

Ambassador College

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

An International Course of Biblical Understanding



Hiroshima After Atomic Attack

What OUR STUDENTS SAY

"I almost made a grave mistake and cancelled your course for good. I had been steeped in the confused denominational versions of the Bible for a long time. I went into encyclopedias, dictionaries and history books trying my best to prove that you are wrong, but I could not do it. Now I have resumed the course. Why did I almost cancel it? It seems to me it is because when one has been steeped so long in confusion, the real truth, when it finally hits him in the face, sounds like a stark lie!"

— B. F., Memphis, Texas

"I have received the first eight lessons of the Correspondence Course. I really feel that I am learning more important facts from this course than from anything I have ever studied before. Several months ago I started supporting your work financially and lately I find myself praying for you and your work."

— C. G., Madison, Wisconsin

"Your study program is excellent. After only three lessons I've learned more about the scripture messages than I did during 25-30 adult years in my church. It pains me to look at those years of regulated trivia when I can see cohesive substance in your course."

— J. W., Needham, Massachusetts

"A very long letter would be necessary to relate specifically how your Correspondence Course and supplementary reading material are helping me, but even this would not express it as well as to say that I am finding the inner peace for which I have been searching many years. I am most grateful that God has guided me to your teaching of the truth. I certainly want to be a part of keeping your work alive and am enclosing a check for fifty dollars."

— A. M., Evansville, Indiana

"After studying nine lessons of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and reading your booklet, *All About Water Baptism*, the necessity of a true baptism into Jesus Christ is made clear. I have only been 'christened,' so to speak, and have not been truly baptized. I know now that true repentance and water baptism into Jesus Christ are necessary so that spiritual growth can take place. Would it be possible to contact a minister of the Worldwide Church of God in my area who would perform such a baptism for me?"

— J. T., Duluth, Minnesota



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LESSON 12

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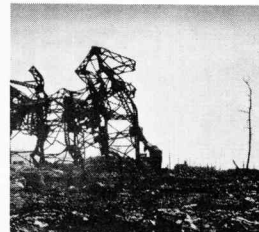
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About Our Cover . . .

Grotesque wreckage of Hiroshima, Japan, after the first atomic bomb used in warfare exploded 2000 feet above the city on August 6, 1945. One hundred million degree centigrade heat had been released in a searing flash, vaporizing everything within a half mile of ground zero! One hundred thousand died in that instant. Thousands more died later of wounds or were horribly disfigured for life.

According to the Bible, we are today living in the recess between stages of world war. And prophecy warns that the next world war will be for total stakes! This lesson shows how you can escape it.

Photographer unknown

THERE IS A WAY OF ESCAPE!

Awesome events are soon to transpire on the earth. The Bible foretells times of worldwide sorrow, calamity, disaster. But there is a WAY OF ESCAPE from all these troubles for those who are willing to heed the warning!

WHAT would be your reaction if God suddenly spoke to you, and *warned* you to take drastic action to save your life from imminent destruction?

Would you listen attentively? Would you *heed* what He had to say?

Or would you just scoff, and disregard His warning?

God Has Already Spoken

Few realize that God has already spoken to humanity — to *you*. Notice how:

“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 HIS SON [whom the New Testament authors faithfully reported], whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the

worlds. . . . Therefore *we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard*, lest at any time we should let them slip” (Heb. 1:1-2; 2:1).

Not only did God speak to mankind, but His words have also been recorded in a book by His faithful servants. That book is the Holy Bible.

When you read and study the Bible — its teachings, its prophecies — you are actually listening to the inspired words of God. Therefore, how you regard what the Bible has to say shows exactly how you would regard the words of God Almighty — if He were to speak to you personally right now.

Warnings of Things to Come

The book of Revelation — the final book of the Bible — is full of warnings of awesome events soon to occur. In the last chapter of this most misun-



EARTHQUAKE! — Great earthquakes are but one of the cataclysms prophesied to ravage the earth.
UPI photo

derstood book of the Bible, the Revelator — Jesus Christ — concluded: “Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth [remembers and *acts* on] the sayings of the prophecy of this book” (Rev. 22:7).

Yet most — and perhaps this includes even you — do not fully grasp the urgency of heeding the staggering prophetic warnings of the Bible.

The prophecies of the Bible are not to be taken lightly. Your future and the future of your loved ones are at stake! If you will heed the warnings of God recorded in the Bible, He promises a *way of escape* so that you need not suffer the perils to come.

A World of Skeptics

There *is* a way of escape revealed in the inspired Word of God! The agonies which will engulf this planet and all nations upon it *need not happen to you*.

But to receive divine protection, you must avoid the attitude which *Newsweek* magazine once spoke of as a growing modern phenomena. It asserted:

“The U. S. public [and in fact most of the developed world today] is the most communication-glutted group of people in world history. Daily bombarded by ‘facts’ which conflict, daily told opposite versions of the same incidents, hopelessly incapable in this complicated world of sorting out the truth, a great many Americans [and others] have undoubtedly built a hard *shell of skepticism* around themselves” (emphasis ours).

Feeling incapable of determining the truth in what men say, most people have developed a skeptical, cynical attitude toward taking ANY warning seriously — even from God Himself. This attitude is one of the curses of our modern age.

Through the Bible, God’s warnings have been made known to man for thousands of years. But because God has seemed so unreal to most people,

they have no respect for what the Bible has to say. And so people today simply assume the prophecies of the Bible are irrelevant and of no consequence to them.

Thus millions today plod on like ignorant sheep — heedless, careless, calloused and skeptical. They are asleep at the switch — unaware of the grave peril ahead. They are like passengers on a train thundering down the tracks, completely unaware that a bridge is out just ahead.

What about you — your household? Are you cynical — skeptical — unbelieving?

The world does not have long to wait before astounding, earth-shaking events will begin to occur with lightning-like rapidity. It won’t be long before the hard shells of skepticism are smashed and shattered!

It Happened Once Before

Today, the world wants to believe that “all things continue as they were from the beginning of the creation” (II Peter 3:4). Most people are like the philosophers of whom Paul wrote: “They did not like to retain God in their knowledge” (Rom. 1:28). Divine intervention? Unthinkable!

Surprising as it may seem, there is abundant *evidence* that the historical events and miracles recorded in the Bible actually did happen. And if we can prove they happened, then we can have absolute assurance that the events prophesied for our day and age *will also surely occur*.

In this lesson of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course, you are going to learn, perhaps for the first time, that God intervened in world affairs on a grand scale in the past. The nations were terrified. They began to recognize the power of the Creator God.

Then we will begin to comprehend God’s end-time warning message for us, and how we can prepare to escape the terrible holocaust this world is bringing upon itself.

LESSON 12

God Always WARNS First

1. While Adam was still alive, did God forewarn what would befall rebellious mankind at the return of Christ? Jude 14-15. From whom did Enoch obviously learn God’s plans? Gen. 5:22.

COMMENT: The Eternal Creator God — the God of the Old Testament who personally dealt with mankind; the *Logos* or “Spokesman” who became the Christ of the New Testament — told Enoch

He would one day come with power to execute justice, and to convict the ungodly of all their sins.

2. All through the ages, were other prophets of God sent with warning messages similar to the one delivered by Enoch? Acts 3:19-24. What will ultimately happen to those who *refuse* to heed the warnings of the greatest prophet of all — Jesus Christ? Verse 23.

3. Whom did God use to preach righteousness and His warning message of worldwide catastrophe just prior to the Flood? II Pet. 2:5. What is

the biblical definition of “righteousness”? Ps. 119:172. Is Noah’s righteousness, or obedience to God’s law, and his instruction in righteousness clearly the reason he found favor in God’s sight? Gen. 6:8-9; 7:1.

4. When God *warned* Noah about the destruction to come, did he follow God’s instructions on how to escape it? Gen. 6:13-18; Heb. 11:7. But did the world around him remain heedless to his warnings? Matt. 24:38-39.

5. Later, during the time of Abraham, did grievous sins literally *fill* the city of Sodom? Gen. 13:13; Ezek. 16:49-50. Had Melchizedek — priest of the Most High God — Abraham and the king of Sodom all met together? Gen. 14:17-22.

COMMENT: Judging from this contact, there must have been other occasions when the king of Sodom and Melchizedek — the Christ of the New Testament — met and conversed. And since God does not change in the basic way He thinks and does things (Heb. 13:8), Melchizedek must have warned the Sodomites to repent of their evil practices, or one day suffer the inevitable consequences of sin — *death!*

Sodom’s sins finally became so great, so continually perverse — such an absolute stench to the Creator — God finally decreed that the entire city’s population had to be annihilated as punishment — just as all the earth’s inhabitants were destroyed during the Flood, except for righteous Noah and his family.

6. Was Lot, a nephew of Abraham, obviously the *only* righteous man living in Sodom? II Pet. 2:6-8. Did the messengers of God *warn* Lot of the destruction He was going to rain upon sinful Sodom as punishment for its sins? Gen. 19:1, 12-13. Did Lot then try to warn others of the punishment to come? Verse 14. How did Lot’s sons-in-law react to his warnings of impending destruction? Same verse.

7. How were Sodom and its neighboring communities destroyed? Verses 24-25. Is this destruction *an example* — a WARNING — to all the disobedient from that time on? Jude 7; II Pet. 2:6.

COMMENT: The vast majority today are not paying any attention to this or any other warnings in the Bible. Most people are not concerned about biblical examples of punishment for sin. Most would rather “enjoy” excesses and illicit materialistic pleasures. They ridicule any mention of God’s warnings of impending disaster.

Most people couldn’t care less simply because they *deny the existence of God!*

8. Since God *is* a God of mercy and love, did He also *warn* ancient Israel of the punishments He would bring upon them if they sinned? Lev. 26:14-46. But did faithless Israel sin regardless of the warning? II Kings 17:13-15. Did God therefore *punish* them as He had warned? Verse 20.

9. Was God also merciful to the Gentiles by

warning them of impending destruction because of their sins? Jonah 1:1-2; 3:1-4. Did this Assyrian capital city heed the warning? Verse 5. Was the annihilation of the city therefore stayed? Verse 10.

10. How *lasting* was the repentance of the people of Nineveh? Nahum 1:1; 3:1-3. Therefore, what punishment did God pronounce upon the inhabitants? Verses 4-7.

COMMENT: The Assyrians in Nineveh began to return to their old ways of sin soon after the threatened catastrophe did not occur. So, about a century and a half later, God pronounced Nineveh’s final doom through the prophet Nahum.

Throughout the Bible we find that God has always given people ample opportunity to repent — *to quit sinning* — before sending punishment for breaking His laws of happy, abundant living. Through the ages He has sent His prophets to warn the nations of His punishments for their heedless disobedience. God also inspired His prophets to write His warnings and made sure they were preserved for us today. Yet, in nearly every case, the warnings have fallen on deaf ears!

The Plagues on Egypt — a WARNING for Today!

Now we come to an amazing historical record — the account of the plagues God brought upon ancient Egypt just prior to Israel’s release from captivity.

Some of the events which are prophesied to occur in the future — just before the second coming of Jesus Christ — are compared in the Bible to events which occurred when Pharaoh refused to release the children of Israel from Egyptian captivity. If we can understand what happened in Egypt, we will also be able to better understand what *will happen once again* — only this time on a worldwide scale! For many of the awesome plagues which devastated ancient Egypt are *types* of the future plagues coming on this rebellious world — which we will learn about later in this lesson.

1. How were the Israelite slaves being treated by the Egyptians? Ex. 3:7. What did God intend to do about it? Verse 8. Who was He going to send to bring the ancient Israelites out of bondage? Verses 10-11. What did God command Moses to *warn* Pharaoh He would do if Pharaoh would not let Israel go? Ex. 4:22-23.

2. In their first meeting with Pharaoh, did Moses and Aaron merely *speak* to Pharaoh? Ex. 5:1-3. Was the Egyptian leader impressed? Verse 4.

3. At their next meeting, what *miracles* did God perform to impress Pharaoh? Ex. 7:9-12. But did these cause him to let Israel go? Verse 14.

4. When Pharaoh still resisted, what was the first plague that came upon the Egyptians? Verses 20-21. How long did the plague last? Verses 24-25.

COMMENT: An ancient record of this terrible plague was written on papyrus. It was translated by A. H. Gardiner (1909) under the title *Admonitions of an Egyptian Sage from a Hieratic Papyrus in Leiden*. It is commonly referred to as the "Papyrus Ipuwer." Ipuwer was an Egyptian eyewitness to the plague.

The papyrus records: "Plague is throughout the land. Blood is everywhere. . . . The river is blood. Men drink and shrink from (tasting). Men thirst after water" (page 9).

5. What was the second troublesome plague the Eternal God used to punish the Egyptians? Ex. 8:1-14. Did Pharaoh release the Israelites as he had promised to do once the plague was stopped? Verse 15.

COMMENT: Notice that as soon as the plague was removed, Pharaoh was stiffened in his stubborn resistance to God.

6. What was the third, still more calamitous plague? Verses 16-17. (Some translations render the Hebrew here as "gnats" rather than "lice.") Did the Egyptian magicians, who through the power of Satan were able to duplicate the previous plagues, finally admit that God was intervening in Egypt? Verses 18-19. But did Pharaoh still refuse to relent? Verse 19.

7. What was the fourth grievous plague God sent on Pharaoh and the Egyptians? Verses 20-21. What happened to Pharaoh's attitude when he was afflicted *himself*? Verses 24-28. But when this plague was mercifully removed by God, did Pharaoh remain agreeable? Verse 32.

Pharaoh Still Would Not Obey

1. Despite these horrible plagues the king and his people suffered, Pharaoh still refused to let God's people go. So what was the fifth plague God sent on Egypt? Ex. 9:1-7.

COMMENT: A "murrain" refers to a fatal pestilence afflicting cattle and other domestic animals. The statement in verse 6 that "all the cattle of Egypt died" means that all afflicted by the murrain died, since some cattle remained to be killed by a future plague (see verse 20).

2. Since the king still refused to heed these warning plagues, what was the sixth punishment from God? Verses 8-11. And what was Pharaoh's attitude after the plague was over? Verse 12.

COMMENT: Let's understand what the Bible means when it states that *God* hardened Pharaoh's heart. God mercifully gave Pharaoh every chance to change his attitude and allow the Israelites to go. But Pharaoh was a stubborn, self-willed man. Each time, after Pharaoh's stubbornness weakened, God removed the plague. But each time, once the plague was over, Pharaoh rebelled again.

God's deliverance of Egypt from each plague

merely allowed Pharaoh again to feel self-assured about the future, and allowed him to convince himself he could persist in his stubborn, self-willed way. Thus God's great *mercy* actually caused Pharaoh's unappreciative heart to become harder with each succeeding plague.

3. What further plague did God *warn* would fall on the Egyptians? Verses 18-19. Did some heed the warning? Verses 20-21. What was the exact nature of this terrifying plague? Verses 22-26. Was this the worst electrical storm ever to strike Egypt up to that time? Verse 24.

4. This time did Pharaoh finally admit that he and his people were indeed sinful? Verses 27-28. But had he *really* repented? Or was his heart hardened once again because of God's mercy? Verses 34-35.

5. What was the eighth plague? Ex. 10:4, 14-15. What does Psalm 105:34-35 say about this plague?

6. Again Pharaoh admitted he had sinned, but his heart was still calloused (Ex. 10:16-17, 20). So what terrible plague did God send next? Ex. 10:21-23.

COMMENT: In a shrine of black granite at el-Arish on the eastern border of Egypt, the Egyptians recorded what may well be an account of this frightening wonder: "Evil fell on this land . . . there was no exit from the palace by the space of nine days. Now these days were in violence and tempest: none whether god or man could see the face of his fellow [for three days of the nine]" (F. L. Griffith, *The Antiquities of Tel-el-Yahudiyeh and Miscellaneous Work in Lower Egypt in 1887-88*).

Jewish sources give further details of how the darkness gradually increased for three days, remained *total* for three more, then abated (Ginsberg, *Legends*, II, pp. 359-60; V, pp. 431-39).

7. As a *final* punishment — when warning after warning had gone unheeded — what great catastrophe befell Pharaoh and his people? Ex. 11:1, 4-8; 12:29-33.

COMMENT: Finally, after all the firstborn of Egypt died, Pharaoh woke up to the unparalleled disaster his stubbornness had brought upon Egypt, and let God's people go!

Such plagues as those God sent on ancient Egypt seem preposterous to the natural mind today. Much doubt has resulted from centuries of controversy over the supposed historical inaccuracy of the book of Exodus. "Why," it has been asked, "is there no proof outside of the Bible that the plagues really happened?"

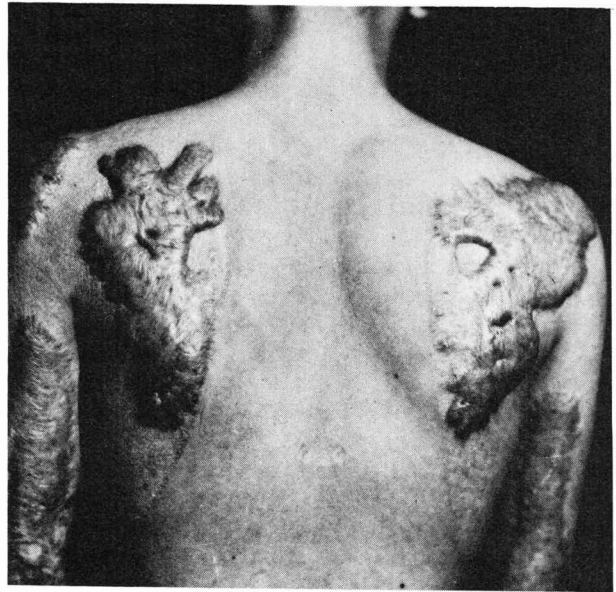
But there *is* PROOF!

The fact is, Egyptian chronology has been greatly misunderstood. There was an attempt — out of national pride — to make Egypt appear more ancient than it really was. Historical research has proved that Manetho, an important Egyptian historian of antiquity, *deliberately*



Wide World photos

ATOMIC SCARS — The first atomic bomb used in modern warfare was but a small firecracker compared to modern thermonuclear weapons! Hiroshima was left a level wasteland after atomic attack; many of its people scarred for life.



falsified and stretched out Egyptian chronology.

As a result, the events surrounding the Exodus have been dated centuries before their true time of occurrence, causing all evidence of the plagues on Egypt to be generally overlooked and disregarded. This error has never been corrected in history textbooks.

Nevertheless, there are ancient Egyptian documents — as we have seen in this lesson — which actually bear record of some of these plagues!

Now we are ready to begin studying some of the most astounding warning prophecies in all the Bible — prophecies which are destined to be fulfilled in this “end time” spoken of by so many of the prophets — prophecies of which the plagues on Egypt were types. For God has also *warned* our world!

The Great Tribulation

The scriptural warnings of Jesus’ “Olivet prophecy” recorded in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21, have taken on real meaning in our 20th century! The world has been experiencing the conditions Christ foretold it would before the occurrence of great catastrophic events.

In a world spiritually deceived through the efforts of the devil and his false ministers (Rev. 12:9; II Cor. 11:13-15), preaching a *false* Christ and substituting a false gospel in place of His true Gospel, we are in the second recess between stages of world war. The first two world wars have occurred. In this interim, brushfire wars have raged and “rumors of wars” continue.

Next to strike the earth are great famines, disease epidemics, earthquakes and finally the continuation of world war. All these conditions will grow in severity until hundreds of millions of this world’s inhabitants suffer from their effects.

Yet, according to Matthew 24:8, these events are only the “beginning of sorrows” — or, more properly translated — of *travail*, or *tribulation*!

1. As we learned in Lesson 2, the four-part “beginning of sorrows” is also pictured by the first four seals — the four “horsemen” described in Revelation 6:1-8. Exactly how did Jesus explain the *fifth* seal — the fifth world-shaking event? Matt. 24:9. What happens as a result of this persecution? Verses 10-13.

COMMENT: Many truly Spirit-begotten Christians will apparently have become so lukewarm, so out of prayerful contact with God, that they will

turn against their brethren, and will not “be accounted worthy to escape” the tribulation of that time (Luke 21:36).

2. What help will God give his faithful servants at that time? Luke 21:12-19.

COMMENT: We need to understand that the principle of duality applies to many prophecies. There is a former typical and then a final antitypical fulfillment of these prophecies.

The persecution spoken of in Matthew 24:9 did actually occur, in the typical forerunner sense, in the nation of Judah, about 70 A.D.

3. How does Luke 21:20-24 describe what will happen to Judah and Jerusalem at this time?

COMMENT: Verses 23-24 are made plainer in the modern English of the Moffatt translation: “For sore anguish will come upon the land and wrath upon this people; they will fall by the edge of the sword, they will be carried prisoners to all nations, and Jerusalem will be under the heel of the Gentiles till the period of the Gentiles expires.”

4. Notice also the parallel account in Matthew 24:15-28 — especially verse 21. Do these verses show a time of tribulation and war in the world?

5. How is this great tribulation represented in the opening of the fifth seal of Revelation 6:9-11?

COMMENT: Clearly this fifth seal pictures a martyrdom of saints — of converted, but “lukewarm” (Rev. 3:14-19; 12:17) begotten children of God!

Notice *two* separate martyrdoms are here portrayed. The first martyrs died during the great religious persecutions which occurred prior to and down to the end of the Middle Ages. These verses show that the earlier martyrdoms were only a *type*, or forerunner, for the martyrs of that time are told to wait until *another* martyrdom of saints has occurred. This future martyrdom will occur at the time to which John, the writer of this book of Revelation, has been carried forward in vision — just prior to the “day of the Lord.”

These martyrs are in actuality, of course, sleeping — unconscious — *dead* in their graves, having been in a sense sacrificed on the altar beneath which was collected the blood in which had resided their *lives* — or “souls” (Greek *psyche*). But they are pictured in vision as if crying out from under the altar, “How long?” before Christ will come and avenge their martyrdom. They are told Christ will not come to take vengeance on their behalf until another great persecution and martyrdom of saints will have taken place.

Is such a horrible thing really possible in our supposedly “enlightened” age? Dachau and other World War II concentration and extermination camps stand as mute but shouting witnesses to what human minds can do when they reject God — even in the twentieth century — and answer YES!

6. Will martyrdom even be the lot of God’s two

very special witnesses? Rev. 11:3-10. Who will be responsible for this end-time religious persecution? Rev. 11:7; 17:5-6; 18:24; 19:2. Will human beings behave this way because the devil, who has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9), will have become extremely active in working through his agents? Rev. 12:12, 17.

COMMENT: We have already learned the identity of the “beast” and the “great whore” in Lessons 10 and 11. The “woman” mentioned in Revelation 12 is God’s true Church. A lukewarm remnant of the true Church (verse 17) will *not be accounted worthy* to escape the wrath of Satan the devil in the great tribulation!

Great Signs in Heaven and Earth

1. What is the description of the sixth seal? Rev. 6:12-13. Will a great earthquake occur at this time? Verse 12. What will happen to the very “powers of the heavens”? Matt. 24:29. How soon *after* the fifth seal does all this occur? Same verse.

COMMENT: The sixth seal consists of spectacular heavenly signs — sun and moon becoming dark, and the “stars” falling. Tremendous meteor showers will make the starry heavens appear to be crashing earthward! Some claim this already has occurred, but the events they describe were *local* events, seen only in a small section of New England many years ago, and were at most merely small forerunners and warnings of the far more vast, awe-inspiring and terrifying events yet to come.

2. What great heavenly sign accompanies or immediately follows this event? Rev. 6:14-16; Matt. 24:30. (Notice also Isaiah 34:4, which is a prophecy of this same time.) Are all these events intended to *warn* the world that God’s WRATH upon rebellious mankind is about to begin — that the “day of the Lord” with its punishments for sin is about to commence? Rev. 6:16-17; Joel 2:30-31; Zeph. 1:14-18; Isa. 2:19-21.

A Manifestation of God’s Great LOVE!

1. What is the reason for the punishment God is soon to bring upon this world? Isa. 24:4-6. Notice especially verse 5.

COMMENT: God says He will bring this distress upon defiant and sinful men who hate the truth and peace, and love *evil*.

2. But will God’s punishment of mankind be a manifestation of His great *love* for humanity? Heb. 12:5-7. To what end will God’s punishment be directed? I Tim. 2:3-4; II Pet. 3:9.

COMMENT: There are those who believe that the plagues God brought upon ancient Egypt, and will yet bring upon the whole world in the future,

constitute the one great exception to the statement: "God is LOVE" (I John 4:8).

A common idea is that God is about to close "probation" — that the time of salvation will soon be over. Then, according to this belief, a "vengeful God of wrath" will glut His rage and passion by pouring out excruciating torture upon defenseless, helpless humans. This is a PAGAN conception of a god capable of all the base passions of degraded men. But this concept is utterly *untrue* of the true God.

For nearly 6000 years God has sent His loving messages to mankind. In *love* God revealed His law — His WAY of life that would lead to everything good and desirable — to our first parents, Adam and Eve. They rejected that way. God later sent His prophets with His message of PEACE, revealing to mankind the way to peace and happiness.

All these men of God have pleaded with this rebellious world in *love*. They brought a message of peace, of love, of mercy and compassion. Through them God has pleaded with this stiff-necked and self-willed world for nearly sixty centuries! But men have rejected the message, and killed the prophets.

Rebellious mankind put to death God's son who brought the good news of the Kingdom of God — which is the World Tomorrow. They martyred Jesus' apostles who went out into the world with the message of God's way of life, and God's beneficent rule over our lives.

In *love* and *tender mercy*, God has given this stubborn, misguided human race every chance to turn to Him. But men would not heed. *They will not heed today.*

God will not — *cannot*, without defeating His purpose for mankind — remove the prerogative of free moral agency from man. But men have proved they *will not* (except for the very few) voluntarily respond as long as God's pleading is limited to words. So God is about to step in and speak to this rebellious and hell-bent world with more than words.

As any wise and loving father punishes his children for their own good, when they refuse to respond to kind and loving verbal admonition, so an all-loving, all-wise God will finally plead with rebellious humanity in the only language they will be able to understand!

God is going to punish this world with righteous judgments — with plagues so terrible that many will at last recognize God is dealing with them. Many will then heed and turn from their wicked ways to seek God and His ways that lead to peace and everything good. And that coming period of punishment, described in more than 30 different prophecies scattered through both Old and New Testaments as the "day of the Lord," shall lead directly into the second coming of Jesus Christ and world peace!

Protection for the Repentant

1. After the awesome signs in the heavens and earth occur, and just before the seventh seal is opened, will further disruptions be stopped for a brief period of time? Rev. 7:1. Why? Verses 2-3. How many — and *who* — will be "sealed" in their foreheads? Verse 4.

COMMENT: The "four winds," of course, are symbols, but they are restrained from blowing *until* the "servants of God" are sealed in their foreheads. First of these to be sealed are the 144,000. They are 12,000 from each of the 12 literal tribes of Israel (see Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong's book, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*).

2. But what is this "seal" with which they are sealed? Verse 2; Rev. 14:1; Eph. 1:13; II Cor. 1:22.

COMMENT: The 144,000 are sealed "in their foreheads" (symbolic of their *minds*) by receiving the Holy Spirit of God, and it is the Father's name (authority, power) that is written there. Jesus' very last prayer for His Church was that they would be kept in the Father's *name* (John 17:11). This sealing, or receiving of God's Spirit, is a result of personal repentance of past sins and total surrender to God's righteous ways.

3. After the 144,000 are sealed, will a great number of others also be sealed? Rev. 7:9. Are these people from *all* nations? Same verse. What did they come out of? Verses 13-14.

COMMENT: "These are they which came out of [the] *great tribulation*..." — and have been forgiven their sins through the shed blood of Christ. They are seen clothed in white robes, symbolizing purity and righteousness — obedience to God's laws — unspotted by the ways and customs of the world. As they see God intervening through terrible supernatural signs in the heavens and on earth, this great multitude of all nations will surrender themselves completely to God, ask God to cleanse them from all their past sins by the blood of Jesus Christ, and be brought under *divine protection*, so that just as God protected the children of Israel when He poured out the plagues on ancient Egypt, so shall all these be protected from the plagues to come.

Then, just as those protected from those ancient plagues were taken under Moses and Joshua to the promised land, the Holy Land, so shall those saved from the coming plagues be taken by Christ into the Kingdom of God — to be set up on earth with headquarters in Jerusalem!

The "Trumpets" Begin to Blow

1. What transpires as soon as the "sealing" is complete and the seventh seal is opened? Rev.

8:1-6. Are these “trumpets” actually plagues? Rev. 9:20.

COMMENT: John sees in vision seven trumpets being handed to seven angels. The seven trumpets are, of course, symbols. They represent real world events to come. These trumpets are plagues which God shall send in physical punishment of evil in this world.

These “trumpets” are not, as so many have believed, identical to or contemporaneous with the seven seals. Neither do they *follow* the closing of the seventh seal. They are — they *constitute* — the seventh seal. This seventh seal occurs, then, in seven successive stages, each of the seven stages or parts being called a *trumpet*.

The first four trumpet plagues are the “winds” which were held back from blowing upon the earth (Rev. 7:1). But we do not here attempt to interpret the exact nature of these plagues — whether this language is to be taken literally or as symbols.

2. What occurs on the earth after the first trumpet is blown? Rev. 8:6-7.

COMMENT: The result of limited use of chemical defoliants during the Vietnam War will seem trifling after this supernatural fire burns all the grass and one-third of the trees on earth!

3. What does the blast of the second angel’s trumpet announce? Verses 8-9.

COMMENT: The seas will be gravely affected by this plague. One-third of the seas will turn to blood, one-third of all life in it will be destroyed, and one-third of the ships will be destroyed!

4. Next, what happens to part of the earth’s supplies of drinking water when the trumpet of the third angel is sounded? Verses 10-11. Will many die from drinking this poisoned water? Verse 11.

5. What terrifying plague is announced by the fourth trumpet? Verse 12.

Next — World War

In vision, God continued to show the Apostle John that the next tormenting event to afflict rebellious, heedless mankind will be renewed WARFARE! It is described in the ninth chapter of Revelation.

1. What are the last three trumpets called? Rev. 8:13.

COMMENT: The last three trumpets are called “woes” because they shall cause terrible woe on the earth. There will be great destruction of human life and natural resources. And when these woes are finished, only God will be able to repair the damage that will have been done to the surface of the earth.

In Old Testament times, the sound of a trumpet was used to signify a time of trouble and “an alarm of war” (Jer. 4:19-20). Zephaniah 1:16 says:

“A day of *the trumpet* and alarm against the fenced [that is, fortified or defended] cities, and against the high towers [that is, military fortifications].” Thus a “trumpet” is a symbol of *war* and *destruction*.

Just as God punished ancient Israel by sending the armies of Assyria, and punished Judah by the armies of the Chaldeans, so He will send armies of one nation against another to punish *the whole world* — ALL NATIONS — because their evil is destroying them and bringing suffering and unhappiness on all peoples.

And so the last three trumpet plagues specifically picture *three phases* of coming WORLD WAR! At the third stage — the third woe and last trumpet — men will be saved from extinction only by a *miracle* from God. If God did not personally intervene in this climactic war, men would destroy the last vestige of human life from the face of the earth!

The First Woe

1. As the fifth angel sounds his trumpet, how is the first woe described? Rev. 9:1-11. Are men to be *tormented* by symbolic “locusts”? Verses 3-6.

COMMENT: Note in verse 5 that their torment is *not* “of” a scorpion, but “*as of*” a scorpion. These are *not* actual scorpions.

2. How are these “locusts” described? Verses 7-10.

COMMENT: These symbolic locust-like “horses” with power to “hurt” men (verse 10) can only refer to terrifying war machines — very possibly sophisticated attack helicopters, or similar weapons yet to be invented.

Today machines carry men as a “horse” did then. And they hop and jump and fly like “locusts.” Could the fact that their hurt will be “*as of*” a scorpion — painful but not usually fatal — perhaps represent some nonfatal chemical, bacteriological, biological, or radiological weapon, yet to be unveiled, whose effect will linger for five months?

Precisely what specific weapons are meant and how they will be used by power-crazed men will be plainly evident when the fifth trumpet (first woe) is blown and the terrible warfare begins.

3. Where does this super-army come from? Verses 2-3. Where did we find the “bottomless pit” interpreted in a previous lesson? Rev. 17:8-14.

COMMENT: We found that the final resurrection of the Roman Empire is the power which emerges out of the “bottomless pit” (abyss). It is a war-making power (verse 14) with a super-army equipped with sophisticated weaponry. Mussolini restored the pitifully weak, insignificant sixth “head” of the “beast” — the Roman Empire. A seventh and last revival is yet to come, as we learned in Lessons 10-11.

4. Who is the motivating force — the *real* leader — of this religio-political war-making power? Rev. 9:11.

COMMENT: The Hebrew word *Abaddon*, and the Greek word *Apollyon*, both mean “destroyer”! The sinister power guiding the “beast’s” army will be none other than the great destroyer himself — Satan the devil!

5. Who will be *spared* from this blitzkrieg-type warfare? Verse 4.

COMMENT: When the forces of the beast attack its enemies, those who came through the great tribulation, turned to God and were “sealed” by His Spirit, will be protected. The people *now* being WARNED of these terrifying days by God’s modern-day “watchmen” (Ezek. 33:7-9; Matt. 24:14) will be left unprotected, except they repent and turn to God.

Meanwhile, hordes of other people in Asia will also have been preparing for war. They will have similar space-age “horses” with heads of “lions.” The *second* woe is ready to begin — the *sixth* trumpet is ready to sound.

The Second Woe

1. Are the sixth angel’s trumpet plague and the second woe clearly the same? Rev. 9:12-13. What happens when the sixth trumpet is blown — who will dare to threaten and even to make war on the “beast”? Verses 14-16. And how are their weapons described? Verses 17-19.

COMMENT: To the east (from the point of view of the Holy Land), beyond the Euphrates River, lies the Communist realm. From there an army of two hundred million men (verse 16) will attack westward. Their war machines, here again described by symbolic terms, deal death from front and rear — principally by “fire, smoke and brimstone.” These symbols may include all forms of explosives, fire bombs, hydrogen bombs, poison gas and other chemical agents.

2. How many people will suffer the torment, torture and death inflicted by this mighty army and its sophisticated weaponry? Verses 15, 18.

COMMENT: As man’s technical knowledge mushrooms and the international arms race continues, even hitherto unheard of weapons may be used. It is this wholesale carnage that Jesus Christ’s personal intervention must halt, for if such battles were permitted to continue, *no flesh would be saved alive!* (Matt. 24:22).

3. How does Isaiah 13:4-19 describe this time?

COMMENT: You will recall from Lesson 11 that this attack of the modern Medes will contribute in ultimately bringing about the final end of the “beast” power, spoken of here as “Babylon.”

4. Even after this tremendous toll of death, destruction and suffering, will most of stubborn, re-

bellious, hard-to-convince mankind remain unrepentant? Rev. 9:20. What kind of sins will they continue to commit? Verse 21.

5. Even during these plagues will God have continued to plead with all mankind to repent of their evil ways? Rev. 11:3-6.

COMMENT: Notice that the “two witnesses” are given supernatural protection as they deliver God’s *last warnings* to the evil powers of earth.

6. Once the mission of the two witnesses is finished, will God have allowed the “beast” to put them to death? Verse 7. Where are their dead bodies to be displayed? Verse 8; Jer. 23:14.

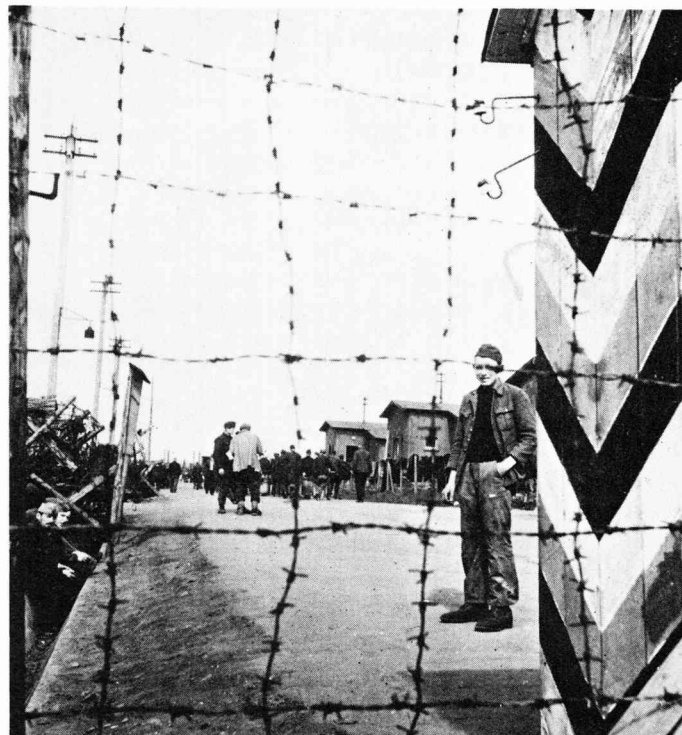
7. What will be the reaction of people in the nations which are united under the “beast” when God’s two witnesses are finally put to death? Rev. 11:9-10. What will God, who has the power of life and death, do for them as a sign to their murderers? Verses 11-12. Do some at this time begin to acknowledge God and give glory to Him? Verse 13. Do all of these events clearly take place at the end of the second woe, or sixth trumpet? Verse 14.

The Third Woe — Last Trumpet

1. What happens when the seventh trumpet sounds and the third woe begins? Rev. 11:15. Is

Wide World photo

CAPTIVITY — Dachau and other World War II concentration and extermination camps are grim reminders that future atrocities are not impossible in our modern age.



this clearly the time of Christ's second coming to take over the governments of the world and to establish the Kingdom of God on earth? Same verse.

COMMENT: We saw that following hard on the heels of the first four trumpet plagues warfare will rage. Millions will die. Mankind will be threatened with COSMOCIDE! And so it is at the LAST TRUMPET that mankind will be saved from extinction by the return of Jesus Christ to intervene in the titanic war which will be raging on the earth — the war which would otherwise lead to the annihilation of all life.

2. But what is the reaction of rebellious mankind at this time? Verse 18.

COMMENT: Jesus Christ, the new Ruler of the world, will not be meekly accepted by the power-crazed nations already engaged in an all-out struggle to grab world domination. Men have never wanted God's rule — even though it is the only way to peace, happiness and joy. And so the nations are found *angry*. They will contest Christ's rule over the earth by gathering their forces together to *fight* the King of Kings!

3. What else occurs at the blowing of the seventh and last trumpet? Verse 18. Notice the words, "thy wrath is come."

COMMENT: The only thing described at the blowing of this seventh trumpet that could possibly be the third woe is the WRATH OF GOD. But all the trumpets have been plagues, pouring out the wrath of God — His punishments to bring this hell-bent world to its senses. We will see that the seventh trumpet actually *consummates* this wrath.

4. Exactly what consummates — fills up — *completes*, the wrath of God? Rev. 15:1. Are these plagues to be poured out in Christ's presence on earth? Rev. 11:15; 14:10.

COMMENT: All of the preceding six trumpets have heralded the unleashing of different types of grievous plagues upon this rebellious world. But notice that the seventh, or last, trumpet (Rev. 11:15) consummates — completes — this wrath by ushering in the terrifying "seven last plagues." The Moffatt translation renders the last part of Revelation 15:1: "...For they [the seven last plagues] *complete* the wrath of God."

Just as the seventh *seal* is subdivided into the seven trumpets, so the seventh *trumpet* is divided into the seven last plagues, which are and constitute the seventh trumpet or third woe. Thus the seven last plagues, too, are a part of the seventh seal. And the seven last plagues are poured out *at* Christ's coming — actually in the very presence of Jesus Christ and all the holy angels — immediately *after* He returns to save humanity from extinction in the warfare which constitutes the second woe.

The Seven Last Plagues

1. Are these final plagues of wrath compared to "vials" about to be poured out? Rev. 15:7. (Some translations use the word "bowl.") Are they poured out upon the earth? Rev. 16:1. Read the rest of this chapter to get the story flow.

2. Will the seven last plagues be poured out in *one day*? Rev. 18:8.

COMMENT: These plagues are God's righteous judgments upon modern "Babylon." This scripture indicates that all seven vials will begin to be poured out in *one 24-hour day*, though some of these symbolic vials of wrath will undoubtedly continue to be administered *past* this 24-hour period.

This 24-hour day is the *climactic* part of the much longer "day of the Lord" which will have begun with the seventh seal (Rev. 8:1) which ushers in the seven consecutive trumpet plagues. And it will be during this one day that the "Babylonish" leadership of this sinful world will be **UTTERLY DESTROYED!**

3. Upon whom does the first vial cause excruciating sores? Rev. 16:2.

COMMENT: It will be poured upon all who are participating in this world's false, paganized civil-religious system — the "beast" system we studied in Lessons 10-11.

Note that the first of these seven last plagues, "poured out" on those who worship a false god, is the same type of plague which fell upon the ancient Egyptians who fostered a false religion (Ex. 9:10-11).

4. What will the second and third of these plagues do? Rev. 16:3-4. How just and righteous are these punishments of God upon mankind? Verses 5-7.

COMMENT: Recall that this also was one of the plagues God used to smite the pagan Egyptians (Ex. 7:19-21).

5. What great plague is produced as the fourth angel pours out his vial? Rev. 16:8. How intense will God cause the light of the sun to become for a short time? Isa. 30:26-27. Will many repent as a result of these grievous plagues, or will men continue to defy God? Rev. 16:9.

6. What cumulative effect will the plagues of God have on the earth's population? Isa. 24:6. Will comparatively *few* mortal people be left at the start of Christ's rule? Same verse.

COMMENT: Note particularly that not all people will die! There will still be *millions* left. With these, as His subjects, Christ will begin His rule on earth.

7. What, again, is the *reason* God must punish mankind so severely? Isa. 24:5.

COMMENT: *Sin* — disobedience to God's laws — is the **CAUSE** of all human suffering and woe. The

world is in reality bringing this wrath upon itself by refusing to obey God! And so God will have to punish the world severely to bring it to its senses. Yet, in spite of the severity of the fourth plague, many still will not repent.

8. After the fifth angel empties his vial, will darkness and great pain afflict those in the area of the headquarters of the beast? Rev. 16:10. (Notice the Egyptians experienced a similar plague — Ex. 10:21-23.) Will this plague finally compel these people to repent of their evil deeds and submit to Christ? Verse 11.

COMMENT: God's Word clearly shows that the earth's inhabitants will *refuse* to yield to Christ's authority when He comes. That is why Jesus Christ will have to powerfully subdue the world and *force* mankind, at first, to submit to His rule!

It is amazing to see, in advance, just how this world will react to the second coming of Jesus Christ.

9. At the pouring out of the sixth vial will the greatest battle in all human history occur — with the world's nations joining together to fight the returned Christ? Rev. 16:12-16. Will Christ *righteously* judge and make war on defiant men? Rev. 19:11; Isa. 11:4.

COMMENT: This plague is part of God's plan to gather the armies of all nations that remain rebellious to His ways into one place for the final phase — the final battle — of World War III.

The details of this tremendous battle and the prior gathering of these armies at Armageddon were covered in Lesson 3, pages 14-15. You may wish to review those pages at this time.

10. Even in destroying the wicked at His coming, won't Christ be *pleading* with men to repent of their wicked ways? Jer. 25:29-33. Notice especially verse 31.

11. Will the earth be violently shaken by the mightiest earthquake ever to occur when the seventh and last plague is poured out? Rev. 16:17-18. Will even the islands of the sea be moved? Verse 20.

COMMENT: Many islands, being dormant volcanic cones, will literally blow up and disappear as this final plague is unleashed!

The "day of the Lord" is often described as a day of *darkness*. Here is one major reason why: when volcanoes erupt they emit great quantities of cinder and ash which obscure the light of the sun. In 1883 the eruption of Krakatoa in the East Indies spewed such enormous quantities of matter into the upper atmosphere that for an entire year the sunrises and sunsets throughout the world were abnormally colored. If the eruption of *one* volcano can accomplish this, just imagine what hundreds, perhaps even thousands, of erupting volcanoes will do!

12. Will part of God's very last and final punishment of men be with gigantic hailstones? Rev. 16:21.

COMMENT: The weight of each hailstone will be about a talent — approximately 58 pounds. Can you imagine the tremendous destruction this storm will cause?

The Coming Great Exodus

1. After the last trump and His return to intervene in the affairs of men, what will Christ do for the descendants of His people Israel who will have been oppressed by the nations into which they were taken captive? Isa. 27:12-13; 10:20-22.

COMMENT: When they heard the warning message (Hosea 5:8-9) of God's ministers proclaiming the terrible end-time wars to come upon the earth, they did not heed and ended up in captivity.

2. Will God have permitted His people to be scattered among *all* the nations of the earth? Isa. 11:11-12. Won't this be similar to the exodus of ancient Israel from Egypt? Verses 11, 16.

3. Will this *future* exodus from Europe and around the world be much greater than the exodus from Egypt in the days of Moses? Jer. 16:14-15; 23:3, 7-8.

COMMENT: Jeremiah's God-inspired prophecy of this coming exodus was given about 600 B.C. It has not yet happened. The first exodus was only a lesser *type* of the SECOND exodus!

Notice that these regathered Israelites are not changed to immortality when Jesus Christ returns — but, instead, are restored to Palestine as physical human beings.

4. Will God lead His reclaimed people to see themselves as He sees them, and to loathe themselves for their wickedness, and then grant them repentant attitudes for the first time? Ezek. 20:42-43; Jer. 31:8-9; 50:3-5.

COMMENT: All peoples of this world — especially the descendants of ancient Israel — have yet to suffer enormously before they will finally learn that God *is* God, and before they will turn wholeheartedly to Him. But individually each of us can receive God's divine protection during coming worldwide catastrophes.

You need NOT fear any of these sorrows — if you heed God's warnings, *repent* and turn to Him now. Yes, there is a way of escape!

Your ONLY Way of Escape!

Your Bible shows that this earth will soon become nearly desolate *because of man's sins*. It is man's own ways — contrary to God's ways — which are bringing these dire calamities upon him. God warns that "as a snare" this trouble will come on all who dwell on the face of the earth (Luke 21:35). But after these terrifying events are over, God's new world order will be established on earth.

Then — after Jesus Christ establishes the King-

dom of God on earth — God will really begin to set His hand to **SAVE** humanity, ultimately giving *everyone* an opportunity for salvation — a chance to become a member of His world-ruling Family.

But in the meantime, how can you escape the terrifying times you have just studied?

In this age of nuclear weapons, human hide-aways offer no hope for permanent protection. The only escape from the grisly realities to come is recourse to the greatest reality in the universe — Almighty God!

1. Does God promise to protect those of His end-time people who faithfully keep His Word and do His work? Rev. 3:7-8, 10. What specific job did Jesus say would be carried on today? Matt. 24:14; II Cor. 2:12.

COMMENT: Even though His Church possesses relatively little numerical strength, Jesus has opened the *powerful* “doors” of radio, television, the printing press and personal evangelism to His church to preach and publish His Gospel of the Kingdom as a *warning witness* to the world. As a reward for faithfully obeying His Word and doing His works, Christ promises to **SPARE** His servants from the terrible tribulation and plagues to come.

2. Chapter 12 of Revelation personifies God’s true Church as a woman, His betrothed wife. Does God promise her miraculous, supernatural, spiritual and physical *shelter*? Rev. 12:13-16.

COMMENT: This end-time prophecy tells of an “escape” from the terrible war and tribulation which are promoted by Satan the devil. For three



PORTENTS OF RAVAGES TO COME — Top: Earthquake damage in Managua, Nicaragua. Bottom: Houses caught by lava flow and nearly buried by volcanic ash from erupting volcano on Heimaey Island, Iceland. Right: Destruction wrought by hurricane Betsy near New Orleans, Louisiana — all puny foretastes of the ravages to come!

Ambassador College, Wide World photos



and one-half years God's Church will be untouched by Satan (the "serpent") and the cataclysm of a world at war around them.

3. Does the true Church of God clearly keep the commandments and the instructions of Christ? Verse 17.

COMMENT: There are many churches in the world today. But don't make the mistake of following the false counterfeit Christianity which may masquerade as churches of God, yet refuse to obey God's will in everything. Very few so-called "Christian" churches can claim to obey *all* of God's Ten Commandments. Some that do acknowledge these commands refuse to obey *other* laws of the Bible.

Don't assume that a church professing the name of God or Christ is necessarily a church that obeys Christ. Don't swallow mainstream Christianity, which your Bible has exposed as the first "horseman" of Revelation 6. Instead, study what Christ Himself said, study the Bible's true doctrines (which are in most cases the direct opposite of men's *ideas*), and you shouldn't have any trouble recognizing where the *true* Church of God is today.

That group is doing God's work, and it has been promised a way of escape. Regardless of WHERE the "place" is that God's Church is to be nourished and protected during the perilous times ahead, the way to make sure you will be there is clear.

To those who will truly repent of wanting their own way — who are willing to rid their lives thoroughly of all their old ways, ideas and practices which are contrary to God's ways as revealed in the Bible — and who will come to God through Jesus Christ and His sacrifice, He promises spiritual, supernatural, miraculous shelter!

Will you be one of those to receive God's divine protection during the hideously hellish days ahead? Will you repent and turn to God and be "accounted worthy to escape"? The decision is yours. Don't put it off. *Check up* on your own spiritual condition. Don't *assume* you are "right with God."

You can learn more about God's WAY to physical protection and spiritual salvation by sending for the booklets and reprinted articles listed on the enclosed "Supplementary Reading Material" card. Be sure to write for those booklets and articles you have not received already — especially the booklets, *What Is a Real Christian?* and *Just What Do You Mean . . . Conversion?*

With this current lesson you have *completed* the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. We feel that this series of 12 lessons, together with the supplementary reading offered with each lesson, has presented sufficient study material to thoroughly acquaint you with the major doctrines and prophecies of God's inspired Word and to understand His plan of salvation for mankind.

We sincerely hope that you have profited from this study. We also hope that you will request the reading material listed on the enclosed card (as well as the literature you may not have requested before). Remember, the stakes are high. Don't miss out on what God has to offer you and your family. And always feel free to call on our representatives for personal instruction as you have need.

The entire Correspondence Course staff thanks you sincerely for having had the opportunity of serving you through these lessons! □

PERSONAL INSTRUCTION

Many of our students have written asking if we have representatives in their areas to instruct and counsel with them personally — to answer their questions — and even to baptize in certain cases.

The emphatic answer is yes, we do!

The Worldwide Church of God stations personal representatives (ordained ministers) in most parts of the United States and British Commonwealth and many other areas of the world. All of these dedicated men are carefully trained under the sponsorship of the Ambassador College Department of Theology, which also publishes this course.

These *men of God* can visit you directly in your own home. Of course, none of them will ever call on you *unless invited*.

If you do have questions — or require personal counsel for any reason — feel free to write us and request a private appointment. We'd be happy to send one of our men to see you. Worldwide mailing addresses are on page 2.

If you'd prefer faster service, please dial this toll-free number in the *Continental* United States: 800-423-4444. (Students in California, Nevada, Alaska and Hawaii should call 213-577-5225 *collect*.)

Remember, this service is absolutely **FREE** and without personal obligation.

ANSWERS TO QUIZ

| | | | | |
|-----|-----|------|------|------|
| 1-C | 5-D | 9-B | 13-F | 17-G |
| 2-B | 6-C | 10-C | 14-F | 18-F |
| 3-C | 7-D | 11-T | 15-T | 19-I |
| 4-A | 8-C | 12-T | 16-J | 20-A |

Rate yourself

| | |
|---------------------|-----------|
| 19-20 correct | excellent |
| 16-18 correct | good |
| 13-15 correct | fair |

TEST YOUR MEMORY

This quiz is designed to help you remember the important facts you have learned in the lesson. You simply circle or underline each correct answer. After you've finished the test, check your choices with the correct answers listed on page 15, and then rate yourself.

1. God is speaking to you personally and to the world today **A.** in dreams at night. **B.** by influencing people's thoughts and actions in undetectable ways. **C.** through His inspired Word — the Bible. **D.** through trance-like visions.

2. What is one vital thing God has been telling mankind? **A.** That He will destroy all mankind because of sin. **B.** That imagination-defying catastrophes involving nations and nature are just ahead because of man's sins. **C.** That man's efforts will finally produce utopia. **D.** That everybody must join the church of his choice.

3. Why does God warn the world in advance of catastrophe? **A.** Because God likes to see us squirm in fear. **B.** He doesn't — such "warnings" are merely allegorical. **C.** Because He is a loving Father who wants to spare His children unhappiness and suffering. **D.** Because He is unfair.

4. When did God begin to foretell the disruptions to befall this world in the end time? **A.** In the lifetime of Adam. **B.** Just before the Flood. **C.** During the human ministry of Jesus Christ. **D.** Only during the twentieth century.

5. Who has ever heeded a God-given warning? **A.** Absolutely none except a few converted Christians. **B.** Many in the days of Noah. **C.** A tithe — ten percent — of the inhabitants of Sodom and Gomorrah. **D.** The Ninevites whom Jonah warned.

6. The plagues on ancient Egypt **A.** cannot be repeated in today's world. **B.** were actually natural phenomena. **C.** followed advance warning from God. **D.** never really happened.

7. The Great Tribulation is **A.** part of the seventh seal. **B.** the wrath of God. **C.** one of the seven last plagues. **D.** the wrath of Satan.

8. The 144,000 and a great innumerable multitude **A.** will be sealed after the "woes" begin. **B.** will not be protected from the terrible trumpet plagues. **C.** will be "sealed" by receiving God's Spirit and protected from all the plagues to follow. **D.** are not sealed although they heeded God's warnings, repented of their sins and turned to God.

9. The second exodus **A.** will be insignificant to

subsequent world history in comparison to the first exodus. **B.** will be similar in many ways to the first exodus. **C.** occurred in the 1940s. **D.** is one of the books of the Old Testament.

10. The true Church of God today **A.** is very difficult to identify. **B.** is not offered protection from either the wrath of the devil or the wrath of God. **C.** obeys the commands of God and preaches the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world as a witness. **D.** is not interested in proclaiming God's warning message to the world.

TRUE OR FALSE

11. The four "winds" described in Revelation 7:1 will leave much of the earth a ruin similar to ancient Egypt after its plagues. **T F**

12. It seems rather clear that the symbols given in Revelation 9 represent some type of modern military weaponry. **T F**

13. The "seven last plagues" are poured out long before Christ returns. **T F**

14. As a result of the seven last plagues, all mankind will finally turn to the Creator God, repent of their sins, and begin obeying Him. **T F**

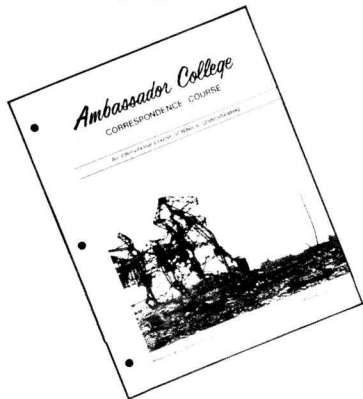
15. God promises a way of escape from all the horrors to come — but only to those who have turned to Him in true repentance. **T F**

MATCHING

Draw a line from each phrase in the left-hand column to the correctly related phrase in the right-hand column.

- | | |
|------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 16. God | A. For the repentant |
| 17. Seventh seal | B. Symbolic locusts |
| 18. Three "woes" | C. Loves to punish |
| 19. Last trumpet | D. The Great Tribulation |
| 20. Protection | E. Satan's wrath |
| | F. Phases of world war |
| | G. Seven "trumpet" plagues |
| | H. Beginning of sorrows |
| | I. Christ's coming |
| | J. Punishes in love. |

SUPPLEMENTARY READING FOR LESSON 12



The booklets and reprinted articles listed below are highly recommended as supplementary reading material for this lesson of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. Just check the appropriate boxes for the literature you wish to receive (or just check the first box if you desire ALL of the literature), then fill out the reverse side of this card and mail it in a stamped envelope to the address shown below.

- Please send me all of the literature listed here
- What Is a Real Christian? (RC)
- Just What Do You Mean . . . Conversion? (MC)
- All About Water Baptism (WB)
- How You Can Be Imbued With the Power of God (310)
- Just What Is the Church (572)
- This Is the Worldwide Church of God (WC)
- The Ten Commandments (10)
- Pagan Holidays — Or God's Holy Days — Which? (FE)
- The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe (105)

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