March 1 '66

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

The World Tomorrow — Harvest Time

LESSON 38

What our STUDENTS SAY

From Strife-torn Southeast Asia

"I am eighteen and would like to know more about the living work of God. The abundant truths revealed in your articles are indeed new to me because my parents practice ancestorism, which is a common thing here for most Chinese. Therefore, I hope you will kindly send me *The* PLAIN TRUTH every month. Furthermore, I would like to be enrolled for the Ambassador College Bible Course."

—Girl, Singapore, Malaysia

Working Together

"Your Bible Course has made me more interested in reading my Bible, and I certainly have learned how to find many of its books much better. My husband and I have become closer because we are working together on the same material for a better life."

—Students, Michigan

Ready for Ministry?

"After your Correspondence Course, am I ready to be ordained for the ministry? Or do we have to go to some other place to become ordained? Will you please educate me on what I have a right to do after I have finished my Bible Course?"

—Bronx, New York

• *This course is for everyone. No diploma or credentials are offered for students of this Correspondence Course. You need to know how Jesus Christ* calls *His ministers. Write in for the free article, "Who Should God's Ministers Be?"*

New Enrollments

"Your message is like a hammer pounding an anvil and now I have become the steel between the hammer and the anvil. I have already started to study with you twice daily, with my Bible open and pencil and paper in hand. I would like to have every booklet you have ever printed, and above all I want your *Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.*"

—Man, Los Angeles, California

True Church Only Source

"Your Correspondence Course gives me that vital information concerning God's Word that I haven't found through any other source. Even though I have been a member of a church for 30 years, truly I am far short of that required of me as a Christian. I want to be a member of that True Church that God established on this

(Please continue on page 16)

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE
BIBLE
CORRESPONDENCE COURSE
LESSON 38

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About Our Cover . . .

Lasting economic prosperity for any people depends on the abundance of its agricultural harvests. Our cover shows how the earth, during the 1000-year reign of Jesus Christ, will bring forth harvests wherever people learn to follow God's way of life.

But the harvest picture is dual. God used the final great autumn harvest of grain in Palestine to illustrate the final great harvest of souls in His master plan.

H. Armstrong Roberts 865

THE WORLD TOMORROW

WHAT about it? *Is* God *trying* to save the whole world NOW? *Has* God, for almost 2000 years, been competing with Satan? Has He been desperately trying to wrest the world from Satan's control?

This is the common teaching today. It makes Satan appear to be winning!

But what does the Bible say?

When God sets His hand to save the world *He will save it!* God is not competing with Satan! He is not trying to save the whole world NOW!

Long ago Jesus Christ foretold, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world [only] *for a witness*" (Mat. 24:14) in this age.

When Will the Whole World Be Saved?

In preceding lessons of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course, you have learned what it means to be saved. Salvation is a *process* of repentance, forsaking sin, receipt of the Holy Spirit and subsequent growth toward the spiritual "stature of the fulness of Christ" (Eph. 4:13).

At His return Jesus Christ will give you, if you have qualified, authority as kings, ruling with Him over the whole world.

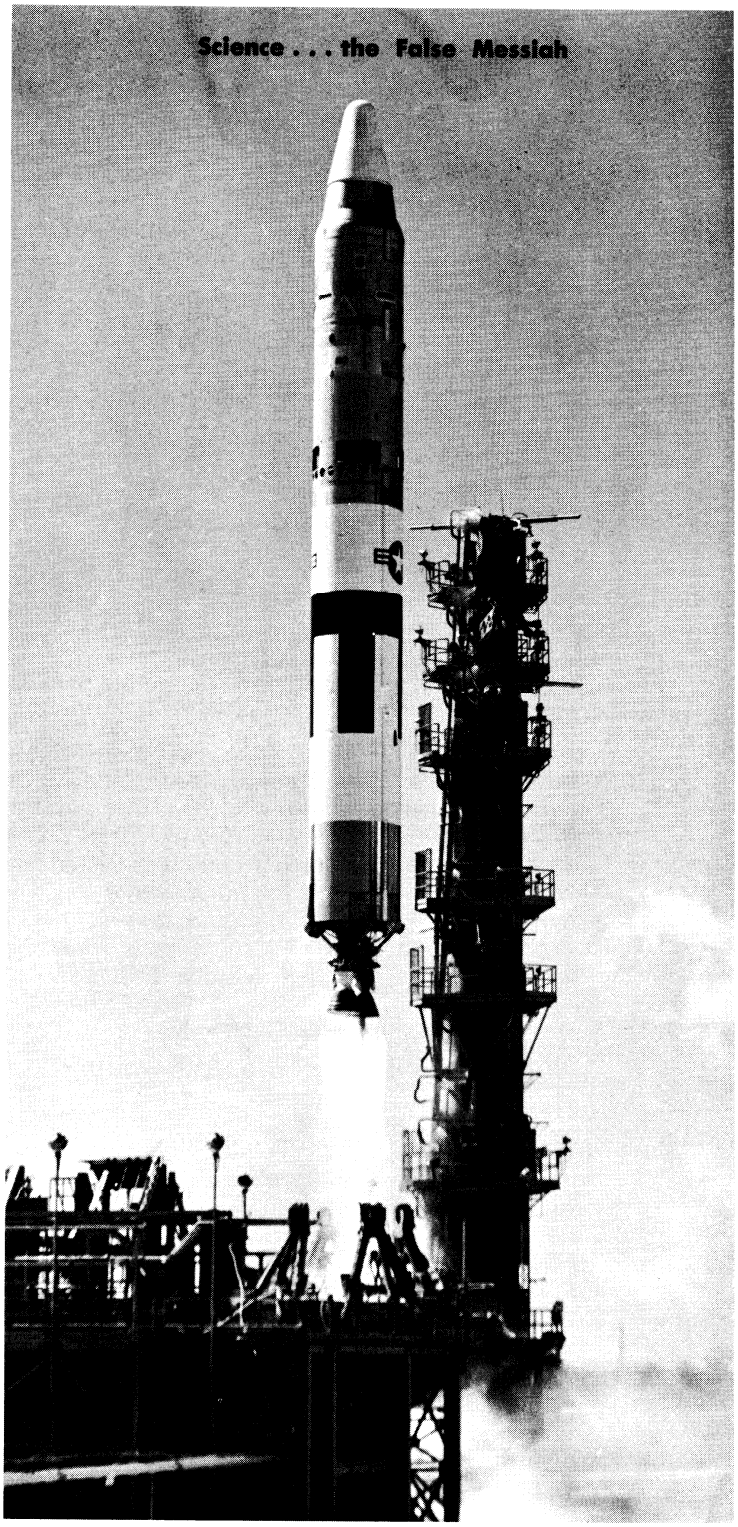
Satan will be kicked out! Then there will follow *one thousand years* of peace and prosperity. We who are firstfruits of God's harvest—firstborn into God's family, co-heirs and brothers of Jesus Christ—will join Him in ruling this earth. We will be given the privilege of bringing saving knowledge to every human then alive. New generations will be born in the Millennium, and humans will soon again number *billions!*

These *could be* called "second fruits." Each will live the same process of conversion you will have lived.

Shown by the Holy Days

This happy Millennium is pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles—next in God's Holy Day cycle.

The New Testament Church taught the meaning and observance of God's Holy Days



U.S. Air Force Photo

MAN'S PLANS for the future center around fantastic technical accomplishments—but leave God out of the picture. What does the future really hold?

Wide World Photo

The churches of this world have rejected the faith once delivered to New Testament Christians. One has already presumed to establish the millennial reign via Christ's "vicar."

far and wide. Even the early Catholic Church dared not dispense with the "doctrine" of the Millennium—the 1000-year rule of Christ (Rev. 20:1-5). Satan's counterfeit church admitted the fact of the Millennium for *hundreds of years*—long after the death of the apostles.

Notice these surprising confessions from the writings of the so-called "church fathers."

Even Catholic Fathers Acknowledged the Millennium

In the second century, Papias of Hierapolis (in Asia Minor) said, "There will be a period of some thousand years after the first resurrection of the dead, and the Kingdom of Christ will be set up in material form on this very earth" (Eusebius, *Hist. Eccl.*, Book 3, Chapter 39).

Irenaeus, bishop of Lyons, France, wrote in the latter half of the second century: "For in as many days as this world was made, in so many thousand years shall it be concluded."

Then he continues: "These [rewards] are to take place in the times of the kingdom, that is, upon the seventh day . . ."—the Millennium (*Against Heresies*, Book 5, Chapters 28, 33).

The early third century produced the same testimony. From Carthage, North Africa, Tertullian acknowledged the possibility of a promised Millennium upon the earth (*Against Marcion*, Book 3, Chapter 25).

Why Truth Later Rejected!

In the fourth century the Book of Revelation was removed from the general reading list of Catholics. Why? Because it plainly stated the Millennium. "Thus the troublesome foundation on which chiliasm [a Greek word for the doctrine of the Millennium] might have continued to build was got rid of" (*Encyclopedia Britannica*, 11th edition, article "Millennium").

After Constantine's time the Catholic Church began to look upon the Roman Empire as the Kingdom of God. They didn't want to hear of any Millennium of God's rule!

Present-day Catholic leaders even go so far as to claim that the doctrine of the 1000-year rule of Christ is not to be found in either the New Testament gospels or epistles or even in the traditions of the apostles (*The Question Box*, by William N. Emch, p. 380).

But now turn to the Bible itself, *the source of truth*, and see the truth for yourself.

LESSON 38

WHOLE World to Be Converted in the Millennium

1. Does the Bible really say there is only one "day of salvation"? Isa. 49:8.

COMMENT: Today is not the only day of salvation. Today is "a" day of salvation for those few who are being called to repentance now. The original Greek words in II Corinthians 6:2 should also be translated "*a* day of salvation," not "*the* day of salvation." The original Hebrew is the same. Today is *a* day of salvation for the "firstfruits"—the few God is now calling to rule in the World Tomorrow!

2. Now consider the prophecies about fleshly Israel. Israel will return from her final captivity in a repentant attitude (Jer. 31:8, 9). Does God *promise* something when people repent? Acts 2:38. Doesn't this mean that the Millennium must *also* be a day of salvation?

3. Doesn't Paul say that "*all* Israel shall be saved"? Rom. 11:26. When? At the Second Coming of Christ? Same verse.

COMMENT: The word "all" should be translated idiomatically "as a whole"—meaning the vast majority.

4. Will the Gentiles, too, become converted? Isa. 2:3.

5. Doesn't Luke 14:23 show that the time comes when every individual on earth is to be "called" by God? Note the word "compel." And, in fact, doesn't Joel 2:28 say that God's Spirit is to be given to "all" flesh—not meted out sparingly, but "poured" out freely? Be sure to read this whole chapter, noticing especially Joel 2:12-13 and 22-27.

COMMENT: The rain spoken of in verse 23 is dual—a spiritual as well as a physical rain which produces great physical abundance. God is now giving the former rain of the Holy Spirit "moderately"—producing the small harvest of firstfruits. There is to be a correspondingly larger "latter rain" of the Spirit to produce the greater spiritual harvest of souls (lives) in the Millennium (Acts 2:16, 17).

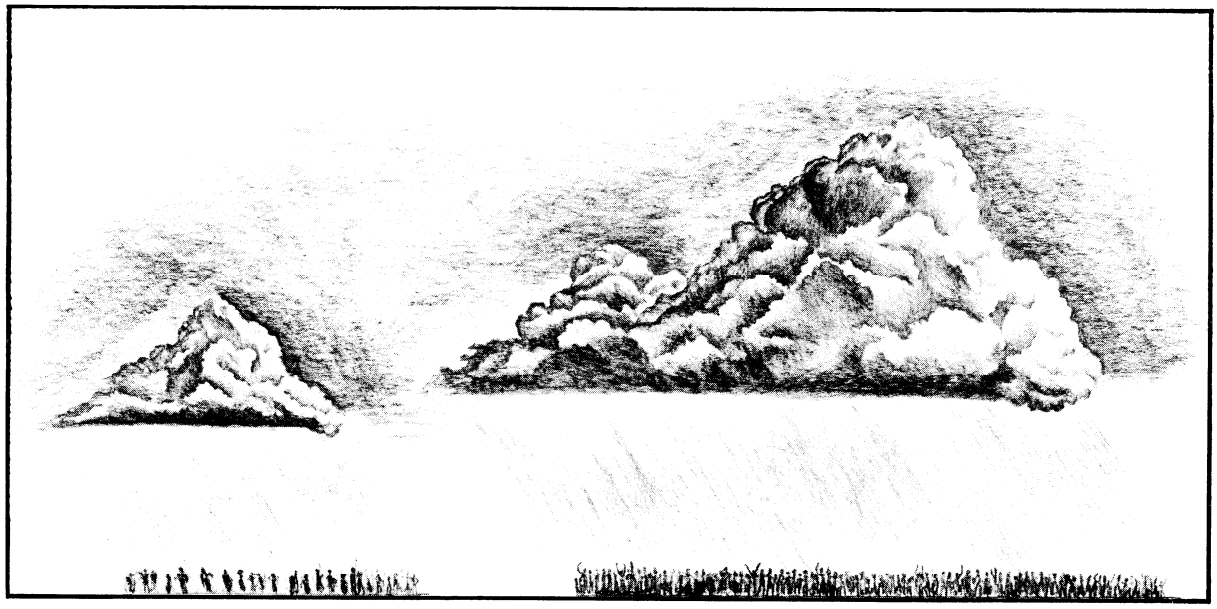
6. Isn't it clear from Isaiah 32:14, 15 that a great outpouring of the Holy Spirit—and hence, of salvation—is typified by and associated with increased rain on desert areas during the Millennium? Compare also Isaiah 44:3 and John 7:37-39.

God's Harvest — the Feast of Ingathering

1. Immediately after bringing His people out of Egypt, did God inaugurate a fall *harvest* festival? Ex. 23:16.

COMMENT: All seven of God's Holy Days picturing His plan were given to His congregation at the very time the congregation (church) of Israel was first formed.

2. Doesn't the very name of this Feast of



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God uses the harvest rains in Palestine to picture the out-pouring of His Holy Spirit. First to a small group now called out of the world. Then, during the 1000 years and after, to *all* mankind.

Ingathering show what it pictures—the gathering in of a great harvest of souls for a thousand years? Ex. 23:16.

3. What other name does the Bible use for this feast? Deut. 16:13.

4. Is it a commanded assembly—whether one wishes to assemble or not? Verse 16. (Also Ex. 34:22-23 and 23:17.) Must it be held only at a certain God-appointed place? Same verse. Only God can choose this place or places (Ex. 20:24), and only God can change it to another place—as circumstances warrant.

5. What is the divinely set theme for this Feast of Tabernacles? Deut. 16:14 and 15. Notice the words "surely rejoice." Other translations render this "be altogether joyful."

COMMENT: This, too, is a command. For it pictures a phase of God's dealing with man when man will be forced to be happy—practice the way of life that brings happiness—whether man wants to or not. Compulsory joy!

6. Does this annual feast last more than one day? Verse 15. Why?

COMMENT: To portray His plan, God took the material harvest seasons around Jerusalem as the picture of the spiritual harvest of souls (lives). There are two annual harvests in Palestine.

The spring grain harvest which pictures the firstfruits is small compared to the great fall harvest. The firstfruits harvest is pictured by a single day, to be fulfilled like the Days of Trumpets and Atonement in a single event. But the Feast of Tabernacles or Ingathering demands full seven days, denoting that God's great *fall* harvest must be *completed* over a period of time rather than at one climactic moment. Seven is a number signifying completion.

People will be born again into the God family all during "the thousand years," upon completing their life's work.

7. Does this feast begin with a holy Sabbath High Day on which all ordinary work is forbidden? Lev. 23:35, 39. When does it come? Verse 34.

8. Is this annual Sabbath and its 7-day festival commanded to be observed *forever?* Verse 41.

Old Testament Israel Failed to Keep It

1. Where was the place that God originally set His name—designating it as the place the Feast of Tabernacles was to be kept? Judges 18:1, 31. Were some of the children of Israel obedient at that time in keeping the Feast? Judges 21:19. And in rejoicing? Verse 21.

2. Were the parents of Samuel who became one of God's greatest prophets always obedient in keeping this Feast every year? I Sam. 1:3, 14, 15.

3. Did God later change the location for the Feast of Tabernacles and in the early years of King Solomon have a temple built there? I Kings 8:1, 2. Did Solomon call the people early to the Feast to spend a week in dedicating the newly finished temple? Verse 65.

4. But had Israel ever *completely* fulfilled God's instructions concerning the Feast of Tabernacles after the death of the one generation who personally witnessed God's miracles? Neh. 8:17.

5. What did wicked King Jeroboam do after his successful rebellion against Solomon's son? I Kings 12:32. Did he assume that where God's days were kept didn't really make any difference?

COMMENT: Jeroboam's action was normal for carnal-minded people everywhere. They don't know Who or what God really is. Jeroboam's conception of God was merely his own man-devised idea (verse 33).

Be sure to read the whole passage from I Kings 12:26 to the end of the 13th chapter. The 13th chapter reveals how God mercifully gave Jeroboam further instruction—backed up by a series of miracles (verses 3, 4, 6)—and a further opportunity to repent (verse 6).

God even allowed His prophet to die to sternly illustrate the inevitability of the penalty coming on Israel for turning away from the way God laid down. (Verses 18, 24.)

But Jeroboam did not repent of counterfeit religion (verse 33) and he suffered the penalty (verse 34). What about you?

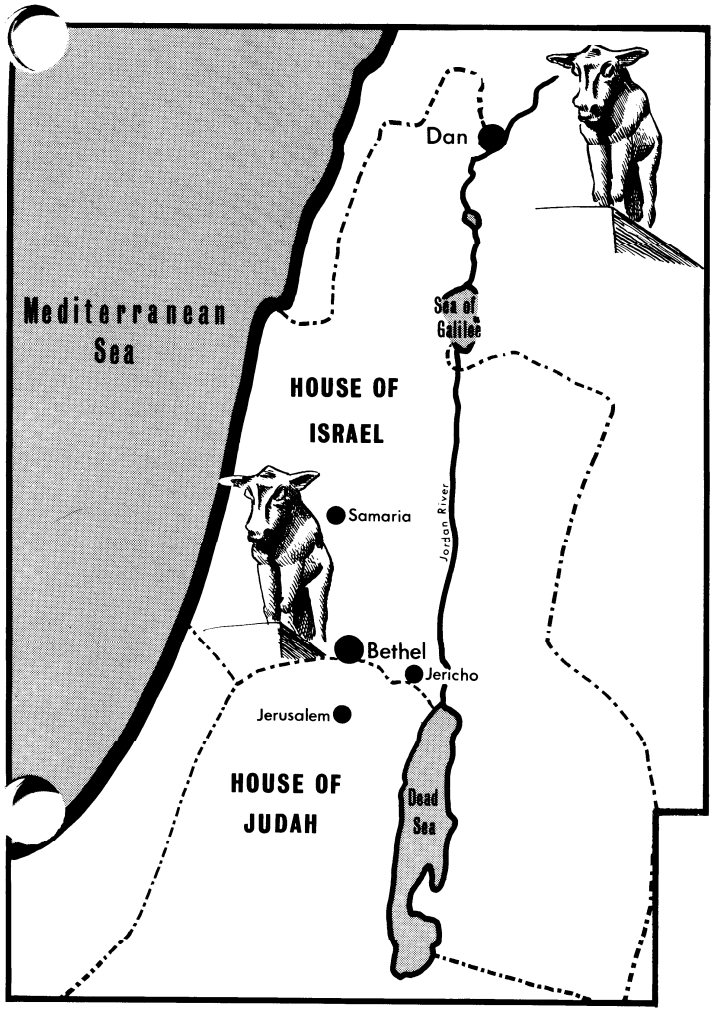
6. Why did God finally cause Israel and Judah to be summarily deported to foreign lands? Ezek. 20:13, 16, 20, 21, 24. Notice that "sabbaths" is plural, speaking of annual Sabbaths as well as the weekly Sabbath. The Bible always speaks of the weekly Sabbath in the singular.

COMMENT: For long-continued disobedience—chiefly their utter disregard of God's weekly and annual Sabbaths—they were transported into slavery.

It is these days that point the way to salvation. Those who refuse to keep God's Holy Days soon forget the *true God!*

At length, God swore in His wrath, "With a stretched out arm, and with fury poured out, will I rule over you . . . And ye shall know that I am the Lord, when I shall bring you [again—still today in the future] into the land of Israel, into the country for the which I lifted up mine hand to give it to your fathers" (Ezek. 20:33, 42).

7. Had the pitifully small remnant of Jews



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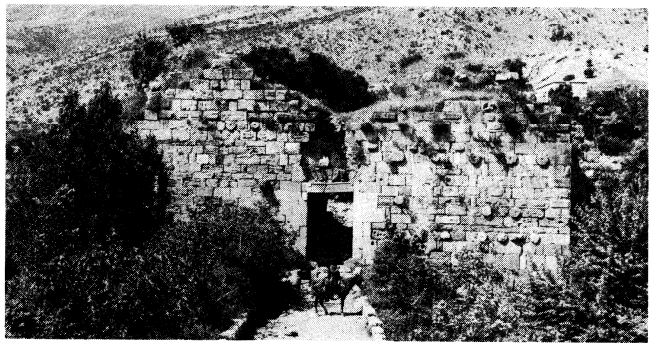
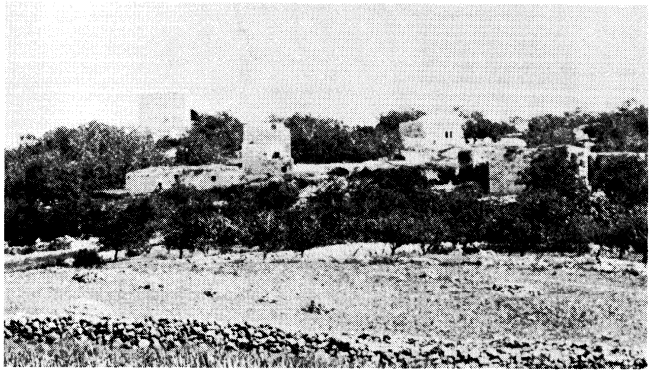
Jeroboam set up pagan altars at Dan and Bethel to lead Israel away from keeping the Feast of Tabernacles in Jerusalem.



Dan, *above*, and Bethel, *below*, the areas where Jeroboam placed his golden calves.

Matson Photo Service



who returned from Babylon under Ezra and Nehemiah learned that He is the Lord? Neh. 8:1.

COMMENT: After 70 years of captivity, God had become real to these few Jews. They now knew He was *really* God who had promised happiness, abundance and continual rejoicing for obedience, and had vividly pictured for them in the same Book of the Law curses and wretchedness to follow disobedience (Deut. 28).

8. Did they immediately begin to keep God's Holy Days? Neh. 8:2, 14, 18. And did they immediately set about learning the laws which if kept would bring about the prosperity to exist in the Millennium? Neh. 8:18. Compare Deuteronomy 31:10, 11.

COMMENT: Because of personal experience, the Holy Days now held graphic meaning for the few thousand Jews who returned from captivity. Their eyes were open—symbolic of the world's people after the Second Coming of Christ.

Jesus' New Testament Command

1. During Jesus Christ's life as a man, were some of the descendants of the returned Jews still faithfully keeping the Feast of Tabernacles? John 7:2.

COMMENT: John called it the "Jews' feast" because he wrote mainly for the Gentile-born. Before conversion, the Gentiles saw the feasts only as a part of the "different" religion of the Jews. Israel had lost God's Holy Days. Only Judah had preserved the Old Testament Scriptures.

2. What unmistakable command did Jesus give his half-brothers? John 7:8.

3. Did Jesus, Himself, keep the Feast? Verse 10. Did everyone know that Jesus always kept all of God's Feasts and was *certain* to be there? Verse 11.

COMMENT: Note that Jesus' purpose in going up to Jerusalem was not merely to preach and teach people. He had boundless opportunities to address the multitudes who followed Him continually. Rather, His problem was to find time alone! (Mark 1:35-38.)

4. Did Jesus have every reason in the world *not* to go up to Jerusalem? John 7:1, 10.

COMMENT: Jesus had been present at the feast from the first day although He did not stand up to teach until near the middle of the 7 days (verse 14). He had arrived secretly and remained out of the limelight because the established religious rulers were seeking—out of jealousy—to kill Him.

5. Was He merely following Old Testament practice or was He setting a New Testament example? Mat. 28:20; I Peter 2:21; I John 2:4-6.

COMMENT: With such dangerous circumstances, if ever there is an excuse not to attend one of God's Feasts, surely this was one. *But Jesus was there*—boldly setting us an example that we should do likewise.

He always condemned the "tradition of the elders" (Mat. 15:2, 3, 6, 9). He always made it plain and clear if anything was to be changed. Compare Matthew 5:21, 22—"You have heard . . . but I say. . . ." No example of animal sacrifice was set for us, but He kept every one of God's Holy Days.

6. Were Peter, James and John accustomed to keeping the Feast of Tabernacles by living in temporary dwellings? Mark 9:5. Did Peter know that the Feast of Tabernacles pictures the coming Millennial Kingdom of God? Note that verses 2 through 10 are the fulfillment of verse 1.

The Apostle Paul Kept the Feast

1. Did the apostle Paul follow Jesus' example long after everything that was "nailed to the cross" was nailed there? I Cor. 11:1.

2. Then did Paul keep the Feast of Tabernacles? Acts 18:21, and see Comment.

COMMENT: In 50 A.D. Paul crossed over from Asia into Europe and began to preach the gospel at Philippi "on the day of weeks"—Pentecost—according to the inspired original Greek (Acts 16:13). Pentecost is also called the "feast of weeks" in the Old Testament (Deut. 16:10).

After a few weeks at Philippi, Thessalonica (Acts 17:1), Berea (verse 10) and at Athens (verse 16), Paul came to Corinth in the late summer of A.D. 50. After spending several Sabbaths teaching in the synagogue (Acts 18:4), he continued to hold meetings in the house of Justus (verse 7) for "a year and six months" (verse 11). This brings us to the spring of 52 A.D.

After a riot stirred up against the apostle was quelled, Paul yet "tarried there a good while, and then took his leave of the brethren and sailed thence into Syria" (verse 18).

It was now well into the summer of A.D. 52—the Days of Unleavened Bread and Pentecost were past. Obviously it was nearly time for the Feast of Tabernacles. Here then was a major autumn festival (verse 21) worth going all the way to the *headquarters Feast* at Jerusalem—the only logical reason for Paul's emphatic refusal to spend even a few days at Ephesus after long sojourns at lesser places (verse 20).

Some modern translations of the Bible omit Acts 18:21, as does the Catholic version. But 95% of all Greek manuscripts include it. The only manuscripts which leave it out are those 5% copied in Egypt and in Italy under the influence of Simon Magus' followers. They date from the days of the Emperor Constantine who forced his *Sun*day and Easter on the professing Christian church in place of God's Holy Days.

There would have been no reason to try to add this verse to the Bible. But there is every reason why men would like to tear it out of the inspired text!

The counterfeit church which developed within the bounds of the Roman Empire was never willing to keep the Feast of Tabernacles. It was a pagan church. But God's true people do keep it.

Still extant records from *Cox's Literature of the Sabbath Question* actually name names of individual Sabbath and Holy Day keepers who lived in England over 400 years ago. This is the Church which is really founded on the *New* Testament—on Christ's example, and on the teaching of Christ's apostle to the Gentiles!

Gentiles to Be Forced to Keep the Feast

1. In the Millennium, will Israelite tribes other than Judah keep the Feast? Hos. 12:8, 9.

2. Will all the Gentile nations join with Israel in keeping the Feast of Tabernacles? Zech. 14:16. Will Christ start immediately to reeducate the people of the world through His Holy Days to know He is the Lord, and that His Master Plan provides for all to be saved?

COMMENT: To receive salvation even the Gentiles will have to keep this festival. Of course—it is commanded forever! (Lev. 23:41.)

3. What will happen if they refuse to be reeducated, in their ignorance refusing salvation? Zech. 14:17. Will He have to rule at first with "a rod of iron" (Rev. 12:5) until they are convinced that their fathers' ways—their "old-time religions"—are not "good enough" for them?

4. And if the nations still won't obey? Zech. 14:18-19.

COMMENT: Many in Egypt will be sure to say, "We don't care whether it rains or not! We have the Nile! We've never had rain anyway

before this recent revolution in the weather!" Egypt has always been a river-made oasis in the midst of centuries-old deserts—at that time just beginning to "blossom as the rose" (Isa. 35:1, 7).

And there will be other rebel nations, but "there shall be the plague, wherewith the Lord will smite the heathen [Hebrew: "nations"] that come not up to keep the Feast of Tabernacles." (Zech. 14:18.) After one or two years of this, all will be keeping the Feast.

It is time for you to be keeping it now!

Don't think God doesn't mean *you!* Don't say: "Well, I'll keep the days God made holy when I have to, *but I won't keep them now.*"

Only those who obey will be protected through the time of trouble immediately ahead.

5. Where will all these people have to go to keep the festival? Will Christ make it conveniently close to home for them all, so being a Christian will not require much effort? Zech. 14:16-17.

Time of Great Physical and Spiritual Rejoicing

1. Now perceiving its meaning, did Nehemiah's company find this Feast of Tabernacles a time of "very great" gladness? Neh. 8:17.

2. Does God intend for everyone—regardless of age, social strata or economic level—to rejoice in the Feast of Tabernacles? Deut. 16:14.

3. Does this verse also show that God intends for a man to take his wife and children to rejoice with him at the Feast of Tabernacles? Same verse, and Deut. 12:5, 7, 12. Haven't we already seen that attendance of all grown males is absolutely mandatory? Deut. 16:16.

4. Does God say that good food, such as sizzling steaks, expensive delicacies—even strong drink (used in *extreme* moderation, of course) —should be used to multiply our joy and happiness during this feast? Deut. 14:26. Does this show what wonderful abundance there will be in the Millennium?

COMMENT: Over and over God tells us that the Feast of Tabernacles is a time of exceedingly great rejoicing!

To fleshly Israel, the Feast of Tabernacles should have been the most joyous of all God's Feasts because it was celebrated just at the season when the winter's store was in. If Israel had followed God's ways, her blessings in material things always would have been greater than other nations. She would have had abundant reason to rejoice at this season.

But the happiness and joy and prosperity pictured by the Feast of Tabernacles *will* come about universally under the righteous and enlightened rule of Jesus Christ. Obedience to the spiritual principles of God's laws and God's revealed way of life will make the World Tomorrow a deliriously, gloriously happy place!

Those striving to grow to spiritual perfection, fit to be Spirit Beings in the Millennium, can learn *now* to use freely, yet safely and efficiently, *all* the material blessings given them. The Feast of Tabernacles gives the opportunity to live abundantly for one week. God has *commanded* you to live above what you would be normally able to afford—even to splurge, that you may learn by experience while properly picturing the wealth the whole world will enjoy.

If you are accounted worthy to be in the first resurrection, you will have all the powers and possessions of God—the whole created universe —to use fully.

5. When the Holy Spirit is being poured out freely, what will happen to the natures of men and animals? Isa. 11:6-9. Will God even change the digestive systems of carnivorous animals so they will be able to receive their nourishment from vegetation? Verse 7 and Isa. 65:25.

COMMENT: This coming Millennial change in the very natures of humans and animals—no more to harm or destroy—is *chief* reason why

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God's Holy Days are, in the King James Version, called "Feasts." They are intended to be really enjoyed with good food, drink, and fellowship.

the Feast of Tabernacles previews this time with such great rejoicing!

What Will Christ's Government Be Like?

God's Government is not a democracy. Christ will *rule supreme.* Power shall "be given" to His saints. See Dan. 7:14, 27.

Christ will be over the saints. He is in the position of the Husband. The saints—born again, now immortal Sons of God—together constitute the bride of Christ. They are in the position of a wife, subject to her Husband, God.

1. In the Millennium, how will Christ's supreme will be administered in all parts of the earth? Luke 19:17, 19. Here are local administrative districts—some larger, some smaller!

2. Does Romans 4:13 show Abraham will be chief assistant directly under Christ?

3. Will Christ have certain other chief assistants, each over a major nation? Luke 22:30; Psa. 122:5; Isa. 32:1. Revelation 20:4, 6 shows the time!

COMMENT: This is government from the top down—*of* the people and *for* the people but NOT *by* the people.

Wide World Photo

In the World Tomorrow petty campaigning for public office will not only be unnecessary — it will not be allowed! Christ Himself will appoint those qualified to govern.

4. How much power will each subordinate ruler exercise in his own area? Rev. 2:27.

COMMENT: In one sense this government will be decentralized because there will be absolute and definite authority on the spot in all parts of the world. Yet in another sense it will be extremely centralized, having all its policies based on the over-all pattern laid down from world headquarters by Christ Himself, responsive and responsible to Him.

It will be perfectly organized, devoid of useless "red tape," bumbling, stumbling excess-baggage bureaucracies.

This divine government will be permanent (Dan. 7:14, 18). It will not need to cater to special organized groups or classes to get votes. No elections, no campaigning, no politicians squandering money, wasting months of their tenure seeking re-election!

No demented, fanatical, vicious assassin can then kill a ruler. They will be immortal, not subject to death.

There will be no insurrections, no rebellions—God can't be overthrown. Satan proved that! Nor will any member of the God Family ever turn into another Adversary. Every member will have been proved in advance. Each will *serve*—in genuine love and concern for his subjects, never acting selfishly (Mat. 20:26).

Are you preparing to exercise that kind of rulership?

5. How will these immortal spirit rulers serve the people? Rev. 1:6; 5:10; I Cor. 6:2.

COMMENT: To curb tyranny, rulership exercised by mortal men is necessarily divided up into separate functions. America has today separate executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government. In addition, the teaching field is completely apart from government in "democratic" countries.

The four functions will be united in God's Kingdom. Government will be in the hands of a "Spirit race." From the God Family originate the laws—the legislative function. The God Family will enforce the laws—the executive function. It will also interpret them and adjudge guilt—the judicial function. These are the functions of kings.

Instead of "king" the Bible often uses the designation "judge" to denote that only the *application* of law has been given to men. Only God is Law*maker!* He has already laid down, eons ago, the basic principles that will govern the universe even after millions have been born into His family.

The office of priest is for teaching—to lift both intellectual and spiritual level of the people.

6. How successful will the priest-teachers be? Hab. 2:14; Isa. 11:9; Jer. 31:34. Will even the blind and the deaf be able to know the Bible? Isa. 29:18. What does this kind of education bring? Verse 19, also Prov. 29:2.

7. Will God do more than merely make knowledge available? Isa. 25:6, 7 compared with Isa. 29:10-12 and Rom. 11:7, 8. Note the words "spread over *all nations.*"

COMMENT: "And in this mountain"—the gov-

ernment of God—He will make the Millennium one great feast of rejoicing—the Feast of Tabernacles in antitype!

He will destroy the covering of spiritual blindness that has hidden the truth from all nations. Every mind will be opened. Even the dense and self-deceived will begin to understand (Isa. 32:3, 4; 26:9, last part). No one then will "kid himself" he is righteous. None will vainly assume he is a spiritual giant when the Spirit of God has never yet come inside him to change his human nature.

8. Will re-born Spirit Teachers take an active down-to-earth part in bringing about complete comprehension and causing people to take right action? Isa. 30:20, 21.

COMMENT: Sudden materialization as if from nowhere, a spoken word—potential lawbreakers will freeze in the act. Sinful acts will be prevented before they occur. Human minds will be shown their real motivation.

John 21 shows how a resurrected Spirit can live the part of a human being and serve those still mortal.

9. Will this present evil world's wrong sense of values be turned right side up? Isa. 32:1, 5, 6. Notice how verse 6 exposes human nature. *This* world believes "the inherent good in human beings will ultimately bring worldwide peace and happiness"! What nonsense!

A World Free From Fear!

The Feast of Tabernacles pictures an auspicious time when people will have no other problems to distract them from overcoming their human nature. The cares of this world—"What shall we eat? or, What shall we drink? or, Wherewithal shall we be clothed?" (Mat. 6:31) —will be gone. God's way will become the popular and broad way. It will be the way society in general will be going.

Pressures that now urge toward conformity to this present evil world will then be working toward conformity with God's standard, toward overcoming the self and building true spiritual character.

1. When Christ has forceably put down those who fill the earth with violence, will He abolish for all time fear of war? Isa. 2:4. How?—by exercising tremendous authority to "rebuke" many? Same verse.

Imagine! Never again any destruction of the fruit of years of labor! No more waste of human life! No young men drafted from their homes, their lives upset, to have their minds warped with hate!

2. Will there be reason to fear Christ's rule is just one more tyranny? Psa. 72:1-4, 8, 12-14; Isa. 11:5. Can those who possess money influence His decisions? Verse 4. Could He err in spite of best intentions? Verses 2 and 3. Is this why by contrast Paul wrote disparagingly of the judgment of "man's day"? I Cor. 4:3, margin.

3. Will there be any fear of wild animals? Hos. 2:16, 18, 19. What about the elements—will there be tornadoes and violent storms or will heaven and earth cooperate? Verses 21, 22.

4. Will unarmed men, women, or children be afraid to be out on the streets—even at night? Isa. 32:2. A strange man in a lonely place at night will be a source of help, not someone to fear! Under the right system of government and education, human beings will become worth something.

5. Will parents be free from fear of giving birth to physically deformed children? Jer. 31:29-30, 34, last part.

COMMENT: Remember that physical deformity is simply the penalty of physical sin (John 9:2). Centuries of wrong eating (Lev. 11:43), drug-taking, general dissipation, parenthood before complete physical maturity, radiation—causing genetic damage to reproductive germ cells—mean deformity for future generations.

Now just ahead, in cataclysmic age-ending, searing hydrogen war, are the most massive doses of radiation of all time. Scientists believe radiation to be the most damaging of all to germ cells.

But in the secure, rejuvenated World Tomorrow, will it be said to them: "Be strong, fear not . . . God will save you"? And will miracles of healing be performed on those already deformed? Isa. 35:5, 6; 33:24, particularly the last part.

6. What about fear of accidents? See COMMENT.

COMMENT: When the Law goes forth from Zion (Isa. 2:3) the principle of personal responsibility will be taught worldwide (Ex. 21:29, 33; 22:6). Yes, we *are* "our brother's keeper"!

There will be few accidents. But if someone should occasionally be careless and God allows an accident to teach a lesson, the miraculous healing power of Christ will be ever available.

7. Will the fear of food shortage—spectre that continually haunts most of the world—be gone? Isa. 30:23, 24. Will even the steep and rough places produce food abundantly? Amos 9:13.

8. What about that nameless fear, timidity —lack of confidence—that plagues so many? Will those who *really* "know the Lord" dwell with confidence? Ezek. 28:26. Re-education will take care of that. They won't be taught

self-confidence, but confidence in Christ dwelling within them.

9. What kind of fear will remain? Isa. 59:19; Jer. 32:39, 40.

COMMENT: This fear is not terror and misery, but mature, sound-minded realization that disobeying laws God has set for our good leads to nothing but wretchedness, filth, and deprivation.

The Feast of Tabernacles was given that we might "learn to fear God always" (Deut. 14:23). We *should* fear to disobey. Most people have *never had* a right kind of fear.

Israel Chief of Nations

1. Will the remnant of Israel alive at Christ's coming be eager to enter into the New Covenant with Him? Jer. 50:4, 5. Will Christ's blood cleanse all Israel so that in serving and living for others—a converted, truly Christian life—this nation shall reach the very apex of joy and gladness and material prosperity? Jer. 33:7-9.

COMMENT: Return from captivity of a very few—nearly all from Judah, only one tribe—could not fulfill this prophecy. They never attained great prosperity. Nor did they even approach the degree of wealth Israel under David and Solomon had possessed. When *this* is fulfilled, "*all* Israel shall be saved" (Rom. 11:26)! What a *wonderful* time that will be!

2. At that time, will Israel be God's delight, married to Him? Isa. 62:4, 5. "Beulah" means "married."

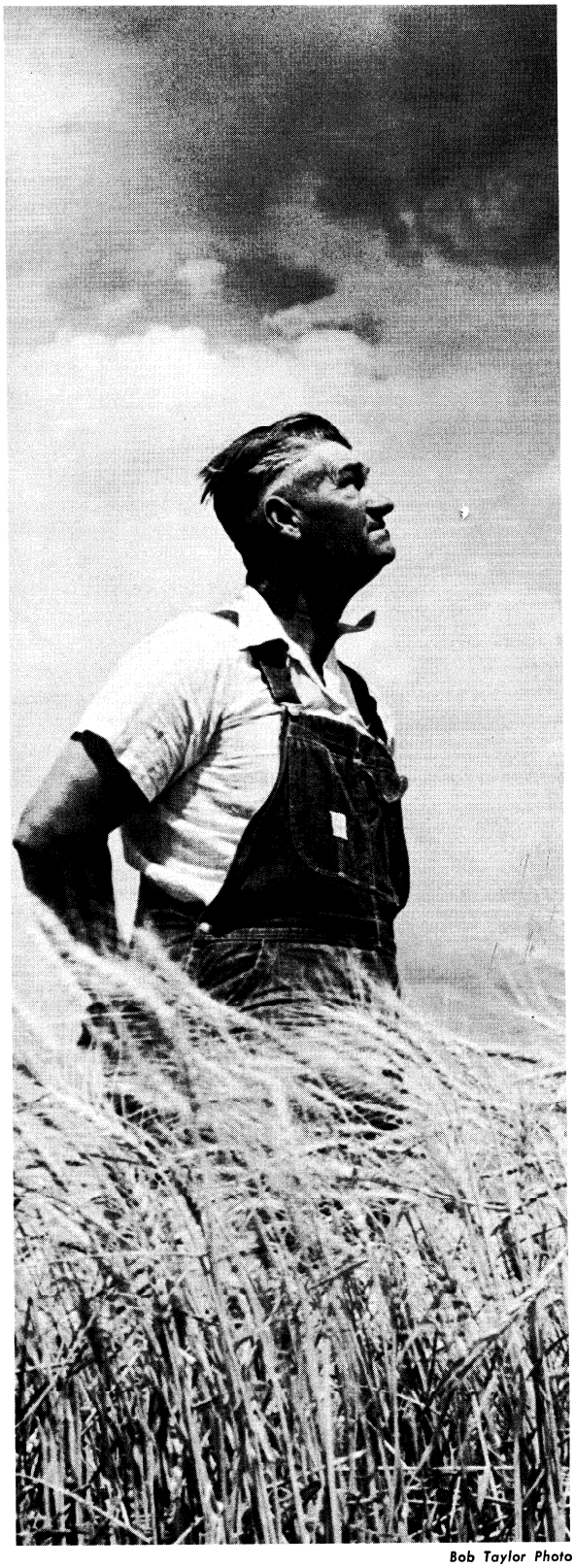
COMMENT: Verse 5 is mistranslated in the King James or Authorized Version. Here is how the Smith-Goodspeed translation renders it: "As a young man marries a maiden, so shall your Builder marry you: And as a bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you."

3. Was Israel to set an example of obedience to God's statutes and laws so all nations might see the wisdom of living the way that produces success? Deut. 4:5, 6. When God's ways are fully practiced will people have to admit they are the right ways to live? Verse 6.

COMMENT: They will be coming to Israel saying, "You are an amazing nation! How do you do it!" or "These laws are astounding! What makes them work?" "Teach us your ways and your laws" (Isa. 2:3; Micah 4:2).

4. Will Israel then fill the world with "fruit"? Isa. 27:6. This indicates not only vast worldwide population, but spiritual fruit—righteous spiritual character produced from all nations by the example of Israel's obedience.

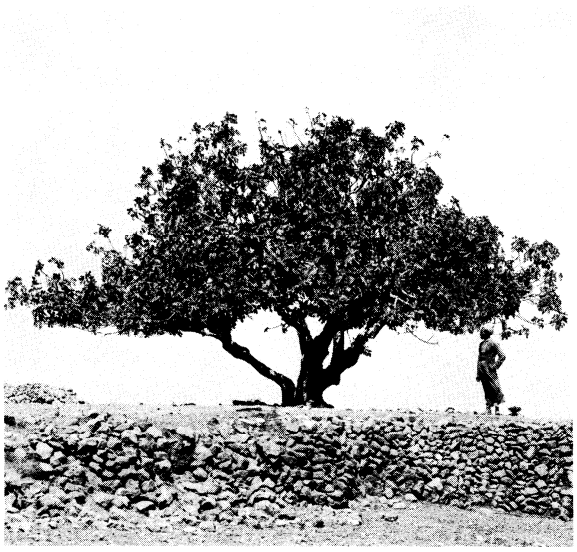
5. Were Abraham's offspring to become extremely numerous? Gen. 13:16. When will



Bob Taylor Photo

Agriculture is the *key* to national prosperity. When man serves God, even the weather is his helper.

Weather can make the difference in any crop. God promises to make the earth "blossom as a rose" with an abundance of fine produce—food for everyone who obeys. He also promises to punish the rebels with drought! *Matson Photo Service*



Israel's population reach its highest point? Ezek. 36:11; Isa. 60:22.

6. Did God set the bounds of all nations with Israel in mind? Deut. 32:8.

COMMENT: God knew from the beginning the number of Israelites that would ultimately spring from the seed of Abraham. He reserved the mineral and agricultural wealth He meant for them to have. After setting aside the areas they were to occupy, giving them the largest portion of any race, He divided up the remainder among all the rest.

Gentiles who first occupied land reserved for Israel were permitted to dominate it only until Israel had multiplied sufficiently to fill it.

7. Were the descendants of Jacob to be a blessing to all nations? Gen. 28:14.

COMMENT: Just as blowing dust where it comes to rest, fertilizes (blesses) the soil, so the racial descendants of Israel were to bless all lands where they would settle. God designed to bring through them superior prosperity, technical know-how and inventiveness to all continents.

The richest fulfillment of this prophecy is yet future—reserved for the Millennium.

8. How does God describe this future explosive spread of Israelites into every part of the globe? As a "breaking forth"? Isa. 54:2, 3. The United States' population explosion is only a type of the population boom to occur in Israel during the prosperous Millennium. What inheritance is promised Israel? The whole world? Same verse.

9. Will all nations either serve Israel or perish? Isa. 60:12. Who will possess the wealth of the world? Verses 5, 11, 16-17.

COMMENT: In verses 5 and 11, the word should not be "forces" but "wealth"—as is shown in the margin of most King James Bibles. Israel will inherit the world's wealth. Obedience to God's laws will cause it to multiply again and again.

The whole world will become a Palestinean-owned colonial system. Israel under her Spirit Rulers will rule the world. The British Empire, on which the sun never set, only weakly foreshadowed the destined world power of Millennial Israel under the Kingdom of God.

If you have not already read it, be sure to write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's free 28-page booklet "*The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy.*"

It will not be an exploiting colonialism, but rather a cooperative association of all races. Each people will do that for which it is best suited.

10. Will the Gentiles do her physical work while Israel devotes her main effort to teaching? Isa. 61:5, 6. Compare also Isaiah 49:22, 23. Combine the best abilities of all races and you will finally have a civilization worthwhile!

The Marriage of the Lamb

1. When will the Marriage of the Lamb take place—at Jesus Christ's return to begin His reign? Rev. 19:6, 7. Is it an occasion of great rejoicing just following destruction, plagues and terror? Same verses.

Here is a parallel to the gloriously happy Feast of Tabernacles following the darkness and trouble pictured by the Day of Trumpets!

2. In biblical pattern, how long does a marriage feast last? Judges 14:2, 10, 12. Does the

Feast of Tabernacles figuratively span the same length of time? Lev. 23:34.

3. Is the actual ceremony and the consummation always on the first of the seven days? Gen. 29:22, 23, 27. Then is Christ's wedding day indicated in God's Holy Day plan? Lev. 23:35. These are the days God set aside to be kept perpetually as the wedding anniversary of Christ and His Bride!

4. Is a married wife bound to obey her husband as long as he lives? I Cor. 7:39. So will the Bride of Christ obey Him forever? Eph. 5:22-27, 32. Is this why Nehemiah read the Law to the people every day of the Feast of Tabernacles? Neh. 8:18. Compare Deuteronomy 31:10, 11. Those who then will compose the Bride must learn the law in this life—and learn it well—to teach it then.

5. Does Christ emphasize in the New Testament the necessity of an inner change brought about by the Holy Spirit to enable one to take part in the Marriage of the Lamb? Matt. 25:9, 10.

6. Did Israel in the beginning have the heart to fear and obey Him? Deut. 5:29; 29:4; Josh. 24:19. But once added, will their new nature be permanent? Isa. 59:21; Jer. 32:39, 40.

COMMENT: The Old Covenant was a marriage contract. When Israel broke the terms of the contract—committed spiritual adultery—her sins divorced her from the Person who became Jesus Christ. (Isa. 59:2; Jer. 3:8, 14; 31:32.)

Unfaithful Israel committed adultery (Jer. 3:8), but the great false church, the Gentile whore of Revelation 17 and 18, commits *fornication*. That one was never married to Christ and was *never* God's Church.

God's true Church is not a Gentile church. It is an Israelitish church. A Gentile-born person enters into it only by becoming a spiritual Israelite (Eph. 2:11, 12; Rom. 9:4, 5; John 4:22).

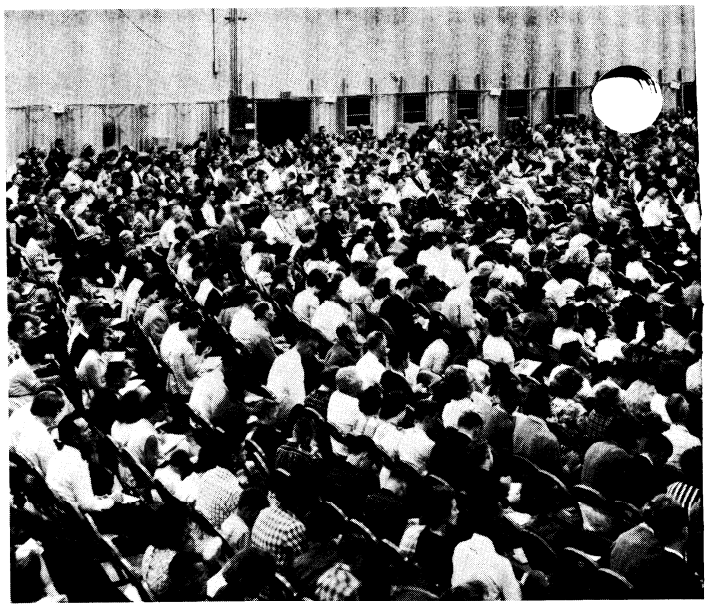
Christ can never marry another. He must remarry Israel. Note that the Bride is already —before the marriage—His "wife" (Rev. 19:7).

But the Lamb is Spirit. His wife must also be spirit, if it is ever to be a true and permanent marriage. A man could not marry an animal or anything less than human. Neither can Christ's wife be less than fully God.

She must be a *reborn* Israel (II Cor. 11:2), who has "made herself ready" (Rev. 19:7).

Spiritual Israel will constitute the ruling echelon of the fleshly nation Israel. Israelites of the flesh who become qualified, as well as Gentiles, will be added all through the Millennium as they are born again.

The whole 54th chapter of Isaiah is devoted to describing spiritual Israel now remarried to



Christ, in contrast with the physical nation Israel during the preceding 3000 years. Notice especially the first 6 verses. The church has been desolate—the truly converted few—until the making of the New Covenant—a marriage covenant. But Israel of the flesh never multiplied half so fast as the church of converted Israel will multiply at Christ's return and during the Millennium.

The God Family is getting set for the greater things still future. The Millennium is yet only the beginning of eternity—of happiness and accomplishment.

The Meaning of Booths

1. Did God decree that all Israelites live in booths—that is, temporary dwellings, during the Feast of Tabernacles? Lev. 23:42. What is a booth? Verse 40.

COMMENT: A booth (or tabernacle) is a temporary shelter. Its essential characteristic is its temporary nature. A tent or a one-room house of leafy boughs would not be suitable for continual habitation.

God directed the use of trees in ancient Israel because these were then the most plentiful and convenient material. But a temporarily occupied dwelling, such as a tent or camper, made of any material would qualify as a "booth."

2. Was this manner of keeping the Feast of Tabernacles to be a continual reminder of Israel's 40-year sojourn in the wilderness and deserts south of Palestine? Lev. 23:42, 43. Why? Because Israel lived in *temporary* dwellings during that time? Verse 43.

3. Let us understand why God wants those 40 nomadic years remembered.

Ambassador College Photo

Those God is calling now receive instruction from His true ministers at the Feast of Tabernacles which true Christians continue to keep today.

What is the real significance of dwelling in booths? I Chron. 29:15; Heb. 11:9, 13.

COMMENT: The dictionary defines "sojourn" as "a temporary stay." Abraham was a stranger or alien in the Promised Land, living in a temporary fashion all his days. God had not yet given him any inheritance there. Canaanites occupied the land.

Dwelling in booths pictured that Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob were yet only heirs—not yet inheritors—to eternal life and eternal possession of the land.

4. Was Israel's 40 years of wandering meant from the beginning to be only a temporary state of affairs? Deut. 8:2. Just until all that rebellious generation were dead? Num. 14:29, 33, 34.

COMMENT: The rebellious generation in the wilderness is a type of all carnal rebellious people as long as there are *mortal* beings left on earth.

5. Then isn't it clear God commanded Israel to live in booths during the Feast of Tabernacles also to show the Millennium it represents to be a period in which conditions are still only temporary?

COMMENT: Not only the Feast of Tabernacles but the 40 years in the wilderness were symbolic of the Millennium.

Just as ancient Israel, on escaping from Pharaoh—and Satan—was given in the wilderness a temporary period of comparative isolation from Satan's influence, so will the whole world enter a period of rest from Satan's rule for 1000 years. During that 40 years Israel was welded into a nation completely submissive to God's government. During the Millennium the whole world is to be similarly organized under God's government.

Forty is the number of trial and test. Israel in the wilderness was a type of all people who will go through tests during the Millennium in overcoming their human nature.

6. How will God draw the 1000-year period of testing to a close? Rev. 20:3, 7-9. Next month's lesson will show how and when God's plan leads to permanency—eternal inheritance instead of "sojourning."

7. Is there to be any end to the increase of God's kingdom? Isa. 9:7.

COMMENT: It begins like the proverbial grain of mustard seed, the smallest of all seeds, but when grown becomes the greatest of all things and fills the whole earth (Mat. 13:31, 32). Throughout the Millennium, population will increase rapidly. Millions will be converted and born into the Family of God.

By the end of the thousand years, the Family will be ready for the final step in the Holy Day Plan.

Until that step, too, has been made, only a foundation has been prepared for the great things yet in store. The real joy, the real purpose, the real accomplishments all lie yet ahead.

The universe will no longer be subject to destruction, sin or death. Revelation 21 gives us just a hint of this new universe. A new heaven and a new earth inhabited solely by Spirit Beings! "There shall be no more death, neither sorrow, nor crying, neither shall there be any more pain: for the former things are passed away" (verse 4).

HOW the Converted Will Keep the Feast Now

1. Is Jerusalem again *to be chosen* as the center of worship? Zech. 2:12. Then Jerusalem is not now the place for all people to go to keep the Feast of Tabernacles, is it? John 4:21.

COMMENT: Jerusalem was rejected in 69 A.D. and turned over to the Romans and destruction after exactly two 19-year cycles allotted to the headquarters New Testament Church. God withdrew His name He had placed there. But Jerusalem will again in the Millennium be the place God's people will keep the Feast of Tabernacles.

2. Does God *strongly* intend His people be free from this world's system? Ex. 10:7; Isa. 43:3; Ex. 15:1, last four words. Was the drowning of Pharaoh and his army in the Red Sea a type of what will happen again to Satan's chief stooges? Rev. 19:20.

COMMENT: God wants *you* that free NOW! Free to meditate on His purpose—and on how to fulfill it! The Feast of Tabernacles is intended to separate and free us from the world.

Dwelling in booths—temporary habitations—away from our everyday surroundings, away from our jobs, our customary thoughts, influences and personal contacts, we picture by our thoughts and actions the freedom and peace of the Millennium.

We get away from the world at this season to typify that we don't belong in this world's society any more.

We *must* keep the Feast of Tabernacles now to become really separate—free from the flesh and its nature—then.

Do you want with every fiber of your being to do something about this rotten world? To help set it right? To rule with a rod of iron? Your salvation depends on you! Do you sigh and cry for the abominations this world has to suffer?

We keep the Feast with a purpose. We must prepare now for the job we have to do.

Being physical, we learn by that which is physical. Just as God—His character, His power—is made evident to us through the created material universe (Rom. 1:19, 20) so we must learn to be ruling Gods through physical things.

By practicing God's laws and experiencing the result—peace, harmony and joy—of group living at the Feast of Tabernacles, we learn the value of obeying. The Feast of Tabernacles as carried out *today* is actually a tiny but happy foretaste of the happy World Tomorrow when the Spirit of God will lead *every* human. We show now by the way we live together *in harmony* what this whole sin-sick, unhappy world COULD and WILL be.

Even those, who, because of distance or finances, cannot attend a local meeting of the Radio Church of God every week, *can keep the annual convocations* with the rest of God's people. God has made a way because He knows it is absolutely necessary.

There are lessons to be learned by *living* and *worshipping* with others of God's people that simply would not be learned any other way. There are days of concentrated teaching by God's ministers—days of continuous genuine Christian fellowship. And for many, individual counsel and *personal* instruction from God's true ministers, is available *only* at these Festivals.

No *converted* person should remain home from the Feast of Tabernacles except on the advice of a true minister of God. No layman has authority to except himself from God's blanket command: "Attend!"

What our STUDENTS SAY

(Continued from page 2)

earth. Please help me to find that way."

—Man, Texas City, Texas

• *If you would like to be visited by a representative of the Radio Church of God, write in to your Regional Editor (see inside front page for address) and be sure to mention you have completed Lesson 38 of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course.*

"I am a disobedient, worldly, rebellious, 16-year-old teenage girl who is in desperate need of help! Will you please help me by enrolling me in your Bible Correspondence Course before it is too late to change my ways and attitude?"

—Girl, Kansas

"I would like to enroll in the Ambassador Bible Correspondence Course. I am 12 years of age and I listen to *The* WORLD TOMORROW program. My parents are teaching me the importance of being properly educated. I want to take the Correspondence Course to learn the Bible—the basic foundation of all knowledge—and become educated the right way."

—Girl, Chicago, Illinois

From Austria

"My joy over the Bible Correspondence Course knows no end, and neither does the receipt of your magazine *Die Reine Wahrheit.*"

—Woman, Altenberg, Austria