AMBASSADOR COLLEGE Bible CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

LESSON 6

UTOPIA!

EVERY *KING IS CROWNED IN A* CORONATION *CEREMONY*. JESUS IS NO EXCEPTION! He, too, must be crowned as Supreme Ruler—as King of kings—over this whole world.

Yet almost no one understands WHY!

Christ to be King

Notice what the angelic messenger said to Mary, the mother of Jesus: "Thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bear a Son, and shalt call his name Jesus. He shall be great . . . and *the Lord God shall* GIVE HIM THE THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID: and he shall *reign* over the house of Jacob forever; and of his Kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:31-33).

Jesus was BORN TO RULE. He was born to *reign* over the nations. Remember what He said to Pontius Pilate? "Pilate therefore said to Him, 'Art thou *king* then?' Jesus answered, 'Thou sayest that I am a KING. *I to this end have been born*, and to this end am I come into the world . . .'" (John 18:37).

Not Yet CROWNED

Remember that in Lesson 3, we learned that Jesus *QUALIFIED* to become ruler of this earth by His conquest of Satan. But Jesus Christ did *not*, at His *first* coming over 19 centuries ago, replace Satan. He was *not* crowned King. Instead, He was crucified!

Jesus was born to be a king, though He did *not* then assume the responsibility of that office (John 18:37). But he *WILL COME THIS TIME* AS KING OF KINGS to bring the world PEACE AND PROSPERITY.

Yet almost no one has understood WHEN, WHERE, and by WHOM Jesus Christ will be crowned!

Does any *man* have the *authority* to grant Jesus the right to rule the world? Will He go to the *people* to have them elect Him to office? Will He be accountable to the people—or will the people be accountable to Him? Will any *man* be able to impeach Him? WHO has the *only* authority to put Jesus Christ into office?

After Jesus is crowned, WILL there BE A MARCH OF TRIUMPH climaxing His victory over the nations which are in rebellion against the rule and the Kingdom of God?

Since Jesus will become "King of kings," who will be the "kings" ruling under Him? When will they be given their power and responsibility?

Observe that Jesus Christ is not coming merely to be a figurehead King. He is coming to CARRY OUT HIS OFFICE—to BRING PEACE, HAPPINESS and genuine *PROSPERITY* such as this *present world* has never seen!

Why will there be great *prosperity* in the World Tomorrow—the soon-coming MILLENNIUM?

Few People Know!

GOD HAS A "WAY" OF *LIFE* which, IF FOLLOWED, would MAKE living HAPPY AND JOYOUS for all! If people TODAY would follow this WAY they would KNOW *how* to meet all the family problems that confront them daily. They would learn to meet these problems as GOD would want them to be met—and *everyone* would be *happy*—happy with the results which would come from the *right solution* to every problem.

God has promised to create just such a world of happiness and joy and prosperity. ***But it can't occur until we learn to let God rule in all our actions all twenty-four hours of the day!***

CHRIST BROUGHT THE MESSAGE ABOUT *THIS WAY*. THE *WAY* OF *KEEPING* THE COMMANDMENTS AND PRECEPTS REVEALED IN *YOUR BIBLE!* He said, "I am come that they (you and I) might have life, and that they might have it more *abundantly*" (John 10:10). He preached that people could have full and abundant lives if they let God's precepts rule in all their activities.

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But how did the world accept His message? Were they interested?

Paul reports, "There arose no small stir about THAT WAY" (Acts 19:23). He also reports that various PEOPLE "SPAKE *EVIL* OF THAT WAY" (Acts 19:9).

THIS has been THE ATTITUDE OF THE WORLD TO THIS DAY! It has *not* VOLUNTARILY accepted Christ's message, which, if followed, would have produced a UTOPIA on this earth! Look at the world crisis that now confronts us.

But SOON God, through Christ, as supreme King, will intervene AND PEOPLE WILL BE MADE TO KEEP THE WAY OF GOD. An example—if people do not come to worship Him, rain will be withheld (Zech. 14:17). The WAY of God —THE WAY REVEALED IN *YOUR* BIBLE— will then guide them *continually*. They will PAY God His TITHES. God says when this is done He will "open . . . the windows of heaven, and pour . . . out a *BLESSING* and there shall *not be enough room to receive it*" (Mal. 3:10).

Also, for keeping His *days* they are assured they will "ride upon the high places of the earth" (Isa. 58:14). THEY WILL LIVE IN LUXURY! The Bible is *full* of such promises for OBEDIENCE. Read Leviticus 26:1-13 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14, which reveal some of the blessings God has promised for obedience. When *all* obey God, the world will be *full* of things that are now considered great *luxuries!* THEY WILL *SEE* THE *DIFFERENCE* IN happiness which THESE TWO DIFFERENT WAYS bring them. And they WILL BE CALLED TO *REPENT* of *their* way of life and *allow themselves* to BE RE-EDUCATED TO *GOD'S WAY* of life. That's *why* He is to be made King. He will have complete personal charge of guiding people to repentance and re-educating them in *God's* way.

Now we are ready for the actual lesson.

Lesson 6
The CORONATION of Jesus Christ

Now let us understand WHEN, WHERE and by WHOM Jesus Christ will be crowned.

1. When *the people* wanted to make Jesus their King over 19 centuries ago, Jesus gave them a parable to explain WHEN the Kingdom of God would rule the world. We studied this parable in Lesson 2, part 2. According to this PARABLE, found in Luke 19:12-27, *where* did Jesus go to obtain the office of King and to receive the Kingdom? Did He go to the *people* to have them induct Him into office? Did He go to Caesar at Rome? Will He go to the United Nations to have them crown Him as King?

2. *Who* has the only authority to put Jesus Christ into office? Romans 13:1. Therefore could human beings have *any* authority unless it were permitted by the Almighty? Does any *man* have the *authority* to grant Jesus the right to become King of kings? Doesn't this show that JESUS HAD TO ASCEND TO THE ALMIGHTY HEAVENLY FATHER, as shown in the parable of Luke 19, in order TO RECEIVE the authority to RULE the nations? Does God have all authority? Could anyone have *greater* authority than *God Almighty?* With whom is God the Father willing to *share* ALL OF HIS VAST AUTHORITY? Matthew 28:18.

In granting Jesus authority, does God thereby demonstrate that He Himself rules supreme above the nations, even though He permits men to sit in offices of limited political authority over states and nations? Daniel 4:34-35.

3. Inspired by the DEVIL, did *men* try to *crown* Jesus as King in a *MOCK* CEREMONY? John 19:2-5. During His earthly ministry, was Jesus ever crowned by God as King over the nations?

4. After Jesus ascended to heaven and had been there for approximately sixty years, He revealed Himself in the Book of Revelation to the Apostle John. In Revelation, did Jesus describe Himself as having a crown on His head? Rev. 1:12-18. Then was Jesus crowned immediately upon His arrival into Heaven?

COMMENT: In Hebrews 2:9 we find the statement that Jesus is "crowned with glory and honor." This verse does *not* refer to the actual coronation ceremony or to the actual crown with which Jesus will be acclaimed as King. This verse is *figurative*. It *compares* the present spiritual glory and honor of Jesus to a crown. But according to the actual picture of JESUS Christ, there was NO crown upon His head when the Book of Revelation was revealed. AT the PRESENT time the office of Jesus is that of HIGH PRIEST (Heb. 3:1), *not* that of *King of*

kings ruling over the nations.

5. When Jesus returns, will He *still* be without a crown? Rev. 14:14. By comparing this verse with Rev. 1, don't we have proof that JESUS IS CROWNED IN HEAVEN BEFORE HE RETURNS?

6. Jesus mentioned in His parable, recorded in Luke 19, that He would go to heaven to receive the Kingdom. Where, in Scripture, do we find that Jesus is *GIVEN THE KINGDOM and hence crowned?* Daniel 7:13-14. *Here the* CORONATION *of Jesus is described.*

COMMENT: The Ancient of Days described in Daniel is the Heavenly Father. The title "Father" was not used because the heavenly Father had not yet begotten Jesus. Notice also that One *like* the Son appeared before the Ancient of Days to receive the Kingdom. The Logos or Word (John 1:1) was *like* the Son of man. He was not yet born as a Son, but since He would become a Son of man through Mary, He was, in Daniel's day, *like* the Son of man—the Jesus who would be born of the Virgin Mary.

7. WHEN will Jesus be crowned as King of kings? Read the seventh chapter of Daniel, especially verses 9-14, and compare them with Revelation 11:14-18. You will find the answer in these verses.

8. Does the One like the Son of man—Jesus—receive the Kingdom when the *Judgment* begins? Notice again in Daniel 7 the phrases "*judgment* was set" (verse 10), and "there was *given* Him dominion" (verse 14). According to Revelation, does Jesus receive the kingdoms of this world at the time of the Judgment? Rev. 11:15, 18.

9. Does the CORONATION ceremony occur IMMEDIATELY BEFORE the time when the *RIGHTEOUS* DEAD shall be RESURRECTED and be judged? Rev. 11:15, 18. Is this the time of the sounding of the seventh trumpet? Rev. 11:15. According to Paul, do the *righteous* dead rise AT the sounding of the SEVENTH or last TRUMPET? I Cor. 15:52 and I Thes. 4:16.

How plain that the CORONATION of Jesus occurs *immediately* BEFORE HE RETURNS the second time to rule the nations! In fact, *Jesus returns to* FULFILL *His office as King of kings.* Once given that office, He must carry it out!

10. How many *great* crowns will Jesus have—only ONE? Rev. 14:14. JESUS WILL HAVE ONLY ONE *GREAT* GOLDEN CROWN. THAT CROWN WILL DESIGNATE HIM AS *SUPREME* KING OVER *ALL* NATIONS.

COMMENT: Note Rev. 19:12. The proper translation of this verse is: "AND on his head are MANY *diadems.*" A diadem is a *small* crown or head-band signifying royal office.

The SMALLER CROWNS or diadems SYMBOLIZE THE LESSER ROYAL OFFICES THAT JESUS WILL HOLD.

11. Why will Jesus be called King of kings? Who are these *other* kings? Daniel 7:18, 27. Whom will Jesus associate with Himself on His throne? Rev. 3:21. Will those who rule with Christ have to *qualify* for their offices, as Jesus qualified for His high office? Rev. 2:26. Do we have to overcome ourselves—to exercise self-control, temperance? I Cor. 9:25-27.

12. Are WE ALSO TO RECEIVE CROWNS? I Cor. 9:25. Are the crowns of the saints perishable or corruptible?—or are they everlasting crowns? If they are everlasting, wouldn't we have to be *immortal* in order to possess them for all eternity?

13. What does God expect of us here and now? Titus 2:13.

14. Are WE WARNED NOT TO LET ANYONE DISQUALIFY US from receiving *crowns* of rulership? Rev. 3:11. Are crowns of life—betokening our *everlasting* kingly offices under Christ—to be given to us? Rev. 2:10 and James 1:12.

15. WHEN *do WE RECEIVE our reward*—our crowns and offices of rulership? II Timothy 4:8. Is this AT the SECOND COMING of Jesus Christ? I Peter 5:4.

16. Whereas Jesus went to heaven to be crowned there by the Father, do we find that Jesus returns to the EARTH to *bring* our reward to us and to crown us? Compare Rev. 11:18 with Isaiah 40:10 and 62:11. Isn't it plain that JESUS *comes to us to GIVE US our reward?*

17. Since Jesus *will bring our reward* with Him when He comes, and since He will place us in authority under Himself, would there be any reason for us to go to the Father in heaven to be crowned? Has Jesus been given authority over us, to REWARD us? Mat. 28:18 and Luke 19:15. Jesus COMMANDS us—His servants—to appear before Him for our rewards.

18. How will the TRIUMPHANT PARADE OF JESUS AND HIS SAINTS TO JERUSALEM be welcomed? Zechariah 9:9. Will it be a MARCH of TRIUMPH AND VICTORY? Verse 9. Will this victory march CULMINATE CHRIST'S VICTORY OVER the ENEMIES of His people? Zech. 9:11-17.

COMMENT: Zech. 9:9 has a dual fulfillment. *It was once fulfilled only as a type!* Read Matthew 21:5. But Jesus was *not then* KING OF KINGS! Jesus had not then gained victory over the nations. He did not then speak peace to all the nations. But in the final fulfillment, yet in the future, Jesus *will be* KING and the people will joyously accept Him. (The first time they immediately crucified Him!)

19. What will the earth be like when Jesus is acknowledged as King of kings? Will the ways of peace be proclaimed by Jesus to the nations? Zech. 9:10. How far will Christ's dominion extend at that time? Verse 10.

HOW will THINGS BE AFTER CHRIST, as world ruler, WILL HAVE CALLED ALL TO REPENTANCE, and the people have turned to God's ways? Let us now take a look at the Utopia which will occur. *God* describes it. It is immediately ahead of us!

UTOPIA!

Father's Spirit Will Direct

1. As has been previously shown, when Christ returns He will come in the clouds of heaven and His angels will gather His elect from all parts of the earth. They will meet Him in the air and all will soon thereafter descend upon the Mount of Olives. What will happen to the Mount when Christ's feet touch it? Zech. 14:4.

2. Will the deep ravine thus formed become the channel of A *MIGHTY RIVER which WILL ARISE IN JERUSALEM?* Will half of this mighty stream flow eastward in the channel formed by this split, and will the other half FLOW WESTWARD in the west channel? Verse 8. Won't the river flowing EASTWARD empty into the Dead Sea? And that flowing westward empty into the Mediterranean Sea? Look at the map of Palestine in the back of your Bible—refresh your memory on this coming world-center.

3. Isn't the *eastern channel* in which "living waters"—fresh waters—flow into the Dead Sea the same river as that described in Ezek. 47:1-9? Note especially verses 8 and 9. Notice that the river described in Ezekiel CAUSES EVERYTHING WITH WHICH IT COMES IN CONTACT TO LIVE AND BE HEALED! This is the *same* river!

4. Does Ezek. 47:8 show that when the fresh or "healing" water from this *LIFE-GIVING* STREAM begins to flow into the *Dead* Sea, the *Dead* Sea will also become a body of water having LIFE in it? Will it be "healed"? Verse 8. Will it contain *living* fish? Verse 9. Will it give *life* to the barren places through which it flows? Verse 12.

But when this *new* river—the river of "*living* waters"—begins to empty into the Dead Sea not far from the mouth of the Jordan River, then the waters of the Dead Sea will rise until they OVERFLOW SOUTHWARD THROUGH THE DESERT. The overflow will probably carry into the Gulf of Aqaba. It will then be in this area that *NEW LIFE WILL SPRING UP* ALONG the BANKS when the water will become *fresh*. Also, all places into which it flows in Palestine, will receive *new life!*

5. What is the SIGNIFICANCE of this river which will flow from Jerusalem? Hasn't this river a DUAL MEANING?

CHRIST will sit upon David's throne *at Jerusalem*, the *world's* CAPITAL—the same place from which the *river of life* arises (Ezek. 47.1). Won't His *RULE* WHICH SHALL *also* "GO FORTH FROM JERUSALEM" (Isa. 2:3), HAVE A "*HEALING*" *EFFECT* LIKE THE ACTUAL *RIVER?* It will heal the strife-torn nations of the world (Malachi 4:2).

Will not the *Spirit* of God direct Christ so that He may *guide* the nations in the millennium into His own way of life, THE WAY of LIFE which will produce for them the Utopia they have always desired? Isn't the Spirit compared to "living water"? John 4:10. Then won't the *world tomorrow* —the millennial world—"have life, and that . . . *more abundantly*"? (John 10:10).

Here then we see that when Christ returns He will give all nations a *PHYSICAL* REPRESENTATION OF THE EFFECT OF THE *SPIRIT* (WATER) OR MIND *OF CHRIST*. Like the water of the actual river, His *godly* mental (Spiritual) *DECISIONS* WILL FLOW OUT FROM JERUSALEM, and LIKE the *ACTUAL* RIVER, these will HEAL and give life, for they will PREVENT wars and STRIFE which would wound human bodies and also cause death. Also won't His decisions PRODUCE HAPPIER, healthier and more abundant LIVES? John 10:10.

Palestine: Garden of Eden

1. What will be the *conditions in Palestine* where Israel, GOD'S MODEL NATION, will dwell? Will living by *God's* WAY, as administered by Christ as King, produce a UTOPIA there? Will Israel be fearful of wars and destruction any more? Ezek. 28:25-26. Will the Israelites then be fearful of the future as this world is today? Same verse.

2. Will God see that the LAWS OF NATURE FUNCTION FOR THE BENEFIT OF THIS NATION? Isa. 44:3. Will not this be a *TREMENDOUS* BLESSING?

3. Will the devastated CITIES BE REBUILT? Jer. 33:10-11. Will *happiness* be there? Verse 11.

4. Notice that Jer. 33:10-11 says there will be CITIES in the world order soon to be established. Does this indicate that cities, as such, are wrong? If they were wrong, would Christ build them?

Today, we have great SMUDGE-BLACKENED

CITIES which are crowded and gloomy. In the cities of TOMORROW these conditions will NOT EXIST. They will be of a size which will be small enough to promote family life. A *PROPER BALANCE* BETWEEN INDUSTRY AND those things which promote JOYOUS LIVING will be maintained. Does Zech. 8:5 also verify this?

5. Tremendous destruction will be caused by the seventh vial of wrath—the great earthquake and great hail (Rev. 16:18, 21), which we have seen Christ will inflict upon the earth to bring the world to its senses. Much *RECONSTRUCTION* will have to be done. This work will have to be FINANCED. Other nations will not have the economic means to carry this out—they will have to borrow. But Israel, after being led out of captivity by Christ when He comes, will have this means.

How will Israel acquire the financial means? Remember that those who will spoil Israel when they conquer them are the ten-nation fascist union (Rev. 17:12). Will the fascists have accumulated much wealth? Rev. 18:9-13. Will Israel take great treasure from their captors who spoiled them when Christ liberates them? Zech. 14:14. What will Israel do? Deut. 15:6. This will be a BUSINESS of LENDING ON A VAST SCALE. Does Deut. 28:12 also verify this?

The Dead Sea, lying in Central Palestine, will be another vast source of wealth. It is extremely rich in minerals and will be a great industrial asset. *BUSINESS WILL BE CARRIED ON in the millennium but people will be taught to carry it on DECENTLY!*

6. Will the EARTH be *RE-POPULATED* after the terrific destruction of human life which lies just ahead of us now? Eze. 36:11. What about the *HOUSING* SITUATION? How will shelter be provided for the people? Isa. 41:19; 60:13. Lumber is scarce today due to man's destructiveness.

The forests of Lebanon are situated in the northern part of Palestine. The scriptures frequently refer to the beauty and splendor of the "cedars of Lebanon." Will the *number of trees* in the forest increase markedly in the millennium? Isa. 29:17. Will God allow the FORESTS to be destroyed for lack of PROPER SUPERVISION? With a GREAT AMOUNT of LUMBER then, will it not make it easier for all to have BEAUTIFUL HOMES?

7. *PALESTINE* is a relatively barren region now. Prophecies indicate, however, that it will see the most dramatic change of any land. It is the land center of the earth and is destined to be its capital. It will BE the *SEAT* OF CHRIST'S WORLD GOVERNMENT. What has always been considered the *MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE* that has ever existed in this world?—the Garden of Eden? Will God transform Palestine into a place RESEMBLING EDEN? Isa. 51:3. Will great *joy* be there?

COMMENT: *Zion* is a hill in the environs of the city of Jerusalem. It is the mount on which the old city of David was built. Geographically speaking, Mount Zion is often used in the Bible to stand for *Jerusalem* or for the land of Palestine.

World to Share Prosperity

1. Will the REST OF THE EARTH *SHARE* IN THE GREAT PROSPERITY which will bless PALESTINE? How do we know?

We have seen that CHRIST will establish His capital in Jerusalem. It will be in Palestine among the Israelites. From His capital city, Jerusalem, He will *RULE ALL NATIONS of the world.* CHRIST WILL RULE OVER A COMMONWEALTH OF NATIONS. Then won't all nations have the same ruler—Christ? Isa. 2:2.

2. Will not the WHOLE WORLD *THEN WALK IN GOD'S WAYS?* Micah 4:2. If so, doesn't this mean that they will ALL be *ruled by the SAME LAWS*—GOD'S LAWS? If the Gentiles WILL OBEY Christ in the millennium will they be HIS subjects? WILL THEY BELONG TO HIM? Rom. 6:16.

3. The Bible says, "IF YE ARE CHRIST'S then are ye Abraham's seed (you are *Israelites!*) and heirs according to the promise" (Gal. 3:29). What was the promise made to Abraham's seed, the nation of Israel, for OBEDIENCE? Weren't they to BE *BLESSED MATERIALLY?* Leviticus 26:1-13 and Deuteronomy 28:1-14. Isn't it plain that IN THE MILLENNIUM THE OTHER NATIONS OF THE EARTH WILL SHARE IN THE PROMISES MADE TO ISRAEL *if they will* OBEY *Christ?*

COMMENT: God has made Israel and its descendants a promise that He will set them "on high *above all nations* of the earth," if they will obey Christ (Deut. 28:1). Therefore those of ISRAEL who are obedient will OCCUPY the LAND OF PALESTINE and RECEIVE a RELATIVELY GREATER SHARE OF BLESSINGS than other nations. BUT, aside from this, *ALL* NATIONS can SHARE in the promises IF they will OBEY Christ! This world will become a *UTOPIA* for the obedient!

Ancient Israel was never able to claim all the promises of Deut. 28:1-14 and Lev. 26:1-13 over long periods of time, for the people were not constant in their obedience to God. In the millennium, with Christ ruling rigidly ("with a rod of iron"), their descendants will be obedient and therefore they will receive all of these blessings.

4. *How* will highways be *built?* Isaiah 40:3-4. Will the *SUPER*HIGHWAYS be *LEVEL*, and will they GO *in a DIRECT line* from one point to another, thus being *straight* so *HIGH* SPEEDS can be safely achieved on them? Does this indicate *much traveling* will be done?

5. Notice verse 4 of Isaiah 40. Does it indicate a

general *LANDSCAPING of the EARTH'S SURFACE* will be done? Wouldn't this indicate the use of much *heavy machinery* and the opportunity TO *EMPLOY A GREAT NUMBER* of people? Employment today is a great problem. It will then be solved to the satisfaction of all!

6. There is GOING TO BE A VERY UNUSUAL *HIGHWAY* IN PALESTINE. Its FAME will be WORLD-WIDE! Will it lead to the capital city Jerusalem? Isa. 35:8, 10.

COMMENT: *Zion* is a general name for the city of Jerusalem. This will be AN ACTUAL ROAD. But, WILL THIS ACTUAL HIGHWAY BE KNOWN AMONG THE NATIONS AS *representative* OF ANOTHER WAY—GOD'S WAY of life? What is this *way* called? Verse 8. Will the *unclean*—those who cling to sin (II Cor. 6:16-18)—pass over it? Verse 8. Will any *destructive* creature attack those who pass over it? Verse 9. Who will use it? Same verse.

Liberty!

1. Will there be *many* languages in the millennium? Zeph. 3:9. What do the words "with *one* consent" signify? Could all the people of the earth be of *one* opinion about a subject if they could not even understand what was said because it was told them in a *foreign* language? Note also the words "*PURE* LANGUAGE."

COMMENT: At the tower of Babel God separated the various nations by giving them various languages (Gen. 11:9). Why? Because they were rebellious against His Way of Life. People wanted to live by their depraved lusts. Different languages of the different nations are a barrier against the spread of human depravity. If He had not done this, they would soon have destroyed themselves (verse 6).

In the millennium there will be no danger of self-destruction. God will then *restore* to *all* peoples *ONE* LANGUAGE. It will be valuable in the exchange of proper ideas, and will aid in establishing peace and harmony. Does this not show we will be *liberated* from the language barrier?

2. We have seen there will be *work* to be done in the millennium. But *how hard will this work be* COMPARED TO THE LABOR WE ARE FORCED TO DO NOW when we are *disobedient* to God's way and are *not receiving the blessings* God gives for obedience? Isa. 11:10. Note the word "rest."

COMMENT: Much is said in the Bible about how nature, influenced by God, will cooperate to make life *easy* for mankind in the millennium when they are *under God's rule*. Compare the EASY LIFE of GOD'S WAY with the HARD LIFE of *man's way* when he rules himself. God calls *man's way* the BABYLONIAN system. Read of the RIGOR AND TOIL AND BONDAGE of living by this system in Rev. 18:2, 10, 13, 14, 23, 24. NOTE ESPECIALLY verses 13 and 24.

GOD'S WAY OF LIFE is the WAY OF LIBERTY—the EASY WAY, *but* MAN IS NOT REALLY CONVINCED THAT IT IS. God is now, *through man's own Babylonish* system, LETTING MAN CONVINCE HIMSELF! LOOK AT THIS WORLD'S FOREBODING FUTURE!

3. Will there be old men and women as well as PEOPLE of other AGES, IN THE MILLENNIUM? Joel 2:28. Won't there be cities? Amos 9:14.

4. Will all people have peace? Micah 4:4.

How does I Kings 4:25 explain the expression "under *his* FIG TREE"? Did every man mentioned there actually sit "under his fig tree" all the days of Solomon or is this a *symbol* of *PEACE?* THIS SHOWS THE NECESSITY OF LETTING THE BIBLE INTERPRET ITSELF! All will rest under the shade of *their own* trees and grape arbors and none will rob them of it by wars or other means.

5. Much is said today against PRIVATE OWNERSHIP. Communists and Socialists are especially against it. Notice the word "his" in Micah 4:4. Does *God* think it is improper? Will people have their *own* property in the millennium? Will people be *liberated* from systems which deprive them of the righteous rewards of their own toil?

6. Today, the *doctors* of this world have great difficulties in trying to prevent lameness. Blindness, deafness, and dumbness are among their most baffling cases. BUT what will CHRIST do with such cases? Will it be hard for Him to CURE them? Isa. 35:5. If it were, would God make such broad, sweeping statements? ISN'T ALL THIS A PART OF "THE GOOD NEWS OF THE WORLD TOMORROW"?

Bounteous Crops!

1. Rain is one of God's choicest blessings (Ezek. 34:26). Will God see that *rain* is given for the seed? Isa. 30:23. Will there even be springs and *streams* of water on every high hill? Verse 25. Won't these mountain streams make beautiful resort areas?

2. As a result of the *ABUNDANCE* OF RAIN what will happen? Isa. 35:7. (The Moffatt Bible properly translates the word "dragons" as "hyenas and jackals." The word dragon may mean a land or sea serpent, or a hideous creature such as hyena or jackel.) What else will happen? Verse 1.

3. Today, the greater portion of the EARTH is unproductive—only a small area of the land surface is actually TILLABLE. There are many deserts and wildernesses. After studying Isa. 35:7 and Isa. 32:15, can you say that this will be true during the coming UTOPIA?

4. The *AGRICULTURAL WEALTH* of a nation is generally the greatest asset it can have. But the farmers and others that are in agriculture have had to gamble with the weather and rainfall throughout the centuries. Wouldn't it be the most JOYFUL NEWS to them if they were assured that

all their work would be a success? *FOOD* AND *WATER* are the outstanding necessities of all people. All will certainly be interested in this *good news!*

5. What will happen to the family fruit ORCHARDS AND *GARDENS?* Amos 9:14. *Today*, are farmers in Eastern Europe and Asia robbed of their crops by communist masters? In the United States is the drought and searing heat robbing families of the produce of their gardens? In Palestine will all have great success with their vineyards? Jer. 31:5. What will the people DRINK? Amos 9:14.

6. Will PEOPLE GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD FOR the ABUNDANCE of the crop He will bestow upon them? Jer. 31:12.

7. Today, much is heard of the scarcity of *MEAT* and of the price at which it sells. Meat is a necessity for a WELL-BALANCED DIET. Will there be a scarcity of this vital product then? What does God say of the amount of livestock there will be in the millennium? Doesn't this also indicate there will be plenty of *MILK* for building STRONG, HEALTHY BODIES? Isa. 30:23-24.

8. Will there be a great abundance of FISH to eat for those who live in Palestine—and for the rest of the world? Ezek 47:9, 10.

9. WHAT IS THE BASIC REASON BEHIND THE FACT THAT THERE WILL BE SO MUCH AGRICULTURE PROSPERITY IN THE MILLENNIUM? When Adam DISOBEYED God, He said: "*Cursed is THE GROUND* for thy sake . . . *thorns and thistles* shall it bring forth to thee" (Gen. 3:17-18). To this day the curse has existed in degree.

What will happen in the millennium when men *obey* THE WAY of God? Will GOD *REMOVE* this CURSE? Isa. 55:13.

10. Often, after men have succeeded in gaining their just reward for sweat and toil, others *ROB* them of it. This will NOT be true in the soon-coming future, will it? Isa. 62:8-9.

11. Will there actually be a SUPER-ABUNDANCE OF FOODS? Amos 9:13.

12. With all the super-abundance of foods and the good things of life, there is the question of how they will be used. We have seen that there will be many vineyards and much WINE (Amos 9:14). What will Christ's attitude be IN regard to liquor? Will He teach MODERATION or will He teach total abstinence? We can obtain an idea of the attitude He will take by noticing the attitude He took when He was here before. What was it? John 2:1-11 and Mat. 11:19.

13. Will a *famine* come along even though there have been years and years of prosperity in the millennium? Does God say "NO FAMINE"? Ezek. 36:29-30. What will happen to any nation that *disobeys?* Zech. 14:17-18.

14. Will farm animals range over LUSH PASTURES? Won't this make the MEAT MORE FLAVORFUL? Isa. 30:23-24.

COMMENT: Some assume that Isa. 11:9 means that man will not kill and eat meat animals during the millennium. By comparing it with verse 8, it is plainly shown that serpents or WILD ANIMALS *WILL NOT DESTROY each other OR HURT* little children. It is not referring to man's diet at all.

NEW Natures!!

1. *Will GOD ACTUALLY MIRACULOUSLY* CHANGE THE NATURES *OF THE CREATURES OF THE EARTH* IN THE MILLENNIUM? What does He say He will do with the *natures* of FARM ANIMALS? Will they be afraid? Isa. 11:6-7. And with the *natures* of the FOWLS and CREEPING THINGS? Hosea 2:18. And with the *natures* of the POISONOUS CREATURES? Isa. 11:8. And with the *natures* of the FEROCIOUS ANIMALS? Isa. 11:6-7. Will they be PEACEFUL? Ezek. 34:25.

AND, *above all*, WHAT DOES GOD SAY HE WILL DO WITH THE NATURE OF MAN in the millennium? Ezek. 36:26-27.

2. The heart of man symbolizes his *nature*. What does God say of the heart of man *as it is today?* Jer. 17:9. Are men's DESIRES *now* LIKE THE LIONS? Aren't they *both* quick to shed blood? Romans 3:9-18. *Note especially verse 15.*

COMMENT: AS GOD IS GOING TO CHANGE THE VERY INBORN DESIRE OF THE LION FROM THE WISH TO DESTROY LIFE FOR FOOD TO THE DESIRE TO EAT STRAW, *and is going to pacify the natures of all other creatures*, WHAT MARVELLOUS AND MIRACULOUS THINGS ARE IN STORE WHEN GOD CHANGES MAN'S NATURE IN THE DAYS JUST AHEAD! This change occurs in the MIND. It is BROUGHT ABOUT BY *REPENTANCE!*

3. When God changes man's ATTITUDE so that he will *desire* FROM HIS INNERMOST BEING *to follow the right way*—God's way—THEN MAN WILL INDEED HAVE REAL JOY AND HAPPINESS. GOD IS GOING TO MIRACULOUSLY PLACE HIS VERY OWN *LOVING NATURE* WITHIN MAN when the people of the millennial world *repent* of following their old ways. PEOPLE WILL *LOVE* THEIR FELLOW MAN and DO EVERYTHING within their power TO *MAKE* THE *OTHER PERSON HAPPY*. They will love BY *NATURE*. It will come *NATURALLY*.

That is what WILL *MAKE* of the Millennial world AN *ACTUAL UTOPIA!! REMEMBER THIS*. It is one of the *most important points in your Bible!* There will be more on this—much much more—when you come to the Lessons on the Old and New Covenants! These will vitally apply to *you—personally!* They will explain to you how *you* can have an *inward* "Utopia" start *now!*

GENERAL SUMMARY

GOD WILL SOON *FORCE* THE PEOPLE OF THIS WORLD TO CEASE FROM FOLLOWING *THEIR* WAY OF LIVING. They will be compelled to step aside AND WATCH HIS WAY —the way *this* age calls *heresy*—IN ACTION ON THIS EARTH! The two mighty streams of water, which will flow east and west from Jerusalem and give abundant life to all things they reach, will call the attention of all nations to the influence of the rule of Christ as He administers *not* man's, but *God's* precepts, for a full and abundant life.

What will happen? What else could possibly happen than that the Utopia which mankind has always longed for will begin to materialize. AND MAN WILL AT LONG LAST BEGIN TO WAKE UP! He will BEGIN TO SEE through the *veil* of his prejudices which have prevented him from FOLLOWING the methods—the LAWS OF GOD, if you please—which would BRING HIM HIS *TRUE* DESIRES.

Has God known from the beginning that man would finally BECOME CONVINCED HIS WAYS WERE WRONG *when he has the results of the two ways*—man's way and God's way—laid side by side for comparison? Hear what God says—HE PLANNED IT THIS WAY!—"The Lord of hosts (shall) make unto ALL people a feast of fat things, a feast of wine on the lees, of fat things full of marrow, of wine in the lees well refined [in the *millenium*]. AND HE WILL DESTROY IN THIS MOUNTAIN THE FACE OF THE COVERING CAST OVER ALL PEOPLE, AND THE VEIL THAT IS SPREAD OVER ALL NATIONS" (Isa. 25:6-7).

Do you grasp the significance of this? God said long ago that a time would come WHEN HE WOULD CAUSE THE PEOPLE OF THIS EARTH TO LIVE UNBELIEVABLY WELL AND THAT IN DOING THIS THEY WOULD WAKE UP TO A GREAT TRUTH!—THE TRUTH THAT GOD'S WAYS ARE BEST. This time is about here. This is the "GOOD NEWS" of the world tomorrow!

What will they begin to do, when this *truth* starts to dawn on them? GREAT NUMBERS WILL FERVENTLY *REPENT* OF FOLLOWING *THEIR* OLD INEFFICIENT WAYS OF TRYING TO HAVE TRUE HAPPINESS, AND GOD WILL BEGIN TO *MIRACULOUSLY* CHANGE THE NATURES OF THESE REPENTANT ONES. THEY WILL FERVENTLY SEEK TO BE *RE-EDUCATED* TO *GOD'S* WAY AS REVEALED BY THE COMMANDMENTS AND PRECEPTS IN *YOUR* BIBLE! The old ways of *this* world will be outmoded! THEY WILL HAVE FOUND A BETTER WAY and they will be firmly convinced that THE MORE THEY CAN LEARN OF GOD'S BETTER WAY, THE HAPPIER THEIR EXISTENCE WILL BE! And in the meantime, they will marvel at the rich rewards they receive for their relatively easy labors.

Will they seek in vain for teachers? No! This is the time when God says Christ will come with "ten thousands of saints" for the very purpose of teaching them (Jude 14, 15). Of this time God says, "Thy teachers [shall not] be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers: and thine ears shall hear a word behind thee, saying, THIS IS THE WAY, WALK IN IT, when ye turn to the right hand, and when ye turn to the left" (Isa. 30:20-21). RE-EDUCATION *away from* THIS WORLD'S ERRORS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON A VAST SCALE! The results? "The earth shall be full of the KNOWLEDGE of the Lord (*God's* knowledge) as the waters cover the sea" (Isa. 11:9). GOD PROMISES THIS!

And what about corrections when people err? They will be swift and certain, but will become milder and milder as people learn more of the ways which *really* make them happy. The *many*—not few —will go up to Jerusalem by the *actual* road named "The Way of Holiness," which Christ will have built as a PHYSICAL REMINDER of God's WAY. They will say, "He . . . will teach us His way" (Micah 4:2). They will also, *in prayer*, seek God by His Spiritual "Way of Holiness."

As with all the creatures about him, man's own nature will begin to change. The changes in the *natures* of these will be a constant REMINDER to him of the change that is taking place within himself. He, like the lion, will become peaceful. There will be no strife within himself about *which way* to follow. He will KNOW! MAN'S INNERMOST DESIRE WILL BE TO BECOME EVER CLOSER AND CLOSER TO GOD BOTH MENTALLY AND BODILY—CLOSER TO THE ONE WHO CAN MAKE ALL HIS DESIRES FOR UTOPIAS COME TRUE!

They will at last learn that God is the best FRIEND *they have ever had!*

Then GOD WILL REALLY SET HIS HAND TO *SAVE* THE WORLD. The harvest of human souls will become *ripe* for gathering into the Kingdom of God. Human experience in living both the evil and the good way of life to the full will convince the mortal human beings still alive at Jesus' return that God's way is best for us. The vast majority will undoubtedly choose the good way of life—God's WAY—and will begin to OBEY God, fitting themselves to be transformed into immortal beings in the Kingdom of God.

God will not be hurried, nor does He falter, in carrying out His PLAN to make us His Sons. No wonder that this present age is *only* "*A* day of salvation" (Rev. 20:12).

The AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
Bible Correspondence Course

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Publisher and Editor

DR. C. PAUL MEREDITH
Director

Dear fellow students of God's Word,

We have GOOD NEWS for you! But the news you are reading in your daily newspaper is not good at all!

Just as this letter was being written TWO of the great world leaders have been removed from their posts. Nikita Khrushchev of the USSR was booted out of a position of world power. A new Soviet leader sits in his place. In Britain, Sir Alec Douglas-Home, no longer has the trust and confidence of the majority of English people. He has had to resign!

The headlines of your daily newspaper plainly tell us MAN IS NOT QUALIFIED TO RULE THIS EARTH!

But despite political, economic, social and religious unrest -- there is <u>good news for you</u>!

Beyond the troubles of this climactic end-time age, Almighty God will finally grant WORLD PEACE! Jesus Christ -- the ONLY ONE qualified to govern the teeming billions of this earth -- is coming in OUR TIME to reign as the King of kings and Lord of lords! The UTOPIA man has long sought will soon be a reality!

The TIME IS SHORT -- far SHORTER than most of you realize. We are almost midway into this decade. Soon it will be 1970!

The question is: Are you overcoming yourself while you have the time? Are you putting every moment of <u>your time</u> to good use?

Notice how some of the students of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course are using their time:

A man from Missouri writes, "I have just received my third lesson along with the latest issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. How wonderful to study and understand the Bible. In each of your lesson sheets you mention that a half hour a day is required for each lesson. I find that I am now spending a very enjoyable and enlightening two hours daily and am really beginning to understand the Bible."

One of our students from West Germany writes, "In the sixth lesson of the Correspondence Course I found many answers to my spiritual needs. How wonderful it is that the Lord does answer, if one seeks Him with the whole heart...I am now beginning to study the wonderful holy Word of God and am receiving new encouragement and strength from Him."

Another man from within the rising European Common Market reports, "I am most grateful to you for all that you have done for me by sending me your booklets, 'La PURE VERITE', (The PLAIN TRUTH in French), and the Bible Correspondence Course on which I spend not just one hour, but sometimes whole afternoons of study. I find it thrilling."

A student from Nassau, Bahamas says, "I am a student at college, and believe you me, I surely have a lot of studies to do at times, but from the amazing truth I have discovered from the Bible through the Correspondence Course, I will have to budget my time to continue my search for truth concerning prophecies of our times and spiritual guidance in my every day Christian life."

These encouraging quotes come from people like yourself -- people who want to know more about the real meaning of their Bibles! They have already learned how to use their time wisely in Bible Study. As you can see many of them study long hours, really engrossed in the new truths they are learning.

But what if studying isn't easy for you? Do you have difficulty putting aside thirty minutes each day for the study of the Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course? Sometimes do you let several days slip by without studying as you should? We know that some of you have.

What most people need is to organize -- "budget" -- their time! Everyone of us needs to learn to put first things first!

How often have you heard it said, "Our life is composed of time, God is concerned with HOW WE USE OUR TIME!" Each day -- each hour is made up of decisions. What will we do with the time we have -- what now and what next after that?

Everyone has the very same amount of time. We are all MULTIBILLIONAIRES in the most valuable commodity we could possibly own -- TIME. But time is SCARCE! IT IS PERISHABLE.

Important world leaders wake up each morning with the very same 24 hours to spend you have! But HOW they spend their time -- and HOW YOU SPEND YOURS probably differs a great deal!

You don't see the President of the United States frittering away the precious hours of the day. He is known as a tireless, energetic worker!

Could you imagine Charles DeGaulle ever wasting a moment of his time? Of course not! If he did the tremendous growth made in postwar France would have been stifled! A new president of France would soon be elected!

Did you ever realize that God created you to become a WORLD LEADER? Perhaps you have never thought of it quite that way before, but the World Tomorrow will NEED real leaders!

God created you with the capacity to take advantage of every opportunity that comes your way -- never to waste a moment. How we use our time will drastically affect our life in God's soon coming kingdom. How we use -- or misuse -- our time will determine whether or not Almighty God can trust us with His free gift of eternal life!

After all, what is eternal life but an unlimited amount of time?

If we don't learn to use the time we have been given NOW how will we ever be able to use ETERNITY to the full -- deriving from it all the enjoyment we should?

Jesus Christ will give RULERSHIP in His Kingdom to those who have USED THEIR TIME WISELY!

That is why it is so important not to neglect a single day of study on the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course! Times are moving ahead at lightning pace! You

don't want to get behind in these vital lessons! But if you are not diligently studying thirty minutes each day YOU WILL BE BEHIND!

The next lesson you will receive will demand your immediate and thorough study! It will reveal to you the TRUTH about God's laws for your personal financial success. You will learn why so many people today struggle in an endless battle to make ends meet, and why so few ever find real security -- freedom from money problems.

It will help you to know how to end your financial worries, to be assured of the secure financial future only Almighty God can offer.

You won't want to lag behind and miss a single lesson of this course. Be ready for the lessons of the future.

Remember Almighty God is very much aware of HOW you are using your time! I hope that you will be worthy students of His Word -- living by and acting on the vital truths you are learning.

In Jesus Christ's Name,

Herman L. Hoeh

HLH/jp

IMPORTANT!

File this personal letter about your Correspondence Course just following LESSON 6. Review it now and then. It is vital to keep this information constantly in mind.