

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

Nov. 1971

THANKSGIVING

SEE PAGE 21

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More About Our Cover

Harvest abundance! This month America celebrates Thanksgiving Day. But do we really know where our national blessings come from? Are we truly grateful, or have we forgotten how to be thankful? See article on page 21.

H. Armstrong Roberts

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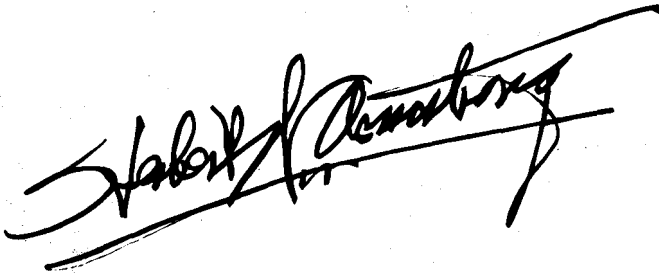
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Personal from



Visiting a Nation Fraught With Impending Total Disaster

ISTANBUL, TURKEY:

AS I WRITE, I gaze out the window in my hotel room on the mouth of the Bosphorus. It is a scenic and tranquil panoramic view, today. Tomorrow it may be the site of a world-shaking event.

The Bosphorus is a strait about 18 miles long, between Turkey in Europe and Turkey in Asia. It connects the Sea of Marmara and the Black Sea to the north. Russia borders on the Black Sea. The Bosphorus is Russia's gateway to ocean commerce with the world. Istanbul, Turkey sits astride this gateway. It reeks with history. And it is fraught with ominous portent of total disaster to this country of Turkey.

It has been interesting, today, September 11, 1971, to spend a quiet and restful day refreshing my mind on the very beginning of this Turkish nation, its earliest history, a mental review of the general course of its history up to now, and, finally, the Biblical PROPHECIES for its almost immediate future. I will give you, here, the thrilling story.

We are en route to Indonesia, where the very first of the planned scientific expeditions jointly conducted between a Belgian Foundation headed by King Leopold III, and Ambassador College, is to get under way. Accompanying us are King Leopold and Professor Heinrich Harrer of Munich, who, later, will lecture at Ambassador College. He is a scientist with a rich experience in scientific expeditions. Another famous scientist is en route by commercial airline, to meet us at Djakarta. While the King and others of our party were out sightseeing today, I refreshed my mind with the intriguing story I give you now.

The very first beginning of this nation, significantly, was a struggle between unborn twins. It was emblematic of the final struggle that will involve Britain and the United States, and a prophesied total disaster to Turkey. Indeed, truth is often stranger than fiction!

But since the Turkish people are descended from Abraham, let us first get our bearings beginning from Abraham.

So notice first, Genesis 25:5-6: "And Abraham gave all that he had unto Isaac. But unto the sons of the concubines, which Abraham had, Abraham gave gifts, and sent them away from Isaac his son."

Abraham also was the father of Ishmael by Hagar, handmaid of his wife Sarah. But Ishmael, too, was rejected from the birthright.

Now pick up the story, beginning verse 20, same chapter: "And Isaac was forty years old when he took Rebekah to wife, the daughter of Bethuel the Syrian... the sister to Laban the Syrian. And Isaac intreated the ETERNAL for his wife, because she was barren: and the ETERNAL was intreated of him, and Rebekah his wife conceived. And the children struggled together within her; and she said, If it be so, why am I thus? And she went to enquire of the ETERNAL. And the ETERNAL said unto her, Two nations are in thy womb, and two manner of people shall be separated from thy bowels; and the one people shall be stronger than the other people; and the elder shall serve the younger.

"And when her days to be delivered were fulfilled, behold, there were twins within her womb. And the first came out red, all over like a hairy garment; and they called his name Esau" (verses 20-25).

Esau was the father of the Turkish nation. God said two nations were in Rebekah's womb. The other, Jacob, was the father of the twelve tribes of Israel.

Continue, verse 26: "And after that came his brother out, and his hand took hold on Esau's heel; and his name was called Jacob [meaning, Hebrew, supplanter, or one that takes by the heel]: and Isaac was threescore years old when she bare them. And the boys grew: and Esau was a cunning hunter, a man of the field; and Jacob was a plain man, dwelling in tents. And Isaac loved Esau, because he did eat of his venison: but Rebekah loved Jacob.

"And Jacob sod pottage [red lentils]: and Esau came from the field, and he was faint: And Esau said to Jacob, Feed me, I pray thee, with that same red

pottage [soup]; for I am faint: therefore was his name called Edom [meaning red]. And Jacob said, Sell me this day [first of all] thy birthright" (verses 26-31).

The "Birthright" was a promise God had made to Abraham because of Abraham's spirit of willing obedience, to be handed down to his descendants. Normally the Birthright was given to the eldest son, though on this occasion God allowed it to be sold to the younger. The Birthright was a promise of national greatness, power, and wealth — all material. It was a different promise than the Scepter Promise, which was spiritual, and involved the GIFT of eternal life by grace through Christ. The Birthright was a *right* by birth; the Scepter Promise one of grace, not a right. The Birthright was a promise of RACE, the Scepter of GRACE. The Birthright ultimately was fulfilled in the greatness, power, and wealth of the British and American people. It was of just *that tremendous importance!* This is explained in our free book *The U. S. and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.

Continue the story: "And Esau said, Behold, I am at the point to die: and what profit shall this birthright do to me? And Jacob said, Swear to me this day; and he sware unto him: and he sold his birthright unto Jacob. Then Jacob gave Esau bread and pottage of lentiles; and he did eat and drink, and rose up, and went his way: thus Esau despised his birthright" (verses 32-34).

Next, Jacob, through the scheming of his mother, managed to deprive Esau of Isaac's blessing. You will find this recorded in the 27th chapter of Genesis. It is too long to print the entire chapter here but I will give you a quick synopsis.

It occurred when Isaac was old, his eyes so dim with age he could not see. He called for Esau, and asked him to go out to the field and hunt a deer, and make him "savory meat" the way Isaac liked it prepared. Then Isaac would give him his blessing on the Birthright.

While Esau was gone hunting, Rebekah told Jacob to quickly bring in two good kids of the goats, and she would prepare them into the kind of "savory meat" of which Isaac was so fond. Rebekah brought to Jacob Esau's clothes which he donned. She put the skins of the kids of the goats on Jacob's hands and arms, and "the smooth of his neck," so that when Isaac smelled of him and took hold of him, he would smell and feel like Esau. However, Isaac was suspicious, be-

cause of Jacob's voice, and because the "venison" came so soon.

He said, "The voice is Jacob's voice, but the hands are the hands of Esau. And he discerned him not, because his hands were hairy . . . so he blessed him. And he said, Art thou my very son Esau?"

Jacob lied, "I am."

Isaac said, "God give thee of the dew of heaven, and the fatness [fat places] of the earth, and plenty of corn and wine. Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: be lord over thy brethren, and let thy mother's sons bow down to thee: cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee." That was the blessing of the materially rich Birthright to be handed down through many generations.

Jacob had scarcely gone from the presence of Isaac when Esau came in. He had returned and made "savory meat."

"Who art thou?" asked Isaac.

"I am thy son, thy firstborn Esau," he replied.

"And Isaac trembled very exceedingly, and said, 'Who? Where is he that hath taken venison, and brought it to me, and I have eaten of all before thou camest, and have blessed him? yea, and he shall be blessed'!

"And when Esau heard the words of his father, he cried with a great and exceeding bitter cry, and said to his father, 'Bless me, even me also, O my father.'"

Isaac said, "Thy brother came with subtilty, and hath taken away thy blessing."

Esau said, bitterly, "Is not he rightly named Jacob? For he hath supplanted me these two times: he took away my birthright; and, behold, now he hath taken away my blessing . . . And Esau lifted up his voice, and wept."

"And Esau hated Jacob," and threatened to slay him after their father's death. But Rebekah warned Jacob to flee to her brother, Laban, at Haran.

Christians are admonished, in the New Testament, "Follow peace with all men, and holiness, without which no man shall see the Lord: looking diligently lest any man fail of the grace of God; lest any root of bitterness springing up trouble you, and thereby many be defiled; lest there be any fornicator, or profane person, as Esau, who for one morsel of food sold his birthright. For ye know how that afterward, when he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place of repentance, though he sought

(Continued on page 47)

What Is The REWARD Of The Saved... HEAVEN?

What assurance have we that our departed loved ones have gone to heaven? By WHAT AUTHORITY have we believed that we shall go to heaven, if we're saved?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

THIS may be a little shocking — but I want to ask you a candid question: Did you ever look into your Bible to see whether it really does say you will ever go to heaven, if you are saved? Did you ever look into your Bible to see what it reveals about what the saved shall inherit for eternity?

It's going to come as a surprise to most of you to realize that you never did. Of course, you've always *heard* that you'll go to heaven, if you're saved — you've just accepted it, probably. But did you ever stop to **PROVE** it? Did you ever try to find it promised in *your Bible*? If you do, you'll probably be even more surprised!

God Makes a Promise

I want you to notice a statement in your Bible, as little understood as any passage in this wonderful Book which Bruce Barton said is the Book nobody understands! It's Galatians 3:16 and 29. This was written primarily for the Gentile-born converts in Galatia:

“Now to Abraham and his seed were the promises made. . . . And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise.”

The Christian is *not* yet a possessor of his reward — he is an *heir* — and what he shall inherit, if saved, is the **PROMISE** made to Abraham. Whatever shall be the

reward of the saved, wherever we shall spend eternity if saved, is a definite, specific promise of God. That promise was made to Abraham, who is called, in this same book of Galatians which was written for Gentile converts, the **FATHER** of the faithful. If one is converted, whether Jew or Gentile — regardless of race or color or sex — if one is Christ's, then he becomes one of Abraham's children, and an **HEIR** of the **PROMISE** made to Abraham. What he is to *inherit*, is whatever was promised to Abraham.

If you'll look into your Bible to find out what God promised to Abraham; to find out what is the

reward to those who are saved; to find out why we have to be ABRAHAM'S children to inherit this promise of salvation, when and how we shall inherit the promise — you're in for a shocking surprise!

There is NO MORE IMPORTANT QUESTION IN YOUR LIFE! Why, this matter concerns your eternity, and yet you probably never thought to really look into it, for yourself — in your own Bible! The statement we read from the book of Galatians actually sums up the whole of the Gospel — it is a condensed statement of the very PURPOSE and PLAN of God for mankind! Your hope of life eternal — of salvation — depends altogether on what is stated in that greatly *misunderstood* passage!

Christ Confirmed the PROMISE

In order to understand this most important question in the world, notice what is written in Romans 15:8, "Now I say that Jesus Christ was a minister of the circumcision for the truth of God, to *confirm* the PROMISES made unto the fathers."

In bringing a new message — the Gospel — Jesus came to confirm the promises made to the FATHERS. But who were the fathers? And what are the promises made to them? Heaven? Purgatory? Your salvation depends on the answer! You read in Acts 3:13, in the inspired words of Peter: "The God of Abraham, and of Isaac, and of Jacob, the God of our fathers, hath glorified his Son Jesus." The fathers, then, were Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. If you are Christ's — if you are a Christian — you are an heir to inherit — not what men might devise in their imaginations — you are an heir *according to the promise!* If you're an HEIR, you are going to *inherit* something. If you're an heir according to the promise, you are going to inherit whatever was promised — and *not* something else.

That promise to Abraham is important! Whatever it is — *that* is what YOU shall inherit — if you are saved! You find the account of that promise made to Abraham in the book of *Genesis*.

It begins in the 12th chapter of Genesis, verse 1: "Now the Lord [Eternal] had said unto Abram, Get thee out of

thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will shew thee."

First, God called Abram, as his name was then, out of the land of Babylon where he lived — surely symbolic of the spiritual Babylon in which we live, today — just as, today, God calls you and me out of this world — this Babylon! Abraham didn't quibble or argue. The verse says: "So Abram DEPARTED." He went to a certain land, where God led him — the land we call Israel today! Abraham obeyed God. "So Abram departed" it is written! That's why he was made the FATHER of the precious promises on which your eternal salvation rests! He OBEYED — immediately he departed! Yes, just as YOU must *obey*, if you, with Abraham, are to inherit that promise!

Men today have no conception of what is really in store for the one who is really saved. The inheritance that awaits you — if you surrender to God; if you obey as Abraham obeyed; if you rely, not on your faith, but the very faith of Christ; if you are really born again — that very inheritance so surpasses anything you have ever conceived so far, that you haven't the slightest conception of your true potential destiny!

As we read in I Corinthians 2:9, "... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." The inheritance which God has prepared for you cannot even be conceived by the natural mind of man — but God does reveal it to us "by His Spirit" (I Cor. 2:10).

Now what did God promise Abraham?

The answer is found in Genesis 12:6-7: "And Abram passed through the land unto the place of Sichem, unto the plain of Moreh. And the Canaanite was then in the land. And the Eternal appeared unto Abram, and said, Unto thy seed will I give THIS LAND." So the promise was the inheritance of the LAND OF ISRAEL.

The PROMISED Land

Let's continue in Genesis 13:14-15: "And the Eternal said unto Abram

... Lift up now thine eyes, and look from the place where thou art northward, and southward, and eastward, and westward: for ALL THE LAND WHICH THOU SEEST, to thee will I give it, and to thy seed for ever." The land where Abram was, is the land of Canaan, called ISRAEL today. That, then, is the Promised Land — that's why it's called the PROMISED Land!

But for how long? FOREVER! The inheritance is to be an ETERNAL inheritance, which of necessity involves and includes EVERLASTING LIFE!

If one inherits a piece of land, the deed must describe the exact BOUNDARIES of the property. Is such a description given in this deed of the land we may hope to inherit?

The answer is found in Genesis 15:18, "In the same day the Eternal made a covenant with Abram, saying, Unto thy seed have I given this land, from the river of Egypt unto the great river, the river Euphrates." From the NILE River in Egypt, to the EUPHRATES in the Near East!

We've all seen enough maps to know where that is, and I'm sure we all know it isn't up in heaven somewhere, but RIGHT HERE ON THIS EARTH. "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29); and the promise — the promise of ETERNAL INHERITANCE — is the land of Palestine, from the Nile clear to the Euphrates, here on this earth! God help us to put our trust in the sure Word of God, not in the fables of men!

Incidentally, other scriptures show that the TERRITORY of Christ's Kingdom is to expand and spread until ultimately it shall include the WHOLE EARTH.

Obedience Before Inheritance

In making this promise to Abram, God conditioned it on OBEEDIENCE. Abraham did obey! First, he left his native land, his friends and relatives, his old ways of life — he forsook ALL, and followed where God led. AGAIN God conditioned the promises on obedience. Abraham was commanded to sacrifice his only son, Isaac. And again he did not stop to reason it out, or make excuse, or rebel — he obeyed! God didn't

take the son; He merely wanted Abraham's WILLINGNESS to obey, in FAITH.

But now notice, AFTER Abraham had obeyed — had been put to the test and found faithful — were there any further CONDITIONS to the promise?

Let's read Genesis 22:15-18: "And the angel of the Eternal called unto Abraham out of heaven the second time, and said, By myself have I sworn, saith the Lord, for because thou hast done this thing, and hast not withheld thy son, thine only son: that in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies; and in thy seed shall all the nations of the earth be blessed; BECAUSE THOU HAST OBEYED my voice."

Now it was UNCONDITIONAL. Abraham already had performed his part of this covenant — this agreement. And so today whosoever will from every nation may come and take of the waters of life freely, because God has kept His promise, and the promised Seed, Christ, has come.

Yes, the promise is now ABSOLUTELY SURE. Why? "Because," as we read further in Genesis 26:5, "because that ABRAHAM OBEYED my voice, and KEPT my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws." Again let me say that sin is the transgression of the Law, the same fundamental, eternal, spiritual Law that Adam transgressed when he sinned, and the same laws and commandments Abraham obeyed and kept (long before the sacrifices and rituals of Moses), making possible all the blessings we have today, both material and spiritual!

Now you remember that Isaac and Jacob also were included in "the fathers." We find now that these same promises were made also to them.

Notice Genesis 26:2-5: "And the Eternal appeared unto him [ISAAC], and said, Go not down into Egypt; dwell in the land which I shall tell thee of: sojourn in this land, and I will be with thee, and will bless thee; for unto thee, and unto thy seed, I will give ALL THESE COUNTRIES, and I will perform the oath which I sware unto Abraham thy father; and I will make thy seed to

multiply as the stars of heaven, and will give unto thy seed all these countries; AND IN THY SEED SHALL ALL THE NATIONS OF THE EARTH BE BLESSED; because that Abraham obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws."

And again the promise was made to JACOB, recorded in Genesis 35:9-12: "And God appeared unto Jacob... and God said unto him, Thy name is Jacob: thy name shall not be called any more Jacob, but ISRAEL shall be thy name... I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; a nation [today the United States] and a company of nations [today the British Commonwealth] shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins; and the LAND which I gave Abraham and Isaac, to thee I will give it, and to thy seed after thee will I give the land."

Even the Gentile-born, through Christ, become not only Abraham's seed, but spiritually adopted Israelites as well.

The promises were made to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, and THEIR CHILDREN. Their children are ISRAELITES, not GENTILES. There is a mistaken idea, today, that Christianity is a Gentile religion. But Jesus said plainly, "Salvation is of the Jews." Or, as the Apostle Paul wrote: "To the Jew first, and also to the Gentile" (Rom. 2:10). The Scepter promise, through which Christ and salvation were promised, went to the House of Judah, whose people were called JEWS. The Bible reveals that the covenants and the promises pertained only to ISRAEL. We read it in Romans 9:4: "Who are ISRAELITES; to whom pertaineth the adoption, and the glory, and the covenants, and the giving of the law, and the service of God, AND THE PROMISES."

Christians Are Heirs to the Promise

Then how are ALL nations to be blessed through these promises? To the Gentile-born Galatians Paul said, "If ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed [children], and heirs according to the promise." Now let me ask you, what hope has any Gentile without becoming, by spiritual adoption through Christ, an Israelite? Absolutely none!

To the Gentile-born Ephesians Paul wrote, as recorded in Ephesians 2:11-12: "Wherefore remember, that ye being in time past Gentiles in the flesh..." Doesn't that plainly say they are no longer considered Gentiles? Paul continues: "Ye being in time past Gentiles... that at THAT time ye were WITHOUT Christ, being ALIENS from the commonwealth of Israel, and STRANGERS from the COVENANTS OF PROMISE..."

This doesn't sound like Christianity is a GENTILE religion. This doesn't sound like the New Covenant is a Gentile covenant! While these Ephesians were Gentiles — before they became Israelites through Christ — they were strangers from the covenants of promise, having NO HOPE, and without God in the world!

But notice the 13th verse: "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes [formerly] were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ." And now verse 19: "Now therefore ye are NO MORE strangers and foreigners, but FELLOW-CITIZENS with the saints, and of the household of God." Oh, what a glorious, matchless privilege to be taken into the very household of God — to be able to call the Eternal Creator our Father! For the UNconverted, Adam is the human father, and Satan the spiritual father. But, through CHRIST, ABRAHAM becomes our fleshly father — and God becomes our spiritual Father.

For we read in Galatians 3:7, "Know ye therefore that they which are of faith, the same are the children of Abraham." That's why Abraham is called the "father of the faithful" — whether Jew or Gentile!

Again, in Romans 8:14, all who "are led by the Spirit of God are the sons of God." Yes, begotten sons, now — to become actual BORN sons at the time of the resurrection, when we shall INHERIT the KINGDOM OF GOD! The Kingdom of God is the Family of God — the God Family! It's a glorious family relationship! This glorified inheritance surpasses anything you have ever conceived!

NO Man Has Ascended to Heaven — Except Christ

Jesus Christ did not say we should go up to heaven, to be with Him there. In-

stead, He said in John 3:13: "No MAN hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down FROM heaven, even the Son of man" — that is, Himself! He went again to heaven, from where He had come. But He said, "Whither [where] I go, ye *cannot come*." That's in your Bible in John 8:22 and John 13:33!

Also He said, "I go" (to heaven) and "I will come again" (John 14:2-3). Yes, come again BACK TO EARTH. And when He comes — when He is again here — He will, as He said, "receive you unto myself; that where I am [here on earth], there ye may be also."

And in Matthew 25, beginning verse 31, we read that when Jesus will have returned to this earth, as KING of kings, RULER of all nations on earth, then He will say to the saved: "... Come, ye blessed... INHERIT THE KINGDOM prepared for you..." (Verse 34). The Kingdom of God is the very divine Family of God. It will RULE ALL nations, here on EARTH! To enter into — to inherit — the divine Kingdom of God is a destiny of such terrible glory that your mind cannot possibly grasp it, now! And our inheritance, as divine members of the very God Family, shall be THIS EARTH, for an EVERLASTING possession.

What's wrong with this earth? Absolutely nothing but SIN — rebellion against God and His eternal SPIRITUAL LAWS that govern peace and happiness and joy! Happiness and joy — a glorified condition such as you may inherit — is not a matter of geographical location! It is a SPIRITUAL CONDITION! There will be NO SIN in that happy World Tomorrow! No liars, no murderers, no thieves nor robbers. Think of it — there'll be NO SATAN, no locks on doors, no jails, no hospitals, no poorhouses! No strife, no war, no sickness nor disease, no poverty, nor hunger, nor want!

When Do We Inherit the Promises?

Now let me ask, WHEN shall we inherit these promises? How shall we inherit them? Has Abraham, himself, already gone to his reward? Has Abraham already inherited the promises?

First, notice the inspired words of the first Christian martyr, Stephen, full of

faith and the Holy Spirit — Stephen, who paid with his life for these inspired words of Scripture. You'll read them in Acts 7:2-5:

"And he said, Men, brethren, and fathers, hearken; the God of glory appeared unto our father Abraham, when he was in Mesopotamia, before he dwelt in Charran, and said unto him, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and come into the land which I shall show thee. Then came he out of the land of the Chaldeans, and... removed him into this land, wherein ye now dwell [ISRAEL of today]. And he gave him NONE INHERITANCE in it, no, not so much as to set his foot on..."

God gave Abraham *none inheritance* in that land — "yet he promised that he *would* give it to him for a possession, and to his seed after him, when as yet he had no child."

Abraham NEVER RECEIVED the promised inheritance — though God's promise was made unconditional because Abraham had obeyed God! But let's go further. Notice, now, Hebrews 11:8-10, 13:

"By faith Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, obeyed; and he went out, not knowing whither he went. By faith he sojourned in the land of promise, as in a strange country." Notice carefully: Abraham merely *sojourned* in the land — which he was AFTER to receive for an INHERITANCE — "dwelling in tabernacles with Isaac and Jacob, the heirs with him of the same promise: for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God.... These all died in faith, not having received the promises, but having seen them afar off..."

Abraham, Isaac and Jacob — the FATHERS to whom the promises were made — all DIED, in faith, NOT having *received* the promises! My friends, do you grasp what that inspired scripture of God says? In plain language it says they died, but did NOT receive their REWARD — the very fathers to whom the promises were made did not "go to their reward at death." Thus saith the Lord!

Now further, the Scriptures tell us

that Abraham IS DEAD. When the New Testament was written, many hundreds of years after his death, Abraham was STILL DEAD, as recorded in John 8:52-53. There you read plain words: "Abraham is DEAD..." Abraham has not received the promised inheritance, *even to this day!*

All through the New Testament you read that Christians who become Abraham's children through Christ are not now, in this age, inheritors — they are now heirs. An heir is one who has not yet come into his inheritance.

Now why has Abraham, even to this day, as yet not inherited the promise? Why? Listen! Since "eternal inheritance" of THE EARTH constitutes the BETTER PROMISES of the NEW Testament, and since the message which Christ delivered in confirming these promises was the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD, it follows that the LAND of THIS EARTH — the land of the promise Jesus came to confirm — is the TERRITORY occupied and governed by the KINGDOM OF GOD!

WHEN We Inherit the Kingdom

But that Kingdom, Jesus said, is not of this world — this age! In His great prophecy of world news today — of world wars, and 20th-century world upheaval now — Jesus Christ said, in Luke 21:31:

"When ye see these things come to pass, know ye that the kingdom of God is nigh at hand." The kingdom of God is to RULE THE WORLD. It is not yet established — but today it is NIGH AT HAND — and it's LATER THAN YOU THINK! In Luke 19 Jesus gave the parable of the "pounds," because they thought the Kingdom of God should immediately appear. He represented Himself as the young nobleman going to the far country — heaven — to receive the right to rule the kingdom, showing it would be set up and take over the RULE OVER ALL NATIONS, at the second coming of Christ!

But there's still another reason — yes, another reason why we can be only heirs at this present time. Notice I Corinthians 15:50, "Now this I say, brethren, that *flesh and blood* cannot INHERIT the kingdom of God." No

(Continued on page 46)

GOD'S POWER

God Almighty has **POWER**. He shares that power with Jesus Christ. Jesus gave that power to His disciples, and that same power sustains this Work today. Read what that **POWER** is and how you can inherit it.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

WITH A throaty ROAR, like the deep rumble of several locomotives, the giant 747 Boeing jet *thundered* down the runway. I felt a surge of **POWER**, as I was literally PUSHED back into the seat by the full force of those four huge fan-jet engines turned up to maximum *power!*

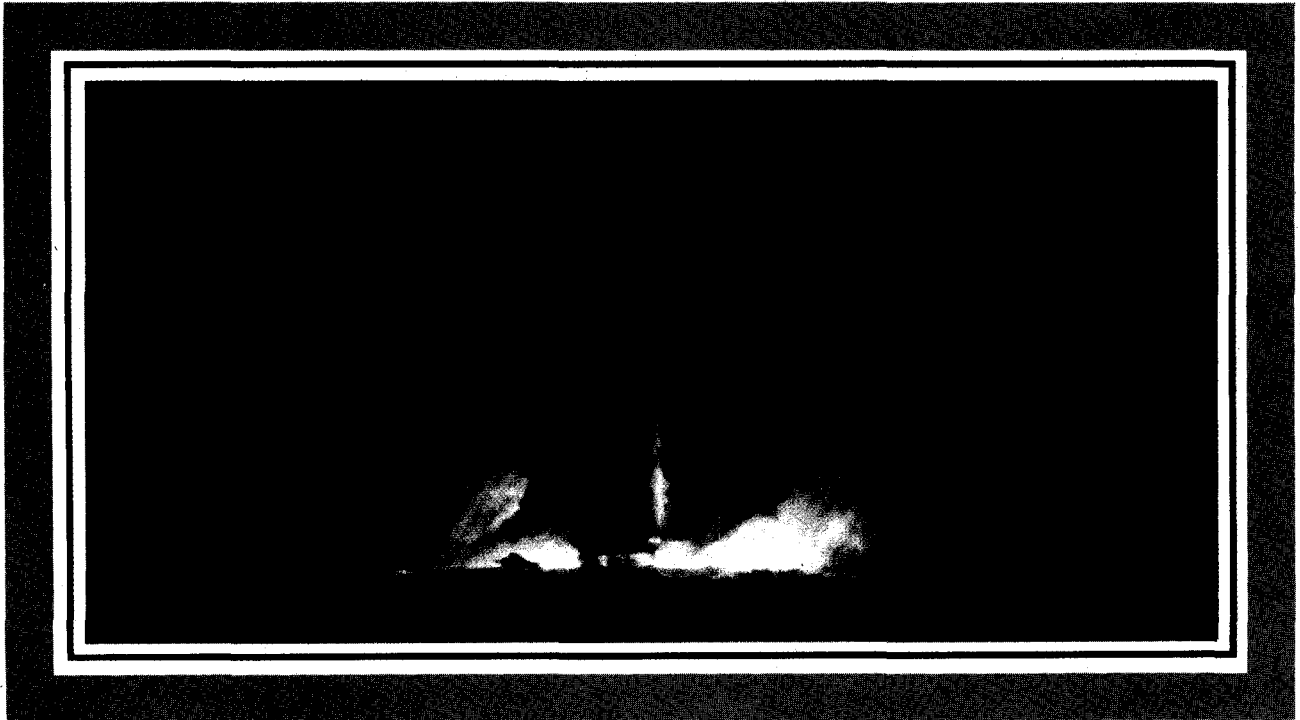
Almost instantaneously, it seemed, the giant metal bird was thundering into the skies over Los Angeles!

THAT'S **POWER!**

Many times in many parts of the world, I've experienced the thrill of takeoff of a giant jet airplane. I'm still not so blasé about jet travel that the

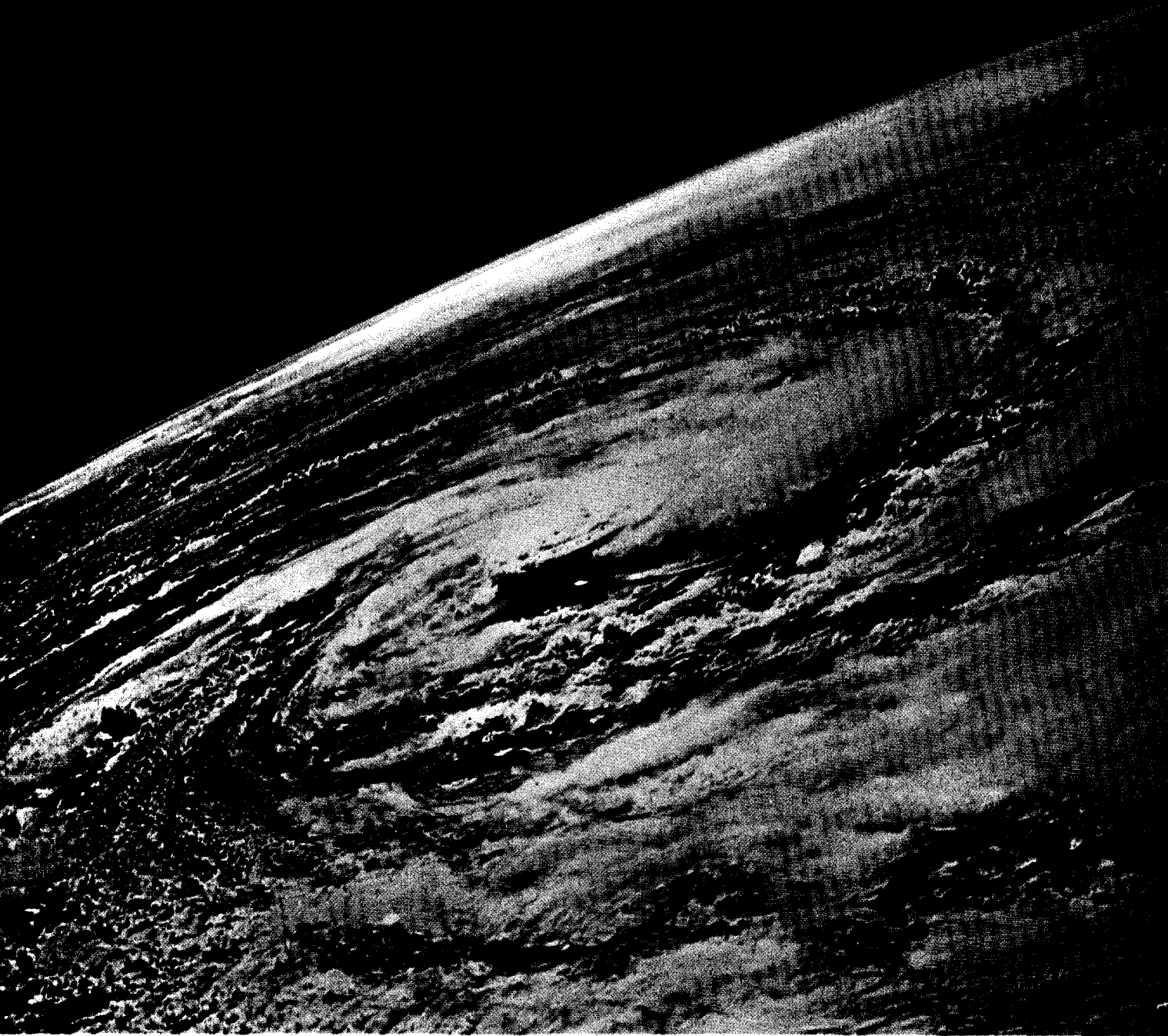
takeoff of a giant jet fails to impress me!

When I personally witnessed the blast-off of the huge Saturn 5 at Cape Kennedy, I couldn't help but be awed by the surging power of those huge rockets as they soared straight up into the blue sky like gargantuan bullets!



Ambassador College Photo

The powerful thrust of a mighty rocket is indeed awesome, and a tribute to man's scientific accomplishment. Yet, compared to the power of a raging hurricane, or the storms on the surface of the sun, it seems minute, just as any man-made power is small when compared to the power God displays.



That's real POWER!

My brother, Richard D. Armstrong, went to Las Vegas many years ago, while still a student at Ambassador College, and was able to witness, with his own eyes (though through heavy, special dark glasses) the explosion of an *atomic bomb*. He described it to me. With a brilliant flash, brighter than the morning sun, an awesome mushrooming cloud began to form, instantly rising several thousands of feet above the Nevada desert floor. Then, moments later, a huge rumbling, ear-splitting *shock* struck the onlookers with actual

physical *force*, just like a *blow* from some superhuman hand! This atom bomb blast was only a tiny bomb, a mere "pip" compared to the giant multi-megaton hydrogen bombs of today. Actually, it takes the explosive force of an *ATOM* bomb to *set off* a hydrogen bomb!

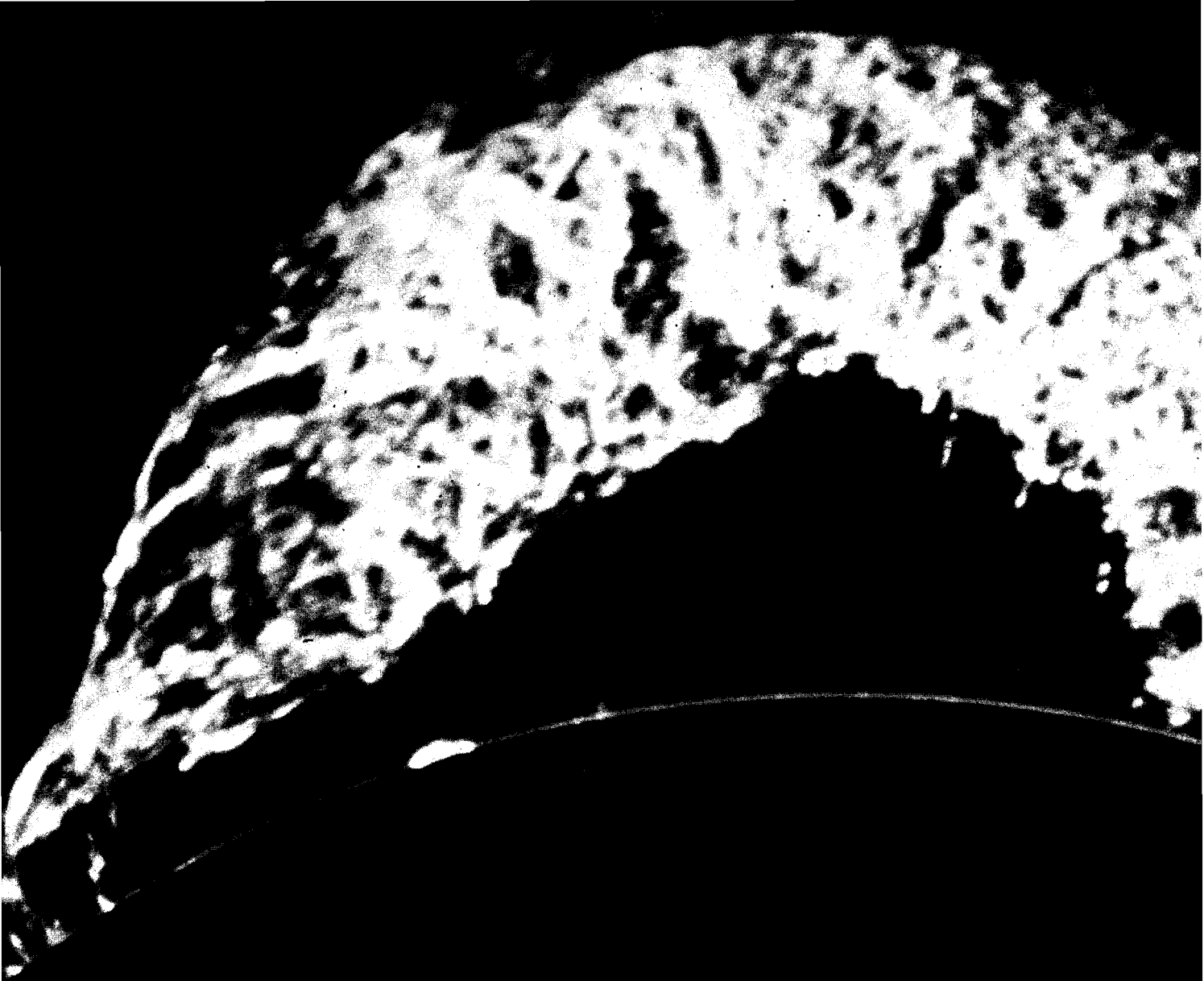
Think of it! An atom bomb is just the "match" to ignite a hydrogen bomb!

Today, Air Force planners consider developing a "Trillioton" H-bomb, named for being equivalent in destructive force to one trillion tons of TNT.

Do you grasp what a trillion tons of TNT really is? One million is a thousand thousand. But it takes one thousand million to make a billion. A trillion is one thousand billion!

If one hundred ten-ton trucks had been laboring mightily, dumping their maximum load of TNT once each minute since the time of the birth of Jesus Christ, there would still not be a pile of TNT big enough to represent the destructive force contained in just this one bomb!

If all the tractors, trucks, loaders and earth-movers on earth were to labor



Above: Only with special viewing apparatus are scientists able to see the awesome and spectacular eruptive arch of a gigantic, blazing solar prominence. These fantastically huge bursts of solar material often reach a height of thirty thousand miles from the sun's surface and bridge a span of more than one hundred twenty-five thousand miles — size enough to engulf planet Earth many times over.

Photo: High Altitude Observatory, Boulder, Colorado

Left: From ninety miles high the massive forces at work in this hurricane appear deceptively innocent. But below, these deadly winds unleash powerful winds and towering waves that can wreak havoc and death upon all who are unable to escape their path.

Photo: NASA, Houston

together for the next century, they couldn't amass a pile of earth big enough to represent a mound of TNT weighing a trillion tons!

But that's just the beginning! Compared to even smaller, unnoticed "storms" on the surface of our sun, even *this* destructive form is almost *nothing* in comparison!

And *our sun* is but a DWARF when compared to other great "suns" or stars in the great universe!

That's real power!

But all this man-made power is NOTHING compared to the awesome,

giant, all-encompassing, unlimited, irresistible, magnitudinous, gargantuan, overwhelming, SUPREME, ABSOLUTE POWER OF GOD! . . . *Our* God, the God who will listen to the personal, private prayers of any repentant human being.

Think of it! What a fantastic amount of POWER God has!

Ridiculous Pagan Substitutes

What a wry, ironic and hideous joke it would be if a thundering jet were suddenly reduced from the throaty roar of *stupendous power* of those great engines to a minute, little puff of smoke

about the size of a small firecracker!

What irony, if the huge Saturn 5 rocket had "fizzled out" on the launching pad, with a small, still sigh!

And what blasphemous and ridiculous claims some perspiring *little* raspy-voiced human *men* have made about having some of the *power* of God!

Is the power of God behind claims of "double portion night"? or "green smoke in the top of the tent"? Does it *really* show the power of God for "holy oil" (*you'd sweat too*, in such an atmosphere!) to be found in the clammy

palms of a screaming, shouting, self-styled "evangelist"?

When the small, darkened peepings and mutterings of human throats — when the circus freaks cause "goiters" to disappear at will in a sideshow atmosphere designed to *deceive* — when hucksters and shysters *pretend* to have some of the power of God, *it is just as ironic!*

Listen!

The power of God is *not* a tingling, sensuous human emotion! It is *not* a prickly feeling on your scalp, or down the back of your neck! It is *not* found in the husky voice of a screaming fanatic who makes an abominable *sham* of religion!

The power of God is the force by which God made all things! It is the power by which He made the universe! It is the force, the energy, the unlimited *power* by which He *sustains* and *upholds* all things!

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by a [margin] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds; who being the *brightness* of his GLORY, and the express image of his person, and *upholding* ALL THINGS *by the word of his POWER*, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high..." (Heb. 1:1-3).

Many "Fakes" Prophesied!

Don't be deceived! Do the fake claims of supposed "wonders" and "miracles" even begin to *compare* to the majesty of the Alps, or the Andes? Do the claims of sweating or bleeding statues, of warts and bunions being healed, of "speaking with 'other' tongues," even begin to supplant the *majesty* of the mighty seas, the roar of a hurricane, the crash and reverberating roll of thunder?

Ridiculous!

Yet — people want a "sign"! They desire a piquant "wonder." They want some tiny, interesting, "quaint" little "miracle" of some type to satiate their desire for the unusual!

Jesus said, "A wicked and adulterous generation seeketh after a SIGN; and there

shall *no sign be given* unto it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas" (Matt. 16:4).

Yes — the *world* seeks a *sign*.

God says, "When thou art come into the land which the Eternal thy God giveth thee, thou shalt not learn to do after the abominations of those nations. There shall not be found among you any one that maketh his son or his daughter to pass through the fire, or that useth *divination*, or an observer of times, or an enchanter, or a witch, or a charmer, or a consulter with familiar spirits, or a wizard, or a necromancer. For all that do these things are an *abomination* unto the Eternal: and *because of these abominations* the Eternal thy God doth drive them out from before thee"! (Deut. 18:9-12.)

And LOOK at the practices of so-called "religious" people today!

Today deceived human beings look on a weird "oddity" or "curiosity" as being something of real POWER!

Charlatans parade before deceived people, claiming great "healing" powers, or claiming power to produce "special signs." These "signs," however, are always in the realm of witchery, or divination, or familiar spirits!

This is not the power of God!

Your Bible predicted there would be *many* false prophets, and that they would "shew *great signs* and *wonders*; inasmuch that, IF it were possible, they shall deceive the *very elect*"! (Matt. 24:24.)

Simon Magus was reputed to be the "great *power of God*"! (Acts 8:10.) Yet, his was the power of the devil and his demons. Simon kept his followers deceived by thrilling, piquant "signs" and "wonders." "And to him they had regard, because that of long time he had *bewitched* them with *sorceries*" (Acts 8:11).

Make no mistake! The false claims about the power of God are going to be some of the *greatest* events to yet affect your life! The false MIRACLES — the false SIGNS and WONDERS of the future — and some of them in the very near future — would deceive even the VERY ELECT, *if God would permit it* (Matt. 24:24).

What IS God's POWER?

Being human — we are impressed with *human* power. We see the swelling

muscles of a weight-lifter, the straining efforts of a pole vaulter, the terrific dexterity of a gymnast, or the smashing right of a boxer — and we're *impressed!*

Passers-by stop to gawk at a giant crane swinging a huge steel ball to smash buildings, or a huge bulldozer shoving tons of material, or the giant bites of earth a huge scoop shovel devours as it excavates for a new building. Seeing these man-made machines, humans are *impressed!*

At a religious meeting, berserk preachers scream, wheeze, gasp, shout, rant, or chant in the same tone, endlessly and meaninglessly, and ignorant, deceived onlookers are *impressed!*

But what really *should* be impressive is the manifestation of GOD'S POWER!

Compare, in your own mind, the soaring might of a giant Sequoia or redwood tree to a tiny man! *Compare*, for a moment, the thundering roar of Niagara Falls, or Victoria Falls on the Zambesi, to the petty screeching of a hoarse-voiced fake in a tent-camp riot called a religious meeting!

Compare the majesty of mighty mountains — the sweep and scope of this vast earth — the surging, tossing expanse of the ageless sea — yes, COMPARE!

And then realize that this *whole earth* is but a *tiny speck* when compared to our sun, and to other stars in the "milky way," our own galaxy!

But that's only the remotest beginning! Our sun, the only *star* of our solar system, is but a "*white dwarf*" star in comparison to some of the other huge stars of awesome proportions! Betelgeuse, the supergiant of "Orion's" belt (as the pagans dubbed some of the distant constellations) is fully five hundred and thirty times larger than our sun — and yet our sun is so gigantic in comparison to the earth so as to defy our powers of comprehension.

For example, of the total *composition* of the entire solar system; that is, the sun, all the nine planets, their thirty-one moons, thousands of asteroids, billions of comets and all other *matter in the solar system*, the sun comprises nearly 99.9 percent!

Our sun, which, remember, is but a "dwarf" in comparison to many stars in

many galaxies, is 864,000 miles in diameter! "Sunspots," or solar storms and eruptions, appear as dark, sculptured "holes" in the "skin" of the sun — and are from five hundred to as much as fifty thousand miles wide!

Other disturbances on the sun's surface take the form of huge, spiraling loops, or solar prominences and arches. Often these arches reach to a height of thirty thousand miles, and bridge a span of more than one hundred twenty-five thousand miles — half the distance separating the earth from the moon!

Leaping, fiery tornadoes — tongues of fiery hydrogen — shoot up as far as one hundred thousand miles into space! An eruptive arch, one of the largest solar explosions ever recorded, was actually photographed in June of 1946. It remained visible for over two hours — and stretched more than a million miles into space before it disappeared!

But to your *human* eye — these unusual features of the sun's surface remain obscured behind superbrilliance you can't look at without special, heavy dark lenses. These prominences must be photographed by the means of huge, specially constructed solar telescopes.

Think of it! Our sun, operating on the *exact* same principle as the hydrogen bomb, is fantastically HUGE beside our earth.

Yet, the *sun* is but a DWARF star in comparison to others.

Look at the fathomless, limitless universe! THAT'S POWER!

THAT'S REAL POWER!

The POWER of Christ

Jesus Christ was the Word (John 1:1) who *did* wield all this vast power of creation! "God . . . hath in these last days spoken unto us by his [a] Son, whom he hath appointed heir of all things, *by whom also he made the worlds*; who being the brightness of his glory, and the express image of his person, and upholding all things by the word of His POWER, when he had by himself purged our sins, sat down on the right hand of the Majesty on high . . ." (Heb. 1:1-3).

Jesus MADE Betelgeuse, the spiral andromeda, the vastness of the limitless universe, with the billions upon billions of blazing suns and stars! He MADE this

earth, with the huge mountains, the surging seas, the vast prairies and deserts.

But, even possessing this awesome power, He EMPTIED Himself of EVERY BIT of it — and came down to this earth — to be born as a totally *helpless* little child! "Who, being in the form of God [counted not equality with God a thing to be grasped at (clung to, or jealously and tenaciously held)]: but made himself of no reputation [emptied Himself] and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men . . ." (Phil. 2:6, 7).

Then, as a human being, Jesus Christ showed us how utterly and totally powerless He was!

He said, "I can of mine own self do nothing"! (John 5:30.) He was utterly unable, so far as any *physical* strength or ability is concerned, to accomplish the great Work God had sent Him to do.

He was powerless.

He said, "The Son can do nothing of himself . . ." (John 5:19). Yet Jesus had tremendous power! He conquered Satan the devil — He turned water into wine, healed thousands, cast out demons, fed the thousands, withered the fig tree, paid taxes with a coin from the mouth of a fish.

He walked on water, calmed storms, performed hundreds and hundreds of miracles.

But these *signs* Jesus performed were only a *part* of the great *works* to which He pointed! Notice! "Now when John had heard in the prison the *works* of Christ, he sent two of his disciples, and said unto him, Art thou he that should come, or do we look for another? Jesus answered and said unto them, Go and shew John again those things which ye do *bear* and *see*: the blind receive their sight, and the lame walk, the lepers are cleansed, and the deaf hear, the dead are raised up, and the poor have the *gospel* preached to them" (Matt. 11:2-5).

Notice — Jesus said the *Gospel* was being preached! The preaching of the message He brought, to even a few hundred, or a few *thousand*, was one of the great *works* which Christ said directly proved His Messiahship!

But He did nothing by Himself!

"Believest thou not that I am in the

Father, and the Father in me? the words that I speak unto you I speak not of myself: but the Father that dwelleth in me, he doeth the works" (John 14:10).

There was the source of Jesus' great power! The Father in heaven worked through Jesus as a human instrument!

Jesus GAVE POWER — But WHY?

Jesus Christ not only demonstrated the tremendous power source He had, but also gave that power to others! "Then he called his twelve disciples together, and *gave them* POWER AND AUTHORITY over all demons, and to cure diseases" (Luke 9:1).

But was this power *only* for healing — and for casting out of demons?

Notice, "*And he sent them to preach* the kingdom of God, *and to heal the sick*"! (Verse 2.)

When Jesus said the works He performed bore witness of Him, He emphasized the Gospel He brought — the truth of God.

After His crucifixion and resurrection, Jesus appeared to His disciples. "And Jesus came and spake unto them, saying, *All power* is given unto me in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18). He told them that great power He had possessed was now His to wield.

Now He was no longer human — weak, physically able to do *nothing* of Himself; *now* He was a veritable power source — A DYNAMO OF SPIRITUAL POWER! *Now* He had the same POWER that molded the fantastic *sun*, that compacted the awesome forces into the universe — the power that hurled the giant stars into the blackness of endless trillions of miles of space! *Now* Jesus was power personified!

What was the big job He intended to accomplish through this fantastic power?

"Go ye therefore [in the light of this tremendous power I now have], and teach . . ." His first command was to teach, to preach (Mark 16:15) the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!

He said, "*Teach all nations*, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit: Teaching them to observe *all things whatsoever* I have *commanded* you:

and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world [*age — margin*]” (Matt. 28:19-20).

Jesus said His great power would *always* be there — dependable power, constant power, sane, safe, guided, directed power — to accomplish this great commission.

You can depend on the rising of the sun — and you know you can! You can depend on the vastness of the power of this gargantuan universe — just as the common, everyday forces, the energies we take for granted, are dependable! You depend on inertia, on the law of gravity, on heat, light, and the myriad *laws* that Christ upholds by the Word of His power!

He said His Church would be imbued with this same power! We can *depend* on it!

“And, being assembled together with them, commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, but wait for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me . . . And he said unto them, It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power. But *ye* shall receive POWER [*not* an empty, meaningless, emotional “sensation,” or some Satanic counterfeit, designed to conceal the great meaning of the *real* power of God!], after that the Holy Spirit is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth”! (Acts 1:4-8.)

Notice—the power was given so they could carry His Message to the uttermost parts of the earth — *not* as a sensual thrill to decorate their own persons!

Jesus said *we, today*, would be accomplishing *even greater works* than He accomplished through that great *power* He supplies!

“Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and **GREAT**ER works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father”! (John 14:12.)

Jesus was able to reach only a few thousands at any one time, at the most, with the truth of the Gospel. But through the power He supplies (and He does supply it — it depends on His

power, the miraculous power of the transmission of electrical force and energy, bouncing electrical impulses off the mantle of the ionosphere) Christ uses fifty-five million watts of power to preach His Gospel to the world today!

But *that* power is only the beginning!

YOU Can Inherit POWER

The reason you live is to learn to use POWER — and use it rightly!

When you first begin to become educated to the powers of this modern electronic, machine, jet, space age — you learn the dangers of **MIS**guided power!

There are safety precautions to be observed. Every child must be taught the dangers of fire, of gas, of moving automobiles, of falling, or of colliding with objects.

Much of all scientific endeavor — and, as a matter of fact, practically all of it — is either a study *of*, or learning *how* to harness power, force, energy!

Science knows how to store power in a battery, to convert atomic energy to useful purposes — to employ the power of explosive force for constructive purposes — but science does *not* know how to control the greatest potential power of all — the **HUMAN MIND**!

You are a **POTENTIAL DYNAMO**!

You are a potential power!

YOU can come to be sheer **FORCE** — compacted together into huge, limitless, driving, surging, energizing, irresistible, immovable, omnipotent power!

You can become God.

The four living creatures around the throne of God said, “Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to *receive* POWER, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing” (Rev. 5:12). John said he heard every creature in earth and in heaven saying in unison, “Blessing, and honour, and *glory*, and **POWER**, be unto him that sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb for ever and ever” (Rev. 5:13).

Jesus Christ is going to **SHARE** this limitless power with us! “And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I **GIVE POWER** over the nations: and he shall **RULE** them with a rod of iron; as the vessels of a

potter shall they be broken to shivers: even as I received of my Father” (Rev. 2:26-27).

The universe belongs to God! He is going to give it to His children — when they qualify to control its powers!

Think of it! It defies our limited minds to comprehend the height, the length, the breadth, the scope of God's power. We can only understand but a small fraction of the immensity of God. And yet, that very power is in this **Work**!

Thousands of lives are being changed. Families are being restored — children's hearts turned to their parents.

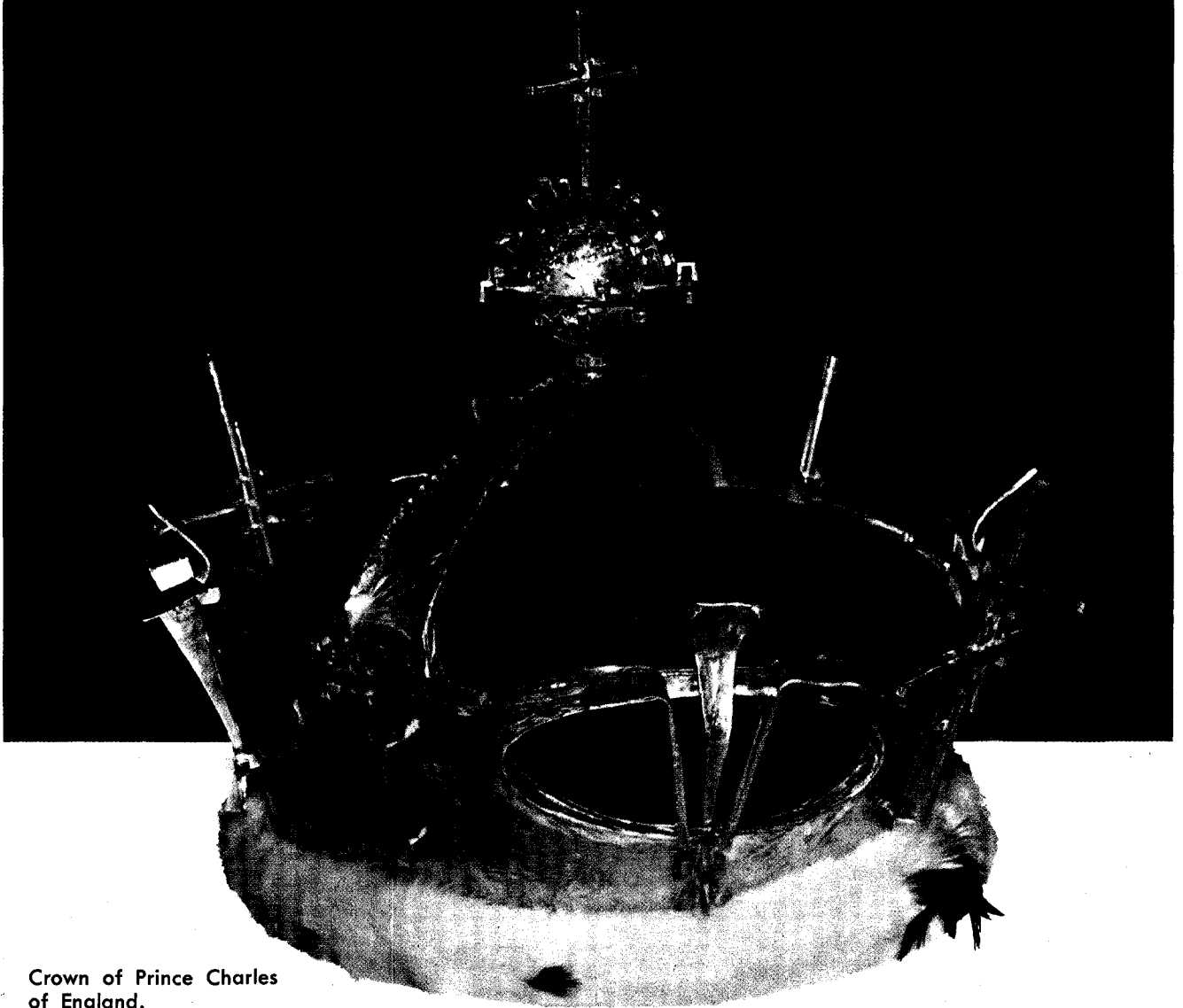
But the greatest evidence of God's power today is that multiple millions are hearing the very same Gospel Jesus preached!

Think of the veritable *sea* of humanity hearing every **WORLD TOMORROW** program! Of the more than two million reading **TOMORROW'S WORLD**. Truly, **GREAT**ER works are being done!

God says, to each of *you*, “For **YE** are not come unto the mount that might be touched, and that burned with fire, nor unto blackness, and darkness, and tempest [even though it would have frightened and awed you, had you seen it!], and the sound of a trumpet, and the voice of words . . . But *ye* are come unto mount Sion, and unto *the city of the LIVING GOD, the heavenly Jerusalem* [the Church], and to an innumerable company of angels, to the general assembly and church of the **FIRSTBORN**, which are written in heaven, and to God the judge of all, and to the spirits of just men *made perfect*, and to Jesus the Mediator of the new covenant . . . Whose voice then **SHOOK THE EARTH**: but now he hath promised, saying, *Yet once more I shake not the earth only, but also heaven*. And this word, *Yet once more* signifieth the removing of those things that are shaken, as of things that are made, that those things which *cannot be shaken may remain*. Wherefore **WE RECEIVING A KINGDOM WHICH CANNOT BE MOVED**, let us have grace, whereby we may serve God acceptably with *reverence and godly fear*: for *our God is a consuming fire*”! (Heb. 12:18-29.)

And **THAT**, readers of **TOMORROW'S WORLD, IS POWER!!!** □

PREPARE NOW TO BE A KING!



Crown of Prince Charles
of England.

Ambassador College Photo

Do you realize what the specific JOB promised true Christians in the World Tomorrow is? Are you preparing for it intelligently and realistically?

by Roderick C. Meredith

THIS is a HELL-BENT WORLD!

With the stark specter of worldwide famine, with the increasing amount of crime and violence of all descriptions — with the stepped up tempo of racial conflict, the skyrocketing incidence of pornography and FILTH, and the breakdown of respect for all law and constituted

authority — it should be obvious that this world needs straightening out!

But HOW? And by WHOM?

Men have been experimenting and theorizing with solutions to world problems for about six thousand years of recorded history. And the war-torn, hate-filled, divided, starving world you see around you and read about is — to a large extent — the RESULT of man's endeavors. Man's endeavors, that is, *apart from GOD!*

The greatest Prophet who ever lived described our day: "But as the days of Noah were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be" (Matt. 24:37). In the Genesis account of those days before the flood, we read: "The earth also was *corrupt* before God, and the earth was filled with VIOLENCE" (Gen. 6:11).

Yes, *just like today!*

What is GOD'S Solution?

If you have been reading TOMORROW'S WORLD very long, you have learned that the destiny of man — as purposed by his Creator — is to join the God Family in ruling this world and later, the entire UNIVERSE!

Jesus Christ promised: "And he that OVERCOMETH and *keepeth my works* unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron..." (Rev. 2:26-27).

Again, He said: "To him that OVERCOMETH will I grant to sit with me in my *throne*..." (Rev. 3:21). Sharing His throne, of course, would denote sharing in the *ruling*.

The man or woman who *overcomes*, then, who yields to God and MASTERS the temptations and pulls of the flesh — this person will be given the tremendous opportunity of RULING the nations of this earth under the personal direction of Jesus Christ!

Although few professing Christians today seem to realize it, your Bible is literally *saturated* with this message!

This is the TRUE GOSPEL — the good news of the coming *world-ruling government* of Jesus Christ AND HIS SPIRITBORN SAINTS! The Apostle Paul told the brethren at Corinth: "Do ye not know that the saints shall judge the world? and if the world shall be judged

by you, are ye unworthy to judge the smallest matters? Know ye not that *we shall judge angels?*" (I Cor. 6:2-3.)

In Revelation 5:10, the true saints are pictured as rejoicing that Christ has redeemed them, "And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and WE SHALL REIGN ON THE EARTH."

The Prophet Daniel described the coming rule of Christ *and His saints* on earth AFTER the soon-coming revival of the Roman Empire in Europe is crushed. "And the kingdom and dominion, and the greatness of the kingdom under the whole heaven, shall be given to the people of the saints of the most High, whose kingdom is an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him" (Dan. 7:27).

Goal of True Christian

According to the Bible, then, what is the real GOAL of the Christian?

It is, through the acceptance of Jesus Christ as personal Savior, to be forgiven his past sins — his REBELLION against the government and laws of God. "For sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). Next, through the power of the Holy Spirit given by Christ, he strives to GROW spiritually, to be an OVERCOMER — mastering his vain, lustful, lawless human nature and yielding to let God make him FIT to be a KING.

Remember, rulership with Christ is given only "to him that OVERCOMETH" (Rev. 3:21).

God's way has always been to choose the most capable men for the job *among those who are surrendered* to His rule. In choosing rulers and judges over Israel, Moses was instructed: "Moreover thou shalt provide out of all the people ABLE men, such as fear God, men of truth, hating covetousness; and place such over them, to be rulers of thousands, and rulers of hundreds, rulers of fifties, and rulers of tens" (Ex. 18:21).

The GOAL of the true Christian is NOT to "roll around heaven all day"! It is *not* to strum idly on a harp — watching the fleecy clouds go by! It is to RULE with Christ on THIS EARTH — making it a beautiful, happy, productive and peaceful place for the millions of our children and grandchildren who will live over into the World Tomorrow!

Every thinking person should begin getting ready to attain THAT GOAL! We should ask our Creator to help make us FIT to join the saints in ruling this world under Jesus Christ. God has set His true ministers to help His people attain the GOAL. They are to teach and inspire God's people to GROW SPIRITUALLY more like Christ in every way, "Until we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a PERFECT man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

But HOW do we become *like Christ*? Where do we BEGIN? Are there definite AREAS of life we should concentrate on improving?

Certainly! There are at least SEVEN AREAS of life which need special development if you are to be qualified for RULERSHIP under Jesus Christ.

Study them. Develop them.

PREPARE, now, to be a King under Jesus Christ and *straighten out this world's mess* GOD's way!

I. Develop the MIND of a King

Certainly the most important thing that separates us from the dumb brutes is the *human mind*. Through it we have creative powers which, though limited, are like those of God Himself. Also, we have the capacity of learning and acting on spiritual truths — even when these go against the normal lust of our flesh and brain. We have the capacity of DECISION. We can RESIST the wrong and we can CHOOSE to do the good.

Besides the *total surrender of will* demanded of all true Christians, the most important mental quality needed by a ruler in God's government is WISDOM. This is the ability to take all factors of any given situation into proper consideration and then make the *right decision*. It is the most important single quality really needed in the office of President of the United States or any other high government office.

Other men may supply the technical *knowledge* of how to produce an H-bomb, but it is up to the heads of state to have the *wisdom* not to use it to blast human life off this planet!

Knowledge, of course, is merely the possession of various facts and bits of

information. *Understanding* is a tremendously important mental and spiritual gift. It involves the capacity to grasp the true *principles* and *laws* which govern success or failure in life and the true *GOALS* of life. Understanding also involves a grasp of the true origin and outcome of things — *why* we are here, *why* things are the way they are in this world, *what* is the purpose of life and *where* are we headed?

This kind of complete understanding, of course, is a gift from the Creator. But an important *measure* of true understanding is sometimes given to human leaders in this world such as Sir Winston Churchill who spoke of “the great *PURPOSE* and *DESIGN*” being worked out here below.

To be a leader in the World Tomorrow, then, you should seek most of all for *wisdom* and *understanding*, and then diligently acquire such *knowledge* as is useful and necessary in order to be a true Christian and a real help to others in this life. The Eternal God says: “*Wisdom* is the principal thing; therefore *get WISDOM*: and with all thy getting *get understanding*” (Prov. 4:7).

Learn to be *alert* and to exercise *perception* in discerning the trends and the motives in the situations around you. Learn also to see the *BIG PICTURE*. Be able to view each problem, trial or situation in relation to its relative importance on your *whole* life, the *whole world* and even the *whole universe*! Be *BIG-minded*. *Don't let little things upset or disturb your judgment*.

God instructs us: “Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus” (Phil. 2:5). Certainly even the human Jesus' mind was *BIG* — able to see far beyond the end of His nose, practiced in the exercise of *understanding*, *wisdom*, and *self-control*.

Ask *GOD* to help you exercise these qualities of the mind of Christ. *Study God's Word* to learn more about them. *Read widely* — especially the writings and examples of the truly great men of history who have had, at least in degree, these mental qualities.

At this point, however, let me remind you that the next article in this vital series will explain *in detail* the mental qualities necessary to be a king. It will

give many examples and will tell *HOW* to develop these important qualities!

This introductory article is written to give you, in advance, the *whole picture*. It should help you to see the many facets of *OVERCOMING* that are needed — and the fact that the *GOAL* of the true Christian is a very positive and a *very literal one*. And that *YOU NEED TO BE PREPARED!*

II. Glorify God in Your Body

The human body is called, in the Bible, the “temple” of God's Spirit (I Cor. 6:19).

We are made in the outward form and shape of God — though He is composed of Spirit and we are composed of rotting, decaying corruptible flesh. But the responsibility of *caring* for this physical body — preserving it intact, keeping it in well-conditioned, vibrant, vigorous health, keeping it graceful and lithe, keeping it physically *clean* and morally *pure* — this responsibility is a *VITAL* part of the basic character training required by Almighty God for all potential Kings in His soon-coming kingdom!

We moderns have been entirely too *lax* and *lazy* in caring for our bodies. Millions even in our Western world are soon going to have that lesson *BURNED* into their hearts and minds as the epidemic of heart attacks, cancer and other “modern” diseases brought on by *our way of living* takes its toll — and is suddenly *multiplied* by the prophesied *disease epidemics* that will soon be raging up and down the land!

Many of our troubles are caused by frustrated, confused, tormented minds — which in turn cause or heavily contribute to more bodily ills than most people even begin to realize. The maintenance of a dynamic, positive and cheerful outlook is *most important* in maintaining physical health.

Another keystone of health which most people “know about” but *do* practically *NOTHING* about is *proper diet*. Millions — especially in America — are going on various diets and “cures” for an overweight condition. But *very few indeed* are carefully assuring themselves that they get *enough* of the *NATURAL* health-building elements in their diet to build radiant health and guard

against sickness. And, of course, most of us need to be *far more careful* about our intake of starches, sugars, fats and greases. These items need to be cut *VERY LOW* not only to guard against obesity, but to avoid a high cholesterol content in the bloodstream leading to possible *heart attack* and also to prevent the wrecking and ruining of many a stomach!

Regular, vigorous *exercise* is another vital keystone in building and maintaining radiant health. Hundreds of fine exercise programs are easily available. It is the *WILL* to follow them which is sadly lacking.

But one who would be a leader, a *King*, must have vibrant health and energy if he is to command the whole-hearted respect and admiration of his people. He needs this to be constantly “on top” of every trial and problem — *dominating* and actively *LEADING* as a king should.

In this physical life, your health has a *tremendous* effect on the zeal and energy with which you approach even mental or spiritual problems. And the Godly *character* you develop through *DISCIPLINING* this physical body will be vital to your future as a king!

In a coming issue, we will discuss this vital success “key” in depth. Meanwhile, do your level best to apply the principles just given to “glorify God in your body.”

III. Develop the Personality of a King

The next point to develop is your *personality*. A friendly interest in and an outgoing concern for others is a tremendous asset to any potential leader. For a leader is one who *LEADS* — not one who shouts and screams or physically *forces* his ideas on others.

The outgoing concern, the courage, the dynamic enthusiasm and ringing conviction of Sir Winston Churchill for the cause of Britain and free peoples everywhere was a truly powerful factor — all by itself — in helping to prepare the way for Allied victory in the Second World War. Dozens of times, in fact, the history of entire nations has been affected and *altered* by the personality of their *LEADERS*.

“A merry heart doeth good like a

medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22). This statement in God's Word shows the powerful effect of a happy, positive frame of mind not only on one's self, but *on others!*

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly: and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). To inspire his subordinates and command their respect and loyalty, a real leader certainly will cultivate a friendly persuasive personality and GIVE of himself to others.

In preparing to become a literal KING in God's soon-coming government, learn to GIVE of your personality warmth and genuine friendliness to others!

IV. Develop the CHARACTER of a King

The development of right *character* is paramount for anyone in a position of rulership. The honesty, purity, fairness, self-discipline and LOVE exemplified in the life of a King or ruler is the strongest possible influence on his subjects to be this way themselves.

Throughout the history of ancient Israel in the Old Testament, the inspired Record shows again and again that the entire nation followed the example of its king's personal honesty, morality and willingness to follow and OBEY the Eternal God. When the king was a murderer, whoremonger or idolator, the vast majority of the people followed his derelict example. When any king yielded himself wholeheartedly to the Eternal to walk in His commandments, statutes and judgments, the entire nation was swept by this sentiment and quickly began to experience the BLESSINGS and protection of the Creator.

People do follow their leaders.

The basis of ALL true character is found in Matthew 22:35-40 in your Bible. It is Jesus Christ's answer to the question of which is the "great commandment." He said: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself."

If any national leader truly yielded himself to the will of His Creator — the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob

— his people would be blessed indeed. If such a leader would follow, *obey* and WORSHIP the true God with ALL HIS BEING, the character, accomplishments, happiness and prosperity of his nation would be absolutely and literally FANTASTIC.

Following his example, his people would become *honest, fair* to each other and completely *loyal* to their King. They would *honor* their parents, *obey* the laws of the nation — as long as these didn't conflict with the laws of God. They would *work hard six days* — producing MUCH PROSPERITY. And they would *rest* on the seventh day, worshiping the Creator God and renewing not only their physical strength but their spiritual energies and convictions. (Write for our FREE booklet *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?*) Murder would be practically *unheard of*. Divorce, broken homes and crime would soon become almost *obsolete*.

And in their rainfall, their overall weather, their crops and the entire produce of their fields and forests, lakes and streams, plus the fabulous underground wealth of their oil wells and mines, they would be BLESSED with overflowing wealth and riches.

Fantastic?

Not at all!

For this describes *literally* what is prophesied to happen in the World Tomorrow when kings and governors over nations will be leading their people in THE WAY of God! For when leaders everywhere have the character to *discipline themselves*, to *worship* and OBEY the Creator — living by ALL TEN of the Ten Commandments — then the *truly* "great society" will be established on this earth under the *living* Jesus Christ.

For an extremely helpful, readable and detailed explanation of this *basis* of all right character, write for our FREE, fully illustrated booklet, *The Ten Commandments*. And in a few months, read the "in depth" explanation of *how to develop a King's character* in this continuing series.

V. Develop Your FAMILY LIFE

If we human beings are *in training* to be literal Kings in the soon-coming

government of God, what better training could we have in guiding, protecting and, in great love, RULING OVER human beings than with our own children and families?

The fact is that each family is like a *miniature kingdom*. It should be *ruled over* — but by a father and a mother who truly LOVE each other and *work together* to set the right attitudes and patterns of behavior in their home.

The father should play the part of a strong, wise, masculine, yet protective and beneficent King. The mother is his Queen — set over the household affairs and exercising her responsibilities with love and wisdom, and in complete accord with her husband's wishes.

The children are taught, trained, nurtured and *disciplined* for THEIR GOOD. Family duties and chores are allotted to each member of the household. Family play and recreation is something to which everyone looks forward. There is order, harmony, and discipline in this miniature kingdom. There is JOY. And there is PEACE.

A beautiful description of this type of family "kingdom" is extended to the man who *obeys God*: "Thy wife shall be as a fruitful vine by the sides of thine house: thy children like olive plants round about thy table" (Ps. 128:3).

In anticipation of your ultimate GOAL, go to work and build *this area* of your life. *Understand* God's purpose in it — and be BLESSED.

VI. Grow in SERVICE and LEADERSHIP

Jesus Christ will soon return to this earth with majestic POWER to rule this earth as King of kings and Lord of lords. Tremendous trumpet blasts will accompany His return. His face will shine like the sun in full strength.

Men will *never again* talk about whether God is "dead"!

Rather, they will finally wake up to the fact that human life did not just "happen." They will stand in *awe* and FEAR of their Creator!

In person, Christ will RULE this earth at last!

But WHY does He want to rule? What is His MOTIVE?

He will do it in order to save man

from blasting himself off this planet. He will do it in order to bring about peace, happiness, and prosperity. In a word, He will do it in order to SERVE His own Creation — the human race.

In His earthly ministry, Jesus taught: "Whosoever will be great among you, let him be your minister; And whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Matt. 20:26-27). Jesus' entire motive in ruling and directing people is to *help* and SERVE them. It is NOT to "show off," exalt the self, or crush others down through human pride and vanity.

It is only to *help them, lift them up*, point them in the right direction for their *own good*.

This should become OUR MOTIVE, *always*.

In this life, then, we should cultivate the *attitude* and HABIT of SERVICE and LEADERSHIP — leading only *in order* to serve. So *think ahead*, be alert to the opportunities you may have to advance the welfare of your family, your friends, your group. Learn to concentrate your time and energies in those areas where you are just naturally able to lead — where your natural talents and abilities are greater. Be willing to take the low-est job *first* — if it affords you an opportunity to serve your fellowman. *Master* that responsibility — then greater opportunities of service and leadership will present themselves.

In the attitude of serving others, learn to lead and dominate in carrying out any of your responsibilities at work, at home, in your club or group. By friendliness, enthusiasm, confidence, preparation and DRIVE, learn to *lead others* in the right way and thus SERVE THEM.

Christian *leadership* based on SERVICE is the best possible preparation for your job as a King under Jesus Christ in the World Tomorrow!

VII. Seek and Learn to EXERCISE the POWER of God

In preparing to be a literal King in Christ's soon-coming government, awareness of an ability to *exercise* God's POWER is absolutely vital. For although we are not given anywhere near the *degree* of supernatural power in this life as we will in God's Kingdom, we

certainly need to become familiar with it, appreciate it, and learn to exercise the wisdom, patience, and self-control in exercising it that we should.

It is sad but true that many of you readers will simply not know what I "mean" by God's power. For most professing Christians today think that it is a sort of generalized "force for good," or that it is a type of so-called Pentecostal emotionalism which involves shouting and screaming, chills up and down the spine and other products of crowd psychology and mass hysteria. Or perhaps, many of you will have no clear-cut idea of what it is.

The Apostle Paul prophesied that this would be so. He warned: "This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers . . . Having a *form of godliness* but *denying* the POWER thereof: *from such turn away*" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

[Editor's Note: For a clear understanding of just exactly what God's power is, read Mr. Ted Armstrong's article beginning on page 7 of this issue.]

But *what is the true exercise* of that power?

It is, first and most important of all, the *spiritual strength* of character that enables the truly converted Christian to OVERCOME his own human nature and vanity and grow to become LIKE GOD. It is God putting *His very own nature* in us through the POWER of His Holy Spirit!

The Apostle Peter speaks of the precious promises given us, "That by these ye might be *partakers* of the DIVINE NATURE . . ." (II Pet. 1:4).

Paul describes the Divine help we receive through the Holy Spirit: "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of POWER, and of love, and of a sound mind" (II Tim. 1:7). As begotten sons of God, we receive *His very nature*. This gives us — as we yield to God and grow spiritually — the spiritual strength to increasingly MASTER the wrong ways, habits, lusts and vanities that seemed *impossible* to overcome before.

This POWER comes from *personal, direct, yielded* contact with the God of the Bible — the God of Peter and Paul

— the God of Jesus Christ. Notice the illuminating account in Mark 1:32-35. Jesus had been casting out demons and healing *every* sickness and *every* disease of those who came to Him. Then: "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he went out, and departed into a solitary place, and there PRAYED."

Jesus spent countless HOURS in communion with the Father. He walked with God, talked with God, *yielded* His will to God and OBEYED His commandments. He was God-centered — constantly seeking in all things to be an instrument in God's hands. And so the POWER of God's Holy Spirit literally *surged through Him like a torrent* and GREAT MIRACLES were performed!

That is the "key" to this facet of exercising God's power! But there is *much more* that will have to wait until the final article in this vitally important series.

Act on These Points

Remember, though, this world REALLY needs straightening out! Whether this world believes it or not, likes it or not, prepares for it or not, the Creator God is GOING to straighten things out through the direct RULE, the government of the *living* Jesus Christ and His spirit-born saints.

Then, as the world begins to cooperate, there will be *permanent peace, prosperity* and deep JOY.

Those who assist Jesus Christ in straightening out this world's staggering problems will need to be *dedicated* and BALANCED leaders. They will be those who — as zealous dedicated Christians in this life — understood and ACTED on the matter of glorifying God in the development of *mind, body, personality, character, family life, service and leadership, and in seeking and exercising the POWER of God*.

So *go to work* on these qualities. Anticipate and *study* the coming articles in this continuing series. *Prepare, now, to be a King!* □

To find out more about God's power and how you can exercise that power in your own life, be sure to request our free reprint entitled "How You Can Be Imbued With the Power of God."

The Power of Prevailing Prayer!

How effective, stirring, successful are your prayers? When you pray, does God ANSWER? Do your prayers GET RESULTS? If not, WHY not?

by William F. Dankenbring

PRAYER has been banned in the public schools of the United States since 1963 when the well-known atheist Madalyn Murray O'Hare won her suit before the Supreme Court. Because of her suit, Bible reading and prayer in the public schools have been outlawed — declared unconstitutional.

But why all the commotion, all the furor, about prayer? Is there more to prayer than most people have realized?

The truth behind the assault on prayer in the United States and the Western world — if it were known — would astonish the world. Believe it or not, the archenemy of prayer is not any particular out-spoken atheist or group of men, but a sinister, diabolical spiritual being who seeks the destruction of mankind!

That nefarious being is Satan the devil. Satan especially *hates* the prayers of God's people for one simple reason: he knows what they can accomplish! He knows the potential POWER of prayer!

Official BAN on Prayer

Centuries ago, Satan inspired another nation to officially ban prayer. Any peti-

tion of any god, even the true God, was denied for a period of thirty days. Anybody who violated the civil regulation forfeited his life!

You can read about this intriguing historical parallel to our day in the book of Daniel. The kingdom of Persia passed a law which outlawed prayer for thirty days (Dan. 6:7). Those who broke the law were condemned to be cast alive into a pit of voracious, ravenous lions!

Daniel, however, was a praying man. He did not falter. He did not reason to himself, "It's only for 30 days. Then I can pray once again, as I used to do." He made no excuses.

Even though praying endangered his life, we read: "Now when Daniel knew that the writing was signed, he went into his house; and his windows being open in his chamber toward Jerusalem, he kneeled upon his knees three times a day, and PRAYED, and gave thanks before his God, as he did aforetime" (Dan. 6:10).

Because of his fidelity to God, Daniel was hailed brusquely into court, tried and condemned, and his sentence was

immediately carried out. He was thrown to the lions (verse 16). Prayer to God could have cost him his life! But God was with Daniel and delivered him from his enemies. The hungry, lean, gaunt lions did not touch him (verses 20-22). He wasn't hurt in the least (verse 23).

Prayer obviously meant a great deal to Daniel. How much does it mean to YOU? Do you pray regularly and earnestly to your heavenly Father? Do you value prayer — contact with the God, the One who MADE you — as being more important than your life itself?

Daniel did. And his life reveals the POWER, the effectiveness, of constant, diligent prayer! He was a man greatly beloved in God's sight (Dan. 10:11, 19). An angel of God told him: "Fear not, O Daniel! for ever since you applied your mind to gain understanding, and to humble yourself before your God, *your prayers have been heard...*" (verse 12, Goodspeed translation). God answered Daniel's prayers, gave him special wisdom, visions, and revelations of prophecy. He used Daniel

in a great way in His Work during that time!

The truth is, those who do not pray are CUT OFF FROM GOD — from the Source of all spiritual POWER in the universe!

Those who scoff at the concept of prayer have overlooked something. They have bypassed a HIDDEN DIMENSION of reality which is far more *real* than the physical earth itself! They are in deep ignorance of the existence of the Creator God who *does* answer prayer!

Have you established contact with that supreme God through prayer? Do you pray to Him daily? Do you bring the problems and affairs of your own life before His throne of grace and mercy?

Is prayer something which often seems like a waste of time, certainly nothing to get "carried away" about?

How often do YOU pray? How seriously do you regard prayerful contact with the Almighty God who fashioned the universe and who gives you every breath of air you breathe?

How important is prayer to you, *personally*?

The DYNAMISM of Prayer

Few people realize in our godless world today that even in the atomic nuclear age there is a tremendous POWER available to mankind which has seldom been tapped — *the power of prayer!*

Prayer — when rightly used — packs explosive power. It is spiritual dynamite! It gets things done; it accomplishes MIRACLES; it is the driving thrust behind the Work of the living God; it provides the irresistible ENERGY which motivates, moves, and inspires articles in TOMORROW'S WORLD, and which inspires the power-packed sermons of God's true ministers as they preach the Gospel to the world!

Prayer is a mighty source of spiritual dynamism, because real, efficacious prayer puts you right in contact with the supreme Power of the whole UNIVERSE — it brings you right before the glorious, resplendent, dazzling Throne of the great Creator GOD!

Have you ever thought about prayer in that light before? If not, maybe it's

time you did! Notice, from the Bible, just a few of the accomplishments of real prayer.

The Bible is full of examples of effective prayer, examples which were written down and recorded for OUR benefit, today (see Rom. 15:4).

For instance, Moses was a humble man — a man who didn't think he had the ability to lead Israel out of Egypt, a man who didn't feel he was particularly eloquent (Num. 12:3; Ex. 4:10). Perhaps he stammered or stuttered when he spoke.

Nevertheless, when Moses prayed, God took notice. Even when Israel fell into depravity and corruption and God was angry with them; and determined to destroy the whole nation, Moses fell on his face and interceded for Israel — and God still listened! Because of the one prayer of this one man, God changed His mind, and the whole course of the future of the world was CHANGED! (See Ex. 32:7-14.)

Does that example show you the unconquerable power of heartfelt prayer?

Elijah was a human being with similar drives to most people (James 5:17). When Jezebel sought Elijah's life, he fled into the wilderness (I Kings 19:1-4), very discouraged. He was spiritually and physically exhausted. Yet this was the man God listened to when he prayed that there would be no rain on the earth for three years (I Kings 17:1). This was the man who made an altar, put wood under a bullock, and poured four barrels of *water* over it, drenching it three times in that manner, and who then prayed to God:

"Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, let it be known this day that thou art God in Israel, and that I am thy servant, and that I have done all these things at thy word. *Hear me, O Lord, bear me*, that this people may know that thou art the LORD God, and that thou hast turned their heart back again" (I Kings 18:36-37).

How effective was this short, 20-second prayer?

"Then the FIRE of the LORD fell, and consumed the burnt sacrifice, and the wood, and the stones, and the dust, and licked up the water that was in the trench" (verse 38).

There is a convincing testimony of the DYNAMIC POWER of earnest prayer!

Other Examples of Prayer

Or take the example of Hannah, the wife of Elkanah, a Levite. She was barren and had no children (I Sam. 1:5). As any woman knows who desires children but hasn't been able to have them, this is a particularly moving trial. It is even more of a trial if relatives make fun of you, scoff, and jeer at you — as happened in Hannah's case (verses 6-7).

We read that Hannah was "in bitterness of soul, and PRAYED unto the LORD, and *wept sore*" (verse 10). This was not a proverbial "sleepy-time prayer." She was greatly moved emotionally. She continued praying earnestly and persistently, though not audibly. In verse 13, "Now Hannah, she spake *in her heart*; only HER LIPS MOVED, but her voice was not heard. . . ."

The High Priest Eli saw her lips moving and assumed she was drunk and was about to reproach her for it. But Hannah answered, "No, my lord, I am a woman of a sorrowful spirit: I have drunk neither wine nor strong drink, but have *poured out my soul before the LORD*" (verse 15).

Hannah was not some sort of "privileged person." In fact, there is "NO RESPECT OF PERSONS with God" (Rom. 2:11). She was more or less just like any other woman, not a "spiritual giant" as such. But she was sincere; she prayed from her heart; she poured out her whole being into her prayer — AND SHE WAS HEARD! (Verses 19-20.)

Take one further example of effective prayer — prayer that really accomplishes things! In Acts, the fourth chapter, we read that the early New Testament Church of God assembled together and lifted up their voice to God in prayer (Acts 4:23-24). They recounted before the God who made heaven and earth the persecutions which they were experiencing, and concluded, "And now, Lord, behold their threatenings; and grant unto thy servants, that with all BOLDNESS they may speak thy word, by stretching forth thine hand to *heal*; and that *signs and wonders* may be done by the name of thy holy servant Jesus" (verses 29-30).

What was the result of this prayer?

"And when they had prayed, the *place was SHAKEN where they were assembled* together; and they were all FILLED with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with BOLDNESS" (verse 31).

An earthquake occurred, jarring the building in which they were gathered — God *moved the earth* as a sign He was answering their prayer!

We could go on and on, telling of Hezekiah's prayer, when the sun went back ten degrees (II Kings 20); or the prayer of Joshua, when the sun and moon stood still in the sky (Joshua 10:12-13); the prayer of Samuel when the Philistine army was supernaturally struck down (I Sam. 7:9-10); the prayers of King Jehoshaphat (II Chron. 20:12) and even the wicked King Manasseh who humbled himself and besought God while in captivity, and God heard him and restored him to his throne in Jerusalem (II Chron. 33:11-13).

The point is simply this — God *ANSWERS PRAYER!*

But the question is this: Does God answer YOUR prayers? If not, there has to be a reason! God does not "play favorites." But there are certain KEYS to powerful, effective, answered prayer. Perhaps these keys can best be summarized by this question:

Do You Put Your HEART Into Your Prayers?

In every example of answered prayer in the Bible, it is self-evident that those who prayed really PUT THEIR HEARTS into their prayers! They did not pray halfheartedly, nonchalantly, disinterestedly, languidly, or lethargically.

Even Christ, who set us an example by the way He lived and prayed, prayed with His whole being. On at least one occasion He "continued all night in prayer to God" (Luke 6:12). Another time He rose up "a great while before day... and departed into a solitary place, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35). One time He prayed so earnestly that "His sweat was as it were great drops of blood falling down to the ground" (Luke 22:44).

Christ's prayers were all answered! Why? Here's the answer: "Who in the days of his flesh, when he had offered

up prayers and supplications *with strong crying and TEARS* unto him that was able to save him from death, AND WAS HEARD in that he *feared*" (Heb. 5:7).

Christ "emptied Himself" in prayer. He poured out His whole being in prayer. He prayed with strong crying and tears! How often do *you* pray like that?

Christ pulled out all the stops. He didn't hang back. He didn't pray lethargically, as so many do, today. He prayed INTENSELY. He prayed BOLDLY!

How earnest — how intense — how bold — are your prayers?

God rebukes His people, modern Israel, saying, "Though it was I who re-deemed them, they have lied to me; *they never put their heart into their prayers*" (Hosea 7:14, Moffatt translation).

The Apostle Paul wrote of a Christian in his day, "Epaphras, who is one of you, a servant of Christ, saluteth you, *always labouring FERVENTLY for you in prayers*, that ye may stand perfect and complete in all the will of God. For I bear him record, that he hath a GREAT ZEAL for you..." (Col. 4:12-13).

Just as a huge ladle of molten steel in a steel plant contains metal that *glows* brilliantly from the HEAT that has been applied to it, so your prayers should be filled with energy, with your whole being poured into them!

Those kind of prayers are the kind that get RESULTS!

Those kind of prayers God will ANSWER!

Says the Apostle James, "The effectual *FERVENT* prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

If that's the way *you* pray, then your prayers, too, will work MIRACLES, in your own life, and for the Work of God!

PREVAIL in Prayer!

Needless to say, if you want to have your prayers answered, you must BELIEVE there is a God, and that His Word is true (Heb. 11:6). You must have FAITH in His promises (Matt. 9:29). And you must OBEY Him, and keep His Commandments, to the best of your ability (I John 3:22). Also, there are times when you must persevere in

prayer, and never give up (Luke 18:1) — never grow weary, fainthearted, or quit.

But even if we do these things, we must pray FERVENTLY, with feeling, emotion, intensity, and zeal. Effective prayers are not merely mental gymnastics or intellectual exercise. They are not necessarily replete with detailed, logical arguments. *But they are heartfelt, and fervent!*

When Jacob wrestled with the One who became Christ, he fought and strained every muscle of his body until he prevailed (Gen. 32:24-28). He endured and wrestled until he PREVAILED!

To prevail means "to overcome, to succeed, to win the victory, to conquer, to win the fight." An army that prevails over an enemy is VICTORIOUS. A nation that prevails in war emerges the victor. In a race, a 100-yard-dash man who prevails is the one who wins!

Even so, if you are going to PREVAIL IN PRAYER, and have your prayers answered, and get RESULTS, then remember the faithful example of stalwart Daniel; remember the tenacity of Jacob; remember the fervor of Elijah; remember the humility and intensity of Moses; remember the brokenhearted, wholehearted prayer of Hannah — and above all, remember the fervency of the prayers of Jesus Christ!

The Apostle Paul wrote: "Seeing then that we have a great high priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was *in all points tempted like as we are*, yet without sin. Let us therefore come BOLDLY unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need" (Heb. 4:14-16).

How "bold" are you in prayer to God? How *fervent*?

Your prayers can work miracles, accomplish great good, influence kings and presidents in favor of God's Work, open doors for the Gospel to be preached to new areas, help open the hearts of those being called by God, help raise up the sick and afflicted. Your prayers can make a *real difference*.

Will they? □

THANKSGIVING DAY— ITS TRUE MEANING

What should Thanksgiving Day mean to Americans — and especially to Christians? What are the consequences of ingratitude? This article explains.

by Dennis G. Luker

IF YOU are an average American, you will enjoy a delicious turkey dinner with all the trimmings on Thanksgiving Day. You will enjoy this fabulous banquet in a warm and comfortable home equipped with many modern conveniences. You may watch a football game on television — possibly in full color.

If you are an average American, you are tremendously blessed! But are you thankful? Or do you take your blessings for granted and assume you will always have them?

The First Thanksgiving

The first “Thanksgiving Day” originated with the festival held by

Plymouth Colony in December 1621, in gratitude for a successful harvest. The Pilgrims from England had landed at Plymouth Rock in December 1620 and had endured a hard year. On that first “Thanksgiving Day” they thanked God they were still alive and had food to eat. The Pilgrims recognized *God* as the *source* of their blessings. They held that first “Thanksgiving Day” in gratitude and praise *to God*. Many Americans have forgotten this. Many probably

Traditional American Thanksgiving dinner with friends and relatives. A day to consider and express gratitude for divine blessings.

don't even *think* of God on Thanksgiving Day much less actually *pray* to Him and give *thanks*.

For too many Americans, Thanksgiving Day has become just another holiday on which friends and family come together to glut themselves with *too much* food and drink. God is left out of the picture. He is not acknowledged as the source of all blessings — yet, the Bible, God's inspired Word, says, “Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of lights, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (James 1:17). Christ Himself said, speaking of God the Father, “He makes his sun to rise on the evil and on

Ambassador College Photo



the good, and sends rain on the just and the unjust" (Matt. 5:45). Even though many may not *really* believe it, God is the source of their life and every good thing they enjoy. God blesses even the wicked with the basic necessities of life — hoping that they will repent someday of their evil ways!

Presidential Proclamations

Thanksgiving Day has been preserved and passed on to us by Presidents who believed in God and the Bible as the source of national greatness and integrity. George Washington in 1789 issued the first presidential thanksgiving proclamation in honor of the new Constitution. He said, "It is impossible to rightly govern the world without God and the Bible." How many Americans really believe this and give God thanks for the Bible? Most Americans don't even read the Bible! They certainly don't acknowledge it as God's inspired Word by which Presidents should rule nations! Yet God's Word says to the leaders of the nations, "And it shall be, when he sitteth upon the throne of his kingdom, that he shall write him a copy of this law in a book out of that which is before the priests the Levites: And it shall be with him, and he shall read therein all the days of his life: that he may learn to fear the LORD his God, to keep all the words of this law and these statutes, to do them" (Deut. 17:18-19). God says the king (or President) of a nation should study the laws of the Bible to be able to *properly* and wisely rule.

Abraham Lincoln believed this! He said, "I believe the Bible is the best gift God has ever given to man. All the good from the Savior of the world is communicated to us through this book."

On October 3, 1863, by Presidential Proclamation, Abraham Lincoln appointed the last Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day for the United States. Each succeeding president annually followed his example until December 1941 when Congress by joint resolution, approved by the President, officially set the fourth Thursday of November as Thanksgiving Day, a national public holiday.

Have Americans Forgotten God?

President Lincoln did another very remarkable, and in this case, most unusual, thing in 1863. On April 30 he proclaimed a national day of fasting and prayer! President Lincoln saw America becoming vain and cocky because of rapid success and prosperity. He saw Americans *forgetting* that God gave us this land and every national blessing! He proclaimed this truth and warning to America, "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to owe their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations only are blessed whose God is the Lord. . . . We have been the recipients of the choicest blessings of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power as no other nation ever has grown; BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD! We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that all these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

Never has that message been more applicable than to America today! Abraham Lincoln called upon all Americans to confess the great sin of ingratitude and selfishness. He exhorted the nation to repent and turn to God! Undoubtedly, God used Abraham Lincoln to save our nation at that time.

But we as a nation today are in serious trouble! Again, we have *forgot-ten* God and He is beginning to withdraw His blessings from us! Notice this dire *warning* from God, "Beware that thou forget not the LORD thy God, in not keeping his commandments, and his judgments, and his statutes, which I command thee this day: Lest *when thou hast eaten and art full*, and hast built goodly houses, and dwelt therein; And when thy herds and thy flocks multiply, and thy silver and thy gold is multiplied, and all that thou hast is multiplied. . . . And thou say in thine heart, *My power and the might of mine*

hand hath gotten me this wealth. But thou shalt remember the Lord thy God: for it is *he* that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day. And it shall be, if thou do at all forget the Lord thy God, and walk after other gods, and serve them, and worship them, I testify against you this day that ye shall surely perish" (Deut. 8:11-13, 17-19).

God spoke this prophecy to ancient Israel, but it applies today to modern America!

Curses Promised for Disobedience

God says to America (or *any* nation), "But it shall come to pass, if thou wilt not hearken unto the voice of the Lord thy God, to observe to do all his commandments and his statutes which I command thee this day; that all these curses shall come upon thee, and overtake thee: Cursed shalt thou be in the city, and cursed shalt thou be in the field, cursed shall be thy basket and thy store. Cursed shall be the fruit of thy body, and the fruit of thy land, the increase of thy kine, and the flocks of thy sheep. Cursed shalt thou be when thou comest in, and cursed shalt thou be when thou goest out. The Lord shall send upon thee cursing, vexation, and rebuke, in all that thou settest thine hand unto for to do, until thou be destroyed, and until thou perish quickly; because of the wickedness of thy doings, whereby thou hast forsaken me" (Deut. 28:15-20). Unless we repent of our disobedience and ingratitude, God is going to curse us until we are destroyed! That may be shocking and incredulous to some of you. But, it is going to happen — unless we repent as a nation!

Will you as an individual repent of disobedience to God's laws? Will you repent of ingratitude for the many blessings God has given you? God promises protection if you do (Psalm 91:7-10).

True Christians have repented of sin (breaking God's Commandments — I John 3:4). True Christians can keep Thanksgiving Day and understand its true meaning — that *every day* is a day to give thanks to God! □

How Did Christ Magnify the Law?

OVER seven hundred years prior to Christ's earthly ministry, the ancient Prophet Isaiah, inspired of God, prophesied that the ministry of Jesus Christ was destined to "*magnify the law and make it honorable*" (Isa. 42:21).

According to *Webster's Collegiate Dictionary*, magnify is defined as: "extol, laud, cause to be held in greater esteem or respect; increase in significance; intensify."

Fitting that definition into the prophetic statement made by Isaiah, the verse would read: "... He will extol, laud, cause to be held in greater esteem, increase in significance, intensify the Law..." The Hebrew word literally means "make great" or "cause to be great."

Christ Himself verified and confirmed that this indeed was His purpose. Read it for yourself in Matthew 5:17. He said, "Think *not* that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am *not* come to destroy, but to *fulfill*." The Greek scholars acknowledge that the word here translated "fulfill" means not only to *do* or *perform*, but to "fill to the full." Actually, the Greek word translated "fulfill" (*πληρῶ πλεροῦ*) is an Indo-European cognate of the English words "full" and "plus." In this context, it has the meaning "to bring to full expression," i.e., to bring out its fullest significance and meaning.

Some might confuse the word "fulfill" in verse 17 with the same word in verse 18. However, even though the translators of the King James Version used the same English word "fulfill" in both cases, the original text actually has two entirely DIFFERENT words. The word in verse 18 is the infinitive of *γίνομαι ginomai*, which means "to take place" or "to come to pass" in this passage.

So the word "fulfill" in verse 17 means *to develop to full potentialities*, and could easily be substituted by the word "magnify." So contrary to popular

belief, He came not to destroy, but to fulfill or MAGNIFY the very Law that *He Himself wrote* on two tables of stone at Mount Sinai over fourteen centuries previously. As any honest scientist knows, to magnify does not mean to destroy, but to *show forth* and enlarge an object or thing to the fullest possible extent. Jesus perfectly FULFILLED, *lived by* and MAGNIFIED God's Law to show us its fullest spiritual application and to *set us an example* that we should *follow* in His steps (I Peter 2:21).

Does Love Nullify the Law?

But what about love? Perhaps many of you have thought love does away with the Commandments.

The Apostle John, who wrote so much about love, surely would be the one to know. In I John 4:8, John wrote, "He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." Again in verse 16, he said, "And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love; and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him."

Obviously then, the Apostle John places a great deal of importance on love. But he didn't say, nor does any other inspired scripture, that love put away, superseded or destroyed the Law. As a matter of fact, the very apostle who talked so much of love, also said, "For *this is* the love of God, that we *keep* his commandments..." (I John 5:3), and paraphrased Jesus Christ's saying, "If ye love me, keep my commandments" (John 14:15).

Love then, far from superseding and doing away with the Law — the Ten Commandments — is the very heart and essence of the Law. It is the *spirit* of the Law. Love is the very tool Christ used to intensify, magnify, and fulfill His Law (Romans 13:10).

The Spirit of the Law

In Old Testament times God only required a physical, mechanical and

visible obedience. In other words, obedience in the *letter*. In New Testament times, God has required much *more*. He wants us to *follow Him* to the spiritual limits of His Law. That's what Christ's ministry was to teach and demonstrate.

To be sure we understood this new, magnified style of lawkeeping, Jesus Christ gave some vivid examples. In Matthew 5:21, He said, "Ye have heard that it was said *by them of old time* [Old Testament times], Thou shalt not kill; and whosoever shall kill shall be in danger of the judgment: *But I say unto you* [here comes the new, magnified application], That whosoever is angry with his brother without a cause shall be in danger of the judgment: and whosoever shall say to his brother, Raca [vain fellow], shall be in danger of the council: but whosoever shall say, Thou fool, shall be in danger of hell fire." Christ said — magnifying the Law in its spiritual intent — that if you even hate your brother you are a *murderer!* Does that sound like Christ was doing away with the Law? And John — the "apostle of love" — said the same thing! (I John 3:15.) Whoever hates his brother is guilty of murder.

In verses 27 and 28 of the same chapter (Matt. 5), Christ said, "Ye have heard that it was said by them of old time, Thou shalt not commit adultery: But I say unto you [here again comes the magnified approach], That whosoever *looketh* on a woman *to lust* after her hath committed adultery with her already in his heart."

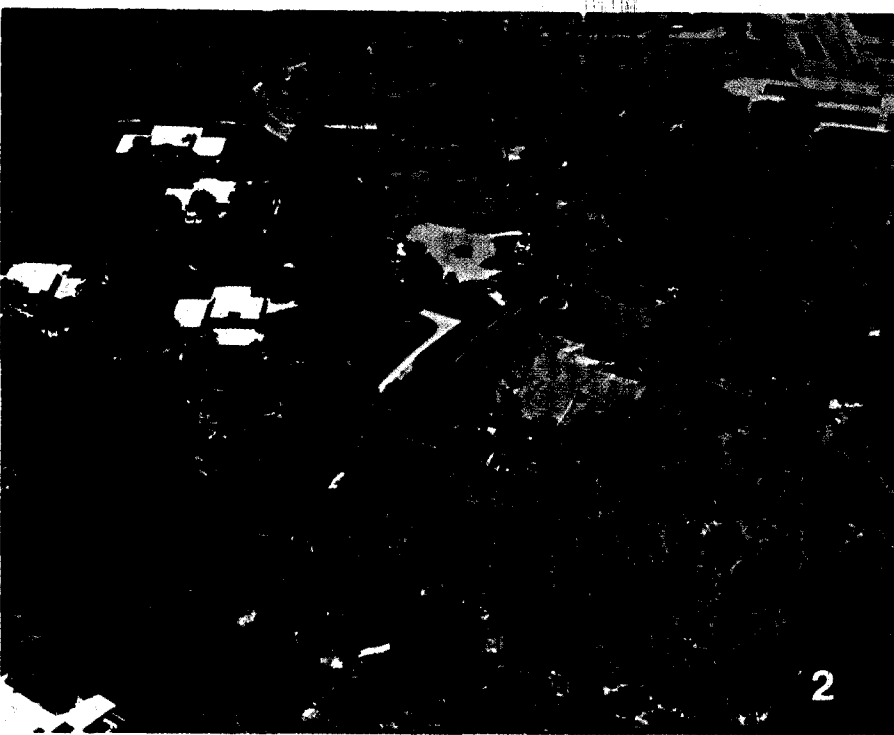
Rather than being done away with, we find the influence of the Law *extended* to include our *intent, thoughts and attitudes!* God's Commandments are magnified in scope and His love is expressed through keeping them *in their spirit* and intent as well as the letter.

And so we see the ancient prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled and the Law indeed magnified and made honorable!



1. Aerial view of new campus office building.
2. Looking down on Roy Hammer Library.
3. Students enjoy facilities on Lake Loma.
4. and 5. "Horsing around" at Freshman Picnic.

Ambassador College Photos

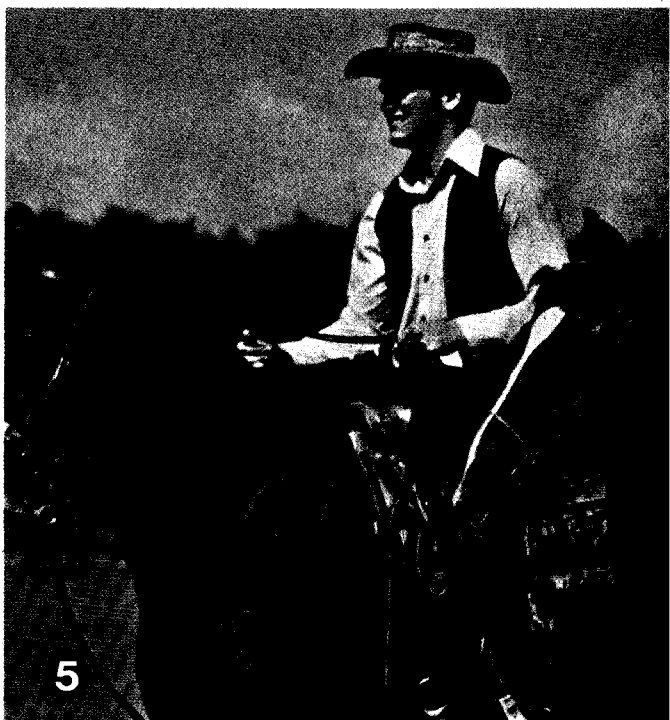
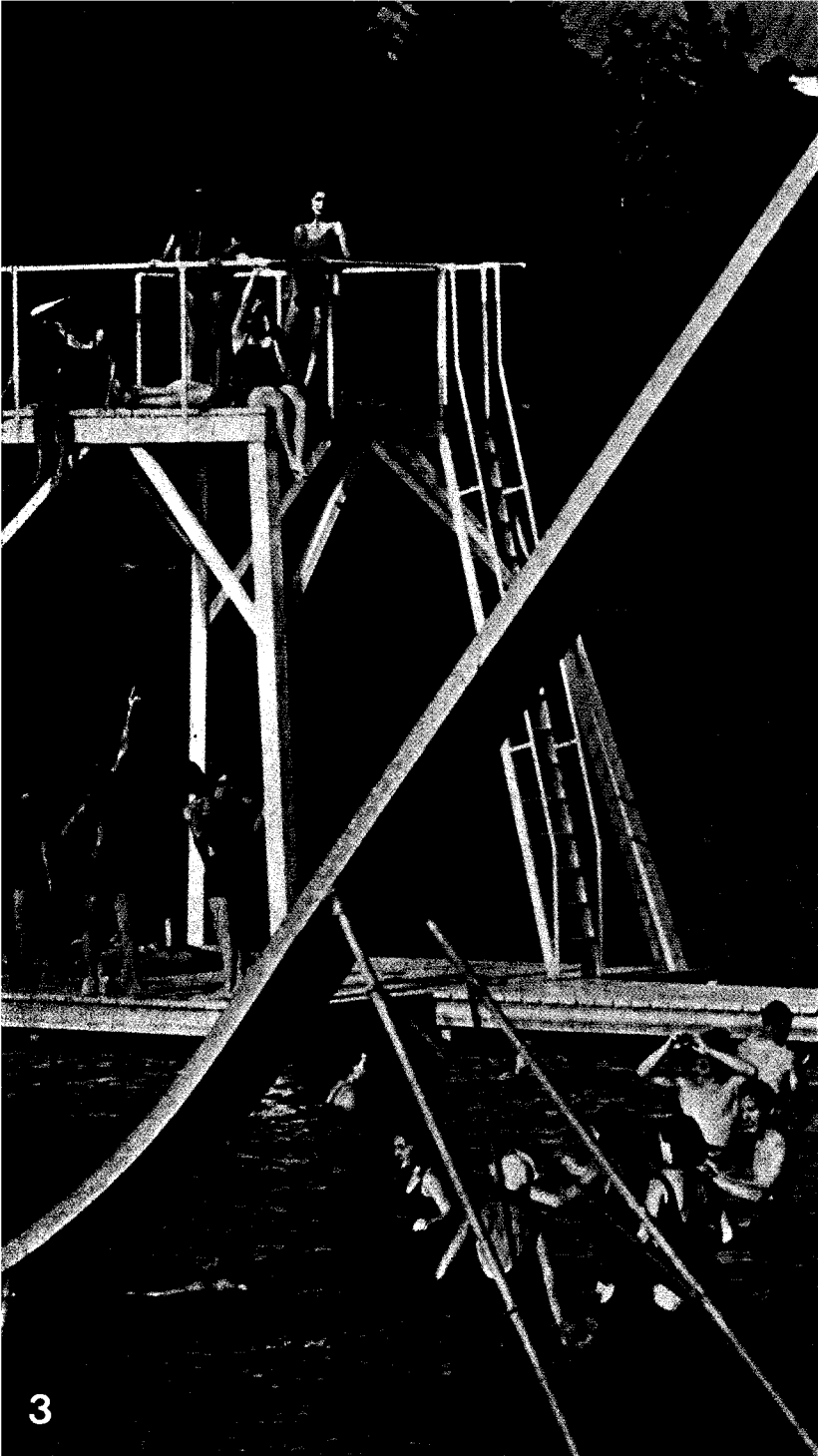


Billions of dollars are spent every year in trying to solve the world's giant urban and suburban problems. Large numbers of people living in close proximity have to face the always weighty, seemingly insoluble problems of roads, waste disposal, food production, environmental beautification. Read here how Ambassador College is learning to deal with these issues today.

A COMMUNITY OF THE FUTURE-

Ambassador College, Big Sandy, Texas

IF MAN is to "make it" in his environment, solutions to metropolitan and community living must be found. Ambassador College, Big Sandy, has the opportunity to research many such problems in our "capsule society" in East Texas. We are facing head-on many of the problems of people living together — and most important, we're finding the answers.



A community must have many things — its own “public works” department, a sewage and garbage disposal system and a water purification plant. In addition, it must provide housing, employment, food and many other services. It must, of course, have its own fire department and other related departments. At Ambassador College, Big Sandy, we are developing all these functions — and many more.

Establishing and maintaining a community even on a small scale is a big job. At the College, we have the marvelous opportunity of planning for fu-

ture responsibilities by what we are doing on campus today.

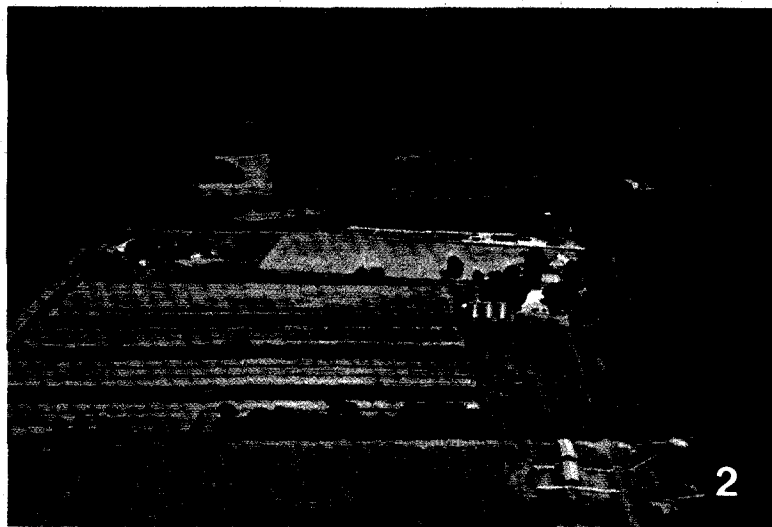
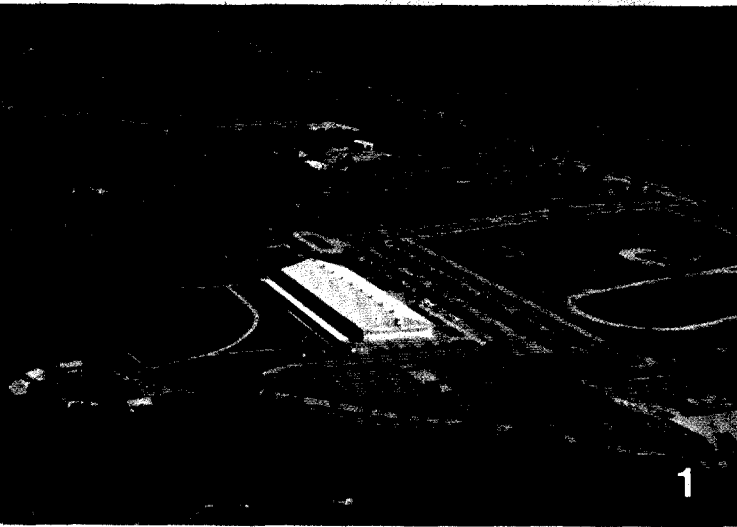
The Campus Food Supply

Agriculture and food production lie at the “grass roots” of every community. The College is approaching the task of food production in a number of ways.

Much of the 4,500-acre campus is utilized by the Agricultural Research Department, and part of its responsibility is to produce foodstuffs for the College kitchen. “The ranch,” as it is sometimes called, maintains a herd of cows and 200 feeder calves. Other cattle

purchases are made as special beef needs arise. After the cattle are fattened in our own feed lots, they are trucked a short 12 miles to a College-operated meat processing plant near White Oak, Texas.

There the cattle are slaughtered each week by College employees who also process and pack the meat. The College kitchen utilizes much of the beef produced. Some is shipped to the Pasadena campus and the remainder of the beef is marketed through the college commissary or purchased by faculty and staff members. Plans are presently being developed which could easily double



Big Sandy's beef production within the next year.

Along with the beef herd, the ranch maintains a herd of 75 Brown Swiss dairy cattle. The College's own dairy with its ultramodern milking equipment is able to supply all the milk needs and a portion of the cream and butter needs for the College kitchen and the College faculty. Future plans call for the dairy to provide more dairy products, such as butter, cheese and ice cream for on-campus use.

The ranch also raises chickens in order to furnish fresh eggs and poultry

meat for the College menu. Garden-fresh vegetables grown on campus are made available to the College kitchen in season. There are, as one might expect, a number of food items that can't be produced on the grounds and must be purchased from outside vendors.

Of course, Ambassador College commodities are not available to the general public due to the limited capacity of our facilities.

A Water Supply

A good water supply is an indispensable part of every community. Man

uses water for everything from bathing his children to watering his flowers. He drinks it, cooks with it, plays in it and uses it to carry off his wastes. Without water, man could not live.

With so many of the world's water sources polluted, cities consider themselves fortunate to have a clean and potable water supply. In most cities, large amounts of chlorine must be added to kill the "bugs." Still other chemicals must be added to neutralize the effect of industrial pollution. Most large cities must build massive water-treatment plants to treat their fouled water.



Ambassador College Photos

1. Field House and surrounding landscape.
2. Ambassador's Experimental Farm program.
3. Rodeo-like activities at Freshman Picnic.
4. A sandy burial at student picnic.
5. Another shot of the Big Sandy Field House.
6. Texas sunsets are a rich benefit of the Big Sandy Campus.

On the Big Sandy campus, all the water needs are handled through our water purification plant. Because the campus water source is not befouled with sewage and industrial waste, only minimum "treatment" is required to meet state water board quality standards.

The water comes to the treatment plant from Lake Loma, the 47-acre lake which is on campus. Water is pumped from Lake Loma to the water plant and into a large metal tank where alum (a chemical which causes grains of dirt, pieces of bark and other solid impurities to form a gelatinous precipitant) is

added. Lime is carefully added to neutralize either the salinity or alkalinity of the water.

The water, now basically devoid of solid impurities, then flows to two smaller tanks where it is filtered through six layers of sand and gravel. Then one part of chlorine per million parts of water is injected — a dose harmless to humans but deadly to the bacteria. The end product is quality water that is rated "soft" by State water inspectors.

One giant "help" in the water picture which needs to be pointed out is that

Lake Loma's watershed is relatively unpolluted. No poisons are used on College-controlled lands. As a result, the lake water is very pure to begin with. Also, the Lake Loma reservoir is periodically recharged with water pumped into it from nearby Big Sandy Creek — through which flows relatively clean water, year-round.

Sewage Treatment and Waste Disposal

As we all know, where there are people, there is waste. How to properly dispose of wastes without wreaking havoc on the environment is a problem faced by all cities. In our small community, we initiated a simple, but highly efficient means of handling sewage. All campus effluent flows through sewer lines to the campus sewage treatment area, where it begins the process of decomposition. The solid material (which represents only one percent of the sewage) breaks down under the action of natural bacteria. The processed waste is then allowed to dry and is used as a fertilizer on the ranch's pasture land. The liquid portion is pumped into a shallow aerobic pond. Here the waste is purified through bacterial action and sunlight. From the oxidation pond, it is pumped as needed through irrigation lines to campus hay pastures to serve as a liquid fertilizer. None of the effluent goes into area streams, nor is it used to fertilize food crops. Even phosphates are handled in stride. Since they are dumped back on the soil, rather than into streams, they serve to enrich the land instead of polluting the rivers and streams.

What about garbage?

We are currently experimenting with a composting machine — called a digester — to turn normally unwanted garbage into a resource without polluting the environment with open dumps or incinerators. Perhaps we will publish more about that in a future issue.

The disposal of waste which is such a problem for many cities is being handled efficiently by Ambassador College without harm to our delicate environment.

Buildings and Grounds

One of the most vital departments on the Ambassador College, Big Sandy

campus is the Buildings & Grounds Department — similar to a city's "public works" department.

If a city is to function, it must have gas, electricity and water. These utilities take miles of pipe, cable, conduit and sewer lines which in turn demand miles of ditches. Installing and maintaining these utilities is just part of the many responsibilities handled by our "B & G" Department.

Construction is another important phase of building a community. The college employs skilled carpenters, painters, plumbers, electricians, masons and heavy equipment operators. These men, with lots of student help, refurbish present facilities and build new ones. College crews have built our dairy (said by many visiting dairymen to be one of the finest around), a large office building, and numerous smaller campus facilities.

After the buildings are constructed, roads and parking lots must be blacktopped. These responsibilities also fall to the lot of our crews. The grounds around the newly constructed buildings are landscaped. Soil must be brought in, the ground contoured and leveled. Lawns must be seeded or sodded. Shrubs must be placed and rockwork completed. Some campus beautification projects have even called for streams and waterfalls. These have all been created, designed and constructed by Ambassador personnel.

After the projects and buildings are finished, then comes the maintenance of both buildings and grounds. Floors must be kept clean, carpets vacuumed, furniture dusted, trash emptied and light bulbs replaced. Lawns must be mowed, flowers planted, bushes trimmed and plants watered. Again, Buildings and Grounds comes to the rescue.

Planning for the future is yet another aspect of this diversified department. The engineering and drafting workers draw up plans for buildings and landscape projects so when time, money and manpower are available, more development can take place.

In short, the Buildings & Grounds Department is responsible for working with the campus environment, maintaining and beautifying what we have been given. No society can be truly

happy and effective without such a program.

Also, in case of fire, the campus owns two fire trucks as well as two water trucks that can be used as pumpers in a real emergency. The volunteer fire department, made up of College employees, is on 24-hour call. Students are also given instruction in using campus fire extinguishing equipment. Protecting the campus is a job everyone participates in.

Recreation

It's not all work and no play at Ambassador College. A great variety of recreational facilities are available. Lake Loma provides swimming, canoeing, water-skiing and fishing as well as the opportunity to "catch a few rays" on the beach.

There is a nine-hole golf course for faculty and student use. Horseback riding, tennis and a variety of sports are taught. The beauty and expanse of the campus also provides opportunities for other recreational activities for the students: hiking, camping, and picnicking.

Total Education

Another responsibility of any community, and perhaps the most important, is to enrich the lives of the members of that community through education. The Ambassador College motto is "Recapture True Values" — supply the *missing dimension* in education. (More information about this unusual program is provided in our FREE brochure *This Is Ambassador College*. Write for your copy.)

Primary education takes place in the classroom. However, classroom teaching is enhanced and supplemented by student jobs on campus where students are able to learn while they work.

The most important facet of Ambassador education is the teaching in spiritual values — teaching HOW to live, as mentioned last month.

We strive to educate the whole man. And on campus we are striving to develop the entire concept of "community living and planning" — the RIGHT way. We hope that through the lessons we've learned and experience we've gained, that we can help solve the problems of cities in the World Tomorrow. □

The Man Who Couldn't

Afford to Tithe

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT WAS late in 1933 — the very depth of the great depression. Ed Smith was a well-driller by profession, but nobody seemed able to afford to have wells drilled.

Ed and his wife, Emma, attended services I was then holding in a one-room country schoolhouse twelve miles west of Eugene, Oregon. Ed made no profession of Christianity until later. But he attended services, and went up and down the countryside discussing Bible doctrines with his professing Christian neighbors.

"You've got to pay tithes and obey God," he insisted. "The Bible says so. It's PLAIN!"

One of his neighbors became irritated.

"Look here, Ed," the neighbor exploded, "why do you come around here trying to talk me into these things, when you don't obey the Bible or pay tithes yourself?"

"Because," came Ed's quick and ready answer, "I don't profess to be a Christian, and you do. Besides," he added, "I can't afford to tithe, anyway."

Thousands Like Him

There are thousands who, like Ed Smith, reason in their own minds that they can't afford to tithe, even though, like Ed Smith, they realize the Bible commands it.

I heard about the above conversation, and preached a sermon on the question

of whether the *unconverted* should obey the Ten Commandments and pay tithes, or whether, as Ed had reasoned, these things were only for Christians. I pointed out that God's Law was put in motion for *man's good* — it is THE WAY of life that brings peace, happiness, prosperity; the full, abundant, interesting life; *success, joy here and now*, as well as eternal life through Christ for the saved.

I showed that it PAYS, and is the only sensible way of life, entirely apart from the matter of salvation — and that, even if one is finally lost, he who sins little shall be punished with *few stripes*, but he who sins much with *many stripes* (Luke 12:47-48). I pointed out God's promises to *prosper* the tithe-payer, and that this is a definite LAW God has set in motion, which operates inexorably and automatically on the just and the unjust alike.

Ed began to obey the Bible. At the very next service — we were holding services at this little schoolhouse three times a week, and three other nights a week in a hall in downtown Eugene at the time — Mrs. Smith smilingly handed me a one-dollar bill.

"That's Ed's first tithe," she said triumphantly. "We are now down to \$10, and Ed decided to start tithing with what we have on hand."

The very next service she came to me with another happy smile.

"Here's a five-dollar bill," she said. "The very next day after Ed gave God's Work a tenth of all he had, a customer who had owed him \$50 for a year came and paid up. So here's the tithe of that \$50. After paying the total \$6 tithe, we now have \$54 on hand instead of the \$10 we had the other day."

It was beginning to *pay!* But only *beginning!* By the next service, as I re-

member it, Ed had received his first order in one or two years to drill a new well, for which he received cash payment. Before he finished that job, another was contracted. Soon he had three or four jobs coming in at once, and was forced to begin employing men to work for him.

Ed Smith was only one of *many* I have known who learned *by experience* that one cannot afford *not* to pay God the tithe that BELONGS to God! I remember Ed Smith did encounter some troubles of a different nature later, when his wife and son were sent to the state tuberculosis hospital, and he finally broke down in *real repentance*, accepting Jesus Christ as Saviour. He came to me, according to the command of James 5:14, and both his wife and son were completely healed and returned home.

This is a true story, and the name is not fictitious. Ed Smith died several years ago, but I'm happy to remember these incidents in his life in the hope they may start many others on the right and *profitable*, as well as the Christian, way of life.

Why did God ordain tithing? Was it to place increased burden and taxation upon us? Let us not misunderstand God's love and wisdom!

It isn't that God really *needs* your first tenth. He could have established some different system for carrying on His Work. But to have done so would have robbed *us* of the blessing that flows back to us if we are faithful in tithes and offerings!

The tither is invariably a prosperous man. I do not mean necessarily *wealthy* — but one whose actual needs are always supplied. Tithers, if faithful and obedient to the Eternal, are not often found in want. "Not because I desire a gift: but I desire fruit *that may abound to YOUR account!*" (Phil. 4:17).

God promises His children shall always have something to give (Deut. 16:16, 17). It is only when they withhold and misappropriate the tithe and offerings that He fails to prosper them. For through John He tells us, "I wish above all things that thou mayest *prosper* and be in health" (III John 2).

"Honor the Lord [Eternal] with thy substance, and with the *firstfruits* of all

(Continued on page 30, col. 3)

Should a Non-Christian Tithe?

Is tithing only for Christians? Would God prosper non-Christians who tithe? Read, below, the living experiences of those who have put tithing to the test.

by Herman L. Hoeh

SO YOU HAVE read of Ed Smith, the man who couldn't afford to tithe.

Now stop for a moment and put yourself in Ed Smith's shoes. You have just learned the answer to the question of whether the *un*converted should obey God's Ten Commandments and pay tithes — or whether, as Ed Smith reasoned, these are only for Christians.

Ed Smith got the point.

But would you?

Would you have understood that God is a God of love? He is concerned about you? He knows what you need? That He has *your* interest and welfare in mind?

God set laws in motion which, if obeyed, produce happiness, peace, prosperity — everything one could desire. God's laws were instituted for *man's good* — your good. They are a way of life. They produce an abundant, interesting life here and now — as well as eternal life through Jesus Christ.

God's overall spiritual Law is summed up in the one word *LOVE*. Love to God and love to neighbor. It is further subdivided into ten points — the Ten Commandments — which reveal how we should love God and love neighbor. If the Ten Commandments were obeyed by the nations today, there would be no war. And among individuals there would be no war, no murder, no adultery, no stealing, no lying. Can you imagine a world like that — free from

mental anguish and suffering, free from nagging fears and worries?

Such a happy world could be — if only we would learn that God's laws were set in motion for our good.

People Deprive Themselves of Blessings

When any human being breaks the laws God set in motion, he automatically deprives himself of blessings — deprives himself of joy, of peace of mind, of the prosperity that could have been his. When any human being obeys the laws God set in motion, he automatically begins to receive blessings — inner happiness, peace of mind, increasing prosperity on the job! The way of obedience is the way of blessings. The way of disobedience is the lack of those desired blessings.

A professing Christian who commits adultery automatically cuts himself off from the blessings of a happy marriage. A non-Christian who obeys the commandment "Thou shalt not commit adultery" automatically receives the blessings of a happier home.

A professing Christian who does not tithe is stealing from God — he is breaking one of the Ten Commandments. He automatically cuts himself off from financial blessings that could have been his. A non-Christian who pays God his tithes automatically receives financial blessings because he is

(Continued on col. 5)

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thine increase: so shall thy barns be filled with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Prov. 3:9, 10). Try it! "Prove me now herewith," challenges the Eternal to us, in a prophecy for *our* day (Mal. 3:10), "if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing that there shall not be room enough to receive it" — financial blessings! Are you behind financially? In debt? Your unfaithfulness in tithing and offerings *may be the reason!*

Tithing While in Debt

Yet so many say: "I don't think it would be right for me to tithe while I'm in debt." Yes, it *is* right, and the other way is *WRONG*. "There is a way that seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25). God's Word tells us what is *RIGHT*, and God tells us to pay to His Work the *firstfruits* of all our income (Prov. 3:9-10). Regarding our material and financial needs, even debts, God says, "Seek ye *first* the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

The tithe is the debt that you owe God. This debt is *FIRST* in time and principle. Pay your debts to God, make Him your *PARTNER* in your finances, and receive His blessing in temporal affairs. This will enable you to pay your debts, or to get a job, or to have your needs supplied more quickly than if you evade His debt.

Remember your *ALL* belongs to *HIM*, not to you (Deut. 10:14). You are in the position of steward handling that which *belongs to another*. He is your silent partner, and the first tenth, in addition to offerings, is His share. The rest He gives freely to you. But if you appropriate for yourself His share, *you are stealing*, and *ROBBING GOD* (Mal. 3:8). Would you pay your debts with money another man had left in your trust? If a man working in a bank does that, we call it *embezzlement!*

The only *sure way* to know you have God as partner and that He is taking care of your interests is to obey Him in tithing.

When God receives His portion of all your income, God becomes your partner, sharing in your profits. He

causes His partners to prosper, so if you are in debt, take God into partnership *first*, and watch Him prosper you until finally you are out of debt! Remember the debt you owe God comes **FIRST**.

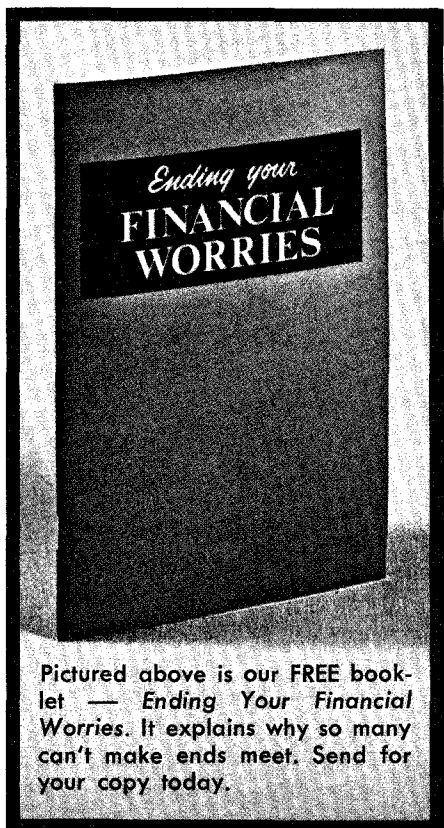
Your Glorious Opportunity

Some will say, "I never tithed, and I know God never frowned on me, for I have the feeling in my heart that I am His child without having to tithe."

God has blessed you according as you have *yielded* to Him according to the light He has revealed to you, from His Word! While you have the light, **WALK** in it, *lest darkness come upon you!* (John 12:35, 36.) "GROW in grace and in the **KNOWLEDGE** of our Lord" (II Peter 3:18). See also Romans 11:22.

If every professing Christian would accept this plain instruction from God, honoring **HIM** instead of themselves with their substance, the Work of the Eternal would go forth with such mighty power that the world would be shaken to its foundations!

Seek ye **FIRST** the Kingdom, and your material needs shall be **ADDED**. Try it! Take God at His Word! **PROVE HIM!** (Mal. 3:10.) *See how you begin to prosper!* Be a faithful steward; make God your **PARTNER!** Receive His **BLESSING!** God's Work is waiting upon YOU! □



Pictured above is our **FREE** booklet — *Ending Your Financial Worries*. It explains why so many can't make ends meet. Send for your copy today.

obeying a law set in motion to bring financial prosperity — to keep one out of needless debt.

It is that simple!

Many of you, right now, are heavily in debt because you have broken God's financial law. You have cut yourselves off from the only Source that could have given you wisdom to keep out of debt — God. And you are not likely to deliver yourself from debt until you begin to obey the financial law of tithing.

Yes, strange as it seems, you — even if a non-Christian — can prosper and be free from debt *if you make God your financial partner*. In this partnership *God gives you 90 percent* of the income. Think how much more prosperous the U.S.A. or the British Commonwealth would now be if our peoples had made God a *national partner!*

The ten percent, which God has reserved for Himself since the creation of the world, is called a *tithe*. It is an old English word meaning "tenth." The first tithe, or tenth, belongs to God (as explained in the preceding article).

If a nation has been faithful in tithe paying, there would be no mounting national debt and no significant private debt. Yet today, because we have failed to pay God His tithe, we seek the help of foreign nations as trading partners and we fear the consequences of our national and individual fiscal blunders. Trade war and rising national animosities will be the result.

It Pays to Tithe

There is a **REWARD** that comes from tithing. God prospers the tither and delivers him out of debt. Do you believe God can do for you what He did for wealthy Abraham? Or are you a *doubter?* Do you want His blessings, or to be deprived of them?

Notice Malachi 3:9-12, a prophecy for today: "Ye are cursed with the curse, Yet ye rob Me, even this whole nation" (Jewish Publication Society translation). That means professing Christian and non-Christian alike! "Bring ye," God continues to the professing Christian and non-Christian alike, "the whole tithe into the storehouse, and try Me now herewith, saith

the Eternal of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall be more than sufficiency. . . . And all nations shall call you happy; for ye shall be a delightful land, saith the Eternal of hosts."

That is God's promise — and God cannot lie. God is no respecter of persons — it is not a matter of spiritual conversion. It is a financial matter. Of course, the matter of *attitude* is all important! God loves a *cheerful* giver — not one who gives grudgingly or of necessity (II Cor. 9:7). If a person merely "gives to get" — simply as a *legal necessity* — he cannot expect God to bless him! Nor could one expect God to bless a tither if he employs fiscal foolishness in managing the remaining 90% of his income! [Editor's Note: We publish a booklet entitled *Managing Your Personal Finances*. It explains how to properly administer that remaining 90%. Write for your **FREE** copy.] We receive hundreds of letters each month from non-Christians who have learned the lesson of tithing. They have put tithing to the test — and found it pays!

Suppose you were a policeman. Would it pay you to tithe? Here is your answer!

I have been a subscriber to your magazines for several years now. In addition I've consumed a considerable amount of literature which you have always freely given. I've read this material, compared it to the Bible and the traditions in which I was reared, asked many questions of "experts" on theology, and I've counselled with ministers of God's Church. I have been profoundly affected by the knowledge I've garnered.

Last December I made the decision to tithe and discovered that my family does very nicely on the 90% God lets me keep. Our financial status has not soared, but the fact is we have prospered better than we did on 100%. It is truly a delight to see the visible evidence of God's laws in motion.

... My job [has been] a California Highway Patrolman. . . .

J. E. T.,
Red Bluff, Calif.

Maybe you are a woman who has to earn your own living. Here's a letter from one who has found a better way than "women's lib."

After I sent you a check for the first time, I got a pay raise. My boss also informed me that if I keep learning the job as I have been, he

was going to try to get me promoted. If the promotion goes through, I will be the first female without a college degree to ever be in that position with this company—perhaps in the business.

Pat V.,
Midland, Texas

A salesman writes:

I am a commissioned salesman, and for three years prior to 1970 my income did not vary a hundred dollars. I started tithing in February 1970 and my income for the year increased by one thousand dollars. This despite the fact that, generally, my company was having a poor year. To top this off, my boss told me in December that I would receive a fifty dollar raise in January, a practically unheard of event.

R. P.,
North Windham, N. H.,

Maybe you are a teen-ager?

Here is some money. I deliver papers and usually make about 30 dollars plus or minus a month. But since I have started tithing, I have been making much more. I made \$9 in unknown back collections from one person and \$28 from another. Last month I pulled in \$38 extra. My summer camp fund is really growing.

Brice T.,
Los Alamos, N. Mex.

Take the case of this ranching family from Huntington, Oregon, the same state Ed Smith the well driller came from:

Enclosed is a check for our first monthly tithe. We have a small cattle ranch and our monthly budget is very small. My husband made out the check this afternoon. Within hours we had some badly needed rain. God blesses His own in many different ways. To us rain is a very big blessing.

Mr. and Mrs. Dennis Q.,
Huntington, Oregon

Who says God won't open up the "windows of heaven" and bless those who tithe for the first time?

Perhaps you are unemployed. Does it pay to begin tithing even if you haven't found a job yet?

After a year of not working, I am called back to work now. I had never thought much about tithing before I received your magazine. When I received my tax returns, I sent one tenth (\$31.20). No sooner had I sent my tithe money to you than I received this offer for work in Prince George, and my son was told to go to Thompson, Manitoba. So I cannot thank you enough for your magazine.

Mrs. K. B.,
Prince George, B. C.

Maybe you are on the new frontier—Alaska. Does it pay to tithe there, too, with living costs so high?

Tithing is definitely profitable. God gave me a job that paid \$500 a

month; I faithfully tithed. Within the next three months I got a \$100 raise. Within the following three months, God put me in a rewarding job with two times the amount of money per month. If tithing works, the other laws must work too.

Craig H. F.,
Anchorage, Alaska

They do! Thousands have proved it! Now consider the unusual case of an employer's conscience and back pay.

Since I started sending money to you I have been making more than I ever did before in my life. Now God has refunded to me all that I have sent to you plus about 100% profit, all at one time. My employer gave me a check the other day and said it was back pay for doing something the first year I worked there. I have been with them for more than 18 years!

Frank W.,
Torrance, Calif.

Some people remain doubters for years . . . until—but let Harvey S. tell his own story:

In February I sent a tithe for my January income. Less than a week later I received a check from an unexpected source for \$2500. A couple of weeks after that a man paid me \$400 he has owed me for two years! Then I got a gift of \$250 out of the clear blue—not expected at all. My stepson came to live with us and pays room and board for another \$108 per month. All of this from one tithe. The very first time in my life I ever freely gave 10% of my income. You can't make me believe it was coincidence at all.

Harvey S.,
Fort Lauderdale, Fla.

Here's a letter from a man who used to be in debt—until he found the way to lend to others:

It has been a real pleasure tithing to this great Work again this year. A man I used to borrow money from to finance my livestock operations said to me recently, "You never borrow money from me anymore." Others borrow from me now. Surely tithing is an active law!

L. P.,
Bland, Va.

Learning the Hard Way

Perhaps you think you are like Ed Smith who couldn't afford to tithe? Here is an example of one young man who found out the hard way:

I am a New Zealander, age 17. This is a true story which you will appreciate. Last year, as a student, I learned of tithing. I recorded all the money I earned and decided to pay God my first tenth. I kept putting off paying God anything up until May 1970. I was broke—had laboring jobs for about \$40 per week. Then one week I sent God my first tithe of \$3.80.

Things financially got worse . . . [Then] \$200 for an insurance claim on my stolen clothes came through long overdue, and although I thought I had important things to spend it on, I decided to send God \$41—a tithe on the \$200 and \$21 to reduce what debt I owed God from the last year. Then I met two friends at an employment agency. I knew it was more than coincidence. I prayed for the opportunity of taking a job with NCR (National Cash Registers). I had to take exams, and passed all with an average of 80% for the lot. Mr. Armstrong, what is a good wage for a 17-year-old boy in the Golden State? My pay for the next six weeks training is \$56 per week. After my training finishes I am going to Vietnam to fix NCR's in U. S. PX stores for \$15,600 yearly which is \$325 per week, which from latest indications will have 5% or no tax. Not bad, eh?

David T.,
Sydney, Australia

This young man put his finger on the problem. It doesn't pay to put off tithing. God's laws are permanent, living laws. The man who begins tithing will soon have unexpected breaks as David has found out!

So don't make the excuse of procrastinating as the young husband mentioned in the next letter did. God will find you out and test your word!

Enclosed is my husband's first check for God's Work. He did not believe in tithing and is still somewhat skeptical. When he received his paycheck last weekend, he began making excuses as to why he could not begin tithing right then, but promised that we would begin "with the next check we get"! Two hours later the mailman brought our income tax refund check and my husband had to admit that it was "the next check" with which he had promised to begin tithing.

Donna T.,
Torrance, Calif.

God challenges us to prove Him! And He is ready to help us whenever we turn to Him for financial help.

Yes, tithing pays. It is a financial law God set in motion for man's good. It works for the young and old, for the wage earner and housewife, for the Christian and the non-Christian alike.

It's all explained in our FREE booklet *Ending Your Financial Worries!*

Running away from God's laws is like running away from every good thing. God sets before *everyone* the way of life and prosperity—and its opposite, the way of poverty, suffering and death. God commands you to choose!

Which path will you take? □

THE STORY OF MAN

for children five to one hundred five

Written and Illustrated by Basil Wolverton

JUDAH FALLS APART

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-ONE

KING ZEDEKIAH of Judah escaped from Jerusalem just before the Babylonians broke into the city. The king and part of his immediate family, accompanied by a remnant of his army, hurried on through the darkness on their intended way to safety in Egypt. (II Kings 25:1-4.)

Zedekiah's Flight Ends

"We can't go on walking like this," Zedekiah complained to an aide. "We need animals to ride on, especially for the women and small children."

"I'm sorry, sir, but it would be most unwise to allow anyone to see us," the troubled aide explained,

"for if we tried to obtain horses or donkeys from anyone living around here we would be seen. If we leave as much as one small clue to show the direction in which we have escaped, we would be inviting the enemy to swiftly overtake us."

The king didn't like to be corrected in this manner, though he knew the aide was right. There was no choice but to move on through the darkness as quickly and quietly as possible.

Back in Jerusalem, the Babylonians streamed through the breach in the wall and through the broken gate in such numbers that most of the would-be

The king of Judah and part of his family, his officers and servants and some soldiers fled from Jerusalem at night by way of an underground passage.



defenders fled and hid themselves wherever they could. They were ferreted out and slain, though not without casualties to the invaders, who blundered into ambushes.

Even the temple was searched, where only priests, their helpers and a small crowd of fearful worshippers were found. Zedekiah's palace had already been overrun. Of course the king and his royal guard weren't found there. This was disappointing to the Babylonians, whose search then became doubly intense. Every building, room, passage, corridor and stairway they could find was combed.

"We've searched even down in the prison dungeons," an officer soon reported to one of Nebuchadnezzar's generals.

"My guess is that the king of Judah and part of his army have somehow escaped from the city," one general told another.

"If that's so, it had to be through some underground means," another officer observed. "We'll have to keep looking till we locate it and find this Zedekiah. It would be better for us never to return to Nebuchadnezzar than to do so without the king of Judah!"

The Babylonian general had guessed well. Someone — probably a servant — had earlier informed frantic Jewish soldiers of the secret entrance to the underground passage by which the king's entourage had already departed. The soldiers had hurried through it, scattering in all directions when they reached the open. Meanwhile, the invaders were unable to find anyone, even through threats of lingering tortures, who knew anything about the passage. All who knew its location had already used it.

It was almost daybreak when some Babylonian soldiers finally stumbled across the entrance. On finding how far the passage extended, it was clear how the escapers had managed to elude the human ring around the city. The faint light of dawn plainly showed many footprints leading off confusingly in all directions. However, expert trackers soon discovered a profusion of tracks left by a group that had obviously stayed together. A Babylonian cavalry squadron raced off to follow the distinct trail.

A few miles ahead of them to the east, Zedekiah and his group still plodded along. With daylight, the king was relieved to learn that they had already trudged all the way to the plains of Jericho. He intended that they should cross the Jordan and

swing around to the right on a curve toward Egypt.

Suddenly there were shouts of alarm from several who pointed excitedly to the west. Zedekiah and the others turned to see the mounts of a few hundred cavalymen pounding down the road. Within minutes the king of Judah and his company were captives of the Babylonians!

Jeremiah Befriended

The Babylonian officers were elated when Zedekiah was brought before them.

"You've caused us much trouble in finding you, but we couldn't give up, because our king is anxious to meet you," one of the generals remarked, grinning heartlessly. "In fact, he is so anxious to meet you that we will break camp and personally escort you to Riblah in Syria, where he presently is staying."

In the meantime enemy troops were rounding up the inhabitants. The healthier and more capable ones became captives. The elderly, weak, sick and those incapable of any trade, craft or profession were simply ignored. (Jeremiah 39:9-10.) Even prison inmates were checked over. Those who were at least capable of manual labor were freed from prison in Judah to become prisoners of Babylonia. The Prophet Jeremiah was among them.

All able captives were put in chains and herded to the city of Ramah, a few miles north of Jerusalem. While this was taking place, other enemy troops were moving about in other cities, capturing thousands more Jews and moving them to Ramah also. This was to be the starting point of the march for the combined captives of all Judah. From there, long lines of thousands would go on the miserable march to Babylonia. (II Chronicles 36:11-21.)

While this was being arranged by the Babylonians, Nebuzar-adan, captain of the guard, was informed that Jeremiah was among the prisoners. Because the prophet was favorably regarded by Babylonian leaders for his trying to convince his countrymen that they should regard Babylonia as their master, Nebuzar-adan was perturbed.

"Release him at once and bring him to my tent!" he ordered. "He should never have been taken prisoner!"

Jeremiah's Wise Decision

A little later an aide appeared with Jeremiah, now free of his chains.

"We didn't intend that this should happen to

you," Nebuzar-adan explained in a conciliatory tone. "King Nebuchadnezzar and many of us realize that through you, your God warned your people what would happen unless they followed your God's instructions. Now it's happening. You aren't to be taken along with the others, although you are free to accompany your countrymen to Babylon if that's your wish. For you there will be no chains and no labor. After you arrive at Babylon, I'll see to it that you will be well taken care of. On the other hand, if you prefer to stay in Judah, so be it."

For a long moment Jeremiah was tempted to say he would go to Babylon. There he would have his needs supplied. If he remained in Judah, it would be a struggle to find enough to eat. Besides, his own people could continue to treat him as a bothersome eccentric. But thinking his position through made it plain to him that his place was in his own nation. There God might still have some use for him.

"It would please God if I stayed," the prophet announced.

"That's good," Nebuzar-adan grinned. "You can go just as soon as I have



Jewish prisoners outside of Jerusalem were forced to watch the final assaults on Jerusalem and the towering flames that gutted the city.

some food prepared for you to take. And here's something to partly pay for the trouble we've caused you."

The prophet blinked at the gold pieces Nebuzar-adan pressed into his hand. No reward was expected or necessary. He expressed his gratitude to the captain, and greater gratitude to God when he arrived at a lonely spot southwest of Ramah.

"One more thing," Nebuzar-adan added. "To replace king Zedekiah, we have chosen a man to govern Judah we can depend on. His name is — is —"

"Gedaliah," Jeremiah smoothly interrupted.

"Why, yes!" Nebuzar-adan said, surprised. "No announcement has been made of his appointment. How did you know?"

"God tells me many things," the prophet smiled.

"I believe you are indeed the prophet of a powerful God," the captain observed. "As such, with the welfare of your nation at heart, you should probably be close to the seat of government. Gedaliah's administration will be from Mizpah instead of Jerusalem." (Jeremiah 39:11-14; Jeremiah 40:1-6.)

Jeremiah was pleased with Gedaliah's appointment because he was a grandson of Shaphan, whose family had repeatedly befriended Jeremiah. (Jeremiah 26:24; Jeremiah 36:11, 25.)

The Babylonian soldiers and their allies now turned north toward Syria, taking with them Zedekiah, his family and some foremost army officers and leaders of Judah.

Turmoil and Intrigue

Meanwhile, the scattered remnant of the army of Judah that had escaped from Jerusalem gathered at Mizpah to find out if Gedaliah wished to reorganize the military force. Mizpah also became crowded with Jews who had fled to nearby nations when the Babylonians came. Having heard that the invaders had left, they returned to their nation and came to the new seat of government to inquire about the status of their country. Gedaliah proclaimed to all that they should make a special effort to produce from the land as much as possible to try to make up for what the enemy had taken.

"We must also work diligently to prepare for the time when the Babylonians will return to take tribute," Gedaliah told them. "We are a captive nation, and we are bound to give the conquerors whatever they demand." (Jeremiah 40:7-12.)

Shortly after Gedaliah's advice to the people, several military leaders came to Gedaliah to inform him that they had heard that Ishmael, a man they all knew who was of royal stock in Judah (Jeremiah 41:1 and I Chronicles 2:41), had returned from the land of the Ammonites. He had fled there for safety when the Babylonians had come.

"We have learned that Ishmael is bitter and envious because you have been appointed governor by the Babylonians," the captains told Gedaliah. "We overheard some workers who knew that Baalis, king of the Ammonites, has talked Ishmael into taking your office."

"That's ridiculous!" Gedaliah exclaimed, after several moments of staring skeptically at his informers. "I can't believe Ishmael would try to do that. Besides, *how* could he do it?"

"He has promised Baalis that he'll murder you!" was the startling reply.

"If this is supposed to be a joke, I fail to appreciate it," Gedaliah frowned. "I suggest that you refrain from eavesdropping on your harvest hands, who obviously have used you to start an evil rumor."

The men's faces fell as Gedaliah strode away. Because they were concerned for the governor's life, it was disappointing not to be believed. One of the men, Johanan, later came alone to see Gedaliah, and asked to speak privately to him.

"If you're here to apologize for that accusation made earlier, it isn't necessary," Gedaliah said. "Ishmael is the one who deserves the apology."

"I came back to make an important suggestion," Johanan said, ignoring the governor's remark. "Conditions are bad enough in Judah without allowing them to become worse. People are looking to you for leadership. If something should happen to you, what remains of our nation will probably fall apart."

"Are you talking about Ishmael again?" Gedaliah asked sternly.

"Let me dispose of him before he disposes of you!" Johanan earnestly urged. "No one except the two of us will know anything about it! I'll be doing Judah a favor!"

"How can you be so wrong about someone?" Gedaliah angrily asked. "If anything happens to Ishmael, I'll hold you responsible and deal with you accordingly!"

Johanan gave up and left, realizing that there was little he could do to prevent any trouble from Ishmael. (Jeremiah 40:13-16.)

Ishmael's Rampage

About two months after the Babylonians had departed, Gedaliah invited Ishmael to a state dinner. He believed that if this man felt any envy toward him, this friendly gesture would probably dispel any ill feelings. Other guests included several Jewish leaders under Gedaliah, military men and the few Babylonians who had stayed as representatives of Nebuchadnezzar. The governor had assumed that Ishmael would bring an acquaintance or two. He was surprised when he showed up with ten burly, grim-faced men who were referred to only as close friends.

After all were seated and served, Gedaliah was pleased to note Ishmael's sociability. The governor thought how unfortunate it would have been to have believed and acted on the reports about Ishmael.

Suddenly Ishmael and his ten men leaped up, whipped short swords from under their clothing and swiftly attacked every other man in the room. In a very brief moment Gedaliah and his guests — except the murderous eleven — were dead or dying. (Jeremiah 41:1-3.)

Ishmael's next move was to prevent all servants from fleeing from the building simply by cutting them down. For two days the assassins held the governor's house without outsiders knowing what had happened. Then it was reported that a group of eighty men from the territory of Israel wished to confer with Gedaliah.

"They want to burn incense at the temple ruins to show their sorrow because of the state of affairs," Ishmael was told. "They've shaved their beards, torn their clothes and slashed themselves."

"Then it's only a group of religious fanatics," Ishmael observed. "But we'll have to get rid of them. We can take care of them as soon as they're inside."

Ishmael walked out of the building to see the men solemnly approaching, heads down, as though they were in a funeral march. He assumed the same gait. He even managed to effect tears, to pretend that he was deeply moved and sympathized with their interests.

"We are here to ask permission to go to the site of the burned temple, that we may make our offerings there," one of the men told Ishmael.

"As spokesman for the governor, I can tell you that you will be welcome there," Ishmael said in a hushed, solemn tone. "But first why not come into

the house? You must be thirsty after your walk."

The moment the visitors were inside, the fiendish eleven charged at them with swords poised. When the terrified men realized what was happening, those who weren't immediately attacked fell on their knees and begged to be spared.

"We have great quantities of precious food hidden underground!" they wailed. "There's a fortune in oil, honey, wheat and barley! It's all yours if you let us go free!"

By this time seventy were dead or dying. Ishmael decided to spare ten of them, at least temporarily, for turning over their food to him. First the corpses had to be hidden. This was no great problem, inasmuch as they were added to the other victims who had been dropped into a nearby pit that had been made as a water reservoir more than three hundred and forty years previously.

Help at Last?

Ishmael's bloody accomplishments caused him to become even madder and more daring. He and his men ventured into the streets of Mizpah to seize people and hold them in Gedaliah's house. Faced with death unless they cooperated, certain male captives agreed to join Ishmael in his insane cause. His purpose was to stamp out the frail government of Judah and seize the inhabitants of Mizpah to sell them as slaves to the king of the Ammonites. Before long almost all in the little city were bound together in small groups. They could walk but had little use of their arms. Ishmael and his men worked swiftly, knowing that Jews from nearby regions would probably band together to resist as soon as they heard what was happening.

Fortunately, the news reached Johanan, who wasn't in Mizpah. He quickly gathered and armed men to rush in pursuit of the bloody kidnappers, who by then were desperately herding their captives northward toward the road to Ammonite territory.

Not far from the city of Gibeon, about eight miles northwest of Jerusalem, the captives were overjoyed to see Johanan and his men hurrying toward them. Ishmael, however, didn't share their sudden hope. (Jeremiah 41:4-13.)

"Get them moving faster!" he roared at his men. "Beat them with the flat sides of your swords! We can't let anyone stop us now!"

(To be continued next issue)

BE SEEN & NOT HEARD

Each month thousands of readers learn new truths from Ambassador College publications. But in their zeal, many have made the mistake of trying to "convert" others to their newfound way of life. Read this article and learn how to avoid alienating your friends and family as you learn more of God's Word.

by Richard A. Wiedenheft

NOTHING is more exciting than discovering new truths from God's Word. Learning the keys to happiness and eternal life is the most thrilling study you could ever engage in. And the most natural desire is to want to share these fascinating truths with others.

But, before you attempt this — be cautioned! Learn some vital lessons from the experience of others!

Many enthusiastic readers have rushed out to enlighten their loved ones only to be snubbed with, "That's crazy, idiotic, blasphemous, ridiculous." Some have been labelled as fanatics and crackpots — and even ostracized or disowned by their families.

By understanding a few basic Biblical principles, you can avoid such pitfalls as you learn new truth and change your way of living.

Ministry's Job to Preach

Of course, Christ did ordain that the *good news* you are now learning should be preached to the entire world. But notice two points:

First, that commission was to WITNESS to the world, not to CONVERT the world. Read Matthew 24:14: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations. . . ." Prophecy shows that only a small minority of mankind will be *converted* before Christ returns — but that the *whole world will have been witnessed to!*

Secondly, the preaching part of that

commission was given specifically to Christ's apostles, who had been ordained as ministers. "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . ." was delivered to the 11 disciples (Matt. 28:19, 16). The statement "What I tell you in darkness, that speak ye in light: and what ye hear in the ear, that preach ye upon the housetops" was previously made to the 12 disciples (Matt. 10:1, 27).

Amazingly, Christ plainly instructed the average laymen of His day *not* to advertise His miracles. In five separate cases He told those aware of a healing or miracle *not* to say anything to anyone about the incident. Only once do the Gospels report Christ's having told someone to mention what had happened to him (Mark 5:19 and Luke 8:39). This man (who had demons cast out of him) was directed to *go to his house and tell his friends* what had been done *for him*.

Of course, he reacted as many TOMORROW'S WORLD readers would be inclined to do today. He published the news of his healing throughout the whole city — and he undoubtedly made some enemies in the process.

The point is this: It is simply not the duty of laymen to preach to their community. That responsibility rests on the shoulders of those called and chosen by God to do that Work.

Paul said, ". . . Woe is unto me, if I preach not the gospel!" (I Cor. 9:16.) And woe unto God's ministers today if they do not preach the Gospel; but it is *their responsibility* — and not the role

of those just beginning to understand God's Word.

One Body — Many Responsibilities

Romans 12:5 explains that there is *one body* called to do the Work of God — but that each member of the Body has a different responsibility. In verse 6 Paul talks about differing gifts given to various members of the body — prophesying, ministering (serving), teaching, exhorting, giving, ruling, and showing mercy. There are many very necessary functions within the Body that do not involve preaching.

In discussing the same principles with the Corinthians, Paul wrote, "For the body is not one member, but many. If the foot shall say, Because I am not the hand, I am not of the body; is it therefore not of the body? . . . If the whole body were an eye, where were the hearing? If the whole were hearing, where were the smelling?" (I Cor. 12:14-17.) In verse 29 he asked, "Are all apostles? are all prophets? are all teachers? are all workers of miracles?"

Paul was explaining to the Romans and the Corinthians that all of the responsibilities in the Body of Christ are necessary — but only a few involve preaching. Certainly the telecast, *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast, and TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine, and all the literature published by Ambassador College could not be freely given to the world without the support of the entire body.

James cautioned, "Let not many of you become teachers, my brethren, for you know that we who teach shall be judged with greater strictness" (James 3:1, RSV).

The living Jesus Christ, as the Head of God's physical Work calls and appoints those responsible to teach, preach, and expound His Word. All others have a very important — but a

non-teaching — role in fulfilling the commission to witness to the world.

Answering Questions

Though God is not calling most to actively teach His Word, He has provided an outlet for those who are brimful with enthusiasm about the right way of life.

Peter wrote, "... Be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh you a reason of the hope that is in you with meekness and fear" (I Pet. 3:15).

Everyone who knows the answers to the whys and wherefores of human existence should be ready and willing to share that wonderful knowledge with those who ASK.

But all too often the tendency is to take every principle inquiry as an opportunity to launch into a long dissertation — expounding all that one has recently learned and denouncing the evils of this society.

Solomon wrote of that proclivity of human nature in Proverbs 29:11: "A fool uttereth all his mind: but a wise man keepeth it in till afterwards."

The big factor in answering questions is to discern the *attitude of the questioner*. Is he looking for an argument? Only mildly curious? Or is he sincerely seeking more knowledge and understanding? In most cases, the less one tells an argumentative skeptic, the better. Remember that Christ said, "Give not that which is holy unto the dogs, neither cast ye your pearls before swine, lest they trample them under their feet, and turn again and rend you" (Matt. 7:6). (Not that every person who does not accept the Truth is a "swine." It is simply an analogy.)

If someone is sincerely interested in God's way of life, you should certainly answer his questions to the best of your ability — but don't be like the fool of Proverbs 29:11 who expounds all he knows. Tell the questioner enough to satisfy him for the moment; but leave him with enough curiosity to come back later with more questions.

And then, *most importantly, point that individual to the Work through which God is witnessing to the world*. Encourage him to write for *The PLAIN TRUTH, TOMORROW'S WORLD*, or some

of the booklets that cover his questions. Suggest he listen to *The WORLD TOMORROW*, or watch Garner Ted Armstrong on television. Perhaps you could even give him some of your magazines or booklets.

But remember, no layman, no minister, *no human being is able to convert anyone*. Only God can open someone's eyes to the Truth (John 6:44). If God is working with one of your friends, he will *want to learn more* — and he will be willing to go to God's chosen servants to get answers. And if God is not opening his mind, you will only arouse antagonism by pushing these truths on him.

To understand this principle better, write for our *free* article "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?"

Being All Things to All Men

One important key in answering questions about God's plan for mankind is to communicate with others *in terms they understand*. *TOMORROW'S WORLD* magazine teaches truth, but in terms the average person understands. There's no need to use ancient, religious, sentimental, or sanctimonious language in preaching the Gospel — that kind of talk actually "turns off" most people.

Paul was quick to point out that he would bend over backwards *not to offend someone*. Study I Corinthians 10:32-33. Even though Paul was an ordained minister — commissioned to actively preach the Gospel — he did his preaching in terms the people of his day understood.

"And unto the Jews I became as a Jew, that I might gain the Jews. . . . To the weak became I as weak, that I might gain the weak: I am made all things to all men, that I might by all means save some" (I Cor. 9:20, 22).

Most who heard Paul preach were not being called by God — yet he talked their language so they would listen long enough to hear his witness. And for the few whom God was calling, Paul used terms they understood so they would not be offended or held back in any way.

Learn from Paul's God-given wisdom.

Talk to others in terms of their interests. Be friendly and convivial — let

your light shine. Then, if they ask questions, have answers. But don't be like one individual who proudly proclaimed, "I always manage to work the Bible into my conversations." "Bible talk" is simply not what most people understand or appreciate.

Be An Example

The big responsibility of those who have learned and are learning the Truth is to be AN EXAMPLE to their friends and family.

Christ said in Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Notice, He said, "*SEE your good works!*" WORKS not words!

Peter exhorted all Christians, "Maintain good conduct among the Gentiles, so that in case they speak against you as wrongdoers, they may SEE your good deeds and glorify God on the day of visitation" (I Pet. 2:12, RSV).

Others should SEE, *not hear*, all the benefits of living by God's Word.

Peter went on to discuss the relationship between a wife who had learned of the Truth of God and a husband who wasn't interested in her new way of life. "In the same spirit you married women should adapt yourselves to your husbands, so that even if they do not obey the Word of God they may be won to God *without any word being spoken*, simply by seeing the pure and reverent behavior of you, their wives" (I Pet. 3:1-2, Phillips).

God's ministers are constantly meeting husbands and wives who have aroused antagonism in their mates by trying to share the new truth they had learned. Peter explained that one's mate, as well as his friends and acquaintances, *might* (if God is calling him) be won *by seeing the way he lived*. [Editor's Note: For more information on how to be a light to your mate, be sure to write for our *free* article "Should You Try to Convert Others?" and our *free* booklet *Your Marriage Can Be Happy*.]

As God begins to work in your life, as you learn the happy way He designed for mankind, as you begin to live for a goal and purpose, those around you will certainly notice a change. They should

see that change before they *hear* all about it.

What Others Should Notice

But stop to analyze for a moment *what changes* others are most likely to see in your life.

It's all too easy to go overboard in being concerned about physical things such as diet, clothing, entertainment; or to make a show of Bible study or prayer. It's easy to parade the Bible or various booklets in front of those who are not interested. These physical things will simply not impress many people.

But if others see a change in your outlook on life; if they see the normal worries, doubts, insecurities, and frustrations disappearing; if they begin to see more happiness, joy, and contentment; they can't help but be impressed.

Many points of God's Truth may rub a hostile mind the wrong way; but who can dislike or disparage love, patience, and kindness?

Who can complain of a more helpful neighbor, a more loving wife, a more patient husband, a more industrious employee?

The big question is: Which will predominate as you change your way of life? Will the little physical changes that a carnal mind cannot understand stand out? Will your vocal efforts to convert others become a byword in your neighborhood?

Or will people begin to see a better neighbor, parent, and citizen? Will your life become a *real bright spot* in the community — in spite of the fact that some of your ways may be considered a little strange or different? Will others begin to see in you those qualities they would like to have?

The Christian way of life is what every human being wants — but does not know how to get. *It is happy, abundant, balanced, and purposeful.*

Let others see those characteristics in you.

Remember, actions speak louder than words.

As you learn new Truth, don't TELL the whole world about it — that is the job of God's chosen servants.

Let the world SEE what that Truth is doing for you! □

How Your TOMORROW'S WORLD SUBSCRIPTION Has Been Paid

So many ask: "HOW does it happen that I find my subscription price for TOMORROW'S WORLD has already been paid? How can you publish such a high-class magazine without advertising revenue?"

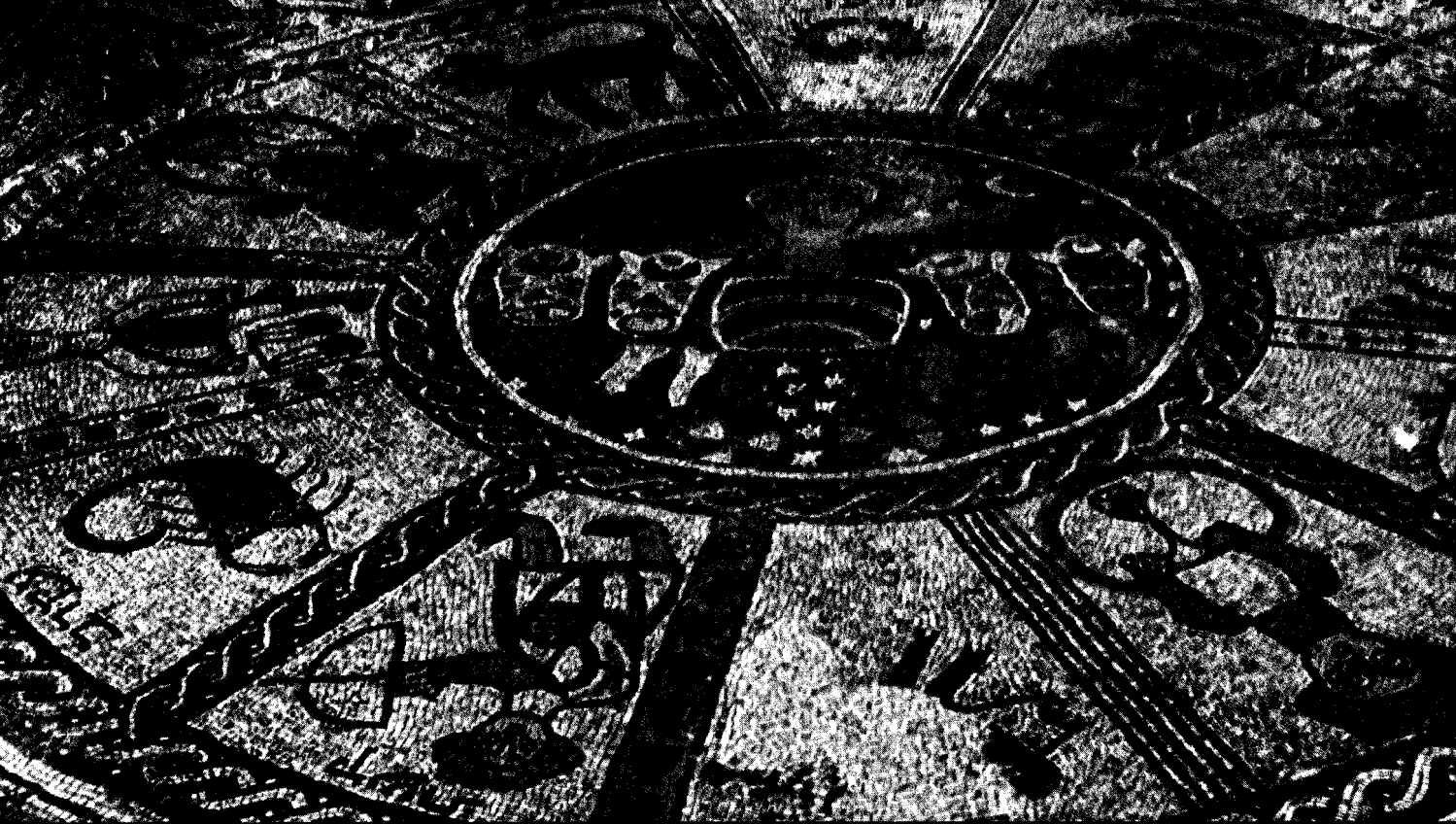
The answer is as simple as it is astonishing! It is a paradox. Christ's Gospel cannot be sold like merchandise. You cannot buy salvation. Yet it does cost money to publish Christ's TRUTH and mail it to all continents on earth. We solve this problem Christ's WAY!

Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matt. 24:14) at this time, just before the end of this age. A PRICE must be paid for this magazine, the Correspondence Course, or other literature. But HOW? Christ forbids us to sell it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His Gospel, "freely GIVE!" "It is more blessed," He said, "to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's WAY is the way of LOVE — and that is the way of giving. God expects every child of His

to give free-will offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying His Gospel to others. We, therefore, simply trust the Living Christ to stir the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting the precious Gospel TRUTH in the hands of others. We believe in what we are doing, and THE WAY it is being done. Our ever-growing family of volunteer Co-Workers believe in it, and gladly give of their incomes that we, with them, may GIVE these precious success secrets to an ever-widening number of readers. Yet it must go only to those who themselves wish to receive it. Each must, for himself, subscribe — and his subscription has thus already been paid by others.

The living, dynamic Christ Himself enables us to send you this TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine on an already-paid basis; to enroll many thousands in the Ambassador College Correspondence Course with full tuition cost already paid; and to provide other literature and services without charging a price. God's way is RIGHT — the way of giving to others.



BETWEEN THE TESTAMENTS

The century and a half prior to Christ's coming was one of religious turmoil. More than anything else, the history of this period shows the need for a change in the human heart. This is precisely what Christ came to offer.

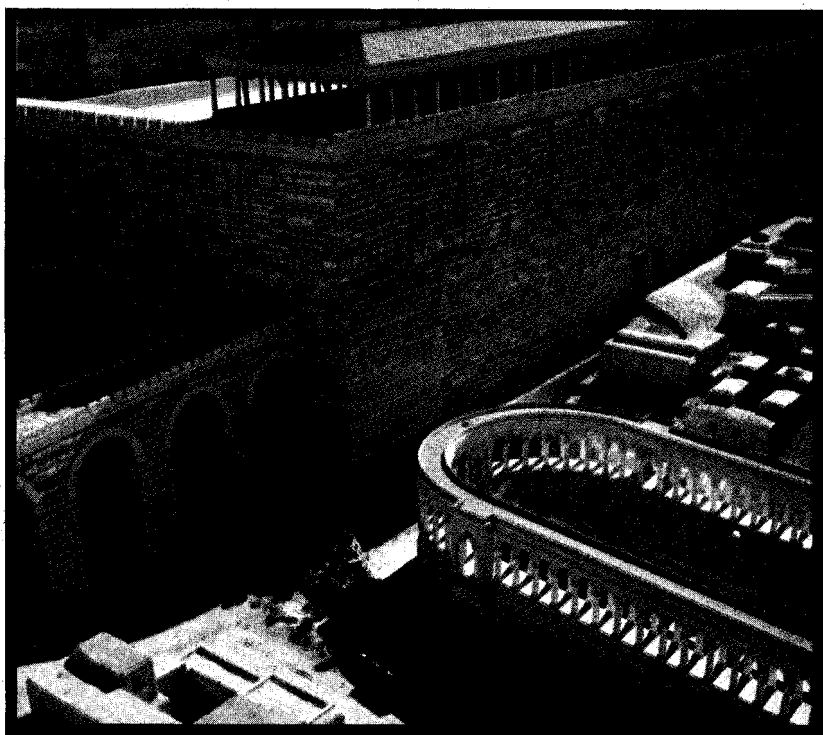
by Ernest Martin and Harry Eisenberg

Part II

IN THE LAST INSTALLMENT we saw how a majority of people were weaned away from their observance of God's laws by the pressures of the Hellenistic culture. Under the rule of the Egyptian Ptolemies, they became interested in the education and culture of the surrounding nations.

Later, under the domination of a cruel Seleucid Syrian king, the Jews revolted against Syria. The revolt was successful, and Hellenism, as a culture of which the Syrians were great exponents, was now discredited.

The priests (those descended from Aaron), many of whom had been leading Hellenists, were looked upon with distrust by many. Now laymen were beginning to make their voices heard in



Top: Floor of ancient synagogue uncovered at Beth-Alpha, Israel. Mosaic shows the 12 signs of the zodiac of pagan astrology. It is illustrative of the influence of Greek culture in Israel of the intertestamental period. Above: Graeco-Roman amphitheater was located in the shadows of the Temple Mount. Hellenism influenced cultural and religious life of many in Judaea.

Ambassador College Photo

religious disputes. This was the rise of the Pharisees. It was a layman's party, though some priests also belonged to it.

The Sadducees

No one questioned the right of the priests to officiate in the Temple. But the priests pointed to Deuteronomy 17:8-13 as giving them, and not the lay teachers, the authority to teach and to decide questions pertaining to religion. They and their supporters organized themselves into the party of the Sadducees (name taken from Zadok, the High Priest in Solomon's day).

The priests as a whole were wealthy. This and their previous support of Hellenism caused the people to mistrust them by and large. Josephus tells us, "The Sadducees are able to persuade none but the rich, and have not the populace obsequious to them, but the Pharisees have the multitude on their side" (*Antiquities of the Jews*, XIII, x, 6).

Lay Teachers Justify the People's Errors

And yet the main reason for the popularity of the Pharisees and the rejection of the Sadducees was neither the tainted past nor the wealth of the priests. It was in the teachings of the Pharisees themselves.

During the period of religious anarchy under Hellenistic rule, the continuity of official teachers of the law had been broken. Hellenism had made its inroads.

Consequently, when the Maccabean War came to an end, and some teachers did think of returning to God's Law, it was found that "many new customs and practices for which there were no precedents in the traditions of the fathers, and not the slightest indication in the Book of the Law, were observed by the people and considered by them as a part of their religious laws and practices" (Lauterbach, *Rabbinic Essays*, Hebrew Union College Press, Cincinnati, p. 195).

In short, the people had adopted many customs and ideas which were in truth clearly pagan. The best example of these is the belief in the immortality of the soul already mentioned.

"The difficulty was to find a sanction in the Torah [the Law] for the

new customs and practices which had established themselves in the community . . ." (Herford, *Talmud and Apocrypha*, Soncino Press, London, 1933, p. 66). The teachers should have shown the people they were sinning (Isa. 58:1). Instead they chose to justify them. This should not seem strange. It was done in Jeremiah's day (Jer. 23:21-22) and in Isaiah's (Isa. 30:10).

Pagan Customs Called Jewish!

And yet the Scripture plainly states: "Learn not the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2). Consequently, the teachers taught that the new customs the people had adopted were not really pagan — they were actually Jewish!

They reasoned this: "It is hardly possible that foreign customs and non-Jewish laws should have met with such universal acceptance. The total absence of objection on the part of the people to such customs vouched for their Jewish origin, in the opinion of the teachers" (Lauterbach, p. 211).

These teachers told the people that it simply was not possible for them, being Jews, to have inherited any heathen custom or practice.

They furthermore taught that since the customs were "Jewish," then they must have been taught by Moses himself.

(This is no different from today, when churchgoers by the millions assume that the original apostles observed Sunday, Easter, Christmas and the like.)

"Accordingly, the teachers themselves came to believe that such generally recognized laws and practices must have been old traditional laws and practices adopted by the fathers and transmitted to the following generations in addition to the Written Law. Such a belief would naturally free the teachers from the necessity of finding scriptural proof for all the new practices" (*ibid.*).

In other words they claimed that these customs, since they were not *written* in the Old Testament, must have been handed down *orally* from Moses — by word of mouth.

Actually, these traditional laws — these oral laws — were not from Moses nor any of the prophets. There is not a single reference in the Scripture that Moses gave the Israelites any oral or traditional laws that were to be trans-

mitted to posterity along with the written Word. The Bible states just the opposite. It plainly says that Moses wrote the *whole* Law in a book. Notice:

"And it came to pass, when Moses had made an end of writing the words of this law in a book, until they were *finished* . . ." (Deut. 31:24).

There is no such thing as an "oral law of Moses."

Oral Law Gains Acceptance

The theory of the "oral law" was accepted only gradually — a matter of a few years, rather than months.

"The theory of an authoritative traditional law (which might be taught independently of the Scriptures) was altogether too new to be unhesitatingly accepted . . . the theory was too startling and novel to be unconditionally accepted" (Lauterbach, p. 211).

The greatest opposition to the so-called "oral law" came from the priests who, as a whole, declared that the Scripture was the only necessary code of laws to obey.

"This apparently simple solution offered by the priestly group in the Sanhedrin did not find favor with the lay members of that body" (*ibid.*, p. 209). And, with the passage of time, the lay teachers ultimately came to constitute the majority of representatives in the Sanhedrin. These Pharisaic lay teachers succeeded in convincing the people that they were right and that the priests were wrong.

Some of the people's fears concerning the priestly Sadducees were apparently valid, however. Many of the priests did become worldly minded and they found worldly politics far more interesting than religion. The Sadducees eventually adopted the belief that there was no resurrection and that angels did not exist (Acts 23:8). This was probably a result of the influence of the Greek Epicurean philosophy. It taught that there was no future life of any kind and that man should therefore seek as many physical pleasures in this life as possible, since that was all there was.

New Laws of the Pharisees

Many of the Pharisees came to believe what they were doing was God's will.

"It is certain that they [the Pharisees]

regarded themselves as the successors of the prophets, and not merely in fact but by right" (Herford, p. 71).

Based on this claimed authority, they adopted a method of teaching what they believed to be laws of God, without any initial reference to the Scripture for authority.

"Finding no convincing proof for such laws in the Bible, they taught them independently of scriptural proof, i.e., in the *Mishnah*-form" (Lauterbach, p. 229).

Mishnah-form was the name given for laying down laws to be observed, apart from Scripture. This is not to say *Mishnah*-form avoided Scripture altogether. But it was only *after* a law had already been accepted that the Scriptures might be checked for corroboration.

Editor's Note: In the previous installment — September issue, page 22, column 1 — "Antiochus II" should read Antiochus III.

Sometimes "affirmation" of a new law was forced from Scriptures totally unrelated to the particular subject.

The word *Mishnah* is related to the Hebrew root meaning "second" and "study." *Mishnah*-form was the *second* form that the Pharisees adopted for "study" as opposed to the original form of properly expounding the Scriptures, which was called *Midrash*-form. This older, original form was known as "teaching after the manner of Moses" (*Talmud*, Temurah 156, *Yebamoth* 72b).

Midrash-form is based on deducing laws, teachings, legends, etc., from the Scripture. As time went on it too became perverted. "Whenever there was the remotest possibility of doing so, they would seek by means of new hermeneutical rules [rules pertaining to Biblical interpretation] to find in the words of the Torah support for these traditional laws" (Lauterbach, p. 212).

Thus the Pharisees were able to "find" the traditions they were now approving of by twisted interpretations of Scripture. In doing this they still claimed to be using the *Midrash*-form.

Ezra is said to have taught in *Midrash*-form when he, and his helpers

"read in the book in the law of God distinctly, and gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading" (Neh. 8:8).

There was, however, one major point which Ezra was aware of, but which the Pharisees missed. It is this: God, in the Bible, never contradicts Himself. Malachi, a contemporary of Ezra was inspired to write: "For I am the Lord, I change not; therefore ye sons of Jacob are not consumed" (Mal. 3:6). But many of the traditional laws the Pharisees approved of did contradict Scripture. What's more, many of them even contradicted one another.

With the introduction of the new *Mishnah*-form, Scripture came to be less relied on than before. New laws, which were not even necessarily traditional, could be enacted.

The Pharisees found the *Mishnah*-form to be an important weapon in their conflict with the Sadducees. Laws that were accepted after being handed down in the *Mishnah*-form tended to enhance the authority of the Pharisees, since it was *solely* on their authority that the law was accepted.

The very first individual of whom we have any record who began to teach new commandments in the *Mishnah*-form, apart from the scriptural basis, was Jose ben Joezer of Zareda.

Jose laid down three new commandments. The first concerned the eating of a certain locust; the second, the blood of slaughtered animals; and the third, the touching of a dead body. In doing this he became known as "Jose the Permitter" (*Talmud*, Abodah Zarah 37b).

"Furthermore, Jose is called 'the Permitter,' evidently because in all three decisions he permits things that were formerly considered forbidden" (Lauterbach, p. 219).

These new laws of Jose were not customs the people had inherited from Hellenism. "It is therefore evident that these Halakot [rules] . . . were not older traditional laws transmitted by Jose as a mere witness, but Jose's own teachings. He was the one who 'permitted' and he deserved the name [the Permitter]" (*ibid.*, p. 218).

These commandments of themselves

were not earth-shaking violations, but they did set a precedent! Eventually others began to set down all sorts of new laws. These are what Jesus called "the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7).

The Prosbul of Hillel

Many others ultimately followed in the steps of Jose. If the majority of Pharisees agreed on a new decision, it was accepted as the Word of God — even if Scripture taught just the opposite.

Of the myriad of new laws laid down, perhaps the best example and the best known is the Prosbul of Hillel.

Hillel the Old headed a Pharisaic school in the days of Herod. He was noted for his gentleness and was greatly beloved among the people, but his decisions, nonetheless, were not always in keeping with the Word of God.

For example, "All private loans are automatically remitted at the end of the Sabbatical Year (Deut. 15:2) and hence it became difficult to obtain loans immediately before the onset of that year. In order to avoid hardship and encourage lending, Hillel instituted the *Prosbul* [Greek: "for the court"], which is a declaration made before a court of law by the creditor, and signed by witnesses, stating that all debts due him are given over to the court for collection. Since the remission of loans during the seventh year applies only to individuals but not to public loans, the effect of the Prosbul is to render the individual's loan public, and it is therefore not remitted" (Werblowsky and Wigoder, *The Encyclopedia of the Jewish Religion*, art. "Prosbul," p. 312).

Hillel's motive was apparently quite practical. And yet the Bible clearly states: "Beware that there be not a thought in thy wicked heart, saying, The seventh year, the year of release, is at hand; and thine eye be evil against thy poor brother, and thou givest him nought; and he cry unto the LORD [Eternal] against thee, and it be sin unto thee" (Deut. 15:9).

Rather, God says: "Thou shalt surely give him, and thine heart shall not be grieved when you givest unto him: because that for this thing the Eternal thy

God shall bless thee in all thy works, and in all that thou puttest thine hand unto" (verse 10).

It was because of rules like the Prosbul that Christ told the Pharisees, "Thus have you made the commandment of God of none effect by your tradition" (Matt. 15:6).

Hillel saw that the poor were unable to obtain needed loans and was trying to remedy the situation, but he was not doing it God's way! God says: "Trust in the Eternal with all thine heart; and lean not unto thine own understanding" (Prov. 3:5).

There were many such instances where the Pharisees enacted many new laws, based solely on their own human reasoning in an attempt to make what they thought would be a better way of life. Yet God tells us: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12; 16:25).

Cause and Effect

The Pharisees' error was a classic one. Seeing wrong situations, but relying solely on themselves, they attempted to treat the *effect* rather than the *cause*.

Notice the case of Hillel's Prosbul. God plainly tells us that the *cause* of the problem was in the *hearts* of the people (Deut. 10:16).

Today too many see the problems besetting mankind. Governments have their solutions and the revolutionary activists have theirs. But all attempt to treat *only the effects* of the problems. None gets at the *real cause* — which is to be found for the most part in carnal human nature with its greed and pride.

Today, God is treating the cause of man's ills in some individuals. He is presently changing the hearts of a few. "And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you; and I will take the stony heart out of their flesh, and give them an heart of flesh" (Ezek. 11:19).

God's Law as revealed throughout all of Scripture is indicative of God's *character*. It is a giving, serving, sharing, concern for the other person as well as the self, and can be summed up by the word LOVE — love first of all toward God and then towards fellowman.

God's Law shows us exactly how He

would live if He were a human being. And this is precisely what Jesus did when He emptied Himself of His divinity and took on human flesh — He never once broke a single law of God.

The rise of Pharisaism in the period between the Testaments represented an attempt on the part of these people to keep the Law. But they lacked a clear understanding of their own human nature as revealed in the Scriptures. Notice God's deeply felt near-lament in Deuteronomy 5:29: "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them, and with their children forever"!

But "such an heart" was not in them at that time. They had only the human nature that we all naturally possess — the heart that is "...deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9).

Joshua told his generation, "...Ye cannot serve the Lord..." (Joshua 24:19). To do so simply was not in their nature — nor is it in ours.

But man was not left without hope. There was a promise of better things to come. "And the Lord thy God will circumcise thine heart, and the heart of thy seed, to love the Lord thy God with all thine heart, and with all thy soul, that thou mayest live" (Deut. 10:6).

The Pharisees as well as the other sects of the period wanted to serve God and keep His commandments. They had, as the Apostle Paul (who well knew) put it, "...a zeal of God, but not according to knowledge" (Rom. 10:2).

Not aware of the necessity for a change in their own human nature, they found it necessary to change God's Law. Not that this was done outwardly, but rather by forced interpretations, rationalizations, attempted codifications of laws that are all-encompassing, and new laws that were not admitted always to be new.

By changing the Law, they made it of "none effect." That is, it did not have the effect that God's laws should have on those who keep them.

Inasmuch as the Pharisees did keep *some* of the laws correctly *some* of the time, it did have *some* good effects. But

the overall results that come by living in total harmony with the laws the Creator set in motion simply were lacking. Pharisaic society did not abound with the love of God. You could never convince the Sadducees (with whom they often disputed) that it was otherwise. Nor could you convince the Romans. Nor could you convince the unlearned Jews of that day, whom many of the Pharisees thumbed their noses at with the epithet *am-ha-aretz* ("people of the land" — the term is used in a derogatory sense throughout the Pharisaic writings).

Pharisaic society was filled with strife. When Alexander Jannaeus, one of the Maccabean kings, ruled, the Pharisees were virtually at *war* with him and there was much bloodshed.

The Talmud itself is a record of the Pharisees striving among themselves, one with another in religious *debates*, each one trying to convince the others of the correctness of *his* particular idea, rather than all working harmoniously to seek *God's* will.

Today, professing Christianity is treading down the same well-worn path the Pharisees mistakingly took. Where is the sect that has not attempted to read its own ideas into the Bible which it professes to obey? And where is the denomination that is truly bearing the fruits of God's Spirit — love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance? Indeed which one even knows what true love is?

Don't *you* follow the crowd. *Don't* be led down the garden path into religious deception by any who would warp, distort and twist the scripture to their own destruction. As you peruse the pages of your TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine, we encourage you to search the scriptures daily *whether these things be so* (Acts 17:11). But by the same token we also ask that you apply the same criterion to *all* who claim to represent God! Remember, "...if they speak not according to this word it is because there is no light in them" (Isa. 8:20).

As you continue to prayerfully study your Bible and *this magazine of Biblical understanding*, you will find new vistas of truth continually opening before your very eyes! □

ANSWERS to your Questions

● “I have often wondered whether the rending of the Temple veil mentioned in Matthew 27:51 has any special meaning for Christians. Could you please explain this for me?”

Yes — this seemingly unimportant incident has *great spiritual significance!* The rending of the Temple veil symbolized the fact that it was now possible for man to have *direct access* in prayer to God the Father in heaven. “But,” you may ask, “haven’t men always had this access to the Father?”

The astounding answer is NO! Although few people realize it, the God of the Old Testament — with whom faithful men of old walked and talked — was NOT the Father, but the One who later became Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul tells us that the One Moses talked to and the One who led the children of Israel out of Egypt — their ROCK (Ps. 18:2; Deut. 32:4) — was *CHRIST* (I Cor. 10:4).

With this basic truth in mind, let’s look a little closer at the veil mentioned in Matthew 27:51. The inside of the Old Testament Tabernacle, and later the Temple, was divided into two parts. First was the *Holy* area. Second was the *Holy of Holies* which symbolized God’s throne of mercy. These two parts were separated by a veil. No one but the *High Priest* ever went into the Holy of Holies (past the veil), and he only once a year as an act of making atonement and asking forgiveness for the sins of Israel before God’s throne.

After Christ died and was resurrected, He went to God’s heavenly throne to intercede for us as our High Priest (Hebrews 4:14-16; 9:24). The rending of the veil was symbolic of the fact that men now had direct access to the Father *through a perfect* High Priest. Christ’s perfect sacrifice tore

down the barrier — the veil — of sin between men and God. The physical rending of the veil was a type of that spiritual event. Paul shows us we should now have “boldness to enter into the holiest [Holy of Holies] by the blood of Jesus, by a *new and living* way [through Christ — not a physical priesthood], which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil...” (Heb. 10:19-20).

And, how does a person come before God? The answer: in *prayer* — directly *to the Father* (Matt. 6:9). But, we are to pray in Christ’s name (John 16:24); that is, acknowledging Him as our High Priest and Intercessor.

Truly, Christians can now follow Christ’s admonition that “men ought always to pray, and not to faint...” with the confidence that God — our *Father* — will hear.

● “Paul told Titus to choose men for the ministry who could exhort and convict gainsayers by sound doctrine. What is a doctrine?”

A doctrine is merely a point of truth from God’s Word about the purpose and plan of God. Doctrines explain various aspects of man’s relationship to God (see Hebrews 6:1-2).

How, then, can we know if a certain “doctrine” is really a part of God’s Word?

John wrote, “Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ, hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed” (II John 9-10).

The true doctrine of Christ is the truth which He reveals through His Word (John 17:17).

Unless every doctrine you believe fits

perfectly and harmoniously into the whole of the doctrine of Christ (as revealed in the Bible) — unless what you have learned only further serves to elucidate, clarify and further explain the whole plan of God — then it is not “truth,” but error.

● “In the article ‘Noah’s Day — Today’ how did the magazine’s staff decide upon an average generation of 123 years? And how were they able to approximate deaths due to natural causes?”

Why 123 years? We know from Genesis 5, the genealogical table of Noah, that the children in this particular lineage were begotten when their fathers were 130, 105, 90, 70, 65, 162, 65, 187, and 182, respectively.

First — to find a representative age at which the fathers begot a child — we took the middle point between 65 and 187. This number was 126. Then we took the average of the nine ages and got 117. Then we arbitrarily chose the age of 123 as a representative number.

The deaths by natural causes were based on figures for death because of *old age*. Noah, for example, lived for 950 years. Most of those listed in Genesis 5 lived between 900 and 1000 years. Even all of these did not die of *natural* causes — Enoch, for example, who lived only 365 years.

● “What caused the great dinosaur extinction, and does it have any connection with any Biblical events?”

The great dinosaur extinction was caused by a massive worldwide catastrophe and it has a definite, often unrealized, relationship with some extremely important events that occurred *before* the time of Adam. There is simply not sufficient space in this short section to thoroughly cover such broad questions. However, the surprising answers are contained in our two *free* reprints “The Day the Dinosaurs Died” and “Dinosaurs Before Adam?” Read them in that order if you want to take full advantage of the story flow. Write for copies of these *FREE* reprints.

REWARD HEAVEN?

(Continued from page 6)

HUMAN can inherit the Kingdom. The Kingdom of God is not a human kingdom. There are NO HUMANS IN IT! It is a DIVINE Kingdom — the God Kingdom!

Jesus explained it to Nicodemus in John 3:3-8: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God." Nicodemus couldn't understand that. Not many, today can understand it! Jesus continued that except a man be born of the SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the Kingdom of God. "That which is born of the flesh," continued Jesus, "is flesh." Yes, we were all born of the flesh, therefore Jesus said we are flesh — yes, flesh and blood. And flesh and blood CANNOT INHERIT — cannot ENTER INTO the Kingdom of God. "That which is born of the Spirit," said Jesus, "is spirit." When we are born of the Spirit, then we shall BE spirit — so said Jesus. Did Jesus know what He was talking about — or do some of us think we know better, today?

Now to Paul's statement again in I Corinthians 15:50-53:

"Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption [flesh is corruptible, subject to aging and decay] inherit incorruption [spirit things and spirit beings are immortal, never changing, never aging, always and eternally new]. Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be *changed*" — now notice carefully: "we shall all be CHANGED." The word *converted* means "CHANGED" — changed from one SUBSTANCE to another — from one COMPOSITION to another.

"In a moment," Paul continues, "in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead [not the LIVING in heaven, but the DEAD] shall be raised [not COME DOWN from heaven, but RAISED] incorruptible, and we [the generation then

living] shall be CHANGED. For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must PUT ON IMMORTALITY."

Resurrection From the Dead

Now we begin to see why Abraham, and his children through Christ, have not, as yet, come into the promised reward!

But to go further. We cannot come into this ETERNAL inheritance until we have come into ETERNAL LIFE. And what is our only hope of inheriting eternal life? The *resurrection*! Perhaps this will prove a surprise.

Notice I Corinthians 15:12-18: "Now if Christ be preached that he ROSE from the dead, how say some among you that there is no resurrection of the dead? . . . For if the dead rise not, then is not Christ raised: and if Christ be not raised, your faith is vain; ye are yet in your sins. Then [unless there is to be a RESURRECTION from the DEAD] they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are perished." Strong scripture, that!

The dead IN CHRIST are PERISHED, not alive enjoying the promised inheritance already somewhere, but perished — utterly perished — UNLESS there is to be a RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD! How different from the modern fables to which a deceived people have been turned today!

So, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob are dead. And, unless there is to be a resurrection — a rising up from the grave — they are perished. Abraham knew of Christ, and Jesus said Abraham rejoiced to see His day, and Abraham saw it, and was glad. And speaking of Abraham and the resurrection, Jesus said, recorded in Matthew 22:31-32: "But as touching the resurrection [notice, Jesus is using this illustration to *prove* the *resurrection* — He is speaking of the RESURRECTION from the DEAD — as touching the resurrection] *of the dead*, have ye not read that which was spoken unto you by God, saying, I am the God of Abraham, and the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob? God is not the God of the dead, but of the living."

This text is often twisted around and perverted to try to prove that Abraham is not dead, has already gone to and

come into his promised reward, and will NEVER be resurrected, just the diametrical opposite of what Jesus used it to prove. "As touching the resurrection . . ." the resurrection of the DEAD, Jesus said, "God is the God of the living." Abraham *died*. But he will live through a resurrection.

We Receive the Reward When Jesus Returns

When will Abraham and his children through Christ come into the promised reward? When will be the resurrection? The answer is found in I Corinthians 15:50-53 — that inheriting the promises occurs *at the same time* the living Christians are to be CHANGED from mortality to immortality. And Paul said it would be AT THE LAST TRUMP — remember?

All right, let's turn now to I Thessalonians 4:16-17: "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead IN Christ [not OUT OF Christ] shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds, to meet the Lord in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Lord." And so the resurrection shall occur at the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST — when He comes as the King of kings and the Lord of lords to reign and to rule all nations of the earth for the first time. When He comes to set up His KINGDOM, THEN Abraham and his children in Christ who have died shall be RESURRECTED to IMMORTALITY, to INHERIT THE KINGDOM, a world-ruling government headed and ruled by Christ, occupying the very land promised to Abraham — the land of Israel, and from the Nile to the Euphrates river. And this Kingdom composed of IMMORTALS, which flesh and blood cannot enter, shall rule over all the OTHER nations of the earth — the OTHER nations made up of flesh-and-blood mortals!

Now this text does not say, as so many suppose, that Christ is coming part way from heaven to MEET THE SAINTS as the saints are starting off for heaven. No, Jesus said in John 14:3, "If I go . . . I WILL COME AGAIN."

What a glorious promise! Jesus

promised He would COME AGAIN to earth. And He promised further, when He has returned to earth, that He would, as He said, "receive you unto myself." Where? Why, of course, right here on this earth! The saints, both dead and alive, resurrected and changed to immortality, shall rise to MEET HIM, as He is RETURNING to this earth. They MEET in the CLOUDS. (Airplanes fly higher than that everyday.) And, Zechariah 14:4 states that in that same day Christ's feet shall rest on the Mount of Olives, in Israel, the Promised Land — and those who meet Him as He comes will ever be with Him, where He is. Yes, that's different from the fables of this day, but that's the plain truth of God's Word!

The Reward Is NOT Heaven

And Jesus said: "Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit THE EARTH" (Matt. 5:5). That's part of the Sermon on the Mount — and certainly every Christian must believe the Sermon on the Mount! Then we must believe, if we are Christians, that what the saved inherit is THE EARTH — and not heaven! Jesus plainly said, "NO man has ascended up to heaven" (John 3:13).

David was a man after God's own heart. David has the promise of being in the Kingdom of God, ruling over Israel under Christ, when Christ will rule all nations. But on that day of Pentecost when the New Testament Church began, the inspired Peter said: "David is not ascended into the heavens" (Acts 2:34).

The wisest man who ever lived was inspired to write, as part of the divine Word of God, "The righteous shall never be removed: but the wicked shall not inhabit the earth" (Prov. 10:30).

I think most of you have read those scriptures. That's the "Thus saith the Lord" on the question. There is absolutely NO SCRIPTURE in all the Holy Bible that promises HEAVEN as the reward the saved shall inherit. And yet, have not most people just sort of blinded their minds to these positive, plain STATEMENTS from God Almighty, and carelessly taken for granted, without question, the idea of going to heaven?

Notice WHEN the Kingdom shall be inherited — when the heirs of the promises to Abraham shall come finally into their reward, and receive the actual inheritance. It is recorded in Matthew 25:31-34:

"When the Son of man shall come in his glory, and all the holy angels with him, then shall he sit upon the throne of his glory... Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand, Come, ye blessed of my Father, INHERIT the KINGDOM PREPARED for you from the foundation of the world." Yes, the Kingdom of God is the place prepared. Jesus said He went to PREPARE A PLACE for us. He also said He went to get for Himself a KINGDOM, and to RETURN. And when He returns, as King of kings, and that Kingdom is established (we find *it is* the PLACE PREPARED), then it is that the joyful call goes out, "Come! ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." □

Personal

(Continued from page 2)

it carefully with tears" (Heb. 12:14-17).

God intended the Birthright to go to Jacob. But He did not intend Rebekah and Jacob to take it by deceit and lying. Had they been more honest, God would have brought about the transfer in an honorable way. As it was, Jacob had to struggle for years to overcome such ways contrary to the ways of God. But he finally did overcome, and his name was changed from the reproachful Jacob (Supplanter), to Israel, meaning "Overcomer," or one who prevails with God.

Jacob heeded his mother's warning, fled to the house of Laban. He fell in love with Laban's younger daughter, Rachel. He worked for Laban seven years for her. At the wedding, foxy old Laban pulled a switch on Jacob. Apparently women wore veils at weddings which completely hid their faces in those days, and Jacob found old Laban had gotten rid of his elder and not-so-beautiful or marriageable daughter, Leah.

Jacob was forced to work another

seven years for his beloved Rachel. By these two sisters, and the handmaids of each, Jacob had twelve sons. They became the fathers of the twelve tribes of Israel. Jacob and his family later departed secretly from Laban.

Jacob finally repented, overcame, prevailed in wrestling with an angel, and his name was changed to Israel.

Meanwhile, Esau had grown rich. Finally, Israel and Esau met, and were reconciled (Genesis 33:1-4). Esau's riches and descendants are recorded in Genesis 36:1-2, 8-9:

"Now these are the generations of Esau, who is Edom" (Gen. 36:1). And, "Thus dwelt Esau in Mount Seir: Esau is Edom" (verse 8). Mount Seir is in the area of Petra. One of Esau's sons was named "Teman." His descendants developed into the Turkish Empire, called the "Ottoman" Empire.

Through the centuries there developed more or less continuous rivalry between the descendants of Esau and of Israel. Also a rivalry developed between the descendants of Judah — one of the Twelve Tribes — and the Arabs, who are the descendants of Ishmael. That rivalry stemmed from the jealousy of two women — Sarah, Abraham's wife, mother of Isaac, and Hagar, Sarah's maid, mother of Ishmael, also son of Abraham.

All these ancient rivalries are playing crucial parts in the tense world conditions of TODAY!

The Turks grew to become a considerable Empire. Prior to World War I, the Ottoman Empire included European Turkey, Anatolia, Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Palestine, Arabia, Yemen, and islands in the Aegean Sea. But they joined Germany in World War I, and their defeat resulted in loss of empire. Turkey was reduced to a small and unimportant nation.

Now look to the future from this point. See what is prophesied.

The book of Obadiah is devoted to Turkey. It is a short book, of only one chapter.

It begins: "The vision of Obadiah. Thus saith the Lord Eternal concerning Edom... Behold, I have made thee small among the heathen: thou art greatly despised. The pride of thine heart hath deceived thee, thou that

dwellest in the clefts of the rock, whose habitation is high

"Shall I not in that day, saith the Eternal, even destroy the wise men out of Edom, and understanding out of the mount of Esau? And thy mighty men, O Teman [Ottoman Empire??], shall be dismayed, to the end that every one of the mount of Esau may be cut off by slaughter.

"For thy violence against thy brother Jacob shame shall cover thee, and thou shalt be cut off for ever."

Now WHEN? Of what *time* is the prophecy speaking? Continue:

"In the day that thou stoodest on the other side, in the day that the strangers carried away captive his forces, and foreigners entered into his gates, and cast lots upon Jerusalem, even thou wast as one of them" (verses 10-11).

Compare this casting lots upon Jerusalem to Joel 3:3. The entire context of Joel from 2:28 through chapter 3 is speaking of a time very shortly future from now — just prior to the "Day of the Lord" — a time which will cut short the imminent "Great Tribulation" and immediately follow it — a time leading quickly into the coming of the Messiah to rule all nations. But continue in Obadiah:

"But thou shouldest not have looked on the day of thy brother in the day that he became a stranger; neither shouldest thou have rejoiced over the children of Judah in the day of their destruction. . . ." This, in past tense, may refer, typically, looking back, to the captivities and exiles of Israel, 721-718 B. C., and of Judah, 604-585 B. C., respectively — but merely as a type of captivities now imminent. The time of the prophecy is NOW — and the immediate future. Continue:

"Thou shouldest not have entered into the gate of my people in the day of their calamity. . ." (verse 13) — speaking of the coming Great Tribulation (Matt. 24:21-22, Dan. 12:1-2; Jer. 30:5-7) — greatest time of trouble of all history, the time of "Jacob's trouble," meaning U. S. and British nations — see free book, *United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* — ". . . nor have laid hands on their substance in the day of their calamity; neither shouldest thou have stood in the crossway [the

Bosporus — Turkey stands astride it], to cut off those of his that did escape; neither shouldest thou have delivered up those of his that did remain in the day of distress" (verses 13-14).

Now the *time* when this shall happen is made clear in the next verse:

"For the day of the Lord is near upon all the heathen. . ." (verse 15). The "Day of the Lord" is to follow immediately the Great Tribulation — compare Matthew 24:21-22, 29 with Joel 2:31. It is the time when God will first intervene supernaturally in this world's affairs, to END the Great Tribulation, into which the world is now heading, and to punish the Gentile nations for having so frightfully punished Britain-U. S. and the Jewish people in World War III, and the imminent Tribulation. This "Day of the Lord" — that is, the first phase of it — will climax in Christ's return to earth as the Messiah, as King of kings and Lord of lords (verse 30 of Matthew 24). Continue in Obadiah, verse 15:

"... As thou hast done, it shall be done unto thee. . . . But upon Mount Zion [Jerusalem] shall be deliverance, and there shall be holiness [at Christ's coming]; and the house of Jacob [U. S.-British, *not* Jews] shall possess their possessions. And the house of Jacob shall be a fire, and the house of Joseph [U. S.-British] a flame, and the house of Esau [Turkey] for stubble, and they shall kindle in them, and devour them; and there shall not be any remaining of the house of Esau; for the Eternal hath spoken it."

And the one-chapter book ends, "... and the kingdom shall be the Eternal's." The Kingdom of God set up at Christ's coming — the world-ruling Kingdom to rule all nations, and to bring PEACE to the whole world!

There can be no mistaking the *time* of this prophecy. It is the near future — probably much nearer than you think!

Other prophecies, tying in with this are Jeremiah 49:7 and 25:21; and Ezekiel 25:13-14. □

For further details of future events, send for your copy of our free booklet *The Key to the Book of Revelation*.

Letters to

What Kind of Faith?

I just received your August issue of *Tomorrow's World*. The article "What Kind of Faith Is Required For Salvation?" is in my opinion one of the best I have ever read.

I have been living by 'grace — with faith. But not with the law, and I never seem to grow spiritually. Now I see why.

Ronald S.,
Moorpark, Calif.

Escapism!

I have just finished reading your August issue for the second time — and it is one of the most stirring issues of anything I have read in a lifetime.

The article captioned "Escapism" by Mr. Ted Armstrong is the finest exposition of what is wrong with our people today that I have ever read. I have been through it three times, and no doubt I shall read it again.

When I contemplate this mad running about the world by the agitated millions who are trying so desperately to get away from themselves, I am reminded of Daniel 12:4 — "even to the time of the end; many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased."

Chester C.,
Walnut Creek, Calif.

I am writing this letter from jail. I came across the August '71 issue of *Tomorrow's World* and I was very impressed by the whole of the magazine. I especially enjoyed the article, "Escapism." It hit the nail right on the head. Although I have never used drugs and I drink very little, I've witnessed a lot of this. Being in jail I see all kinds of drug addicts and alcoholics of all ages. It is really a shame how this world is going down the drain.

Anthony L.,
Philadelphia, Penn.

I am, at present, an inmate in a Federal Correctional Institution, plus a non-Christian. My release date is to occur this Wednesday. I have finished reading your latest issue of *Tomorrow's World*. Your article on "Escapism" was very real to me. It seems that you have written my autobiography. The problems I must now face upon my release are no longer as large as they seemed to be. Problems such as employment, transportation, and being a mature "husband" to my lovely wife.

David D.,
San Pedro, Calif.

The End of the World?

I truly am enjoying your magazine and this month's article on "The End of the World" surely took a load off my mind. I had always had the idea that the world would be blown up.

Frances T.,
Sampsonville, S. C.

the Editor

Biblical Application to Today's World

I have been a subscriber to your other magazine for a long time. I had not subscribed to *Tomorrow's World* because I did not think I would be interested. However, after reading two copies of back issues I see their value and would like to be included on your subscription list. There is so much confusion in Christian doctrine today, even within my own denomination, that I had found it difficult to wade through and find answers to today's problems. And the problems are so multiple and the answers so elusive! Your approach, unemotional and full of good sense, satisfies the searching heart. I have been a devout student of my Bible for many years, but some of the things I have been taught from a child up simply did not apply to the perplexing events of our day. We desperately need answers we can believe in and cling to for our changing world. Your magazine is helpful, at least to this reader.

I have a degree in English and a minor in Psychology, and am well-steeped in Western world ideas. Only in the past two years have I recognized how secular ideas, coming down in our education systems, have been passed from generation to generation from Babylon to the Greeks and on down to us. The humanist ideas have been so enmeshed in Christian thought that the truth is almost impossible to separate from paganism. It is as if Satan has anticipated every facet of Christian thought and endeavor and has neatly substituted his own mind. For every Christian truth, there is a cunning replica which is so very difficult to distinguish from the real thing, but in the end results in confusion and heartache. I cannot agree with everything you say, but there is so much that makes sense and it works. I think the fruit tree test is sufficient.

Mrs. Jean S.,
Houston, Texas

Ambassador Press

I really think the August issue of *Tomorrow's World* was most interesting in presenting "The Ambassador College Press" and showing its operation and panoramic view of the work and materials needed for these wonderful publications. It is hard for us to understand the massive needs in the publication work and this gives us a clear observation, better than if there in person. A marvelous project.

Mrs. E. E.,
Medford, Oklahoma

Hope in a Hopeless World

With every new truth we learn, we thank God again for opening our eyes. The first booklet you sent, *The Wonderful World Tomorrow*, gave me hope when there was none. Since then you saved our marriage, gave us a goal, showed us how to rear our children and practically turned us inside out. Our lives are so different and actually happy. Sometime it's hard to believe it's us.

Richard L.,
Barnesboro, Pa.

Personal Counsel

I have had the pleasure of being visited by two of your representatives. They have left the enclosed list of books I should have as well as your Bible course. Please send them to me as soon as you can.

Norma L.,
Charlotte, N. C.

As a service of our Adult Education Program, we send personal representatives to most communities in the United States, British Commonwealth and many other parts of the world. They will never call on you uninvited; but if you would like to arrange a personal meeting with one of our representatives, just write and let us know.

Quote Omitted

Was a little surprised that the last phrase of Isaiah 3:5 ("and the base against the honorable") was omitted from the quote on page 28 of the September *Tomorrow's World*, since this would appear to be one of the most applicable passages in the present-day world. Certainly, the lack of respect and deliberate disparagement of the "upper classes" is one of the features of modern life.

C. B.,
Santa Barbara, Calif.

• *You're correct. We should have included it.*

Subscription Price?

The other day I came across *Tomorrow's World*. I tried to find the subscription price but seemed not to find same. So I read the August issue from cover to cover. It was so perfect that I am asking you kindly to send the subscription price and copies for the future.

M. D.,
Campbelsport, Wis.

• *There is NO subscription price for Tomorrow's World. Read how your subscription has been paid on page 40 of this issue.*

Resubscribed

Kindly be advised that a week ago I wrote and cancelled the subscription to both of your magazines and now I find that I need them very much.

I have been receiving these magazines for several years and being unable to read them, I gave them to other Christians to read. They were read and used to some good, but today I found time to read both. I will take time out to read them as they are such good reading. Please do not discontinue them. Will be looking forward to receiving them.

Miss Ethel M.,
Olean, N. Y.

Request From Indonesia

I have read the *Tomorrow's World* magazine and I think it's very good to learn theology—particularly in relation to believing in God. However, I am in charge of the Public Relations Service Branch and Library in the Police Training Centre of the Republic of Indonesia, and it is not so easy for me to obtain that magazine in my country. I'll be grateful and so happy, if you'll be so kind as to send me regularly your *Tomorrow's World* magazine, and to record my address as a permanent reader . . .

Doctor from Indonesia

• *Gladly.*

Fighting Financial Difficulties

After reading your August issue which I just received, I just had to sit down and write. I am a Senior in high school. I always find it hard to read the articles in your magazine though, before I read the Letters to the Editor. I notice that you receive several letters from teens but not many have the same problem as I. My family is very deeply in debt; even to the point that my two younger brothers and I are concerned. I would truly appreciate it if you could send by return mail, your two booklets: *Ending Your Financial Worries* and *Managing Your Personal Finances*. I'm sure that from these booklets we will be able to get some peace of mind to our family as all your earlier booklets have proved to be very helpful. Meanwhile, keep on with a really great magazine.

Wanda A.,
Cozahome, Arkansas

"Fighting Financial Difficulties" seems to be a way of life for me anymore. I have a very good job and an excellent salary — but the more I make, the more it takes just to stay even!! I feel my predicament to be "one step forward and two steps backward." Rather than reasonable comfort, I can see disaster in a few years unless the tide is turned. Can you help me? Will you please send me the following booklets — *Ending Your Financial Worries* and *Managing Your Personal Finances*?

A. K.,
North Hollywood, Calif.

• *Gladly! First read those two free booklets. Then, if you have any specific questions, one of our Personal Correspondents will be happy to help you.*

IF YOU would like to share your comments with our readers, direct your letters to *Letters to the Editor*, in care of *Tomorrow's World Magazine*. Space will not allow all comments to be published, but we will do our best to select those that may be of special interest to our readers.

Coming:

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★ SHOULD WE USE THE OLD TESTAMENT?

Jesus commanded: "Man SHALL live by EVERY Word of God." How can we prove that He included the Old Testament in that command — that He meant ALL the Bible?

★ WHICH IS THE RELIGION BEST FOR YOU?

Should you find the religion best suited for YOU? Should you look for one that "satisfies" your particular need? SHOULD you have a "faith"? Will one be about as good as another? Read what God says about HOW you should search for truth!

★ SEVEN "KEYS" TO MENTAL MASTERY

Here's how to think "BIG"! How to have real wisdom to make the right decisions. Read and USE these vital principles.

★ WHAT SHOULD YOU DO UNTIL CHRIST RETURNS?

Bible prophecy shows that Jesus Christ — THE MESSIAH — is going to return to this earth soon. What should you be doing in the meantime?