AMBASSADOR COLLEGE **Bible** LESSON 10

CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

PROPHECY Is the PROOF of God!

THE STARTLING HEADLINES of *world news* for the next 15 to 25 years are *ALREADY* WRITTEN IN ADVANCE—yet heads of governments, and most people, *ignore* them!

Tomorrow's news is *already written* in Bible PROPHECY *now*. It stands written before the coming world-shaking events occur — but the people today have turned away from believing in the AUTHORITY of this world's "best seller." Few really believe that the BIBLE *MEANS* WHAT IT SAYS—and still fewer *understand* its prophecies!

Most people would say it is *impossible* for men—over 2500 years ago—to have looked down into the future and *foretold* what is going to happen in our day to ALL THE MAJOR NATIONS.

Weather experts often fail in foretelling the weather even 24 or 48 hours in advance. What chance would anyone have of foretelling specific catastrophes to happen to great nations like the United States? to the British Commonwealth? to Germany? Russia? or China? and of having the prophecies come true—if there were not *divine inspiration?*

Fantastic Prophecies

Such men did exist! Such prophecies were made!

The prophets who have foretold the fate of the nations today—who have foretold what is to happen in the next quarter century, in our lifetime—these *same* prophets *also* declared over 2500 years ago what *then seemed fantastic, improbable, even impossible,* to the great city-states and the great nations of *that world long ago*. Those prophecies *HAPPENED!* They happened centuries later—they were fulfilled *precisely as the prophets foretold!* And the PROOF you will find in this lesson!

If the Bible foretold the future of all the leading nations 2500 years ago—Egypt, Assyria, Babylon, Persia, Greece, the Roman Empire—and all those prophecies came to pass, *it's about time we begin to pay attention and look into the prophecies of the Bible* to see what they reveal about the nations *today*—and to see what they foretell for our people. *We are included in Bible prophecies!*

Today God is making known to *you* His existence, and He is showing to *you* that His Word, the Bible, can be depended upon.

What Does FULFILLED Prophecy Prove?

Let us *face* this question!

Is it rational even to believe in a *God?* Is God a myth?—an invention of an ignorant, superstitious past? And are Biblical prophecies in reality only shrewd guesses of certain Jews who lived more than a score of centuries ago?

In today's upset chaotic world, the question of God's existence and of the inspiration of prophecy is disturbing increasing numbers of people. Many want the *truth!* They are through being fooled; they are through taking *fables* for granted as *facts,* blindly assuming what is popularly taught. They want to know! They want the proof!

YOU OUGHT TO FEEL THE SAME WAY ABOUT IT!

The place to start this honest search for the truth is with GOD, Himself. It ought to have been the very first question in your life to ask and to find the PROOF for THE EXISTENCE OF GOD, and for the INSPIRATION OF HIS WRITTEN PROPHETIC WORD — the HOLY BIBLE!

PROPHECY fulfillment *is* PROOF of the

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existence OF GOD *Almighty*. It is the *proof* of the *divine INSPIRATION* OF THE BIBLE. It is the *proof* that the Bible is the *revelation* of the facts from God Almighty which we could not otherwise discover or know in advance.

Whoever was the REAL INSPIRATION behind the prophecies of the Bible *knew over 2500 years ago the condition the world would be in today*—the internal condition of the United States, of Russia, of China, and of all the leading nations of the earth. The God who inspired the Bible knew millenniums ago what is going to happen in the imminent future!

Is it logical to believe in the God who makes His *plan* for our earth known thousands of years in advance?

Bible Dares to Foretell the Future!

Most people are *afraid* of prophecy! They know that if they should ever examine fulfilled prophecy they would have the PROOF for the divine inspiration of Scripture by the Creator!

If prophecy has not been fulfilled, then the skeptics would have the proof that the Bible is a fraud. The Bible would stand as the most diabolical hoax ever perpetrated upon a gullible religious world. *But prophecy has been fulfilled!* —and the PROOF is in this lesson of the Correspondence Course.

Here is a Book—The HOLY BIBLE—it DARES THE SKEPTIC by having written within its pages the future history of this world! Look within its pages and prove its undeniable inspiration!

We may not be ATHEISTS, SKEPTICS, OR AGNOSTICS. We may not *ridicule* the Holy Bible. But we are living in an age of *carelessness*, and of *doubt*. Very few people have wanted to exercise their mind sufficiently to *prove* whether the Bible PROPHECIES are really inspired of God. Fewer still TREMBLE before what these prophecies say, or regard them as having REAL AUTHORITY!

Most HIGHLY EDUCATED people, and that includes men of science, *assume* that the Bible is not the infallible revelation of a Supreme Supernatural God, and they assume this *without the scientific proof* that they demand on ordinary material matters. They *take for granted* that prophecies, which are a proof of God, could not be true—but they have not dared to investigate. THEY DO NOT WANT TO KNOW THE TRUTH OF THIS MATTER!

Most FUNDAMENTALISTS, on the other hand, take for granted that Scripture is the very Word of God—but they reject its *authority* over their lives. Therefore they, too, *do not understand its prophecies*. Witness the babylon of doctrinal confusion over Bible prophecy. Hardly any two of them agree. They profess Christ, but they deny His message.

It is time we quit taking these prime questions for granted. "Do not despise prophesying, but TEST EVERYTHING; HOLD FAST what is GOOD" (I Thes. 5:20-21, RSV).

How Can You Prove Scripture?

Christ Himself is quoted in the Bible as saying, "The Scripture *cannot* be broken" (John 10:35). But *can* it be broken? Did *you* ever try to break it? Did *you* ever really PUT ITS PROPHECIES TO THE TEST — and prove them?

Is it not about time we stop to seek out the proofs one way or the other?

Some people seem to think that the only way to prove the inspiration of the Bible—and hence of its prophecies—is by means of Jesus' miracles. But the skeptics do not believe those miracles ever happened—even though the historical testimony of the unconverted Jews and pagans admitted that Jesus DID PERFORM those miracles! The skeptics would have us believe that even Jesus' enemies were gullible enough to think them possible. The skeptic wants PROOF THAT he CAN EXAMINE TODAY!

Immediately many think of *answered prayer* as the major proof of inspiration. But the skeptic has had no prayers *answered*. He does not believe that *anybody else* has either. Merely circumstances that the religious superstitiously attribute to God—that is the way the skeptic regards answered prayer.

There is, however, one source of *irrefutable proof!* This source of proof he can see before his very eyes, he can examine, and he can demonstrate to be false—if there is no God!

The Bible itself purports to be infallible, a divine revelation of truth revealed by the very Creator and Divine Ruler of the universe. In your Bible, *a Being is quoted*. HE CLAIMS THAT HE IS GOD. He speaks in the first person, saying that He can make and unmake nations, that He can carry out His judgments—His decisions—over millenniums of time, claiming that He can foretell infallibly the future of cities and empires, but that *no man* can do the same.

WHO IS THIS who is quoted as saying: "I am God, and there is none like me, DECLARING

the END FROM the BEGINNING, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done, saying, 'My counsel shall stand, and I will do all my pleasure.' . . . Yes, I have spoken it, and I WILL also BRING IT TO PASS; I HAVE PURPOSED IT AND I WILL ALSO DO IT"? (Isaiah 46:9-11.)

Here are the words of One claiming to be God —claiming not only that He knows the future, but that HE KNOWS IT BECAUSE HE *DETERMINES* IT — BECAUSE HE HAS THE *POWER* TO CARRY OUT HIS WILL.

TAUNTING the Skeptics

Skeptics, of course, say that the Bible is NOT the words of God, but merely the religious writings of an insignificant ancient nation — the Jews, who were groping in darkness of human ignorance and of superstition trying to develop a concept of what they thought God would say were He to exist!

But is it?

WHO IS THIS claiming to foretell the future? Is it merely an ignorant, superstitious, albeit pious, ancient Jew with no power to make good his vaunted concept of God, who wrote *this* blistering *challenge* to the skeptic — a challenge claiming that no one can thwart His Will?

Here in the Bible is One speaking who does not crystal-ball gaze, who does not merely guess what is going to happen, but One who claims to *know* because *HE* HAS *DETERMINED* THE FUTURE. Since this One speaks forth through the words of Scripture, here is the proof that the skeptic needs. IF GOD CAN BACK UP HIS WORD, IF HE CAN FULFILL THE PROPHECIES HE UTTERED LONG AGO FOR THIS 20TH CENTURY—*then the skeptic has proved that God must be the Author of His Word as He claims to be.*

But if events are *contrary* to the plain statements of Biblical prophecy—contrary to the claims of this "God"—then the skeptic has found the proof that the Bible is not infallible—that we cannot rely on it.

Prophecy is the one proof upon which Scripture stands or falls! Even the "God of the Bible" recognizes this fact. Here is what He says:

"Set forth your case, says the LORD; bring your PROOFS, says the King of Jacob. . . . And tell us what is to happen. Tell us the former things, what they are, that we may consider them, that we may know their outcome; or declare to us the things to come" (Isaiah 41:21-22).

Yes, little mortal man STATE YOUR *PROOFS!* Can any but God foretell? Could the Bible be the work of man alone, without the inspiration of God, and be filled with fulfilled prophecies written centuries, yes, millenniums in advance?

God says, as it were, "Why *you're* nothing at all. Come on! Let's hear *your* proofs that we may watch whether they turn out. Predict what is going to happen in the future, and let us watch and see whether *you* can foretell. Have *you* the power to bring it about as I have? Are you a God? Do *you* rule the universe, you doubters? Can you make and unmake nations? Can you pronounce a sentence or a decree on a nation, *and bring it to pass?*"

That is the taunt of the GOD OF THE BIBLE to the *doubters.*

Facts Easily Demonstrated

Yes, fulfilled prophecy is the *proof* of divine revelation!

If One, through the Bible, speaking and claiming to be God, can make prophecies and tell what is going to happen in the future to our cities, our nations, our world-ruling empires, then if it actually HAPPENS *IN EVERY CASE,* without a miss, no sane mind can deny that a *God* must have spoken it.

If the Bible prophecies are absolutely sure, then THE FACTS CAN BE VERY EASILY DEMONSTRATED—which is what the skeptic or agnostic is afraid of. He wants to remain in his ignorance. He is proud to be an agnostic, or a doubter. He is proud of his ignorance! But *you* cannot afford to be in ignorance—your life is too valuable, there is too much at stake.

NOW WE ARE READY TO STUDY one of the most important lessons of the entire course.

Is your BIBLE in front of you? Have you several sheets of paper, and a pen or pencil, so that you can MAKE NOTES to help you remember what you learn? If not, do not read another word. Get your Bible, and whatever else you need.

Now with your Bible, your paper, a good dictionary, and any other book you may need (mentioned in Lesson 4), here is the METHOD: Write down neatly on your note paper the caption "Lesson 10" and underscore it. Write down the heading. Then, underneath, number each question, and *write down the answer together with the Scripture containing the answer.* As an EXAMPLE for your first question, this is what you will write on your note paper:

1. Romans 3:16—"Destruction and misery are in their ways."

Also write in any thoughts or comments you want to remember. When you have finished this question and have studied it and are sure you understand it, then read the material that follows. Write down all the answers that follow, so you can fix them in your mind as a review. The verses given you in this Course will establish a framework for *all* your Bible knowledge.

Remember, you are to spend an average of at least a half hour *every* day studying YOUR BIBLE with this Correspondence Course.

Lesson 10

Proof One—STRIFE Prophesied

One major reason stands out as a cause for misunderstanding prophecy. This cause is the INHERENT NATURE and attitude of HUMAN BEINGS. Prophecy seems so unreal—so unlikely to happen—because it pictures a God who becomes angry with this world because of its sins—a God who claims to know better than we how we ought to live. Prophecy reveals a God who corrects the world because it has gone astray, setting up its own governments and ORDAINING its OWN LAWS CONTRARY TO GOD'S Government and LAWS.

Undoubtedly the first fact we must face—if we are going to understand prophecy and to understand who God is—RELATES TO HUMAN NATURE itself.

Here is the mysterious *reason for prophecy!*

1. Romans 3:16, like many other statements of Scripture, *is a prophecy*. What does it say? Name the *results* of the *ways which human beings live*. Is the whole world facing the inevitable results today? (Review Lesson 1, pages 3 through 6.)

2. Compare verse 15 with the preceding verses.

3. What does the Bible prophesy about the possibility of MAN establishing *world peace* without the supernatural intervention of God? Verse 17.

4. WHO claims to be able to make peace and to punish international criminals? Isa. 45:7.

5. Are not these verses a DIRECT PROPHECY THAT GOD ALONE CAN BRING PEACE TO THE WORLD—that the world cannot establish peace without His supernatural intervention?

6. Do most people recognize these verses as prophecies? Do most people even believe these verses mean what they plainly say? How do you know that most people do not believe what God says in these verses? Don't they think they *themselves* can bring world peace?

7. Do not these verses, written from 1900 to 2500 years ago, indicate that the One who claims to be the Author of the Bible KNEW THE END-RESULT OF HUMAN WAYS AND CUSTOMS? How do we know? Did God warn the world, almost from the beginning of human history, of what we see occurring about us today? Jude 14-15. Was Enoch a prophet? What did we learn in the introduction of this lesson about the duty of a prophet? Did Enoch rebuke "sinners" for their violent misdeeds? What is sin? I John 3:4. Did Enoch recognize that the Lord of heaven and earth would have to intervene in world affairs to convince the world that their ways are wrong? Jude 14.

8. Do the vast majority agree with God on this point—do you yourself think that their ways can lead to peace and harmony among nations?

THIS PROPHECY WHICH SO VITALLY AFFECTS US TODAY IS A STANDING CHALLENGE OF GOD TO THE ATHEIST AND AGNOSTIC! *The skeptic and doubter can prove God a liar merely by finally establishing peace* among men *without God's supernatural intervention!* Throughout the past two thousand years have the nations of the world been able to defy this prophecy and establish permanent peace? *No!*

Here is actual VISIBLE *evidence* that God's Word is being fulfilled. But the world *refuses to recognize this evidence!*

COMMENT: Of course the doubter may conclude that these verses about world peace are shrewd guesses based upon previous history! Human history does indicate it—but how many people really believe it? Here is a prophecy which has stood for centuries, DARING ANY HUMAN being TO ALTER IT! The nations have spilled millions of gallons of human blood, spent thousands of millions of dollars, wasted precious time—all in a vain attempt to do what God said cannot be done. And we are to witness near the beginning of the last quarter of this century the final fulfillment of this PROPHECY when GOD will HAVE TO INTERVENE in human affairs to PREVENT WORLD ANNIHILATION, to bring peace to the nations! Atheists and agnostics are now living who will see that day! All Bible doctrine stands or falls on this fundamental prophecy which God dares any man to break!

Proof Two—RACE History Foretold

1. Here comes VISIBLE EVIDENCE NUMBER TWO! What major prophecy did God reveal concerning THE RACES of the earth? Genesis 9:25-27.

2. How do we know that this prophecy stands fulfilled today? Notice that here is still another prophecy *which men could break*—were it not for the fact that God said they could not break His Word!

COMMENT: The descendants of SHEM are primarily found among the Semitic and Northwestern European races today. (See Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy.") The descendants of JAPHETH are found among the Latin, Slavic, and Oriental peoples. The descendants of HAM are found primarily among the dark Middle-Eastern races and Negroid tribes. (A later lesson of this Course will prove these facts in complete detail.)

Notice that the knowledge of God would be preserved among the *descendants* of Shem—"blessed be the LORD God of Shem." This *fact* is true to this day—only among the sons of Shem has the knowledge of God been preserved, and descendants of the other two sons of Noah

have received their little knowledge of God through Shem's descendants. Japheth would be enlarged—he would spread out—increase mightily in population, so that his descendants would live under the influence and control of Shem. And the descendants of Ham (of whom Canaan was merely the firstborn among many brothers) would become "servants of servants" in this world. *This, too, HAS BEEN FULFILLED.* Throughout Asia, Africa and North and South America, as well as Europe and Australia, the descendants of Ham have been reduced to the general status of servants. They have been independent almost nowhere in the world. They have lived as the lowest classes in nearly every nation. GOD DOES EXIST and His BIBLE DOES FORETELL correctly!

And notice that this *is a result of the sins of the fathers being "visited upon" or reaped by the children.* Canaan and his brothers suffered from the mistakes of their father—just as one generation after another has suffered from the mistakes of preceding ages. Men may try what they will—they may think that they can change the course of history—but this amazing prophecy, given before there were any nations, CANNOT BE BROKEN! God defies man to reduce the population of Japheth, to remove the knowledge of God from Shem's progeny, to raise the descendants of Ham to the positions of authority over their brethren.

More VISIBLE Proof

1. Is the word "Jew" used as a byword throughout the nations?—did God foretell this would happen? Deut. 28:37. Why would this happen? Verse 45. Is this prophecy repeated elsewhere? Jer. 24:9.

This prophecy has been receiving fulfillment for the past 2500 years! Not once have THE JEWS been able to break it! Not once have the Gentile nations been able to exterminate the Jews! Why did God prophesy that this would happen to the Jew, but to *no Gentile nation* mentioned anywhere in Bible prophecy—unless God knew the history of the world in advance? —unless He is indeed God who determines the outcome of wars and the rise and fall of nations.

2. What was to be the fate of Egypt? Ezekiel 29:15-16. Was EGYPT to be scattered among the nations like the Jews for the past 2500 years? Were the Egyptians to become a byword? Notice that the fate of the Jews was entirely *different* from Egypt. But what God foretold has happened to *both.*

3. Were the Egyptians to be diminished?

COMMENT: The population of Egypt has hardly doubled in the past 2000 years, whereas the population of nearly every other nation has doubled within the last 75 years. *Here is more visible proof God exists!* Egypt cannot defy prophecy!

4. WHO was to RULE EGYPT during the past 2500 years? Native Egyptians? or foreigners? Ezek. 30:13, last part.

COMMENT: From the days of Nebuchadnezzar there has never been a native Egyptian ruling supreme over the entire land of Egypt. Time and again the Egyptians rose in revolt, BUT THEY ALWAYS FAILED! The Persians ruled them, the Greeks, the Romans, the Arabs, the Turks, the French and the British—and today native Arabs still rule Egypt.

To prove that God is Supreme Ruler, He has given specific prophecies concerning the history of Egypt to this very day—and a prophecy of what is still to happen to Egypt! God has foretold the history of Egypt in advance *in time sequence* in Daniel 11. These prophecies have come to pass in the *very order* in which they were given. Only a *God* could do that—a God who is alive today and who rules over the nations and determines the outcome of international affairs. This is not the place to expound the entire 11th chapter of Daniel—that would take a whole lesson by itself. But we want you to notice now what God says will happen in the imminent future:

5. Will the land of Egypt escape the final colossal series of wars that culminate in the return of Jesus Christ? Dan. 11:42. Why will Egypt be seized? Verse 43. What is the most precious thing that Egypt possesses—the Suez Canal? What power will finally take over the land of Egypt?

COMMENT: In this prophecy the power that takes over the land of Egypt is called the "king of the north." The king of the north first represented that division of Alexander's Empire that lay north of Palestine. It is called Syria. But Syria was swallowed up by *Rome!* This is described in the verses beginning with Dan. 11:30. So hereafter Rome becomes the "King of the North" in this prophecy. And the last revival of the Roman Empire *is already commencing* in Europe.

God's Bible is again in the process of being proved true! God defies all the power of Russia and of the Democratic Nations to stop the rise of this fascist Roman Empire—a league of ten nations with the great religious power of the Vatican supporting and directing it! Germany undoubtedly will be its bulwark. A revived Germany, this time united with other fascist dictatorships in Europe, and supporting the Church of Rome, will seize the entire Middle East. God says so!

Now notice another major prophecy:

6. Did the Bible prophesy that the ancient city of TYRE (the great city of Phoenicia) would be ruled over by strangers for 2500 years? Or was Tyre to be destroyed? Ezekiel 26:14, 20. What was the site of Old Tyre to become?

COMMENT: The site of Old Tyre *is today* a complete desolation. No city is there today, not even a village. A New Tyre was built, but *not*

on the place were the Old Tyre of prophecy stood.

Notice that the importance of Tyre in prophecy is that HUMAN BEINGS CAN STILL THWART THE WILL OF GOD *if* BIBLE PROPHECY IS *not* INSPIRED. God *dares* any man to rebuild the city of Tyre. Every year, yes, *every hour* that the site of Old Tyre remains a desolate *top of a rock* for spreading of fisherman's nets—every hour that it remains uninhabited, and no city is built there, it is SHOUTING the PROOF of divine revelation and of the existence of a supernatural God who overrules the desires and plans of men. Let the agnostics and atheists find even one event that contradicts these marvellous prophecies and they will have found proof that God is not able to keep His word! They have not found one such event! As for the city of Tyre, all that stands in the way of disproving the Bible is God Himself. He defies anyone to rebuild this city—which would be a comparatively easy physical task if any atheist wants to prove there is a God who will prevent it. There is rich soil around it. There is an ample water supply. It has harbor possibilities with a little dredging—but Tyre still remains desolate. God said it would be so. He keeps His word. *Send for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "Proof of the Bible."*

7. Was the city of SIDON to be desolate and without inhabitant? Ezek. 28:20-23. Was the fate of Tyre the same as its sister city Sidon (or Zidon)? The city of Sidon exists today, having suffered the rampages of war through the centuries.

8. What was to happen to ASHKELON? Zephaniah 2:4; Zechariah 9:5. Was her fate to be that of Sidon? How is it that the prophecies are right *every time*—even though centuries and millenniums have passed since these things were written?

COMMENT: Here is what the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* says about the city of Ashkelon: "Ashkelon, now a *desolate site*"—*the very words that the Bible uses*—and "protruding from this sand-swept terrain, shattered columns and the remnants of ruined buildings and broken walls bear ample testimony to a past magnificence. . . . The country around is fertile. Vines, olives . . . fruit trees flourish."

Here is yet another city which doubters could easily use to disprove the existence of God. Why not rebuild the city? Why not?—because God said it would be a desolation!

9. What did Jesus prophesy would happen to JERUSALEM? Luke 21:24. Has this happened? Is Jerusalem trodden down by the Gentiles to this very day? What country now controls Old Jerusalem?

COMMENT: The Jews have moved their capital to New Jerusalem, but the *old* city is *still* trodden down by the present Kingdom of Jordan. Could all the power of the United Nations change this prophecy? Have the United Nations tried to intervene in Palestine affairs to free Jerusalem from exclusive Gentile control?

10. In previous lessons we have covered in broad outline the prophecies revealed in Daniel 2 and 7 and 8. In these chapters Daniel pictures the rise and fall of MAJOR POWERS, beginning with Babylon, Medo-Persia, Alexander's Grecian Empire and Rome. Notice that each of the first three was destroyed by another power that replaced it. If Daniel were merely guessing about the future he would also logically have supposed that the fourth one would be devoured and supplanted by yet a fifth *human* empire. But Daniel does not say that!

What did God *inspire* Daniel to write? Dan. 7:23, 26. How long was this fourth empire to continue? Verse 26. Would it have revivals and declines until the very return of Jesus Christ? Wasn't Mussolini the last international figure to revive the "*Roman* Empire"? What was the system called during the Middle Ages?—"The Holy *Roman* Empire"? (In a later lesson we shall cover in complete detail the various revivals of the Roman Empire. But these facts already mentioned should amply prove that Daniel was not guessing when he foretold that the first three kingdoms which lasted only 500 years would be succeeded by a fourth which would last for over 2000 years! Daniel did *not* foretell this prophecy by analogy with previous events. *No one but God* could have revealed it to the prophet.)

OUR Church Fulfills Prophecy

Just as Egypt, Tyre and Sidon witness to the inspiration of Old Testament prophecies, so the very presence of OUR CHURCH IS PROOF *of God's existence and of the divine inspiration of New Testament prophecy!*

All skeptics admit that the Bible has been completely written in its present form for over 18 centuries. *Therefore anything in the Bible relating to His Church which Jesus said He would build could not possibly have been forged during the past few hundred years.* We have many manuscripts proving that our present Greek New Testament text is the same as it was 18 centuries ago.

What did Jesus say would happen to His Church? Would His church be a great, powerful "Mother" Church from which would spring many *protesting* "daughter" churches? Would His Church end in a babel of confusion—in hundreds of conflicting church denominations? If Jesus is alive today—if He did not lie about His Church—if He stands back of every word He uttered, then we ought to find ample proof in *fulfilled* prophecy about His Church. Here is the PROOF:

1. Did Jesus pray that His Church should be ONE BODY united by perfect harmony as the Father and Jesus the Son are united in harmony? John 17:22-23, also verse 11. Did the

Father always hear Jesus' prayers? John 11: 41-42. Then, if God exists, if He can answer prayer, HE IS BOUND TO ANSWER THIS PRAYER OF JESUS, ISN'T HE? *Has He answered that prayer?* Or has God Almighty failed?

2. Then why are there so many denominations? If God has been answering Jesus' prayer, why are there so many different churches—in confusion and disharmony? COULD THESE CHURCHES BE PART OF THE *ONE* TRUE CHURCH WHICH JESUS SAID HE WOULD BUILD? *Or* are they the churches of this world *masquerading,* falsely, as the true Church of God? Are these many conflicting churches a *part of this world?*—do they meddle in politics? in reform movements? Have they adopted the customs of this world? Was Jesus' Church to be *a part of this world*—a part of this civilization? John 17:14, 16.

3. Then where did this CONFUSION arise? —where did these discordant churches come from?—What did Peter say about *false* teachers creeping in unawares to take over the *NAME* of Christ for themselves? II Peter 2:1-3. Compare this with Jude 3 and 4. These wolves in sheep clothing sought to enter the true church, take it over, and make it still *appear* as though it were Christ's true church!!—though their *pagan* customs would be substituted for God's *true* teachings and commandments!

4. Do *many*—or just a few—now follow the heresies and fables of those teachers? Verse 2 of II Peter 2. Did those false teachers depart from the *true* Church? I John 2:19. It was a great diabolically inspired pagan movement to stamp the name of *Christ* on *their* pagan worldly customs. Read it in I John 4:5. Christ's miracles had impressed the world mightily! Did the world begin to listen to them rather than listen to the truth of God? Compare this with John 15:19. ISN'T THIS TRUE OF THE WORLD TODAY?

5. Did Jesus prophesy that *many,* not the few, would be decieved? Matthew 24:4-5 and Mark 13:5-6. What did Luke record in 21:8? Do the many—or do the few—find the way of peace that leads to eternal life? Mat. 7:13-14. Does this sound like the majority of professing Christians really belong to the true Church of God now? Do these prophecies declare that *the many* are *presently* ensnared by this confusion of professing Christian denominations?

COMMENT: These verses recording the prophecies of Jesus state that FALSE MINISTERS —WITH THEIR FALSE "CHURCHES"— would come declaring that Jesus IS the Christ, deceitfully proclaiming Him as Saviour, but deceiving the world with their false doctrine— paganism labeled as Christianity—the customs of this world masquerading as the customs of Jesus, *human laws* made to *replace* the laws of God. Whenever Jesus meant "false Christs" He used that very expression Mat. 24:24; Mark 13:22. And in this major prophecy for NOW He foretold of deceitful ministers coming in His name, posing as Christ's true ministers, professing Christianity, yet rejecting the message Jesus brought from heaven.

Does not this fact explain why the knowledge of the truth of the Bible has become lost to the world and has been preserved by the Church of God alone?

6. Though the world was to corrupt the truth —even though it accepted the NAME OF CHRIST —did Jesus FORETELL that His Church would be preaching the true gospel of the Kingdom of God in the closing hours of this age? Mat. 24:14.

7. Is His Church—the Church of God— preaching that gospel from its headquarters here in Pasadena today? Does Jesus' Church have the backing of the world, or has it "little strength"? Rev. 3:8.

The existence of God's *true* Church today is yet another proof that God exists!

These are but a few of the *hundreds* of scriptures which prove beyond the shadow of a doubt that WHAT JESUS PROPHESIED WOULD HAPPEN TO *HIS* CHURCH *IS* HAPPENING! The world has been turned to fables which are masquerading under the guise of "gospel truth."

8. Did Jesus also foresee a time when God would have to intervene in world affairs to stop the impending threat of total annihilation of human life? (We discussed this in the very first lesson of the Course.) Here again is added proof that God does exist! He foreknew—He planned —the events now taking place before our very eyes. He is the One responsible for the news headlines you read daily—*headlines that point to the rapid fulfillment of all the outstanding prophecies as soon as this gospel of the Kingdom is preached to all the world as a witness.*

God Is Supreme Ruler

Before we complete this lesson of the Correspondence Course, it is vital that we understand one more fact. Now that we have demonstrated by fulfilled prophecy that God *does* exist, we are brought face to face with the recognition that God is Supreme Ruler. As Supreme Ruler He commands our unconditional surrender to Him and our total OBEDIENCE to HIS laws and His government—to His WAY of Life. This is the MESSAGE *of all the prophets* SINCE THE WORLD BEGAN!

The prophets were *not* religious enthusiasts, reformers of worldly religions and morals, or politicians who guessed about the future in order to influence the world of their day. This idea is the common mistaken concept of modernists and of rationalistic theologians.

The PROPHETS were rather WATCHMEN, GUARDIANS of God's truth—sent to warn individuals, cities, nations and the world of the results of their evil ways—the results that sin brings. The prophets received revelations from

a merciful God to deliver to men *before* God poured out His judgments on the people and the nations that revolted against His Will and that did what seemed right in their own eyes. God's watchmen warn *today!*

The prophets warn nations to yield to God who alone knows right from wrong.

PROPHECY FORETELLS THE CORRECTIVE PUNISHMENT God promises to send because He loves human beings and wants to bring them to their senses. "Surely the Lord God will do nothing, but he revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7). God promises through prophecy, to give us ample advance WARNING TO TURN TO the WAYS BEST FOR US.

The entire lesson of prophecy is contained in II Kings 17:6-23:

". . . Assyria captured Samaria . . . and carried the Israelites away"—Why?—"because the people of Israel had sinned against the Lord their God . . . and had feared other gods and walked in the customs of the nations"—they took up a way of life that *seemed* right to the nations round about them. "And the people of Israel did secretly against the Lord their God things that were not right. . . . yet the LORD WARNED ISRAEL AND JUDAH BY EVERY PROPHET AND EVERY SEER"—God spoke through the prophets and those who saw visions—"saying, 'Turn from your evil ways and *keep my commandments and my statutes,* in accordance with all the law which I commanded your fathers, *and which I sent to you by my servants the prophets.*' "

God's prophets were His spokesmen, revealing His law to a forgetful and rebellious nation.

"But they would not listen, but were stubborn, as their fathers had been, who did not believe in the Lord their God . . . And the Lord rejected *all* the descendants of Israel . . . *as He had spoken by all His servants the prophets*" (RSV).

THE PROPHETS LAID BARE THE INNER REASONS FOR EXTERNAL CIRCUMSTANCES. THEY EXPLAINED *WORLD EVENTS* IN THEIR CONNECTION WITH THE GOVERNMENT AND THE LAWS OF GOD. Prophecy has for its purpose the bringing about of the complete supremacy of GOD'S WILL among all human beings. It foretells to us that if men will not voluntarily surrender themselves to the Will of God, come under His protection in obedience to Him, that God will have to intervene in world affairs to punish those who destroy the earth and to bring peace to the nations.

Let us now understand the lesson of prophecy.

1. Is it natural for human beings to understand the purpose of life? Romans 3:11, first part.

2. Can man, apart from the possibility of God's help, naturally seek after God and discover Him? Verse 11, last part.

Is this not a strong indication that MAN could NEVER FIND GOD UNLESS He should REVEAL HIMSELF? Is not this what we learned from Lesson 9 of this Course?

3. Now notice verse 12: Have all human beings gone the way that seems right to them? Is this God's Way? Does God claim that humanity has *strayed* from His Way?

4. Does not verse 12 imply that God *originally* revealed His way to man and that man strayed from it? How else could they "have *gone* out of the way"? Then are the nations lost in ignorance and superstition? Are they of any profit to themselves or to God the way they are? As usual, be sure to write down the answer to each of these questions on your note paper.

5. How many by nature do good instead of evil? Last part of verse 12. Would you say the world believes this?

COMMENT: The SKEPTICS AND ATHEISTS obviously REJECT PROPHECY BECAUSE they recoginze in it God's plan and purpose which they despise. They DO NOT WANT TO DO THE WILL OF GOD. They want to do their own will which will bring only heartache, suffering, sickness, war and death.

Even the FUNDAMENTALISTS who profess to know God, lie because they refuse to do His commandments (I John 2:4)—"He that saith, 'I know Him,' and keepeth not His commandments is a *liar,* and the truth is not in him"—these people twist the meaning of prophecy so that they can continue in their wilful rebellion against God's laws.

It is not enough to recognize that God exists. Prophecy proves that if we once recognize that He does exist we are under obligation to recognize His authority and obey His Will which He has expressed in His commandments, statutes and judgments.

SUMMARY

You now have the facts in briefest summary—facts which prove that God *must exist.* He must exist in order to inspire the men who wrote the Bible centuries ago. He must still exist and rule over the nations in order to bring His prophecies to fulfillment!

Only a LIVING, ACTIVE GOD could keep the agnostics and atheists from doing what God said no man can do! Not even all the power of the atheistic Communists of Russia can rebuild what God foretold "shall not be rebuilt." These prophecies could not have been written after the events occurred. (We have purposely left out any prophecy which the agnostics falsely claim was written after the event.)

The prophets who wrote the Scriptures are dead. They could not fulfill their writings. Only a living God could intervene over the centuries and bring every one of these prophecies to fulfillment without exception! *Not one has failed!*