool of blood between his knees. He’d been very neat about it, wrapping a towel around his head and carefully placing the .45 in his mouth before pulling the trigger!

The problem?

He’d lived too much!!

Being a handsome man, a pilot, a hero, it wasn’t too difficult to find a girl friend. The fact that she was Chinese didn’t make much difference.

My friend had contracted a disease similar to syphilis; only this was the Chinese kind called “the Chinese rot”! *His genital organs had rotted right off his body.* His orders read: “transferred to the States for medical treatment.”

Back home he had a girl friend. This one he wanted to marry — they were engaged. He showed me her picture. She was tall, tanned and brunette. They would have made a handsome couple. Her dad was quite wealthy, well known — a man of position and responsibility. My friend had it made — until he started “living”!

A Low Blow?

Now that was a low blow! A little more of what it’s *really like* “to live” and some of you “not so wise” will be “trapped” into believing that it *really does pay to obey God!* That this world’s ways really are rotten, sick, degenerate and the way of pain. If you’re not careful, you’ll be so “unfortunate” as to

miss out on some of these “good times” your friends are having — like, “Mom, I’m in trouble — what do I do now??”

Of course, it’s not too bad out there!! You’ve heard the statistics. *Only* 45,000 teen-agers in the U.S.A. have been stricken with syphilis *since you read last month’s* sports news! Another 45,000 contracted gonorrhea — at least that number got reported.

Syphilis is *only* up 230 percent over 1956. It’s possible that you could “live” a little and be one of the “lucky ones”! Perhaps with a little luck you could escape what constitutes the U.S.A.’s most urgent “communicable disease.” That’s forgetting suicide (90,000 college students threatened to kill themselves last year; 1 in 10 tried it). Suicide is skyrocketing for all ages. A major factor for suicide today is a broken law written in Exodus 20:14. Some of you should be able to quote it from memory! It covers fornication, too, you know!

Most Shouldn’t Need Convincing

But then, I shouldn’t have to convince most of you that it’s dangerous out there. Down deep you *really should know* the kids next door aren’t *really* “having fun”! You know that they are waking up with headaches; that quite a number of this world’s present teen-age generation is on “the smoke pot” and many are raving maniacs. Most of you have seen the hard looks, the grim faces. They’re all around! You’ve read about Marilyn Monroe, Jayne Mansfield, the hippies, hell’s angels, the mods and the rockers.

No, they’re not really having fun, are they? Their sense of values is perverted. Anyone who would settle for the darkened, demented, sick way of this world in preference to God’s way is kind of like the African native who traded his diamonds and ivory for a few yards of cheap, bright red cloth and a few five-and-dime store trinkets. The eye-catching trinkets glittered for a while before turning black.

Something else can be wrong in the teen-ager’s mind who knows or has proven God exists and that His way is the right way to live. If your mind has been in gear at all, then you know the

“live-it-up” method is only a short, short five-and-dime store glitter type of life before cancer, heart trouble, suicide, shotgun weddings and the reality of a sick, sick mind and body.

What’s wrong is that you teen-agers (7-, 8- and 12-year-olds, too) *haven’t begun to comprehend your future right here in this PHYSICAL LIFE!*

You really are sitting on a real gold mine, a treasure chest full of diamonds, rubies and ivory — yet some who know God’s way are waiting for “the chance” to trade it all for a little bright red cloth — a little “living now”!

That’s up to you. You’re the one that has to live with the decision. Before any of you make the wrong decision, read on — what you’re offered is far greater than most of you have imagined. No teen-ager in his right mind could afford to turn it down.

The Cream of the Crop

The golden opportunity offered you reminds me of 28 years ago and an opportunity that I had. But it was for “peanuts” compared to yours! As flying cadets we were told that we were the “cream of the crop” from the U.S.A.’s manhood. They let us know that our training cost the government several hundred thousands of dollars. Such a large amount of money impressed me. I worked hard to obtain the choicest plum, the glamour of a fighter pilot.

It wasn’t easy! After the band quit playing, after the few brief moments of preinduction glamour, it was time to go to work. The cadet had to prove he was “the cream of the crop,” that he was worth the large expenditure of capital. Each cadet spent hours, day after day, week after week, of grueling training, drilling, studying, marching, bracing and yes, even flying.

The prewar cadet spent hours bracing until every bone in his body ached. How would you like to spend 20 minutes sitting on a chair that didn’t exist? Try that for size, some of you tough guys! Life as a cadet included marching in the heat, runway temperature 125 degrees or above. The weaker passed out, which meant “washed out” of the cadets.

To obtain this physical goal I’ve sat

An A-4 Skyhawk lands aboard the attack carrier U. S. S. Hancock. Both the man piloting the jet and the ground crew aboard the carrier represent some of the finest men the United States has to offer — the cream of the crop.

U. S. Navy Photo



hours on end pivoting on a point in the BT 13 trainer (a maneuver that would make many a sea captain sick), swallowing vomit that if not contained meant "washed out." We fought, worked, sweated and dreamed flying, all for the glorious privilege of risking our "necks" in slaughter alley, trading 50-caliber machine gun fire with a Jap "zero" or a German ME 109. We did it for the glory of some ribbons to pin on our chest, to impress the girls, the kids and family back home.

We toiled and trained like Olympic athletes to obtain an "earthly goal" — a "corruptible crown." All that we amassed — the ribbons, the kills, the prestige — has long since passed along with its fleeting moments of glory. The

ribbons, the medals, the memories (some not so good) are all neatly tucked away — almost forgotten!

What you are called to share so far surpasses my goal of the past that there is no way to really compare! I was offered a 5-cent candy bar — you, the Queen Mary by comparison. To get it you're going to be required to work, to give, to have more guts and determination to receive your plum than I did as a flying cadet. That makes sense, doesn't it?

Your Magnificent Future

Someone has to be the earthly, physical rulers over the nations, provinces and kingdoms of this world. Who else can be trained to rule the physical world to-

morrow if it isn't the teen-agers, the children who grasp the real meaning of life and are willing to sacrifice now in order to *really* live tomorrow!

True, in the soon coming world tomorrow, there are going to be spirit beings ruling in many of these positions of authority, but physical people — you, the educated cream-of-the-crop adults of tomorrow — are going to be the physical leaders serving under these spirit beings. That's what you should be qualifying for now!

Teen-agers — do you know how many there are of you living in this present wicked world who are exposed to the right way — the way of rulership tomorrow? Desperately few!

There are about 130 sovereign nations and states on earth today. If you count the colonies, trust territories and mandates that contain ethnic groups that could become nations, the number is almost inexhaustible. That's not counting the other positions such as mayor, judge, governor, councilman and the thousands of other *physical* offices of administration needed to support the Government of God when it comes.

Is that enough of a challenge for you? When God sets about punishing this world for its evil, the wicked for their vice, men will become "more rare than finest gold, men scarcer than gold ore from Ophir" (Isa. 13:11-12, Moffatt). The nations will continue to exist. People will be left living on this earth!

The Fabulous 80's Only Moments Away

In the office of a king, governor, mayor or administrator, you will co-rule with spirit beings (those of us changed at Christ's coming). You will take orders, but you *who learn to obey now* will also *give* orders — the right kind, to many other physical humans in the wonderful World Tomorrow. You will live in palaces that *are* palaces, eating

steaks that *are* steaks, served grapes the size of golf balls (Num. 13:23-24), *living the full, abundant life as it was intended to be lived!*

Your personal home, regardless of the stature of your office, is going to be "out of this world." In today's world only the very rich can afford a home on the beach, the lake or stream. Tomorrow, if you like the fun-filled out-of-doors, you will be able to afford a home equipped, not only with hot and cold running water, but with a natural trout stream meandering through the living room. You may decorate your 90'x100' living room with natural plantings, banana trees, ferns and all manner of tropical plants bearing luscious fruit. As a matter of fact, a real 50-foot waterfall can also be a part of the decor rather than today's four-foot man-made innovation. Instead of house cats or stuffed "teddy bears" your children can have their own personal lion (Isa. 11:6). They will have a ball!

If you prefer the city, that, too, will be as different and as rewarding. No more smog, industrial dirt, slums, crime, heatwaves, jangling, nerve-defying noises, death-dealing snowstorms, or hate! The asphalt jungles, the cities of today, are to be demolished. In their place will be well-planned, well-designed and wonderfully organized park-like cities, cities of peace and quiet, planted with all manner of beautiful flowers, trees and shrubs, all naturally watered by God.

The city, state or nation you co-rule will have problems — ALL SOLVABLE! Traffic congestion, gas-spewing automobiles, weird queers, delinquents, all will become a memory of the wretched by-gone days known in history as *the terrible 60's and 70's!*

The city you choose to rear your children in will be full of faithful, God-fearing wives and husbands, obedient to God's laws. Happiness will be supreme. Peace will be everywhere. Streets will be safe. Children and old men will be playing and walking in them (Zech. 8:4-5). Every government will be God's government. Its citizens will know love to the fullest — no enemies. Your children will be safe. "The earth shall be full of

the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9).

You and every inhabitant on earth will be following God's commands. Those who won't will be few and *under continual surveillance* (Isa. 30:21). All parents will teach their children God's truth. You will teach your children about God's wonderful way (Deut. 6:7). When your children ask you about the "terrible 60's and 70's" (Deut. 6:20), you will tell them how the whole world was freed from sin, how God delivered this world from Egypt (verse 21). The life you lived, the old world, its crime, perversion, divorce, murder, rape, weather problems, starvation — all will seem strange to your children when you tell them of yesteryear.

When you tell them how the world destroyed itself and about the devastating and catastrophic series of earthquakes which struck this earth until it wobbled and reeled on its axis, their hair will stand on end! You will be able to recount how God saved your life when the earth broke open and great, vast chasms swallowed up block after block of pre-millennial homes and apartments — people and all!

You will have to grit your teeth and tell them about some of your friends who took the easy, shallow, foolish way of this world and how their children were dashed to pieces before their eyes and their wives ravished, raped and spoiled in the siege (Isa. 13:16). You will, for your children's sake, tell them about those who chose "to live" this world's life and in distress, anguish and horror ate the flesh of their own sons and daughters. You will recount the story of the delicate daughters of sinful Israel who in the siege were so famished that they secretly ate their own afterbirth amid the strait of the siege (Deut. 28:53, 56-57)!

As far as your eye can see, it will be a world of peace and security. Everyone you meet will be your friend, your brother. Race riots will only be an ugly memory!

That's Not All — There's More

Then at the end of your physical life, AFTER YOU have overcome the flesh, you will be changed into a spirit being in an instant, in the twinkling of an eye. Your

change will come when you are older and have lived a *full physical life in the flesh*. You will then be able to appreciate the spiritual gift of being a spirit being — a God! You will be given eternal life, a life that transcends and supercedes all joys and happinesses here on earth by a billionfold! Spiritual life is so vast, so magnificent that it cannot even be compared with the earthly, physical moments of joy (Rom. 8:18).

YOU WILL THEN AT THIS TIME BECOME THE ONLY GENERATION IN ALL TIME THAT HAS LIVED IN THREE WORLDS — THE WORLD TODAY, THE WORLD TOMORROW AND FINALLY THE SPIRIT WORLD OF GOD!!!

What a gigantic, glorious future you have ahead of you! There is only one sad part. Some of your friends, those who are weak, lack real guts and courage, stamina, true masculinity or femininity and the qualities so necessary to receive this magnificent future — they will be dead — either for eternity after a short third resurrection or until the Great White Throne Judgment Day of a thousand years from now.

You, if you read, heed and obey, can become the *special cream-of-the-crop students* of the kingdom, just as Daniel, Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego. They, in a physical government, were the skillful, the knowledgeable, teachable, highly favored children appointed to learn the Chaldean tongue. You, too, as you read this article are called to be approved of God to far GREATER POWER to be the rulers of this earth in just a few more short years.

You can FLUNK OUT *at an unbelievably high cost*, or you can succeed and inherit the unlimited, undreamed-of, astonishing, amazing World Tomorrow! You can help usher in *the new world!* Succeed and you will rule over hundreds of thousands of adults, teen-agers — some your very own "I want to live now" friends.

Do you have what it takes? You can have the glitter of this sick, dying, wretched world for a couple of short, short years — or, if you have guts, stamina, courage and character — you can rule in the wonderful World Tomorrow!

Which will it be for YOU?? □

Here's How You Can —



Ambassador College Photo

by Clint C. Zimmerman

JOSHUA and Caleb were willing to take to the field and battle it out with the fierce, giant inhabitants of the promised land. Even though towering giants stood between them and possession of the land, they did not cower in fear.

Where did they get such courage?

Years later that same land was invaded and threatened by a huge host of Philistines. But the strippling youth, David, challenged, fought and killed the most fearsome warrior of the day. And the Philistine armies fled back across the border.

Why? Where did David get such all-conquering power?

Gideon, Barak, Samson, Jephthah, Samuel and the other prophets, were able to repel invading armies, close the very mouths of lions, put out furious fires that threatened to burn them alive, and escape what seemed to be

imminent death time after time. They found the strength to overcome their every weakness. Some of them nearly single-handedly put huge foreign armies to flight.

How did they do it?

The BIG Picture

The basic reason they succeeded, and you have often failed, may be quite simple — once you see it clearly. All these men had the **BIG PICTURE**, and **BELIEVED** in it! They saw the **KINGDOM OF GOD**. They had vision and proper perspective. They responded valiantly and moved forward to secure the Kingdom.

All these men had deep and abiding **BELIEF**, and through it dutifully served their God and nation. They knew the Kingdom God had promised Israel was **REAL** and worth any effort or price. They had the **BIG PICTURE** and so they did everything possible to establish the **KINGDOM**.

However — if you have *not* seen the big picture and the **REALITY** of the Kingdom of God, that may explain why

you have not overcome problems and have found yourself coming up short.

Disobedience and Disaster

Now let's look at the *other* side of the picture.

Wherever Israelites *failed* to believe God, lost sight of the goal and disobeyed, they began to die like so many bugs. They died because they rebelliously stiffened their necks. They set their wills to a wrong end. They lost sight of the big picture. They started in pursuit of their own goals. The Kingdom was forgotten.

Some of them died naturally. But usually their deaths were gruesome and frightful. They died swollen, suffering, screaming because of venomous snake bites. They died in battle gasping out their last breath through bubbles of their own blood. They suffocated under the crushing, juice-spurting weight of the earth as it swallowed them in earthquakes.

God provided a *physical* kingdom for Israel so they could have the happiness, safety, satisfaction, and success for which they had so feverishly longed during their slavery in Egypt. God

promised them every physical blessing if only they would move to the land He had chosen and accept His government. *All they needed to do was believe* God and see the reality of the plan He was working out in their behalf. Joshua and Caleb saw the plan in reality. They comprehended it. *They really BELIEVED it!*

Those Israelites who BELIEVED GOD were able to overcome all of the obstacles and trials which beset them during that 40 years of miserable wandering on the Sinai Peninsula. *They moved steadily toward the goal.* Nothing stopped them! Continuously they looked toward the promises which had been given them. Nothing took their eyes from the Kingdom. And so they won! *They were rewarded!*

They received and had the power to make the trip and obtain their inheritance simply because they believed in the Kingdom God had promised.

Promise of Power

When you and I come to realize the plan of God — when we SEE the Kingdom, then we, too, *can make it!* Look at what Paul says in Romans 1:16, "... THE GOSPEL ... IS THE POWER OF GOD UNTO SALVATION TO EVERY ONE THAT BELIEVETH."

Christ's entire ministry was centered around and concerned with preaching the GOSPEL. He said we must BELIEVE this good news (Mark 1:15). Let's comprehend how awesomely powerful is BELIEF in this Gospel.

The Gospel, as you know, is the good news of the Kingdom which God soon is going to set up. Those who BELIEVE in this Kingdom are going to be saved! But we must *give due* CREDIT to the promise. We must have an utmost mental PERSUASION that the goal is there and can be reached. The plan of God must become *real* REALITY to us! We must view the Kingdom as if it already were! We must KNOW *that we know* about the Kingdom of God. We must be *caught up* in the pursuit of the Kingdom.

You and I must come to yearn, crave, long for, yes, burn and ache for the Kingdom!

The goal — the Kingdom — must become *the very reason for our existence!*

As we see the grand magnificence of it, our very being will be changed. We will become motivated with the accomplishment of God's plan. We will be entirely enthusiastic about doing the Work of God.

We can't do this without believing it.

Bigness of Belief

The word "believe" is a BIG, STRONG word. It means to have FAITH, *conviction*, confidence, TRUST, to be persuaded, *to be* CERTAIN!

In defining the Greek word which is translated "belief," the staid Thayer's *Lexicon* uses such pithy and impressive phrases as this:

"*Holy* FERVOR *born of* FAITH and conjoined with it.

"CONVICTION *that God exists and is the Creator and Ruler of all things, the Provider and Bestower of eternal salvation through Christ.*

"*Strong and* WELCOME *conviction.*

"*Conviction and trust to which a man is impelled by a certain inner and higher prerogative.*"

Maybe you haven't yet seen and comprehended and realized the depths to which the faith of God plumbs!

Faith and belief are not little words that nibble weakly on the edge of hazy notion or fantasy. They are not concerned with superficial opinion. They are *not* acquainted with dainty sentiment. They have no double meaning or supposition. They leave no room for theory or mere impression.

Faith and belief in the Kingdom encompass all that mind, intelligence, thought can muster and contain or explain about this most important concept.

These words crash thunderously, unstopably to the very root-tips of all thought concerning the promises of God.

They unabashedly, unequivocally gather all reason and purpose concerning certainty, reliability and positive persuasion and they simply must result in *action!*

When you say, "I believe the Gospel of the Kingdom" you go to the very heart and core, the very bottom of the reason for being. Belief is *of* God and has the very certainty of "I AM THAT I AM!"

Faith leaves no room for equivocation, vacillation, variance or doubt.

Faith is the substance of things not yet seen.

Faith *already* sees God as He is.

Faith will force us to respond as Christ did! — as God does!

Be Like Christ!

In the book of Philippians, the Apostle Paul perfectly describes the attitude which we must have:

"*So by whatever appeal there is in our relation to Christ, by whatever incentive there is in love, by whatever participation there is in the Spirit, whatever affection and sympathy, make me perfectly happy by living in harmony, with the same attitude of love, with the same feeling and purpose. Do not act for selfish ends or from vanity, but modestly treat one another as your superiors. Do not take account of your own interests, BUT OF THE INTERESTS OF OTHERS as well. Have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had.* Though he possessed the nature of God, he did not grasp at equality with God, but laid it aside to take on the nature of a slave and become like other men. When he had assumed human form, he still further humbled himself and carried his obedience so far as to die, and to die upon the cross. *That is* WHY God has so greatly exalted him and given him the name above all others, so that in the name of Jesus everyone should kneel, in heaven and on earth and in the underworld, and everyone should acknowledge Jesus Christ as Lord, and thus glorify God the Father... For it is God who in his good will is at work in your hearts, INSPIRING YOUR WILL AND YOUR ACTION....

"Brothers, I do not consider that I have captured it yet, only, forgetting what is behind me, and straining toward what lies ahead, I am *pressing toward the goal*, for the prize to which God through Christ Jesus calls us upward. Let as many of us therefore as are mature have this attitude. If you have any different attitude, God will make this clear to you. Only we must live up to what we have already attained.

"Follow my example, brothers, all of

you, and notice those who follow the pattern we have set you. For there are many who live, as I have often told you, and tell you now with tears, like enemies of the cross of Christ. They are doomed to destruction: Their appetites are their god; they glory in their shame; they are absorbed in earthly matters. But the commonwealth to which we belong is in heaven, and from it we are eagerly awaiting the coming of a savior, the Lord Jesus Christ. He will make our poor bodies over to resemble his glorious body, by exerting the power he has to subject everything to himself" (Philip. 2:1-11, 13; 3:13-21 — Goodspeed translation).

Christ demonstrated and proved His great love for humanity when He willingly left the very throne of God and His high position in order to become a mere man. He was willing to die — and because He was willing to die — He was again made very God. He returned to the Kingdom, which He so easily left because mankind needed help. *He saw the big picture.* He saw that in the end all mankind could be in the Kingdom. All of us who repent and believe in the Gospel can be kings and priests with Him as very God.

He took the opportunity to preach the Gospel to the world in order that all of suffering humanity could have the peace and security which Godship provides.

Help Others

You and I can have the sound mind of God and can view the whole panorama of human history and the world today just like Jesus Christ. We can see the importance of saving humanity. We can see the good that will come out of the salvation which God extends. We can see the love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faith, gentleness, self-control from which men can benefit if they will only follow Jesus.

If we have the big picture we will want all men to participate in this indescribably magnificent wonderfulness. But we must see the end of the matter. We must *know* that it really can happen. We must *realize* that it WILL happen.

Understand that we are not just to obtain something for ourselves. We

have been drafted to help and teach others. We are engaged in the working out of God's plan. We have the same goal as Christ. We think like Christ. We want to give all goodness to all mankind.

Read John 14:12-28; 16:7-11 to see what Christ had to say about this. **FORGET YOURSELF!** The point is, *we must become thoroughly involved in the Work that Christ has started!* We have been given an understanding of what the truth is. We know what the end of the matter is. We know that the Kingdom is the really important thing. Like Caleb, Joshua, Gideon, David, and all the prophets, we must do all possible to *finish the Work of Christ* and assist in setting up His Kingdom.

In the letter to the Colossians Paul says, "If, then, you have been raised to life with Christ, set your hearts on the things that are where Christ is, above, seated at God's right hand. For you have died, and your life now lies hidden with Christ in God. When Christ, who is our true life, shall make his appearance, then you also will appear glorified with him.

"So treat as dead your physical nature, as far as immorality, impurity, passion, evil desire, and greed are concerned; for it is really idolatry. It is on account of these things that God's anger is coming. *And you once practiced them as others do,* when you lived that old earthly life. But **NOW YOU TOO MUST PUT THEM ALL ASIDE!**" (Col. 3:1-8 — Goodspeed translation).

Christ's Power

Christ had the power to subdue His human nature and do the will of God *because* He saw the big picture. It was *real* to Him and He died in order that it could be real for us. When we comprehend the reality, then we will be motivated, just as Christ was, to do all that needs doing. We will be able to subdue our nature. We will be able to overcome the lusts of our flesh. We will be able to give our bodies and our lives that the rest of humanity may have the benefit of God's Kingdom.

Out of necessity we will be willing to suffer, to resist the sin in our natural inclinations. Yes, our senses will become wearied; we'll crave things

which we ought not. We will be pained, even outraged, in one way or another. But we can ride over the natural inclinations to give up, to quit, to forsake the job which we have been given to do.

Do you see the vision? Do you grasp the Big Picture? This is how you can have the power to conquer every obstacle in the Christian path. This is the way you can really BELIEVE, and see the REALITY of the coming Kingdom of God.

Just like dauntless Joshua and Caleb who did not fear the hulking giants in the promised land. Just like David and the other mighty and valiant men of old who faced grave and deadly dangers without flinching, despairing or losing hope and courage. Just like Jesus Christ who gave His all, in the face of the most paralyzing dangers and persecution, to bring this Big Picture — the goal of the Kingdom of God — to each one of us.

You too can OVERCOME every tendency to slide into sin and cave in to your weaknesses. This is the way you can receive real spiritual POWER through the Holy Spirit of God to resist the flesh and bring it into subjection. Trials and problems, difficulties which used to overpower you and lead you as a cringing slave into sin, will no longer hold you fast in darkest captivity to the flesh.

Remember this lesson of the Bible and the wonderful examples recorded there for you. Keep these examples uppermost in your mind. Like these men of old — dedicate your being to doing all you personally can to bring SOON the *Kingdom of God* to the earth! Let Jesus Christ live His life fully, wonderfully, in you. *Get the BIG PICTURE!*

If we have the Spirit of God to empower us, we can have the big picture. Write for our article, "How You Can Be Imbued With the Power of God." We will bring our bodies and minds into captivity and make them do what needs doing. If the Kingdom is actually real to us, if God is true and the reward as great as we say we believe, we will be motivated as Christ was and then we CANNOT FAIL — WE WILL WIN! □

The greatest famine in history is just a few short years ahead. It is absolutely certain to reach into YOUR home — unless you understand and heed!

by Eugene M. Walter

MASSIVE FAMINES in the remaining years of this century are inevitable! Nothing can be done to stop them. This very next decade of the seventies is a crucial time.

Most scientists warn that worldwide famines lie ahead. "It's too late to stop a famine in this century," said Dr. John Rock of Harvard. "It has already started. Despite all the advances in agriculture and the increases in national output, the population has increased faster than the food supply."

But how does this fact affect *you*? How many in *overfed* America and the English-speaking nations really comprehend what this bleak outlook for the future portends for *them*?

The prophecies of *your* Bible speak in great detail about this dire world threat!

Joel's Fearful Prophecy

The Prophet Joel was inspired to write: "Alas for the day! for the day of the Lord is at hand, and as a destruction from the Almighty shall it come" (Joel 1:15).

This "Day of the Lord" refers to God's intervention in mankind's affairs — His return to restore peace and order to a world full of sick societies. Joel's first chapter describes some of the events which will lead up to the grand climax of the Day of the Lord as described in Chapter 2. Here in the modern language of the *Living Prophecies* translation is what chapter 1 says:

"Listen, you aged men of Israel [the leaders of modern-day Great Britain and the United States of America]! *Everyone*, listen! In all your lifetime, yes, in all your history, have you ever heard of such a thing as I am going to tell you? In years to come, tell your children about it; pass the awful story down from generation to generation" (verses 2-3).

Yes, an event *utterly unprecedented in history* is about to be described! Here is what that event is:

"For after the cutter-locusts finish eating your crops, the swarmer-locusts will take what's left! After them will come the hopper-locusts! And then the stripper-locusts, too!... A vast army of locusts covers the land. It is a terrible army too numerous to count, with teeth as sharp as those of lions! They have ruined My vines and stripped the bark from the fig trees, leaving trunks and branches white and bare" (verses 4-7).

As man uses stronger and stronger insecticides, the insect pests adapt and become ever more difficult to kill. At least in part, God will probably use this very condition to bring famine upon us.

The prophecy continues: "The fields are bare of crops. Sorrow and sadness are everywhere. The grain, the grapes, the olive oil *are gone*. Well may you farmers stand so shocked and stricken; well may you vinedressers weep. Weep for the wheat and the barley too, for *they are gone*. The grapevines

FAMINE

are dead; the fig trees are dying; the pomegranates wither; the apples shrivel on the trees; all joy has withered with them. Our food will disappear before our eyes... the seed rots in the ground; *the barns and granaries are empty*; the grain has dried up in the fields (verses 10-17).

Notice it! Our vaunted grain surpluses will be GONE!

"The cattle groan with hunger; the herds stand perplexed for there is no pasture for them; the sheep bleat in misery. Lord help us! For the heat has withered the pastures and burned up all the trees. Even the wild animals cry to You for help, for there is no water for them. The creeks are dry and the pastures are scorched" (verses 18-20).

What horrible conditions! When these things begin to come about, people will start to go hungry:

"And when I have *broken* the staff of your bread, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall deliver you your bread again by weight: and ye shall eat, and not be satisfied" (Lev. 26:26).

Do these prophecies of devastating famine and drought apply to our generation? WHY would a loving God want to allow such horrible things to happen, today?

Famine — in 20th century America and Britain — is it really possible?

You need to know the answers. These are not merely the predictions of men — but the prophecies of the Word of God!

Pur YOURSELF in the Picture

Anyone who has even casually studied the world food situation knows that widespread famine is so certain that it is just a matter of waiting for the grisly details — the time, the place and the number of the dead.

But how many even remotely grasp the magnitude of the horror that is just ahead — and the swift severity with which it will engulf the entire world?

How many understand that *utterly unprecedented* famine is going to strike, not in some far-off land, but in America, Britain and the other English-speaking countries?

And how many see themselves, personally, in this grim setting of impending hunger and starvation?

Do you?

You need to put *yourself* in the picture and seriously think about where *you* will be when this fearful calamity strikes. But that isn't all. Just worrying about your own skin won't save you when this horrible scourge is unleashed.

Put GOD in the Picture

Throughout history there have been many famines. Almost every one has been caused by a decrease in the food supply, not an increase in population.

"The primary cause of famine almost invariably has been a failure of food crops. This failure has often resulted

in Prophecy!

from a variety of natural causes — long-continued drought, blasting hot winds, insect armies, earthquakes, severe and untimely frosts, and destructive inundations” states the article “Fearful Famines of the Past” in the *National Geographic Magazine* July, 1917.

Today we seem to have forgotten this important fact. Even those who predict the coming famine base their projections on the *assumption* that our food production will remain stable or even increase a little — and that the population explosion alone will produce worldwide famine — which is true, but . . .

No one seems to even consider that a dramatic DROP in food production could occur at *any* time. No one seems to even think about God — and the fact that He *controls* nature and the weather.

The prophesied coming famine is not going to be caused just because of an exploding population. Rather it is going to be caused primarily because of huge crop losses, violent and upset weather, and severe disturbances in nature caused by the hand of Almighty God.

God is overlooked! Yet He controls and rules everything. It's time we put GOD in the picture and begin to consider what He says.

God does not take delight in human suffering. He is bringing the bitter curse of famine upon us for a very definite and just reason. And He alone can protect and deliver in the days ahead.

WHY Famine

Throughout history God has used famine as a means of *punishing* His people when they have sinned. Physical suffering, pain and misery is the only language that somehow “gets through” to rebellious, sinning mankind. It is the only way God can get man's attention so that He can teach man and have man be willing to learn.

Time after time the Old Testament shows that God uses famine to help bring man to his senses. Now God is about to use famine to once again wake up His people and show them their sins.

One full third of the Bible is prophecy, and about ninety percent of this prophecy is for us today. Most of it is directed specifically at the nations of modern Israel — we in the U. S., Britain, Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the other English-speaking lands. (For proof of this amazing fact request our free book, *The U.S. and British Commonwealth in Prophecy.*)

Today we in these nations of modern Israel are sinning. So is the rest of the world. But as God's chosen people and the ones who have His Word, the Bible, we ought to know better. Therefore God is going to punish us *first*, and the other nations only after we have been punished.

We, in the blessed “have” nations of the world, need to realize what a tightrope we are walking on when it comes to our food supply. We need to realize what a futile thing our vaunted “burdensome food surpluses” will be when God sets His heavy hand to punish.

Most of us — and especially we in America — have a completely erroneous picture of our food supply. We need to get the picture straight and in focus. We need to realize how utterly dependent we are on God and His continued blessings for our daily bread.

A Warning to Prosperous, Overfed America and Britain

“For she [our modern English-speaking nations] has not taken notice, understood or realized it was I [the Lord God], who gave her the grain and the new wine and the fresh oil, and who lavished upon her silver and gold, which they used for Baal and made into his image. Therefore will I return and take back my grain in the time for it and my new wine in the season for it, and will pluck away and recover my wool and my flax which were to cover her [Israel's] nakedness” (Hosea 2:8-9, Amplified Version).

Our modern nations have NOT given God credit for all the material prosperity we have received. We have not taken notice of Him, or been thankful. Rather, people congratulate themselves on their genius, their skills, and their wealth, never giving God a second's thought.

This is the same way our ancestors behaved — ancient Israel!

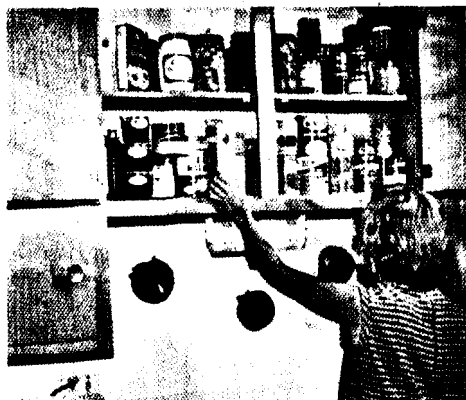
Notice what God said to His people whom He prospered. “He made Israel ride on the high places of the earth, and he ate the increase of the field; and He made him to suck honey out of the rock and oil out of the flinty rock; butter and curds of the herd and milk of the flock, with fat of lambs, and rams of the breed of Bashan and he-goats, with the finest of the wheat; and you drank wine of the blood of the grape. But Jeshurun [Israel] grew fat and kicked. You became fat, you grew thick, you were gorged and sleek! Then he FORSOOK GOD who made him, and forsook and despised the Rock of his salvation” (Deut. 32:13-15, Amplified).

Our modern nations have never known such prosperity as they enjoy today. The English-speaking nations have greater wealth and riches than any nations in history.

BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN WHERE THIS WEALTH AND PROSPERITY CAME FROM!

God thunders: “For the Lord your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing forth in valleys and hills; a land of wheat and barley, and vines and fig trees and pomegranates, a land of olive trees and honey, a land in which you shall eat food without shortage, and lack nothing in it, a land whose stones are iron, and out of whose hills you can dig copper. When you have eaten and are full, then you shall bless the Lord your God for all the good land which He has given you. BEWARE that you do not forget the Lord your God,

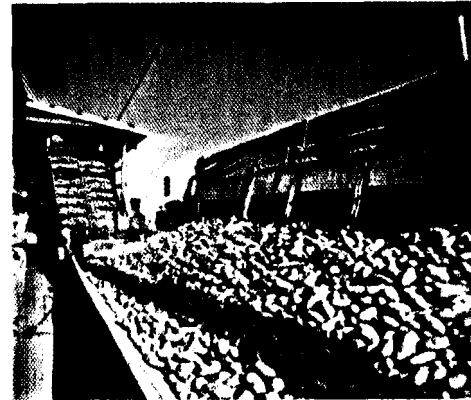
(Text continued on page 22 — Chart on pages 20 and 21)



HOUSEWIFE*
9 DAYS



RETAILERS*
15 DAYS



WHOLESALEERS*
16 DAYS

TOTAL FOOD RESERVES IN

When you read in your daily newspapers about the unprecedented

FAMINE CAN STRIKE — ANYTIME . . . BUT

"Total famine is impossible," cry the scoffers. Why? Simply because "total famine has never yet occurred in the United States." The past is the key to the present, supposedly.

People seem to forget that the causes of famine have never reached the proportions they are today: saturation of soils with pesticides, air pollutants, chemical fertilizers, and insecticides — not to mention man-caused weather upsets and nutritionally poor soils resulting from overwork. And no one seems to see prophesied famine as a result of a sinning, godless society!

One reason people scoff at the thought of famine is the recent publicity of the "Green Revolution" and the "Worldwide Food Glut." The good crop years of 1967-68-69 have made many think that famines are finally conquered by modern technology.

This is a total misunderstanding of the facts. Here are a few of the fallacies of the so-called "food glut" and how the harvests of ANY year could totally fail:

- WEATHER — by far the most important factor is totally out of man's control. But this factor is the sole reason for the good crops of 1967-8-9 as these typical quotes show:

"The increase in food production was largely due to good weather" (*Daily Telegraph*, Sept. 13, 1968).

"Avoidance of disaster over the next few years will depend almost entirely on weather" (*New York Times*, Oct. 14, 1966).

"A major reason for the glut is bumper crops resulting from good weather" (*Time*, Sept. 12, 1969, p. 90).

Authors William and Paul Paddock of *Famine*, 1975, say "Luckily these last two years, there has been exceptionally fine weather throughout most of the agricultural world. As a result, we may expect a couple of years of extra grace. . . The big increase is due to the excellent weather God has given us."

- GRAIN is what the "food glut" refers to — not protein foods so necessary to a balanced diet.

- THE "GLUT" does not refer to gluttony, but to glutted surpluses. The food is not getting to the hungry mouths!

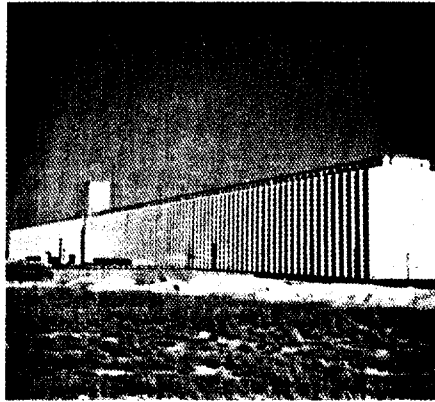
- THE "GLUT" refers to a loss of profit margin for the farmer: Lower prices due to greater supply, less demand.

- TREND OF TWO DECADES is a decline in per capita food production. Bumper crops of 1967-8-9 are a deception when viewed in larger perspective. From 1950 to 1955, food was up 20%; from 1955 to 1960, it was up 15%; from 1960 to 1965, it was up 11%. This shows a long-range trend of considerable decline in growth.

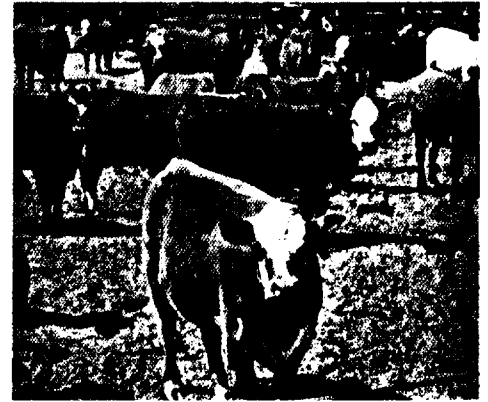
ANY year could be the year FAMINE strikes!



MILLERS**
3 MONTHS



GRAIN STORAGE**
8 MONTHS



CATTLE ON HOOF**
12 MONTHS

U.S. - ONE YEAR ON PAPER

famines to come, it'll be **TOO LATE** to do anything about it!

WILL OUR FOOD REALLY LAST ONE YEAR?

The U. S. Department of Agriculture predicts *one short year* of emergency food supplies! But, will food really last that long? Here are some of the factors that we in overstuffed America tend to ignore:

- *The per capita portions are based on starvation rations. The "millers' surplus" of 99 days is based on a ration of 2,000 calories per day — Americans today eat 60% more than that!*

The "storage bin surplus" is only 4 bushels of wheat per person, about 170 pounds. Over an 8-month period, this is only 12 ounces per day, or 800 calories! This is approximately the amount we eat today, but in a famine condition, there will be no other foods to balance our diet!

The "cattle surplus" is slightly larger: one-half a cow per person. At best, this is 300 pounds of meat, or almost 1,000 calories per day for a year.

Will you be willing to live on 2,000 calories a day for 99 days, then 1,800 calories for eight months, and then less than 1,000 for four last months? Most people won't! They'll get fighting mad!

- *Between 10 and 25 percent of all grains in storage are lost to spoilage each year (Too Many, Georg Borgstrom, p. 122-23). In an abnormal famine situation, spoilage will tend toward the higher figure.*

- *Mass hoarding will cause large amounts of grain to disappear immediately. Cattle will be quickly "rustled" unless armies of livestock guards shoot to kill. Owners, officials, the rich and influential will immediately hoard at least 10% of all food supplies.*

- *Food riots of the poor and malnourished masses will be commonplace, often resulting in destruction or spoilage of the very food they fight over.*

- *Other nations will be in a similar famine condition, with fewer reserves. They will demand food!*

- *Who will be able to afford to buy the food? Savings will quickly be wiped out — jobless, desperate mobs will search mercilessly for your food.*

- *Transportation, processing, and distribution will be difficult, if not impossible. Roving gangs of hungry men will raid trains and storehouses.*

- *In a famine-ridden country, insect plagues and ravaging diseases will be much more common, ruining much food. New situations will cause unforeseen kinds of food spoilage.*

- *These considerations leave the average American with LESS THAN HALF of the anticipated food surplus. Are you still willing to trust in silos and "surplus"?*

by not keeping His commandments, His precepts, and His statutes, which I command you today, Lest when you have eaten and are full, and have built goodly houses, and live in them, and when your herds and flocks multiply, and your silver and gold is multiplied, and all you have is multiplied [what description more aptly shows the condition of our countries, today!]; then your mind and heart be lifted up, and you FORGET the Lord your God . . ." (Deut. 8:7-14 RSV).

This is the exact condition in which the United States, and other English-speaking nations, find themselves, today! We have been prospered and blessed. We have unheard-of wealth. Millions believe smugly, "Famine couldn't happen *here*. We have nothing to worry about."

But God says differently!

And it is time you wake up to what GOD says!

How Much Food Do We Really Have?

Most people don't have the remotest idea about how much food is available in their local area, their city or their country. They have no concept about how quickly food can disappear. They assume there will always be plenty.

What a rude awakening awaits us!

As the accompanying chart shows clearly, at the very best the foodstuffs in the United States — during a national emergency — would last no longer than about one year. But a more realistic estimate, based on how quickly food would be devoured, hoarded, destroyed by rioters and consumed during a time of famine would be perhaps SIX SHORT MONTHS!

That isn't very long — no matter how you look at it!

But the picture is really *more* bleak than it appears. During food crises, people begin to hoard food. They fight over it. During the Cuban crisis a few years ago, people emptied store shelves virtually *overnight!* Panic struck.

When the real food shortage develops in the near future, you can bet that food riots will erupt. Food distribution systems will be heavily taxed — in some cases, will break down. Everybody will

be looking out for "Number One" first, ignoring the needs of others. Human nature will take over. Even civil war may be ignited in the competition for food!

Such things have occurred in historical famines. They occurred in measure in the Indian famine of 1966. Do you think it would be any different in *your* country?

It is time to stop foolishly trusting in food reserves to protect us. We could have a *hundred years' food supply* in store, but unless our nations turn to God, He would demolish all those reserves, our vain trust in them, and bring His prophecies to pass regardless. When God punishes, He says: "Cursed shall be thy *basket* and thy *store*" (Deut. 28:17). God could easily cause insects and pests to destroy large parts of these grain reserves while they are in storage.

Further, there is no guarantee that we won't foolishly gamble away our remaining reserves at some *critical* point in order to try to buy ourselves out of some grave international crisis.

The Prophecies About Famine

In Deuteronomy 28 and Leviticus 26, God lays before Israel the blessings that obedience to His laws will bring and the curses that disobedience will bring. These blessings and curses apply to the English-speaking nations of modern Israel today just as much, if not more so, as they did to ancient Israel our forefathers of the Old Testament. God does not change (Mal. 3:6). His blessings for obedience and His curses for disobedience are the same for *all* generations.

If we will not obey God and "observe to do all his commandments and his statutes" He promises that "then shall all these curses come upon you and overtake you. Cursed shall you be in town and in country; cursed your basket and kneading-trough, cursed the fruit of your body and your ground, the young of your cattle and the lambs of your flock" (Deut. 28:15-18, Moffatt).

Though we try to ignore it, this curse is already upon us in the *quality* of our food. Much food available today has been polluted with a multitude of poi-

sons and comes from inferior seed grown on depleted and misused soil. But very soon we will not even have this kind of food.

If we won't change our ways God promises: "The sky overhead shall be brass, and the earth underfoot shall be iron; the Eternal will turn the rain of your land into powder and dust, dropping from the sky *till you are destroyed*" (verses 23-24 Moffatt).

Notice that! This isn't going to be just some little local drought. It is going to be so severe, on such a large scale, and of such a long duration, that it *will* DESTROY us!

God warns, "And I will break and humble your pride in your power; and I will make your heavens as iron [yielding no answer, no blessing, no rain], and your earth [as sterile] as brass; and your strength shall be spent in vain, for your land shall not yield its increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruit. . . . When I *break* your staff of bread and *cut off* your supply of food, ten women shall bake your bread in one oven, and they shall ration your bread and deliver it again by weight; and you shall eat, and not be satisfied" (Leviticus 26:19-20, 26, Amplified Version).

Even more graphic details of the coming famine are given in Isaiah. In the *Living Prophecies* we read "You buy up property so others have no place to live. Your homes are built on great estates so you can be alone in the midst of the earth! But the Lord of Hosts has sworn your awful fate — with my own ears I heard Him say, 'Many a beautiful home will lie deserted, their owners killed or gone.'

"An acre of vineyard will not produce a gallon of juice! Ten bushels of seed will yield but a one-bushel crop!

"Woe to you who get up early in the morning to go on long drinking bouts that last till late at night — woe to you drunken bums. You furnish lovely music at your grand parties; the orchestras are superb! But for the Lord you have no thought or care.

"Therefore I will send you into exile far away because you neither know nor care that I have done so much for you. Your great and honored men will

starve, and the common people will die of thirst" (Isaiah 5:8-13).

Have you ever gone hungry? Have you ever had to live like the average person, today, in India — competing viciously for every scrap or morsel of stinking garbage — coveting it, eagerly desiring to eat it in order to stave off the gnawing pains of hunger?

Probably not. You can't even begin to imagine what it's like.

But unless our modern progressive nations repent, and turn to their God, God says the plagues of famine and great hunger are coming on us — and they are not far away! Don't let the ever-permanent present lull you into a false sense of security.

Historical Famines

In the July, 1917, issue of *National Geographic Magazine* is an article entitled "Fearful Famines of the Past." This article vividly portrays what people do when they go hungry. They eat anything they can get their hands on, including cats, dogs, rats — and *even human flesh!*

For example, in a famine in Russia in 1600 in which 500,000 people died, "Cats, dogs, and rats were eaten; the strong overcame the weak, and in the shambles of the public markets human flesh was sold. Multitudes of the dead were found with their mouths stuffed with straw" (page 89).

In a famine in Egypt in the eleventh century, "Human flesh, which was sold in the open market, was obtained in the most horrible manner. Butchers concealed themselves behind latticed windows in the upper stories of houses . . . Letting down ropes to which were attached great meat hooks, these anglers for human flesh snared the unwary pedestrians, drew their shrieking victims through the air, and then prepared and cooked the food before presenting it for sale in the stalls on the street level" (p. 78).

In a famine in Egypt during 1201 and 1202, "Men waylaid women in the streets and snatched babies from their mothers' arms." One historian "recites at length the various dishes into which the murderous kidnappers converted their infant forage. The very graves of Egypt were ransacked for food" (p. 79).

You think our people would never resort to such practices? Listen to what happened in England during the famine of 1314:

"... Everything imaginable was eaten — dogs, horses, cats, even babies. The jails were crowded with felons, and when a new criminal was thrown into a cell he was seized upon by the starving inmates and literally torn to pieces for food" (p. 82)!

Such horrible practices are not confined to past centuries. In the siege of Leningrad during World War II, "Husbands ate their wives, wives ate their husbands, and parents ate their children" (*Reader's Digest*, April, 1969, "The 900 Days: The Siege of Leningrad").

One example is related in which a man named Dmitri went with a well-dressed and robust man to the latter's house to bargain for some food. As they arrived at the man's home on the top floor, the man knocked "and someone inside asked 'Who is it?'"

"'It's me' the man responded, 'With a live one.'"

"Dmitri froze at the words. Then the door opened, and he saw a hairy red hand and a mug-like face. From the room came a strange, warm, heavy smell. Suddenly a gust of wind in the hall caught the door, and in the swaying candlelight Dmitri had a glimpse of several great hunks of white meat, swinging from hooks on the ceiling. From one hunk he saw dangling a human hand with long fingers and blue veins."

The men lunged toward Dmitri, but he leaped down the stairs shouting "Cannibals!" Fortunately some soldiers were passing and they shot the cannibals. They "found the hocks from five carcasses hanging in the flat. Five — all of them human."

Gruesome? Sickening? Nauseating? That's right! You bet! But now read what God says will happen in the coming famine in the nations of modern Israel.

Cannibalism in Prophecy

In Leviticus 26:29 God says: "And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat."

This prophecy is repeated in Deuteronomy 28 with added details: "You will have to eat your own children, the flesh of the sons and daughters which the Eternal your God has given you . . . He who is most tender and dainty among you will grudge the food even to his brother, to the wife of his bosom, and to his remaining children, refusing any of them any part of the flesh of his own children which he means to eat . . . she who is most tender and dainty among you, who would not venture to put the sole of her foot to the ground — so tender and delicate is she — will grudge even to the husband of her bosom, to her son and to her daughter, the after-birth of her womb and the babes she has borne; these she will eat herself in secret, so famished is she . . ." (verses 53-57, Moffatt).

The Prophet Jeremiah, writing about the same end-time events "in the day of the Lord's anger" (Lam. 2:22) states: "Little children and tiny babies are fainting and dying in the streets. 'Mamma, Mamma, we want food,' they cry, and then collapse upon their mother's shrunken breasts" (*Living Prophecies*, verses 11-12).

"Shall the women eat their fruit, and children of a span long [the foetus]?" the prophet asks. The pathetic answer is that they will do just that!

This is not going to happen in some far-off underdeveloped country with barbaric natures — it's prophesied to occur in *your* country, *your* city, *your* street! Can you comprehend it? Can you *believe* it? Most won't. *But it is prophesied!*

The Grim Totals

The Prophet Ezekiel wrote after ancient Israel had already gone into captivity. The events he foretold could not possibly apply to them. But Ezekiel's prophecies *do apply to us* TODAY. Chapters 4 through 7 say much about the coming famine which we have already covered. However, chapter 5 adds a detail not yet mentioned. It says:

"ONE THIRD of you will die from famine and disease . . . I will shower you with deadly arrows of famine to destroy you. The famine will become more and more serious until *every bit of*

bread is GONE" (verses 12, 16 *Living Prophecies*).

That scripture means what it says! One out of every three people in Britain and America will die of famine or disease! That includes one out of every three of *your* countrymen — friends, relatives, loved ones. Revelation 6:5-8 shows that this unprecedented famine is not restricted to the English-speaking countries — the entire earth will suffer, hundreds of millions will perish!

Where does that leave *you*? Where will *you* be when this awesome famine strikes? How can *you* and *yours* escape this sure prophecy? That all depends — on you!

You CAN Escape

God said through His prophet Amos: "I sent you hunger but it did no good; you still would not return to Me. I ruined your crops by holding back the rain . . . Yet you wouldn't return to Me. I sent blight and mildew on your farms and your vineyards; the locusts ate your figs and olive trees. And still you wouldn't return to me," says the Lord. . . "Therefore I will bring upon you all these *further evils* I have spoken of. Prepare to meet your God in judgment, Israel!" (Amos 4:6-9, 12).

Make no mistake about it. The coming famine will be horrible *beyond* description. But if we don't heed even then, famine will be just the *beginning* of God's punishment. And the prophecies show that as nations we *won't* heed.

You as an individual, however, *can* heed. You can prepare to meet your God NOW. But no one else can take your place and stand *for* you. You stand alone in this matter.

God told Ezekiel: "Son of dust, when the people of this land sin against Me, then I will crush them with My fist and break off their food supply and send famine to destroy both man and beast. If Noah, Daniel and Job were all living today, they alone would be saved by their righteousness, and I would destroy the remainder of Israel, says the Lord God" (Ezek. 14:13-14, *Living Prophecies*).

God says that when He sends other punishments this same principle will

still apply — "Even if these three men were living, the Lord God swears that it would do no good — it would not save the people from their doom. Those three only would be saved, but the land would be devastated" (verse 16)!

You can't be saved by the righteousness of another person. No association with a righteous man or group of men — regardless of how close — will save you if you, yourself, are unrighteous and disobedient to God. No one else can be righteous for you. No one can obey God in your stead.

Does God like to see people suffer? Does He enjoy punishing people or bringing famine? Of course not. God loves people. But God sees that our wicked ways are bringing these punishments upon us!

God set a law in motion long ago. That law says that those who obey it will be blessed and prospered as a result. But those who break it will themselves be broken! Transgression does not pay!

God wants us to obey His Law which was ordained for our GOOD — our WELFARE.

In Ezekiel we read, "Cast away from you all your transgressions, by which you have transgressed against me, and make you a new mind and heart and a new spirit. For why will you die, O house of Israel? For I have *no pleasure* in the death of him who dies, says the Lord God. Therefore turn — be converted — and live!" (Ezekiel 18:31-32, Amplified Version).

With great compassion and love God cries out, "'As I live,' says the Lord God, 'I have no pleasure in the death of the wicked but that the wicked turn from his way and live; TURN BACK, TURN BACK from your evil ways; for why will you die, O house of Israel?'" (Ezek. 33:11, RSV.)

What You Can Do

The CAUSE of the onrushing time of famines, pointed out plainly in the Word of God, is SIN — transgression of God's Law (I John 3:4). Unless our nations repent of breaking that eternal, spiritual law, famine is inevitable. Unless we return to God, and obey Him, there is *no* escape!

To trust in America's vaunted "food

surpluses" is the height of foolishness. Grain elevators of wheat will *not* save you. There is only ONE way of escape — turning to God!

Notice this final command from God to YOU as an individual concerning the sins of modern Israel — her pride, arrogance, and law-breaking: "COME OUT FROM HER, my people, so that you may not share in her sins, neither participate in her plagues" (Rev. 18:4, Amplified).

This is the ONLY WAY of escape from famine and the other plagues of God! There is no other way. God's protection and deliverance are the only answer.

Notice what God says about those who love and obey Him. "Even strong young lions sometimes go hungry, but those of us who reverence the Lord will *never* lack any good thing" (Psalm 34:10, *Living Psalms*).

"Day by day the Lord observes the good deeds done by godly men, and gives them eternal rewards. He cares for them when times are hard; *even in famine*, they will have enough" (Psalm 37:18-19, *Living Psalms*).

"I have been young and now I am old. And in all my years I have never seen the Lord forsake a man who loves Him; nor have I seen the children of the godly go hungry" (verse 25).

These are God's promises! YOU CAN TRUST HIM! But it will do no good to attempt to "hoard" food for yourself to protect yourself from the coming days of famine. Proverbs speaks about hoarders: "People curse the man who holds his grain for higher prices, but they bless the man who sells it to them in their time of need" (Proverbs 11:26, *Living Proverbs*). But we also read in Proverbs this wonderful promise: "The Lord will not let a good man starve to death" (Proverbs 10:3).

To obtain God's divine protection in the days ahead, you must obey God NOW — you must seek His righteousness.

The very purpose of this magazine is to help you understand what God requires of you — show you the way. But YOU must make the decision to heed and obey.

Don't make the same mistake the world is making. Don't trust in hoarded goods or stored foods, or physical things to save you. Don't look to "grain surpluses" — LOOK TO GOD!!! □

THE ONLY sure thing about life, they say, is death and taxes! That's a common American saying.

To the average man on the street, death is a vague, far-off, *unreal* something that always happens to someone else — a hazy, cloudy, and distant *possibility* he feels he can worry about when it happens.

When the average citizen reads of the predictions of the National Safety Council concerning some four hundred persons who are to *die* on our congested highways, he *cannot* bring himself to believe *one* of those 400 persons could be he! And yet, true to the stark and tragic toll of lives that are lost every "holiday" in our nation, about the number predicted to die lose their lives in automobile accidents.

While most of us like to shove it out of our minds, to escape having to *think* about it, death is *real*. It's an integral part of *life*. Every living organism follows the pattern of birth, growth, senility and finally, death. Every day, thousands are dying of automobile accidents, of sickness and disease, of starvation and famine, and being killed in murders and wars! At the same time, many thousands of *new* lives are coming into being — with the many babies being born each day all over the world.

What is this thing called *life*, and (what seems more important to most) DEATH?

A Common Conception

There are literally *dozens* of differing ideas about what happens at death. To many people, it is a fearsome departure into some "other world," from which there can be no return. Most professing Christians believe death to be merely separation of the soul from the body — with the *conscious* individual living on! Death, they reason, is not really death at all — but continuation of LIFE under different circumstances, and in a different "body."

Amid all this *confusion* surrounding one of the most important questions of our lives, you hear various

Do You
Have an

IMMORTAL SOUL?

Why should there be so much confusion about what man IS? What happens to a human at death? Does death merely separate an immortal soul from the body? Read the startling PROOF, answering these questions that have perplexed millions!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

churches argue that human beings have only two places to go after death — heaven or hell. One great church teaches there are *three* places: heaven, purgatory and hell. Others understand there is only *one* place — the grave — and that a resurrection is needed to impart eternal life to human beings.

But what about all these differing ideas?

Why is there such confusion even among all the churches? Have they ever *seen* a "soul" go flitting off to heaven or hell? Has anyone ever **BEEN** there, and returned to *tell* us humans of his experiences?

Are the Dead Conscious?

Take for an example the modern innovation in medicine of "heart massage" as a last-minute emergency measure to preserve human life. The patient has *died*! The doctor, bending over the still corpse to examine it with his stethoscope, pronounces the body **DEAD**! Hurriedly, last-minute preparations are made, and the body is opened. The doctor begins to massage the *heart* of the dead person — forcing the blood to begin to flow once more. After several minutes, a weak, pulsating "fluttering" of the heart muscles is felt. Gradually, a regular, steady pulse develops, and the heart of the dead person begins to beat! The corpse is not a "dead" person any longer — the *heart* is functioning once more!

This is not some far-fetched idea — but a general description of some *actual cases* that have occurred.

But, during the time such persons were "dead," because their heart had stopped beating, where *were* they? Did they go to heaven or hell, and then come **BACK** into the frail human body they had left immediately at death? And if the *conscious* "you" *leaves* the body immediately at death, *why is it* that **NOT ONE** of the persons can remember **ONE SINGLE THING** during the time they were "dead"?

Have you never realized that if *you* are an immortal soul which can *think* and *know* after you leave the body, you would be able to think and know while you are unconscious, or in such a condition already described?

How Can You KNOW?

Since the "soul" is **NOT** something that can be found by laboratory testing, or by the methods of science, and since even the religionists have mixed-up, **DIFFERENT** ideas about the "soul," and since no soul has ever *returned* to tell *us* where it had been — then where is the only source of knowledge? How can we ever *find* the answer to this perplexing problem?

There is only **ONE SOURCE**!

That source is the revelation of the Almighty Creator who **MADE** us, and therefore, **He** should be the One who **KNOWS** the answer, shouldn't He?

But — that revelation does **NOT** reveal what most of us have assumed, or have been taught to believe!

Where *did* all these differing, confused ideas come from? *Why do* the churches teach you have an immortal soul? Does the *Bible* teach it? Did *Christ* indicate it? Did the early apostles or the New Testament Church believe it? *Why* does the Bible continually emphasize the resurrection of the dead? *Would* a resurrection be **NECESSARY** if *you* continue to live apart from your body?

What Man IS

Most people do not realize what a man really *is*, believe it or not! Yet God plainly tells us the answer. "Then the Eternal God formed **MAN** of the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life and **MAN** became a living **SOUL**." (Genesis 2:7).

There is the answer! Man *became* a living **SOUL**; that is what man is — a *soul*. Notice there is no mention that man has a soul, but that man *is* a soul!

When God placed Adam and Eve, who were two living **SOULS**, in the garden, He issued a command, "And the Eternal God commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: 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' (Genesis 2:16-17). Notice, God was talking to the *conscious man*, and He said, "THOU shalt surely die," speaking to the man, who was a **SOUL**!

When God said Adam would surely *die* for taking of the wrong fruit, He

was directly informing man of the *penalty* for sin. The inspired Apostle Paul wrote, "For the wages of sin is **DEATH**; but the *gift of God* is eternal life **THROUGH** Jesus Christ our Lord" (Romans 6:23).

Ezekiel was directed by the Holy Spirit to write, "The *soul* that *sinneth*, **IT** [*the soul*] shall die!" (Ezekiel 18:4, 20.)

Death is the *absence* of life, the cessation of life — not the continuation of life under different circumstances. Notice the two *opposite* states given in Romans 6:23. God tells us the wages of sin is **DEATH**, *but*, on the other hand, the **GIFT OF GOD** (not something you were *born* with) is eternal life *through* Jesus Christ! If eternal life is the **GIFT** of God, and comes only through Christ, how is it that humans have assumed they *already* possess eternal life in the form of an "immortal soul"? Ezekiel said the "soul" that *sinneth* shall **DIE**! Since man is a soul, and since man can die, and a soul can die, it is obvious that man and soul are one and *the same thing*!

The Hebrew Proves It!

When God breathed the *breath* that imparted life into the first man, he became a living *soul* (Genesis 2:7). The *Hebrew* word in this scripture for soul is *nephesh*. *Nephesh* means "a *breathing creature*, i.e. *animal* or *vitality*" and is also rendered in the English as "any, *appetite, beast, body, breath, creature . . . man, me, mind, mortally*." (See No. 5315, Strong's Exhaustive Concordance.)

Nephesh cannot mean, under any circumstances, **ANYTHING** immortal, eternal, extra-physical or possessing life other than temporary and mortal!

Open your Bible to Genesis the first chapter and the 24th verse! "And God said, Let the earth bring forth the *living creature* [**NEPHESH**] after his kind, cattle, and creeping thing, and beast of the earth after his kind: and it was so." Here the word *creature* is the **IDENTICAL** Hebrew word that is used **THROUGHOUT THE ENTIRE OLD TESTAMENT** for soul!

Read verses 20, and 21. Here, the identical word, *nephesh*, is again translated "creature" in the English! Insuffi-

cient space does not permit the reproduction of every single verse where this word *nephesh* is used, but for a few other references, see Genesis 2:19; 9:10, 12, 15 and 16. Here the word *nephesh* is used in every case, and always translated creature!

Nephesh is used in many places where the revisers have supplied our English word "body." Turn next to Leviticus 21:11. "Neither shall he go in to any *dead body* [NEPHESH], nor defile himself. . . ." A *nephesh* is called a *dead body* in this scripture! In Numbers 6:6; 9:6, 7 and 10; 19:11, 13 and 16 you can find identical renderings, where the Hebrew word *nephesh* is translated into English as "DEAD BODY."

The prophet Haggai used the same word when he said, "If one that is unclean by a *dead body* [nephesh] touch any of these, shall it be unclean?" (Hag. 2:13.)

These scriptures are plain, clear and absolutely conclusive evidence that the same word rendered "soul" wherever it appears in your Old Testament is also rendered as "dead body"! Why have not men been willing to look into the inspired Word of God and find its true meaning?

It is with a gasp of surprise that many people turn to *their Bibles* and find that most of the *traditions* and the assumptions of MEN *just are not there!* How about YOU? Are you willing to CHANGE your ideas when you can see it PROVED, NOT from the vain "ideas" of men, but from the plain, clear, inspired Word of God?

You have already read — as quoted from YOUR BIBLE — the PROOF that a *soul* is an ANIMAL, a BODY, and CAN DIE!

What About the LIFE?

When God breathed into Adam's nostrils the breath of life, He started the process of the combining of oxygen with the *blood*, which then carried the oxygen to all parts of the body, thereby imparting physical, animal life. The *life* of a human being is in his *blood-stream!* A wounded soldier on the battlefield fights to stop the flow of blood from his wounds knowing that the loss of BLOOD means the LOSS OF LIFE! The same is true in every case

of wounds causing bleeding. You already *know*, and *have known* most of your life that the loss of blood causes *death* — just as the Bible says. Then why have you blindly ASSUMED differently about the vague, hazy, nebulous ideas on the "immortality" of the soul?

God told Noah the *life* of any animal, or *nephesh* was in the BLOOD! "But flesh with the *life* [Heb. *nephesh*] thereof, *which is the blood thereof*, shall ye not eat" (Gen. 9:4). Here, the word "life" comes from the same Hebrew word *nephesh* which is elsewhere rendered "soul," or "body." Read on, in verse 5, where the same word is used for our English word "life," this time in reference to NOAH and every man! The life of *man* and the life of *animals* is the same! MORTAL life!

"For the life of the flesh is in the blood. . . he shall even *pour out* the blood thereof, and cover it with dust. For it is the *life* [nephesh] of ALL flesh; the blood of it is for the life thereof: therefore I said unto the children of Israel, Ye shall eat the blood of no manner of flesh: for the life of ALL flesh is the blood thereof." (See Lev. 17:11-14, where every word translated "life" comes from the Hebrew word *nephesh*, and is said to be the life [blood] of ALL flesh, including all animal life as well as humans.)

Moses gave the Israelites God's warning about eating flesh with the blood still in it, "for the blood is the *life* [nephesh] and thou mayest not eat the life with the flesh" (Deut. 12:23).

The soul of man, therefore, is kept alive by the coursing of the blood through his veins, taking life-giving oxygen to the body cells. There are many other Biblical references where the word "life" is directly connected with the *blood*, and is rendered from *nephesh* in each case! See Genesis 19:17, 19; 32:30; 44:30 with Exodus 4:19; 21:23 and 21:30.

Christ Shed His SOUL for Us!

Remember, you have already seen amply proved that the *life* or the *soul* of any animal or human consists in the life-giving *blood* in the body. For another amazing proof, turn to Isaiah

the 53rd chapter. In this prophecy concerning the coming of the promised Messiah to die for the world, God shows it was the *soul* of Christ that was given for us. "Yet it pleased the Eternal to bruise him; he hath put him to grief: when thou shalt make his *soul* (nephesh) an offering for sin. . ." (Isaiah 53:10).

How did Christ die? Any extremely casual student of the Bible knows it was His shed BLOOD that caused His death, not the sentimental "idea" of humans that Jesus died of a broken heart! Isaiah 52:14 describes the horrible BEATING Christ took when He was *scourged* before being forced to drag His own cross to the place of the skull. (See Matt. 27:26 and I Peter 1:19.) Jesus died because of the loss of His life BLOOD! It was His blood that was "shed" (Matt. 26:28), and "poured out," ". . . because he hath *poured out* his *soul* (nephesh) unto death: and he was numbered with the transgressors; and he bare the sin of many, and made intercession for the transgressors" (Isa. 53:12).

Did you notice it?

Jesus Christ died because He BLED to death — yet your Bible expressly states it was His SOUL that was poured out! Of course! The "soul" is the physical, temporary LIFE of the human body, which can die (Ezek. 18:4, 20), be cut off (Exodus 31:14), and sent to the grave (Psalm 30:3)!

Nephesh is the word used for "soul" in your Old Testament; *nephesh* CANNOT mean, EVER, anything whatsoever to do with immortal life, or spiritual essence! *Nephesh* is always speaking of the temporary, physical, animal life, which is supplied by the oxidation of oxygen with the blood!

The Amazing Origin

Since the idea of the immortality of the soul didn't come from the Old Testament, which comprised the *only inspired Scripture existing until long after the time of Christ*, then where did the idea come from?

It came from the pagan GREEKS, and was introduced into an apostate, paganized "Christianity" nearly TWO CENTURIES after Christ!

The Greeks obtained it from the

Egyptians, who taught it soon after the apostasy at the tower of Babel.

Herodotus, who was a famous Greek historian, living in the fifth century before Christ, wrote: "The Egyptians were also the FIRST that asserted that the soul of man is immortal... This opinion some among the Greeks have at different periods of time adopted as their own" (*Enterpe*, chap. 123).

Socrates, the pervert, who was also a famous Greek philosopher, travelled into Egypt and consulted the Egyptians on this very teaching. After his return, he taught the pagan error to Plato, his most famous student. Compare the present-day teachings of the churches with what Plato wrote in his book, the *Phaedo*: "The soul whose inseparable attribute is *life* will never admit of life's opposite, death. Thus the soul is shown to be immortal, and since immortal, indestructible... Do we believe there is such a thing as death? To be sure. And is this anything but the separation of the soul and body? And being dead is the attainment of this separation, when the soul exists in herself and separate from the body, and the body is parted from the soul. That is death... Death is merely the separation of soul and body." Plato, the student and intimate acquaintance of Socrates, the sex pervert, did not believe death was really death! Rather, he conceived it as a *separation* of the "soul" from the body.

Did you assume the doctrines of most of our modern churches have all come straight from the Bible? Did you believe the doctrines most of us have been reared to believe were the true doctrines of God's Own Revelation?

No! THEY ARE NOT!

Instead of following the revelation of Jesus Christ, the early apostate churches followed the teachings of the pagans.

Early Catholics Taught That the Soul Is Mortal

The introduction of the pagan superstitions into a modern "Christianity" was *gradual*, however. For TWO CENTURIES the apostatizing churches continued to teach and believe the soul to

be MORTAL, just as Christ had said it was!

Such early Catholics as Justin Martyr, who died about 166 A.D. wrote: "But our Jesus Christ, being crucified, and DEAD, and having ascended to heaven, reigned; and by those things which were published in His name among all nations by the apostles, there is joy offered to those who expect the IMMORTALITY PROMISED BY HIM" (*Ante-Nicene Fathers*, Vol. 1, p. 176).

The early Catholics knew that when Jesus died, as the Bible says He did, He was DEAD, not in some abode of spirits. They also knew that He promised future immortality to overcomers, not that man already had an immortal soul.

Catholic Doctrine Changed

Toward the close of the second century, a school of professing Christians in Alexandria, Egypt, adopted *Platonism* plus the Bible as their creed. One of their chief teachers, Origen, wrote: "Souls are immortal." He continues to speak of "The Platonist, who believes in the immortality of the soul" (Vol. IV, pp. 314, 402).

Notice, this teaching *came from Plato*, NOT the Bible!

Tertullian, another important teacher at the close of the second century, wrote: "For some things are known, even by nature: the immortality of the soul, for instance, is held by many... I may use, therefore, THE OPINION OF A PLATO, when he declares: 'Every soul is immortal'" (Vol. III, p. 547).

However, even as late as the FOURTH century, some Catholic writers and teachers, such as Arnobias, said of those who were "carried away with an extravagant opinion of themselves that souls are immortal... Will you lay aside your habitual ignorance, O men, who claim God as your Father, and maintain that you are immortal just as He is?" (Vol. IV, p. 440).

The truth was gradually submerged under the flood-tide of paganism, however, until by 1513 A.D. the Catholic Church even issued a decree against the faithful few who "dared to assert concerning the nature of the reasonable soul that it is mortal" and said that they must be "punished as heretics."

During the Reformation, instead of returning to the "faith *once* delivered," the churches *continued* in the same pagan errors that had been perpetuated by the ideas of *men*.

What Did Christ Actually Teach?

Many are firmly convinced Jesus MUST have taught the immortality of the soul, because they have *heard* that He actually taught this doctrine!

But did He?

Let's find out what the *Bible* says!

When Jesus sent out His disciples on a training mission during His ministry, He gave them instructions for their journey. He knew they would come in contact with men who *bated the truth*, who would even try to KILL some of them. Because of this, He said, "And fear not them which kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul: but rather fear him which is able to *destroy both SOUL AND BODY* in Gehenna" (Matt. 10:28). The word "hell" is improperly rendered in the English, from the Greek word *Gehenna*, which meant the "lake of fire" God will use to destroy the wicked! Christ said very plainly the "soul" (Greek — *psuche*) can be DESTROYED by a fire!

When a young man came to Jesus and asked what good thing he should do to OBTAIN eternal life, Christ didn't inform him that he *already* possessed it, in the form of an "immortal" soul. Rather, He said, "...but if you will enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS!" (Matt. 19:17.)

The "golden text" of the Bible is another *proof*, "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not PERISH, but [on the other hand] have everlasting life." Even this most-often-quoted scripture of the Bible shows that Jesus Christ came that humans would not PERISH, and that they might, on the other hand, *enter into* everlasting life.

Christ told the Jews, when they told Him of the dead Galileans, "I tell you, Nay: but, *except you repent*, you shall all likewise PERISH" (Luke 13:3-5).

What About Lazarus?

Most professing Christians believe the basis for the doctrine of the

"immortality" of the soul is found in Christ's parable of Lazarus and the rich man. *But*, most do not realize what the Bible *actually says* about this parable! You will see that the beggar and the rich man BOTH *DIED* (Luke 16:22). Space does not permit a full, detailed explanation of this parable here. If you have not yet read the amazing booklet, *Lazarus and the Rich Man*, then write in for it right away!

Some astounding questions would be precipitated *if* the pagan doctrine of the immortal soul were true. WHY, if the "soul" immediately departs to go to its "heavenly reward" at death, did Jesus Christ resurrect His beloved friend, Lazarus?

WHY, if the whole purpose of Jesus Christ was to SAVE OUR SOULS, did He call Lazarus BACK into the frail, *human body*, when He had been experiencing "heavenly bliss" for FOUR WHOLE DAYS? Does this make sense? Is it logical?

The answer is obvious!

Jesus did not TEACH any such doctrine of the "immortality" of the soul at all! Rather, He taught that the "soul" would *perish* unless it repented, and showed that God had the power to BURN IT UP in Gehenna fire, which is the second death!

What About the Early Church?

The major teaching of the early New Testament Church centered around Jesus Christ — and His resurrection from the DEAD!

Paul, in His inspired letter to the Corinthians, explained, "Now if Christ be preached that he rose from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? But if there be no resurrection of the dead, then is Christ not risen: And if Christ be not risen, then is our preaching vain, and your faith is also vain!" (I Cor. 15:12-14.)

But — WHY would a resurrection of the *body* be needed, if the SOUL were already in heaven? The answer is SIMPLE — THE SOUL DOES NOT GO TO HEAVEN — IT DIES, AND GOES TO THE GRAVE!

The only real HOPE of a Christian, as

taught by the original *inspired* Church, was to attain to the resurrection! They knew and understood the only WAY to attain eternal life was through a resurrection from the *dead*. "That I may know him, and the *power of his resurrection*, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I MIGHT ATTAIN unto *the resurrection of the dead*" (Phil. 3:10-11). Paul repeatedly explained this great mystery, and preached it unceasingly to the *Gentile* Christians of his day. Paul said, "Christ *died* for our sins" (I Cor. 15:3), and went on to explain, in the entire fifteenth chapter of First Corinthians, that the *dead* must be *raised*, or else our entire faith is vain (verses 16-17); that the physical man is *earthly* (verse 47); and that a *change* via a resurrection is necessary before we may have eternal life! (verse 52).

On the Day of Pentecost, when the Church was built, God inspired the Apostle Peter to say, "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both DEAD and BURIED, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day" (Acts 2:29).

Peter went on to say, "For David is not ascended into the heavens..." (verse 34). Did you notice it? *David*, a man after God's own heart, was NOT up in heaven!

Of course! Jesus Christ also tells us, "And *no man* hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man which is in heaven" (John 3:13).

What About "Soul" in the New Testament?

But didn't the New Testament Apostles talk of "saving human souls"? some will ask. For example, we read in the opening days of the true Church: "Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand *souls*" (Acts 2:41).

But *remember*, your Savior said *souls* can be DESTROYED. Then what is the answer? The simple truth is that the *souls* spoken of as having repented and come into the Church is merely an English expression which means "persons" or "lives"! The Greek proves it!

What "Soul" Means

Believe it or not, there is not one single expression in the entire New Testament of your Bible where the word "soul" can have anything whatsoever to do with immortality, eternal life, extra-physical life, or anything other than mortal, temporary life!

Soul in the Greek, comes from *psuche*, which means "breath." The word comes from the root *psucho* which is the Greek verb, "to breathe." Thus, it corresponds *exactly* to the Hebrew *nephesh* which means the temporary life of animals!

Biblical Examples

See the Companion Bible, Appendix 110, for the usage of *psuche* throughout the New Testament. The word is used for the lower animals twice, exactly as the Hebrew *nephesh* can mean the life of lower animals. Two scriptures for reference are found in Revelation 8:9 and 16:3, where the word is rendered "life," and "soul," with reference to the life of lower animals.

Psuche is used of man as an individual (just as we speak of a ship going down with every soul on board, or of so many lives being lost in a railway accident), and appears 14 times in the New Testament as *soul*. *Psuche*, used of the life of man, which can be *lost, destroyed, saved, laid down* and so on, occurs 58 times, and is rendered *life* and *soul* interchangeably. (See Ap. 110, Companion Bible.)

Having proved the usage of *both* the Hebrew and Greek words, we can see there is not one single place in the entire Bible where *soul* has anything to do with immortality!

A Deception of Satan

Satan the devil, the great deceiver, who has succeeded in blanketing the *whole world* in false doctrines such as this (Rev. 12:9), has *not always* used the same beliefs to deceive!

At this present time, most men believe in his fable of the immortality of the soul. Therefore, it is easy for him to have his demons and evil spirits *masquerading* as the "departed souls" of human beings! Many people have actually *seen* or *heard* extra-physical and supernatural manifestations which

have been responsible for perpetuating this pagan doctrine even further.

During the days of Saul, however, the people did not *believe* in the "immortality" of the soul! Therefore, when Satan wished to *deceive* anyone by means of a supposed "calling back from the grave," he used the entire BODY in the form of an *apparition*, not just a *voice* or rapping which is supposed to represent the departed *spirit*!

Read, in your own Bible, the account of Saul's visit to the witch of Endor. Saul, in his desperation, wanted to seek a woman who had a familiar spirit (demon), instead of God! Instead of masquerading as the departed *soul* of Samuel, the spirit masqueraded as the RESURRECTED BODY of Samuel! (Read I Sam. 28, and see our article on spiritism.)

Solomon knew the man died exactly as did the beast: "For that which befalleth the sons of men befalleth beasts; even *one* thing befalleth them: as the one *dieth*, SO DIETH THE OTHER; yea, they all have one *breath*; so that a man hath no pre-eminence above a beast: for all is vanity" (Eccl. 3:19).

Did you read that with your own eyes, in your own Bible? Your *Bible* says the death of a man is just like the death of a dog or a cat!

"All go unto ONE PLACE: all are of the DUST, and all turn to dust again" (Eccl. 3:20).

David, under inspiration of God's Spirit, said the same thing, "Put not your trust in . . . the son of man, in whom there is no help. His *breath* goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his THOUGHTS perish" (Psalm 146:3-4). The consciousness *perishes* — not continues to exist in a different place!

"For the living KNOW that they shall DIE: but the *dead know not anything!*" (Eccl. 9:5.)

What About Hell?

But you have assumed people in heaven can hear the shrieks of the tortured people dancing, leaping, writhing in supreme agonies in hell, haven't you?

Where did you ever read any such

thing in the Bible? If you have not yet written in for the booklet on *Lazarus and the Rich Man* and the article, "There Is a Real Hell Fire!" which explain this false concept *thoroughly*, then do so immediately.

Now *did* Jesus ever say anything about a hell fire? To be sure! But Jesus did *not* describe a place where the wicked are *tortured* forever and ever. Let's notice what He *did* say. "And these shall go away into everlasting punishment, *but* the righteous into *life eternal*" (Matt. 25:46). Notice Jesus' words. He said the wicked would receive eternal punishment, not eternal punishing, and there is a great difference. The "wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23) and the *death*, which is the *absence* of life, is for ALL ETERNITY. It is eternal *punishment* by remaining DEAD for all eternity — not remaining *alive* and being tortured in a fictitious, burning *hell-fire*!

Remember Jesus' warning to fear Him who has power to DESTROY the soul in Gehenna fire (Matt. 10:28).

The Prophet Malachi gives us a description of this fire when he says, "For behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven: and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be STUBBLE: and the day that cometh shall BURN THEM UP, saith the LORD of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch" (Mal. 4:1). Notice! They are to be burnt UP, totally *consumed* in the fire — not tortured by some kind of fire that never *burns*. "And ye [speaking to the righteous] shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ASHES under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the LORD of hosts" (Mal. 4:3). There! Do you see now? The wicked will be *consumed*, and their remains will be just the *ashes* and vapors left from the fire that burns them up. They will be *dead*, for all eternity!

Only God Is Eternal

Your Bible tells you that ONLY God has immortality. "Who *only* hath immortality, dwelling in the light which no man can approach unto; whom no man hath seen, nor can see: to whom be honour and power everlasting.

Amen" (I Tim. 6:16). The word "immortality" is used ONLY in FIVE PLACES in the Bible: Romans 2:7; I Cor. 15:53, 54; I Tim. 6:16 and II Tim. 1:10. STUDY those scriptures. In each case, immortality is something that is *brought to light*, that must be *obtained*, that God ONLY has, and in no case is something man already possesses!

God's Plan

Jesus Christ proclaimed the coming of the world-ruling Kingdom of God. He told Nicodemus a man must be BORN into that Kingdom, which is also a *family*, the family of God! (See John the 3rd chapter.)

The entire message of the New Testament surrounds being born into that world-ruling family by a *resurrection* from the DEAD. Jesus Christ was resurrected from the DEAD, and said the time is coming when ALL the *dead* are to be resurrected. The pagan ideas of men, perpetrated by Satan, the arch-*deceiver* of the world, have kept men BLINDED to the overawing GLORY that awaits every true believer! God's plan is being fulfilled with every passing day. His plan is to ultimately *give* as His free GIFT *ETERNAL LIFE* to mortal, sinning human beings — after they have *repented* of their sins and begun to keep His laws.

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, The hour is coming, and now is, when the DEAD shall hear the voice of the Son of God: and they that hear shall live. For as the Father hath life *in* himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life *in* himself . . . Marvel not at this for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the *graves* (not in heaven or hell) shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of LIFE, and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation" (John 5:25-29).

You do *not* have an immortal soul! You are physical, fleshly, susceptible to DEATH! The ONLY way to live for all eternity is to REPENT, or else you will finally *perish*! (Luke 13:3.)

The decision is *yours* — and it will be a decision for all eternity! May God grant you will make the *right* choice!

DAVID THE KING—

“I have found David the son of Jesse,
a man after my own heart”

God loved David and his attitude of loyalty so much He made the above statement in Acts 13. Loyalty is a basic attribute of God's character. Without it, no person is qualified to rule. Read in this article how David was always loyal — and how you can increase in this aspect of your character.

by Paul W. Kroll

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

The Key to David's Attitude

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

Yes, David sinned — he committed *adultery!* He *murdered* Uriah (II Sam. 11:1-27). He was a *bloody man* (although he *bitterly repented* of these sins)! Yet, in spite of these failings we find God calls David “a man *after mine own heart* which shall fulfill all my will” (Acts 13:22).

Why?

Why did God pick out David? He didn't even say this of Noah, Job or Daniel. Yet, they were very

righteous (Ezek. 14:14). When we understand WHY God looked upon David in this way, we can discern how God measures growth. We will know what standard God uses as a thermometer of spiritual zeal. We will know what it means to have the childlike attitude Christ said we must have to enter His Kingdom.

Let's delve into the life of David. Meanwhile, let's also examine how his archenemy Saul lived.

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

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

Saul was *disloyal* and devoted to HIMSELF.

As the story of their lives unfolds, this character antithesis becomes more apparent. And through this

difference, we can see OURSELVES as we really are. As you read their story ask yourself, "Am I loyal? Am I constant, staunch, trustworthy, true — with Almighty God and my fellow man?"

Saul — Mighty in Appearance

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

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

But Saul failed miserably!

Have you ever wondered WHY?

Saul Disloyal to God

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

But this was only part of the problem.

Saul tried to *excuse and justify* his actions.

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

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

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

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

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

It was ONE HUNDRED PERCENT DISHONESTY AND DISLOYALTY!

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

As a result, Saul lost out!

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

What About You?

What can we learn from this?

This one great principle! Human

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

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

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

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

Importance of Loyalty

Loyalty is a basic attribute of God's character.

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

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

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

Loyalty is important — *and demanded!*

Remember, we are bought with a price. Our life is not our own. We are obligated to give God the same loyalty He showers upon us *undeserving* humans.

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

David's Remarkable Loyalty

David was almost murdered by Saul a number of times. Saul was out to

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

And God knew this.

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

This is a bitter lesson to learn. Too many people haven't yet learned it. Yet, this lesson is part of this most important character attribute of loyalty.

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

Here's an example found in I Samuel 24.

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

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

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

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

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

But suddenly he realized what he had done.

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

Now, notice his devoted attitude.

"And he said unto his men, The Lord forbid that I should do this thing unto my master, the Lord's anointed, to

stretch forth mine hand against him, seeing HE IS THE ANOINTED OF THE LORD."

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

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

What about it?

How do you stack up?

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

Loyalty Characteristic of David

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

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

Another example:

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

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

"So I stood upon him, and slew him.

"And David said unto him, How wast thou not afraid to stretch forth thine hand to destroy the Lord's anointed?

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

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

David even wrote a sort of song or

ode to Saul and Jonathan, his son. In it he said, "Saul and Jonathan were LOVELY AND PLEASANT IN THEIR LIVES, and in their death they were not divided: they were swifter than eagles, they were stronger than lions.

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

Was David ignorant of Saul's sins?

Of course not!

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

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

Disloyalty Punished

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

David never swerved from total dedication.

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

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

Here's what David did.

"When one told me, saying, Behold, Saul is dead, thinking to have brought good tidings, I took hold of him, and slew him in Ziklag . . . how much more, when wicked men have slain a righteous person in his own house . . . and David commanded his young men, and THEY SLEW THEM" (verses 10-12).

David just didn't stand for disloyalty!

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

He was a kind man. A generous

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

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

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

How to Test Yourself

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

There's a very simple test to determine your loyalty to God. First, are

you always obedient in *attitude and deed* to the government of God?

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

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

God is loyal to each of us!

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

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

Our Part

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

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

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

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

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 4)

ought not? And haven't you sometimes gone at least *part way*, thinking that perhaps if you didn't go *all the way* in doing wrong, you might "get away with it"?

How many, under temptation to commit fornication or adultery, go *part way* — perhaps just a little "necking"? And how often does that lead to going just a *little* farther — and then perhaps just a little farther still? Going that first *part way* is already committing the act *spiritually* — according to the spirit or intent of the law! When you did that you were already GUILTY in God's sight.

Of course Satan was *restrained*, and UNABLE to go farther than he did against Job. Balaam was *restrained*, and UNABLE to go farther than he did against the children of Israel. You may be ABLE, *if willing*, to go farther in sin or wrong ways. You are a free moral agent. But to go as far as you dare IS THE WAY OF SATAN, NOT THE WAY OF GOD!

GOD'S WAY is to go, sincerely, wholeheartedly and

earnestly, just *as far* in the RIGHT direction as possible.

God's way is to do MORE than is required of you.

Jesus said: "Doth he [a master] thank that servant because he did the things that were commanded him? I trow not. So likewise ye, when ye shall have done all those things which are commanded you, say, We are unprofitable servants: we have done that which was our duty to do" (Luke 17:9-10).

If you do not even go as far in the wrong direction as you feel safe — if you do what is commanded — what God, through His Word, shows is YOUR DUTY, but do not go *even farther* in the RIGHT direction, doing MORE than your duty, Jesus Christ says you are an UNPROFITABLE SERVANT! Plainly, Christ expects us to do MORE than duty in the *right* direction!

And what happens to the unprofitable servant?

In the parable of the talents, Jesus said of the one who kept what he had, but did not grow in knowledge and grace — did not overcome — did what was his duty and no more — "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth" (Matthew 25:30).

The Christian life is a life of growing, improving, in character — of overcoming — of becoming more and more like Christ!

Letters to the Editor

Sanity Saved

"Tonight I believe you saved my sanity! Before my husband came home this evening, I had finally decided to tell him I wanted a divorce, because I simply could not continue on the way I was going. There is no one I can turn to — not my pastor, family doctor, or relatives. I had entertained the idea of borrowing enough money to come to Pasadena, in the hope that I could talk with your wonderful father or yourself. I went out on the patio after dinner to listen to your radio program (as I often do) and to read my August copy of TOMORROW'S WORLD. In your article, 'What Is Real Repentance?' you mention that you have men who counsel with people who are in need of spiritual help — please send someone to me. I believe I can hold on for awhile longer, knowing that someone is coming to help me."

Mrs. E. L.,
Overland Park, Kansas

• *Your request has been sent to our representative in your area — by the time you read this you will already have received a visit. Also the young man who sent in the following letter. For any of the others of you reading this who would like a personal visit from one of our representatives, don't hesitate to write and ask — they are there to serve you.*

Visit Requested

"Thank you for the 'Personal' you wrote in the August TOMORROW'S WORLD. It has led me to complete surrender to God's rule. Until now, I thought that I had, but you made me (or maybe I should say through you, God made me) realize that I was still trying to serve God like I wanted to. My only goal now is to serve God in the way He wants me to. I am 17 years old and I don't yet know exactly what He would have me do. I keep asking Him in my prayers to show me how I can serve Him and I know that He will answer when He is ready. A visit by one of your representatives is now being ar-

ranged for me. Maybe God will show me, through him, how I am to do this."

George M.,
Clearwater, Florida

Repentance

"I marvel at the fact that every copy of TOMORROW'S WORLD I've received has an article on something I've been thinking on for some time. This month it was 'What Is Real Repentance?' Ever since I've been in contact with your wonderful Work (for over a year now), I've wanted to repent, to really obey God in every way of life. I think I am ready and want to be baptized by a true minister of God. If he should think otherwise, I would do anything to prepare. If you know an ordained minister from the Ambassador College living near me, I would like to have him counsel me."

Nancy R.,
Spokane, Washington

Practical

"Speaking of TOMORROW'S WORLD, I consider it great from all standpoints, but the article in the July issue, 'Recreation — Play It Safe!' particularly impressed me as the kind of useful practical information seldom found in the best of this world's publications."

Donald J.,
APO, Seattle, Washington

Salvation

"I have just finished reading the article in TOMORROW'S WORLD, 'What Do You Mean Salvation?' I intend to read it again and again; it is so plain, so understandable and answers so many questions which needed answering. Repetition will embed them in my mind."

W. P.,
Penns Grove, N. J.

Smoking

"After reading your articles on smoking in TOMORROW'S WORLD, I decided to stop. This was not the first time that I had tried to stop, but before, I only lasted one or two days. After praying and applying the principles in the articles, I stopped smoking and that was months ago."

Mrs. Mildred H.,
Washington, D. C.

Tithing Comments

"I have always been a little afraid to send my tithe to God's Work. I was afraid that there would not be enough to eat or that we could not afford to have nice things — car, house, rugs, TV. Well, last payday we sent in our first tithe. A couple of days later a friend of ours gave us a rug that would have cost us about a hundred dollars to buy new, that is, if we had a hundred dollars. Then the other day a chance acquaintance told me he had a broken color TV in his backyard. He said it cost him about \$550. He gave it to us. It is now in our front room. It cost me about fifteen dollars to fix. By the way, no one here has gone hungry yet either. I would say God has kept His promise to us, wouldn't you?"

Nick P. K.,
San Leandro, California

"The article called 'The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe' especially impressed me. I too always thought tithing was only for Christians; however, I believe I'm something like that man in the article as I'm not a Christian either, but here is ten percent of what I have on hand this week."

Mrs. William S.,
Bronx, New York

"I have tried to get my husband to pick up your magazine just once and read it and a couple of days ago he wanted something to read so I handed him TOMORROW'S WORLD. He read your article, 'The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe,' and came to me and said, 'Hon, when we get our check Monday, send ten percent of it and every check from now on to Mr. Armstrong.' Here is our first tithing, but not the last."

Mrs. S. D.,
Urbandale, Iowa

"I am going into the manufacturing of chemical items with three other fellows and I can't think of a better way to start a business than to tithe 10 percent of our earnings. Will you please send me a copy of your booklet, *Ending Your Financial Worries?*"

Donald O.,
New Britain, Connecticut

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★ Why Must Men Suffer?

"Many are the afflictions of the righteous," says Scripture. WHY? "I am the Eternal... I create evil," says Isaiah 45:5,7. HOW CAN THIS BE? Who is responsible for Adam's sin? Did Satan thwart God's purpose? Was God unable to prevent it? What's the real meaning of the story of Job? Get the answers to these intriguing and important questions straight from God's Word, the Bible.

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★ Thy Kingdom Come!

Are you able to love the world without having the love of the world? Are you personally concerned for the multiple hapless millions lost without hope in this God-rejecting age?