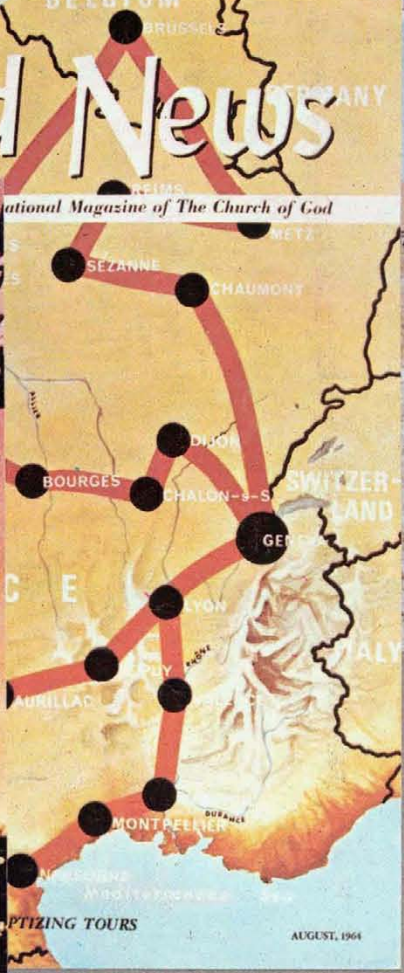
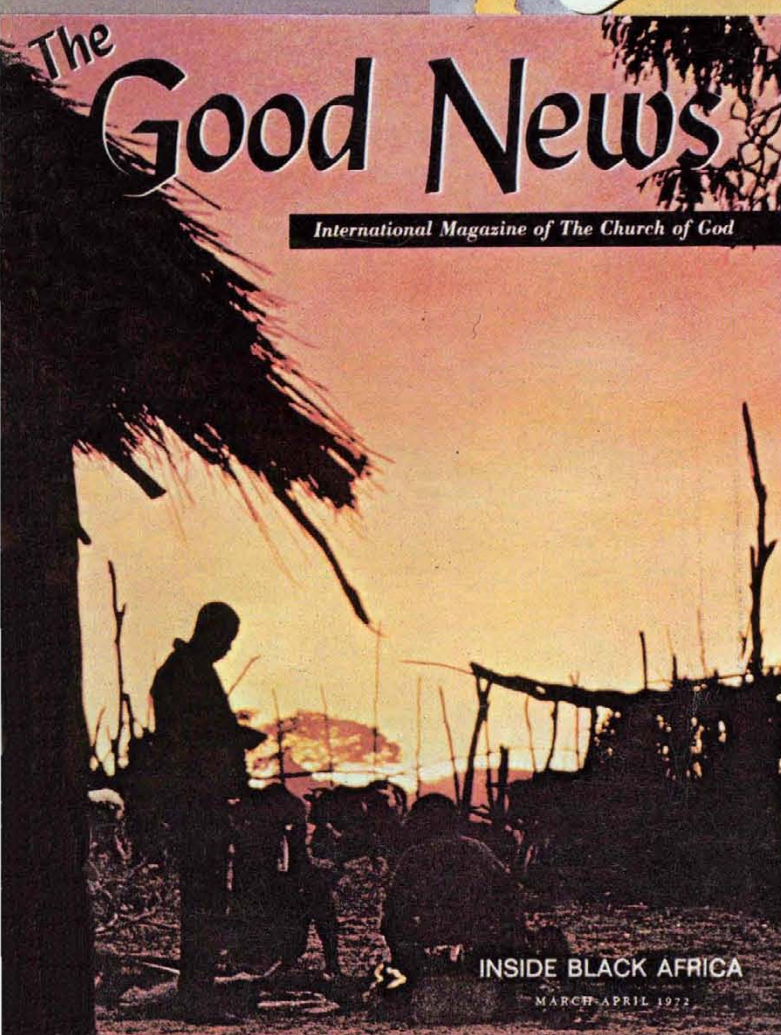
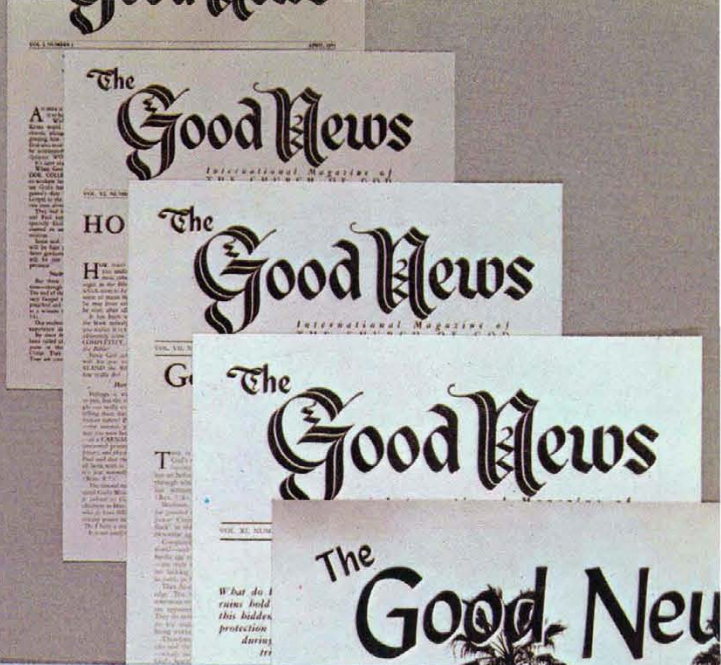
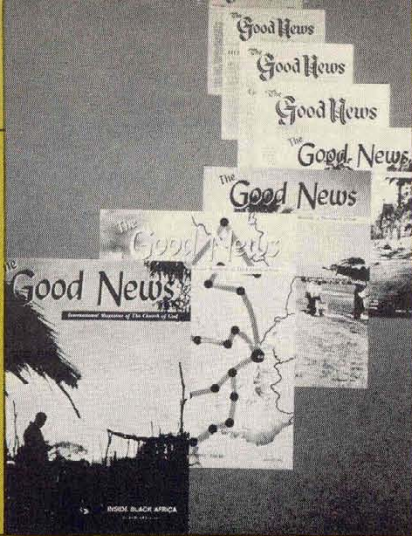


# GN

The Good News



NOVEMBER 1973



### ABOUT THE COVER

Three decades of Good News magazines! For over thirty years members of the Church of God have been receiving copies of The Good News. During these years the format has been changed a number of times and the publication's purposes have been redefined. But one thing has prevailed through the GN years — the truth of God! And now the circulation of the GN is being expanded to include our growing family of co-workers around the world.

# GN

The Good News

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**G**REETINGS! Welcome to our enlarged family, consisting of the membership of the Worldwide Church of God, all of you who have been loyal and faithful co-workers (but who are not regular members of the Church), and those who have, while not joining our regular inner-family of co-workers, nevertheless contributed their own personal substance to this vast and vitally important Work!

You hold in your hand a dream come true.

Volume one, number one of *The Good News* magazine came out in April of 1951 as a private Church magazine going to *members only* of the Worldwide Church of God. Conceptually, the magazine intended to deal with doctrinal discussions, news of the Church, news of the broadcast and telecast, plans concerning our annual festival ob-

servances, building programs of the Church and the College, new ordinations and transfers within the ministry, evangelism both in the United States and abroad.

For all these many years, *The Good News* magazine has been going (not always on a monthly basis if the wherewithal was not available) to the membership of the Church, exhorting, sometimes admonishing, and always *informing*, the Church membership of these and many other significant events.

Now, with this issue, we are able to send not only articles concerning some of these most important developments within the Church and the colleges, but also the strong, doctrinal, spiritually oriented "meat of the Word" articles to those who sincerely desire to look more deeply into their own Bibles and to grow in the grace and knowledge of our

Lord and Savior Jesus Christ by being fed a stronger diet of spiritual food than they can get in *The Plain Truth* magazine alone — which, after all, is designed for the world-at-large and the general public.

In the Greek language, the word *euaggelion*, sometimes translated *evangelos*, or in Spanish *evangelio*, is better rendered into the English language "good news." Equally acceptable in the English language would be "the glad tidings," or simply, "the gospel."

By the tens of millions, professing church-going Christians around the world are utterly ignorant of the *meaning* of the word "gospel."

How well I remember a very sweet little old lady in Pasadena who stopped my wife and me during a shopping trip to one of the local supermarkets. Our boys were very much smaller then, and my

This  
is  
the

GOSPEL...

"Good news" means "the gospel." When Jesus commanded His disciples to go into all the world and preach the "gospel" of the Kingdom of God to all the world as a witness, He could just as easily have said, had He been speaking in the English language, "Go you therefore into all nations, announcing the 'GOOD NEWS' of my soon-coming Kingdom to rule the world." The very title of this magazine, biblically translated, means "the gospel"!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

youngest son, Matthew, was still in his diminutive baby diapers with a tiny pair of leather Indian moccasins on his little feet, sitting in the baby seat provided on most shopping carts. David was holding on to his mother's hand.

The little lady, attracted by the two young boys, simply had to stop, chuck them under the chin, smile at them, and then inquire of their names. I told her, "His name is David, and the little baby is Matthew." About that time, Mark came running up and took hold of my hand, and she inquired after his name, and I told her it was Mark.

"Oh, isn't that sweet! They all have good *gospel* names!"

Actually, my wife and I named our eldest son "Mark" not because of the Gospel writers, but merely because we liked the sound of the name. I confess that we did name both of the other boys after names of men in the Bible. However, you will notice that David was the King of Israel, and was not a Gospel writer, and is mentioned only several times in the New Testament after Jesus Christ came preaching the gospel. One instance is in the context of Peter's sermon revealed in the second chapter of the book of Acts, concerning the fact that David "is both dead and buried, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day . . . for David is not ascended into the heavens." Then the Apostle Paul referred to him *personally* two or three other times.

The point is, while the very sweet little lady was pleased to see the young family with their three sons all carrying "Bible names," she immediately thought that those were "gospel" names, merely because they seemed to have something to do with the Bible.

Have you ever heard of "gospel" singing? Of course you have! But do you believe for one instant that those songs are actually preaching the gospel? I have heard evangelists and announcers on radio programs across the length and breadth of the United States talking about "gospel

records," "gospel music," "gospel literature," and even "gospel singers" and "gospel choirs."

Somehow, all of this gospel, gospel, gospel . . . loses *meaning* — and millions simply do not know *what* the gospel *is*, what it *means*, or where to look for it in the pages of their Bible.

Jesus explained that He came "preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (or, as Matthew alone among the four "gospel" writers has it, "the gospel of the kingdom of heaven").

The message that Jesus brought from God the Father was called "the gospel." But this is merely an old King James English word translated from the Greek word which could even more accurately be rendered "good news." When we have a modern English Bible that has been translated directly from the Greek, or even directly from the Latin, into our modern 1970's English language, you cannot even find the word "gospel" in the entirety of the Bible!

Shocking? Why should it be? You also would be unable to discover such vague and seemingly meaningless words as "he who letteth will let" (meaning someone who actually *prevents* something from happening), or all of the statements with the old English terminations, such as "whilst," and the many "thee's" and "thou's" of that 17th century, so long ago.

The gospel is the ANNOUNCEMENT of the coming Kingdom of God, and that announcement is GOOD NEWS! The announcement Jesus Christ brought of His soon-coming Kingdom includes the fact that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God, that God Almighty is the Ruler and the Righteous Judge, that Jesus Christ of Nazareth came to give His life's blood for the sins of all of humankind, and that any who will deeply *repent*, calling upon Jesus Christ as their personal Savior and begging His mercy and forgiveness, can be baptized (symbolizing the death, burial, and resurrection

of Jesus Christ), have hands laid on them for the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, and can then begin living a Christian life of overcoming their own carnal human nature, and growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

But the good news of the coming Kingdom of God also includes a great deal of *bad news* concerning this present world.

Just as Jesus' message, especially in the 24th chapter of Matthew, included the many traumatic occurrences He predicted would happen prior to His arrival on this earth to intervene in human affairs, so must those who preach and publish that gospel to all the world include all of these many aspects of the gospel, and very importantly, these most significant of all the *prophecies* Jesus pointed to as the surest sign that He was on a countdown from heaven, imminently ready to "interfere" among the governments of man, and to save this world from literally exterminating itself!

What you are going to be reading, sharing with all of the rest of us, and, I know, even *experiencing* through the articles coming your way in this wonderful magazine, is going to be a continual, solid, straight-from-the-shoulder series of articles right on the very heart and the core of the gospel. You will be reading essential and important information concerning repentance, faith, salvation, water baptism, Christian living and daily growth and overcoming, marriages and homes in the light of God's Word and His laws, as well as very important and specific prophecies. There will be continual news of the Worldwide Church of God, including even from its far-flung pastorates and offices abroad, knowing what some of the trials and problems confronting our brethren behind the Iron Curtain are, news from the deepest parts of Africa, clear down in Argentina and Chile, in Australia, Tasmania, New Zealand, up into East Asia, and Cambodia and Vietnam — the Philippines, Japan, and far-flung areas of the earth.

You will be reading of the annual festivals observed by the Worldwide Church of God and the kind of information that we have always heretofore reserved for members only.

This growing worldwide Work of God has been preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God, first beginning in the very tiniest way possible on one small radio station in Eugene, Oregon, and gradually growing coast-to-coast and then worldwide, for almost 40 years.

There have been tremendous changes within the past 40 years in our methods of reaching the multiple millions with the impact of Christ's gospel over the mass media.

I am excited about our new television series, and have just finished three telecasts yesterday where I was standing right before our scripture board explaining and expounding important scriptures about the "soul," and explaining and expounding about whether there is an "ever-burning hell," and whether heaven is the reward of the saved.

Of course, not all the telecasts will be so heavily biblically oriented, but many of them will — and ALL of them will fall into the broad category of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom of God to the world.

We have a very good schedule for this coming season, and we hope to continually improve it as the months and years go by.

Also, I am doing radio programs in addition to the telecasts. Furthermore, we are experimenting with the idea of a five-minute telecast being placed in prime time, if this is possible, and we know we can go ahead with this concept in radio. Already our five-minute "capsule" programs in Australia are bringing in a terrific response, and are actually pulling in more mail at lower cost than our 30-minute program does, simply because our five-minute programs can be placed on better stations at better times.

We are thinking of placing our one-minute television commercials,

just as they appear on our own television program, on various television channels around the country by "spot-buying" those commercial times to advertise literature.

I am delightedly happy over the outcome of our last season's personal appearance campaigns, and the very fine television specials we recorded during those campaigns. Those three color-television specials have been seen by tens of thousands all across our country and elsewhere. We are going to be making some new television specials this coming year — and I can announce right now in this introductory article for this first edition of the expanded *Good News* that we are going to see a year of more *evangelism*, of powerful preachers and evangelists — dedicated, consecrated, God-fearing men whose lives are devoted to Jesus Christ and His message — who will be carrying that powerful good news into pulpits and auditoriums all across the nation, Canada, and even into Australia, Britain, South Africa and other countries.

As you know, my father, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, is going to be granted the opportunity of speaking before multiple thousands of people in nations all over Asia, even at the direct invitation of governments themselves!

He has repeatedly kept you informed of this in his co-worker letters, and I'm sure you will be able to read articles concerning these events in future issues of *The Good News*.

*The Plain Truth* magazine renewals are underway, and we know that this is going to cut down somewhat in the circulation of *The Plain Truth*, but it means that we will be sending the magazine only to those who really sincerely and earnestly *want* it, and not be needlessly wasting the precious dollars that we want to stretch as far as possible in the conduct of this Work.

It is an almost awesome thing to me, when I think of that beautiful *Plain Truth* magazine, going to over three *million* individuals, and realizing that each issue may be read by

as many as two or three people apiece. Millions are being reached with that very beautiful and very powerful magazine!

We are trying to effect every conceivable savings in all of the many dozens of technical areas of a Work of this size and scope, and to make sure we do not sound any "uncertain voice" before the world as we continue to preach and publish the gospel of the Kingdom of God.

This magazine you hold in your hands is going to be the real "*strong meat*" at the very backbone and fiber of this whole Work. We are sending it to you because you requested it; we will not announce it to the general public — because we know that articles appearing in these pages will be, just as Paul said to the Corinthian church, "strong meat," and belong only in the hands of those who are coming of age, spiritually, and cannot be called the "milk of the word" for those whom God says are still only babes.

I know you will rejoice with all of the rest of us that this magazine is possible. We invite your comments; we want your letters, including your suggestions and observations about the magazine, and especially the kind of subject articles you feel are most important to you and your family. This is *your* magazine, not ours. Those who will be laboring by the hundreds of hours to research, write, edit, and to layout, print, and mail this magazine are a group of highly skilled, qualified and dedicated, converted Christian people who are going to be working very hard to make this magazine the finest possible quality and to do the very best job possible in feeding the tens of thousands of those who want these stronger articles.

We can only make this magazine as good as you want it to be — we do not do it for ourselves, but for you.

*Thank you* for letting us serve and help you in this way — and please read every single word of this first issue and let us know what your personal feelings are about this new *Good News*. □

# BUT WHERE IS GOD'S WORK TODAY?

*God accomplished His Work through the prophets in Old Testament times. He worked through Christ and His chosen apostles in early New Testament times. But where is God's Work today? How can you prove who is doing His Work in this modern era?*

by Raymond F. McNair

**Y**OU, THE readers of this magazine, *The Good News*, believe in the Creator God. You know He exists. He is not dead — has not gone way off and forsaken this earth. But do you realize just how vitally concerned God is about events on this earth right now — concerned about you, your happiness, your future?

And have you ever wondered *where* and *how* this Creator God is carrying on His Work on this earth today? How could you *know*, of all those who *claim* to be doing His Work, who is really doing the Work of God in this pulsating last half of the 20th century?

## **Gospel to All Nations**

Jesus Christ, the founder of true Christianity, said: "And *this gospel* [this *good news*] of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

But what gospel, what good news, was Jesus Christ referring to? Today, there are hundreds of different Christian sects and denomina-

tions — all *claiming* to believe in and teach the gospel. But it is a sad fact that there is little agreement as to *what* that gospel really is all about.

It is clear that the true gospel which Jesus Christ preached is to be proclaimed among all nations before the close of this present age. Prior to the establishment of the soon-coming utopian Kingdom of God, the advance good news of that Kingdom must first be preached and published over all the earth.

Present world economic and political conditions plainly point to the fact that the nations can't go on indefinitely on their present course.

Horrifying World War III — with all of its ghastly hellishness — will be hurtled upon an unsuspecting world. Bible prophecy reveals that "when they [the nations] shall say, *Peace and safety*; then *sudden destruction* cometh upon them..." (I Thes. 5:3).

But we can thank God that this terrible time of death-dealing nuclear warfare will not last long. It just couldn't — if man is to survive. God's Word reveals that the Ruler of this universe will cut short the

fiendish tortures and agonies of a *great tribulation* period which will be so horrifying that it would obliterate all human life from this planet — if God Almighty didn't supernaturally intervene (Matt. 24:21, 22). But, thankfully, He *will* intervene.

## **A Powerful Work**

Do you realize that right now this divine commission to first preach and publicize that gospel in all nations *is* being fulfilled before your very eyes?

This *Good News* magazine which you hold in your hand is helping to fulfill that very commission.

But that is not all. *The World Tomorrow* program is broadcasting, via TV and radio, that same good news over many hundreds of stations, reaching into vital areas of this earth.

Furthermore, the dynamic, interest-filled magazine, *The Plain Truth*, is also proclaiming that gospel as a powerful witness to many millions. Already ten or twelve million read each issue of this magazine which is now being sent into most of the ma-

major nations of this world. It is being read by kings, presidents, prime ministers, government and religious leaders as well as average people all over this earth; and *The Plain Truth* is being published simultaneously in five major languages: English, French, German, Spanish and Dutch.

In addition to these powerful witnesses of the truth (the very gospel of Jesus Christ), scores of booklets and over a hundred reprint articles are being disseminated to the spiritually starved peoples of this earth. And a Bible Correspondence Course is also sent out to many thousands of those who are really hungry to learn the plain, unadulterated truths of the Word of God.

And the amazing thing about all this is that these TV and radio programs, these magazines, booklets, articles and correspondence course lessons are all sent out absolutely free.

How and why we are able to give away all this is astounding to a highly commercialized world, where the public is badgered constantly for contributions to this or that, and where nothing is free except the air — and even that is polluted!

The answer as to why we do all this without charge of any kind is simply because that's the way God says it is to be done. "Freely ye have received, freely give" (Matt. 10:8), commanded Jesus.

#### How Can You Really Know?

But how can you, or anyone, really know *who* is teaching, preaching and publishing the true gospel which Jesus Christ taught? Are there not many counterfeits in the world today?

Even Jesus prophesied: "For there shall arise *false Christs*, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

Even in the days of the Apostle John (about 90 A.D.), he said: "Even *now* are there *many anti-christs*" (I John 2:18).

And the Apostle Paul lamented the fact that there were many false apostles, teaching a counterfeit gospel even in his day.

He marvelled that some of the Galatians were so quickly removed from the true gospel unto a spurious gospel: "I marvel that ye are so soon removed from him that called you into the grace of Christ unto *another gospel*: which is not another; but there be some that trouble you, and would *pervert the gospel* of Christ. But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any *other gospel* unto you than that which we have preached unto you, let him be accursed" (Gal. 1:6-8).

And he further repeated that this curse or anathema would fall upon anyone who would pervert and preach a spurious gospel (verse 9). This was written about 20 years after Christ's death.

The truth is, so many different, perverted gospels are being taught as the true gospel today, that many do not really know what the true gospel is. Many just would not know how to recognize it.

Paul, in his letter to the Corinthian church (written around A.D. 60), warned about those who preached "another Jesus," received "another spirit" and accepted "another gospel" (II Cor. 11:4).

The Jesus they preached, the spirit they proffered, the gospel which they taught, were all spurious — were totally foreign to the Apostle Paul.

He, therefore, gave this solemn warning: "For such are *false apostles*, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for Satan himself is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore it is no great thing if his ministers also be transformed as the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be according to their works" (verses 13-15).

And you can be assured that false apostles and their counterfeit gospels have greatly multiplied since the days of the apostles.

#### A Personal Experience

Let me tell you how I came to understand the real truth of God — how I *proved* the truth according to God's Word, and how I proved where God's true Work is being done today.

Early in life, through a series of unusual experiences, I was led to the habit of diligent, daily Bible study. I found the Bible the most fascinating, the most inspiring book I had ever read. For years I just could not read the Bible enough. In fact, during a period of about seven years, I read the entire Bible through three or four times, and I probably read the New Testament through six or seven. I found in the book of Proverbs great wisdom and understanding which I knew, as a very young man, I lacked. This inspired me to read Proverbs through fifteen or twenty times.

During those years I became so acquainted with the Bible that I could quote verbatim a half dozen chapters, and knew many hundreds of key scriptures by heart.

The Bible was interesting, fascinating. It revealed the *answers* to why man was put here on this earth. It told man what his destination was, and (most important of all) it showed mankind how to get to that destination — *how* to achieve eternal life and everlasting joy and fulfillment in the Kingdom of God.

#### Letting Us Choose

My father and mother belonged to different Protestant churches. There was a clash of their religious beliefs; so my parents agreed to refrain from teaching their *denominational views* to their children. Rather, they would *let us* children choose our own religious faith.

There were eight children in the family. But at that time only one brother (who was a year older than I) took any interest in diligently studying the Scriptures.

When he and I started studying the Bible, our parents were, at first, highly pleased; but when we began

studying the Scriptures more than they thought good for us, they became somewhat concerned — for fear we would “go off the deep end.”

Furthermore, they were puzzled by many of the Bible questions which we kept asking them.

### A Doctrine at a Time

One of the first Bible truths which I remember learning was that Christians must keep the commandments of God — must learn to obey God — if ever we expect to enter His eternal Kingdom.

But I was surprised and disappointed to hear local ministers, and also many radio preachers, teaching that one did not have to keep the commandments.

This I found utterly dumbfounding. How could these preachers claim to be ministers of Jesus Christ, yet teach that the law of God had been nailed to the cross? How could they teach that it was not necessary to keep the commandments?

Why did these ministers claim it was unnecessary to keep the Ten Commandments, when the *Founder* of Christianity had said: “Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill [to *fill full* or *perform to the fullest*]” (Matt. 5:17).

And this same Jesus, when asked by a young man, “What good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?” — had given a plain, unequivocal answer: “If you wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*” (Matt. 19:16, 17). And then Christ proceeded to mention five, in order to show that He meant *all* of the Ten Commandments.

But later, I found many who professed to be Christians did not believe it wrong to make or bow in front of images or likenesses if they thought these were likenesses of “Christ,” the prophets, or biblical saints. This in spite of the fact that no one knows what Christ, the apostles, the Old Testament prophets, or the holy men and women of the Bible looked like. (Write for our

free article “Is It Wrong to Have Pictures of Christ?”)

Nonetheless, here were very devout men and women bowing before, sometimes even kissing, or at least reverencing, religious pictures and/or statues. This was in direct violation to the plain command of God.

And then I read where God commanded us to keep His Sabbath day holy. Yet I found many professing Christians who believed it unnecessary to keep that command. This was in spite of the fact that the four Gospels clearly show that Jesus kept the Sabbath, and so did the Apostle Paul according to the book of Acts.

It soon became clear to me that I must not believe all I heard from the lips of this world’s ministers. When the Scriptures taught that Christ would “magnify the law, and make it honourable” (Isa. 42:21), yet many ministers taught that He through His death *abolished* the commandments — I somehow knew I should believe God’s Word — and not the preachers!

The Bible plainly taught: “He that saith, I know him, and *keepeth not his commandments*, is a liar, and the truth is not in him” (I John 2:4). And the same apostle added: “For this is the love of God, that we *keep his commandments*: and his commandments are not grievous” (I John 5:3). Yet many of the radio preachers of those years (in the 1940s) were teaching that one did not have to keep God’s law. In fact, they seemed to clearly teach that it was a grievous thing for one to keep the law of God — and it might even bring you under a *curse*!

### On My Way to Heaven?

Another shocking truth concerned whether or not God promises that the righteous will go to heaven after death. I had been taught this, had heard it all my life, had read it in religious literature.

But as I continued studying the Bible more intensely, even as a very young person, God through His Word made it clear to me that He

does not promise heaven as the reward of the saved. Shocking? But true!

Hadn’t Jesus Christ plainly said: “Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the *earth*”? (Matt. 5:5.) And David had been inspired to make a similar statement: “But the meek shall inherit the *earth*...” (Ps. 37:11). Did God mean that the meek would only live on the earth for part of eternity, then go to heaven? Again, David said: “The righteous shall *inherit the land*, and dwell therein *for ever*” (verse 29).

This seemed to be conclusive Bible teaching; nonetheless, I found many other plain, clear statements in the Scriptures which taught that the hope of the righteous was *not heaven* but was a resurrection to life eternal right here on this earth.

The Apostle Peter clearly taught that David had not gone to heaven. He said: “Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both *dead and buried*, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day” (Acts 2:29). (For even more conclusive scriptural proof that David did *not* go to heaven, see the article on page 32 of this magazine.)

I could see the Bible revealed that the saved do not at death go to heaven to live in the “new Jerusalem” “way up in the clouds.”

The Apostle John was inspired to write of the “new earth” (Rev. 21:1). Then he described the vision he saw of the holy city to be established on the earth: “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, *coming down from God out of heaven*, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband” (Rev. 21:2; see also 3:12). Notice verse three: “Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself shall be with them...”

### Was My Soul Immortal?

Another shock to me was to learn that the “soul” is not immortal. “The soul that sinneth, *it shall die*” (Ezek. 18:4, 20).



But did Jesus believe the soul was immortal? He plainly commanded us to "fear him which is able to *destroy both soul and body in hell*" (Matt. 10:28).

And the Apostle Paul spoke of Jesus Christ as "the King of kings, and Lord of lords; who only hath immortality..." (I Tim. 6:15, 16). And he also taught that it was "Jesus Christ, who hath abolished death, and hath *brought life and immortality to light* through the gospel" (II Tim. 1:10).

The Bible reveals that Jesus Christ promised immortality as a gift from God — not as something which man receives at birth. No, we were not born with eternal life inherent within us.

Notice how this is clearly taught in Romans 2:7. "To them who by patient continuance in well doing *seek for glory and honour and immortality, eternal life.*"

#### What About Tithing?

One of the Bible teachings which I came to understand in my early years of Bible study was the truth about tithing.

Was tithing only commanded for Israel of old, and abolished by Jesus Christ? Many sincere Christians have wondered about this.

I found that Jesus Christ never taught against the law of God — whether it was the command forbidding killing, stealing, lying, Sabbath-breaking or even *tithing!*

Christ condemned the overly strict way in which some of the Jewish people of His day kept the Sabbath, as well as their extreme scruples over exactly what should be tithed. But nonetheless, He did not teach against these plain commands of the Bible.

Notice His teaching as regards tithing: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay *tithe* of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy and faith: these ought ye to have done, and not to leave the other undone" (Matt. 23:23).

Any way you look at it, it was the *abuses* in tithing which Christ condemned, not *tithing* of itself. He taught that both tithe-paying and having "judgment, mercy and faith" were essential!

Many fail to realize that God is consistent. It is man who is fickle — not God.

Notice how God's unchangeable character and nature is clearly revealed: "For I am the Lord, I change not" (Mal. 3:6).

This same changeless God used the tithing system to support His Old Testament Levitical ministry (though tithing was in force even before the time of the Levites), and He still uses the same system today to support God's Work (I Cor. 9:14). It is not God's way for His ministers to have to *beg* for money, or continually pass the collection plate under the noses of the congregation to finance the preaching and publishing of His Word.

Rather, God finances His Work through the system of *tithing* and freewill *offerings*. That has always been His way, and He does not change.

Many, ignorant of God's commanded tithing system, have, without realizing it, brought a curse upon themselves by failing to give God His rightful due.

Remember, our Creator owns this earth and everything upon it, including all gold, silver, houses, lands, goods and all humans. He lets us freely use the bulk of our increase. He does, however, command us to pay *one tenth* of our income for the financing of His mighty Work which must preach and publish His true gospel worldwide before the catastrophic end of this age.

Many feel they *can't afford to tithe!* How about you? Do you have money, not only for the necessities of life, but also for numerous non-essentials and luxuries? Do you spend lavishly at Christmas — yet have little for God's Work — the most important activity on this earth?

Many are under great financial

strain — under a load of debts, and are constantly trying to make ends meet. But why is this so? Have you considered that this *curse* might be because God has withheld the fullness of blessings from you because you have not been faithful to Him and His Work, and have, in fact, actually robbed God?

The Prophet Malachi gave the answer to any such cursed income-earner. He asked: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee? In *tithes* and *offerings*. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (Mal. 3:8, 9). The following verses then reveal just how God will abundantly bless that person or nation who faithfully pays his tithe. And, remember, "the scripture cannot be broken" (John 10:35).

God cannot lie (Titus 1:2). He will stand behind His promise and "open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10). Any who have the *faith* to claim God's promise will be amply rewarded! (For further information on this subject, write for our free booklet titled *Ending Your Financial Worries.*)

#### A Lone Voice

For years, my brother and I twirled our radio dial, listening to perhaps dozens of different radio ministers. We were seeking the truth. And, we were seeking to find others who really preached the truth. Invariably when we listened to these radio preachers, they taught against the plain teachings of the Bible. It became painfully clear to us that not one of those we listened to really knew or taught the true gospel of Jesus Christ. And this is not said in condemnation.

In those years, we were saddened and disappointed to learn that no minister seemed to be teaching the real truth of the Bible. We even wrote off for some literature from numerous radio ministers, but here again, we soon realized the financial

contributions we gave them were actually supporting the untruths they were teaching.

Then, in 1945, my brother and I heard a lone voice coming all the way from radio station XEG in old Mexico. We listened intently. The radio voice carried conviction. The speaker spoke with authority! Ah, but would this radio minister — like all the others whom we had listened to for years — would he also prove false, preaching and teaching doctrines diametrically opposite to what we had read in the Bible?

We continued listening but feared that the next broadcast would reveal that this radio preacher was just another false teacher, masquerading as a true minister of Christ. Night after night, week after week, month after month we continued listening. But we were happy to learn that this minister, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, was teaching exactly what we had learned directly out of the Bible.

Then we wrote for *The Plain Truth* magazine, and also requested numerous booklets. Our search continued for many months, then for years. It appeared to us this man was a lone voice in proclaiming the truth among a veritable babel of radio preachers — all of whom we had found teaching a lot of error, but precious little real Bible truth.

At this stage, we still did not know for sure if Mr. Armstrong would go all the way — teaching only what the Bible taught.

#### Convinced at Last

So in the autumn of 1948, my brother and I appeared early one morning on Mr. Armstrong's doorstep. We wanted to speak to this man with whom we had been corresponding for years. We were intent on asking him further questions regarding certain Bible teachings. To our surprise, and delight, Mr. Armstrong answered all of our questions according to the truth of the Bible. At this point we became convinced that he was a man of God who

really did teach the Word of God in truth and in faithfulness.

My brother and I entered Ambassador College shortly afterward, in the autumn of 1948. We saw the need of being taught more perfectly in the way of truth which we now knew Mr. Armstrong was faithfully teaching.

And let me add that all through four years of college, and even ever since, I have continued to check up and prove the things which Mr. Armstrong and those working with him in the now globe-encircling Work of God were teaching. I wanted to know that not only the *teachings* but also the lives of Mr. Armstrong and his associates were according to the Bible.

I was now convinced that this very Work was indeed the Work of God. That was a quarter of a century ago.

#### Serving Millions

Since then, I have met many thousands of people who through this Work have been helped, not only to learn Bible truths, but also have been helped in dozens of other ways.

Today countless millions are being helped through this mighty work worldwide. Many have written telling us how their marriages have been saved. Not a few have told us how contact with the truth of God, through this Work, prevented them from taking their own lives.

And countless thousands of others have had their families blessed through the wonderful teachings of the Bible, as taught by this Work. Many divided families have been once again united. Others, who didn't seem to know how to get and hold a good job, have learned the laws of success through this Work and have become more prosperous. These principles, if followed, will assure real success.

Today, many millions are receiving a constant stream of facts, knowledge and understanding from their contact with this Work which is available to them through no

other source. They are able to receive God's truth via the TV and radio programs, the magazines and other literature (all for free), which help them to become more enlightened to the real truths of the Bible.

Now, countless millions are being told for the first time why they were born, what is their ultimate destiny, and how to live a life which will be pleasing to God — how to live in such a way as to be assured a place in the Kingdom of God.

#### Prove These Things for Yourself

For over 28 years I have been privileged to have a part in this Work, the Work of God, the most important work or activity on this earth today. And, for nearly a quarter of a century I have spent my time actively, full-time in this mighty Work; and there is no other work or activity on earth which I feel is so worthwhile or which is accomplishing so much good — a Work which is so mightily serving mankind.

Why don't you prove where God's Work is — prove where the Creator is working today? Have you really proved what your purpose in life is? Do you realize God promises peace and happiness now — plus a wonderful future to every person who will learn and truly follow His wonderful way of life? (Mark 10:29, 30.)

These are important questions. You too can learn the answers to them, if you will be willing to "search the scriptures" (John 5:39; Acts 17:11).

How many of you have really learned to search the Scriptures in order to prove whether what you were taught is the real truth?

It is high time we all learned to "Prove all things; [and] hold fast that which is good" (I Thes. 5:21).

May God help each of you to prove where He is working mightily today. And may He enable you to have the blessing of taking a greater part in that dynamic Work! □

**T**HERE is no quicker way to put people to sleep than to say: "Shall we pray?"

Remember the last Democratic convention?

The chairman was beating the gavel half to death. I mean he was about to destroy the stand. He was trying to say: "Please be quiet everybody. This minister is about to talk to God." But what he really said was: "It's time for prayer. We're going to have 'Reverend' so-and-so . . ."

That chairman had a terrible time quieting those people before the invocation. There were interviews in progress, delegates were running up and down the aisles, some people were sleeping, others were chatting, etc., etc., etc.

But, can you imagine the hush that would have fallen over that vast audience if he had said: "Attention, please! Ted Kennedy is on the phone"?

Can we get the point?

#### Prayer Polls

One sampler of public opinion, an American newsweekly, called prayer "a lost art." The next ten or twenty paragraphs of this article should show you why.

A Gallup Poll several years ago revealed that only about 63% of American adults bother to pray very much at all. And of those who do, many just say: "Dear Lord, give me this, give me that and give me the other." They have a bad case of the "gimmies." They always ask for something for themselves. And since they rarely get an answer, some finally just give up altogether after awhile.

Sixty-three percent of those interviewed described themselves as persons who pray frequently. But how often "frequently" meant was not defined. That could be like attending church services on Christmas and Easter — in other words twice a year.

Those who prayed only occasionally were 25%; seldom 6%; those who never prayed 6%.

## IS PRAYER FOR REAL

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## DOES IT WORK ?

***Why should you pray? Does it really do any good? Is there a personal God who actually hears and answers prayer? Is there a special tone of voice you must use to be heard? And why is conversing with God such a bore to the contemporary world? What about it? Can you really "get through" to God today?***

by Garner Ted Armstrong

#### Parodies on Prayer

Some of the "funniest" jokes you hear are parodies on prayer. And they nearly always tend to belittle God, and man's relationship with his God. One famous comedian painted this scenario: Noah is out in the field. God rumbles and thunders and says, "Noah!"

Noah replies, "What do you want?"

A little later on the rain starts coming down and Noah says, "You and me, Lord. Just you and me, right?"

This illustrates in the vernacular and colloquial language of the day, an attitude about God. We like to bring God down to our size. That is until we're in trouble. Then we know it's time to pray.

#### Is Prayer Only for the Bad Times?

When a loved one is lying in a hospital bed after a horrible automobile crash, people are very, very sobered. When they are sitting outside in the waiting room not knowing if the injured one is alive or dead, a lot of them are praying. But prayer when you're happy, when you have just drunk a couple of cocktails and have a full stomach, isn't something one normally thinks about. That's why prayer at political conventions doesn't go over very well.

Prayer seems to be for the bad times. Prayer is for when you are in desperate need of immediate help. People rarely pray because they are truly thankful, and they certainly don't pray — generally speaking — as a fixed habit.

To further illustrate the point, I'd like to quote excerpts from two university students who were interviewed about prayer. They were asked: "Do you pray?"

A male graduate in linguistics said: "On occasion, under times of stress. I have no other place to turn. I don't know to whom I'm praying, though. It's nebulous." A male senior in accounting said: "Only be-

fore exams. That's the only time I need any help from God."

From these examples, I can certainly agree that prayer is a lost art. But, it may be more technically correct to say that it's an art that has never yet been discovered — except in a precious few cases.

#### God's Dilemma

Another of these college students, a sophomore, said: "I don't do it [pray] now, no! But I used to pray in the batter's box in high school. I do believe in God, but I just think you have to help yourself. You can't expect too much help from prayer."

Prayer, the way people practice it, would seem to be confusing to God — like what must have occurred in World War II. The mothers of sons who faced each other on both sides of the line may have belonged to the same church denomination and presumably both prayed to the same God for their son's protection. Those prayers would seem to have been confusing to God. How would God decide which one of those boys was going to live?

#### Why We Don't Get the Answers

It's no wonder many people claim they do not pray. They are not sure they are going to get any answers. Maybe they have made a few half-hearted attempts from time to time. Maybe they have heard a few evangelical types talking about prayer. But because they are so confused about the subject, most just don't pray except when in trouble.

Of socialized and secularized prayer, we have all kinds and types. We have watered it down into a hollow, empty form. Our prayers at political conventions, civic events, and once in a while even at ball games, have deteriorated into memorized mouthings. Many pastors have actually read their prayers.

How could we really expect to receive the answers from such "heartfelt" prayers?

I have never in my life noticed in all the entirety of the Bible where a

prayer was read. I don't know of such a read prayer from the beginning of Genesis to the end of Revelation.

#### Easy to Pray?

An American newsweekly said: "In simpler ages of faith, men found it as natural and normal to pray as to till a field or yoke a brace of oxen." But don't you believe it!

There has never been an age in the history of man where people found it easy to pray. The disciples who followed Jesus Christ across the fields of Galilee had to ask: "... Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1). People get the idea that everybody back then wore a long robe, mirrored a sick expression, and went around in an attitude of prayer. Not so!

But this is a sure truth: Prayer, like good conversation, is one of the lost arts of the 20th century. So why don't we let a man successful at prayer help us discover this lost art?

#### Jesus' Example

Jesus Christ of Nazareth talked about prayer — I mean the real thing. Jesus was a praying man. But the difference between Him and most of us is that He consistently got the answers.

Notice John 11. Here Jesus prayed at the tomb of Lazarus. He said: "Father, I thank thee that *thou hast heard me*. And I knew *that thou hearest me always...*" (verses 41-42). This eleven-second prayer brought a man who had been dead four days out of his grave alive and well.

Jesus prayed a great deal. And His disciples sometimes knew when He prayed because they saw Him do it. "And he [Jesus] was withdrawn from them [the disciples] about a stone's cast, and kneeled down and prayed" (Luke 22:41).

Remember, the disciples had asked: "... Lord, teach us to pray..." (Luke 11:1). They saw His example many times. They knew He was a praying man. They wanted to be like Him — to follow His example.

Sometimes Jesus prayed audibly in front of people, especially when He gave thanks before partaking of a meal (Mark 8:6). But most of the time He found a place to pray privately, apart from others, such as in a desert or on a mountain. "And in the morning, rising up a great while before day, he [Jesus] went out, and departed into a *solitary place*, and there prayed" (Mark 1:35).

And once in a while before making a momentous decision, Jesus would spend all night talking to His Father who was in heaven. "And it came to pass in those days, that he [Jesus] went out into a mountain to pray, and *continued all night in prayer to God*. And when it was day, he called unto him his disciples: and of them he chose twelve, whom also he named apostles" (Luke 6:12-13). Jesus knew He needed the wisdom of God *before* choosing the top leaders of the first century Church (James 1:5).

#### Jesus Taught Others How to Pray

When the disciples asked Jesus to "Teach us to pray," He used just about the same words in the 6th chapter of Matthew. This chapter is part of the section of Matthew's Gospel often termed "the Sermon on the Mount." If anything can be called the epitome of what Jesus believed and taught, it is the Sermon on the Mount.

First of all He told them that they had better do it differently than the show-offs in the world. Some people just love to pray in front of others.

Certain people were used to praying habitually in public places, and Jesus condemned it. "And when [not *if*] thou prayest, thou shalt not be as the hypocrites are: for they love to pray standing in the synagogues and in the corners of the streets, *that they may be seen of men*. Verily [truly] I say unto you, They have their reward [their little moment of vanity].

"But thou, when thou prayest, enter into thy closet, and when thou

hast shut thy door, pray to thy Father which is in secret; and thy Father which seeth in secret shall reward thee openly" (verses 5-6).

Then in the next verse Jesus begins to talk about the proper form of prayer. "But when you pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking" (verse 7). And yet many people memorize their prayers.

Notice, too, that Jesus said "when you pray" not "if you pray," thus showing He *expected* His true followers to be a praying people. Prayer, to Jesus, was not a "rite" or some "spiritual" experience that He forced Himself to do so He could bask in His own awareness of His personal "righteousness." Prayer was not something Jesus flaunted before others as a badge of great spiritual achievement with which He could make others feel spiritually inferior.

Prayer was Jesus' very spiritual *life-source*. It was His way of being continually together, in one mind, one attitude, one purpose, and of one spirit, with His Father.

Prayer was something Jesus knew He couldn't live without. He knew His LIFE was at stake — that it depended on contact with His Father in prayer.

But few today pray as Jesus did — they seem to treat prayer either as a pseudo-spiritual self-righteous *posture* before others or as a mumbo-jumbo ritual of some sort which, while necessary to them, is actually taking time away from far more important things they wish they could be doing.

These concepts are instilled from childhood.

It's like the little girl who said: "God is good, God is love, thank you God for all the things you've done" — humming it to herself. Her mother asked: "Well, Judy, what are you doing?" The little girl replied: "Oh, I'm just trying to memorize that prayer you taught me last night."

We teach our little children these

phony little prayers. I know we don't mean them to be phony. But, instead of teaching our children like Jesus taught His disciples, using the format He gave, and giving examples right out of the Bible, we want our kids to learn something easy. So we teach them, often before they are old enough to really understand, the "now I lay me down to sleep" stuff. It's no wonder such a prayer is long forgotten along with the broken dolls and rusted railroad engines.

So Jesus commands us: "Be not ye therefore like unto them [the ones who use vain repetition]: for your Father knoweth what things ye have need of, before ye ask him."

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**"But thou,  
when thou  
prayest, enter  
into thy closet,  
and when thou hast  
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is in secret; and  
thy Father which  
seeth in secret shall  
reward thee openly."**  
— Matt. 6:6

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#### "The Lord's Prayer"

Then Jesus began what many think is "the Lord's Prayer." Jesus said: "After this manner therefore pray ye . . ." (verse 9). Notice the wording. It does not say, "with these words," as millions have interpreted.

These few scriptures (verses 9-15) represent one of the favorite parts of the Bible. During World War II, American troops were given tiny little books, one including Psalm 23, "The Lord's Prayer," and a couple of other choice texts.

People universally call these few verses "the Lord's Prayer." But it isn't really. It's *our* prayer — in gen-

eral *outline* form; it's the manner and form in which we all ought to pray. It certainly is not any prayer Jesus prayed. He was not praying when He spoke these words.

If you want to read the real "Lord's Prayer," turn to John's Gospel and read chapter 17. That was the way Jesus prayed.

#### The God Family

Let's return to Matthew 6:9. "After this manner therefore pray ye: *Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name.*" Begin your prayer by acknowledging God as your Father and revering His name.

The Apostle Paul said: ". . . I bow my knees [in prayer] unto the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, of whom *the whole family in heaven and earth is named*" (Eph. 3:14-15).

Jesus was called "the first-begotten" of the Father (Heb. 1:6), and the "firstborn from the dead" (Col. 1:18; Rev. 1:5). And since He is "the firstborn among many brethren" (Rom. 8:29), Christ calls Christians His brothers and sisters.

The Bible clearly reveals a father-and-son relationship in the God family — with many sons and daughters still on earth — spiritually begotten, but not yet *born* family members. (If some of these biblical concepts are new to you, please write for our free booklet *Just What Do You Mean — Born Again?* for a full explanation).

Some religionists say there is only one member in the God family. They are entitled to their opinion; but, I wonder who they think Jesus was praying to!

Remember, when you begin to pray, address God as *your Father* — because He truly is your spiritual Father if you are a true Christian. (We have another free booklet titled *What Is a Real Christian?* It shows you the steps necessary to become a true Christian — according to the *biblical* definition).

Jesus then said we should hallow the Father's name. In modern English "Hallowed be thy name" simply means, "Let your name *and*

authority be honored, respected and greatly admired.”

### God's Kingdom

Christ continued by instructing us to pray: “Thy Kingdom come” (verse 10).

What is God's Kingdom? There are four prerequisites to any kingdom, and the Kingdom of God has all of them: a ruler, subjects, territory and laws.

The Apostle Paul wrote: “. . . Flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God . . .” (I Cor. 15:50). So what did Jesus mean by “thy kingdom come”? Did He mean some kind of watered-down, sanctimonious, pseudo-righteous sentimentality inside our hearts that makes us go through the shopping center thinking nice thoughts?

Is the Kingdom of God just a routine ethereal thought that helps you make it through a tough week of overdue bills and a collection agent trying to track you down because you're three months late with a car payment? Is “thy Kingdom come” a desperate prayer? Or is it the whole heart and core of the gospel of Jesus Christ?

Your Bible reveals that praying to the Father for His Kingdom to come is asking Him to send a literal governing, ruling Kingdom to this earth — something very concrete and very tangible. (Space simply forbids a further explanation here. Ask for our booklet on the subject if you want the scriptural details. The title is *Just What Do You Mean — The Kingdom of God?*)

Jesus continued: “Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven” (verse 10). That prayer will be automatically answered, *in its fullest sense*, with the arrival of God's Kingdom on this earth. In the meantime, we should pray that God's purpose with men be worked out here below — all the while urging God to send His Kingdom soon.

Then He said for us to ask: “Give us this day our daily bread” (verse 11). “But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in

glory by Christ Jesus,” wrote the Apostle Paul (Phil. 4:19). All we need do is simply ask (verse 6 and Matt. 7:7-8).

“And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors” (Matt. 6:12). Christ said you will only be forgiven in like measure and according to the exact proportion of the forgiveness you are willing to mete out (Luke 6:37-38).

“And lead us not into temptation . . .,” continued Jesus (Matt. 6:13). Take a look at James 1, Galatians 5, Ephesians 3 and 4, and Colossians 3. Those chapters will tell you what God says about all the temptations extant in the world. Then you will begin to see what God means when He says you ought to pray: “Lead us not into temptation.”

“But deliver us from evil [or the “evil one” — Greek] . . .” (verse 13). The Apostles James and Peter command Christians to “resist the devil” (James 4:7; I Peter 5:8-9). Ask God to deliver you from the devil, his satanic cohorts, and all their evil works.

“For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever. Amen” (verse 13). This is a proper type of closing — pleasing to God. The word “amen” means “so be it.”

It is not just a “rite” either. It is a *fervent* word, spoken solemnly, as if saying, in one word, “Father, I really *mean* every word of this prayer — so, please *let it be so!*” It's like a quick, mental reaffirmation of the entire prayer that went before, and a positive fervent avowal that you really meant it. (Or, if spoken at the conclusion of the prayer of *another*, it reflects your solemn agreement with the prayer.) A concluding “amen” is a meaningful part of the prayer — not just an automatic formality mindlessly repeated.

### Do As He Did

Jesus Christ of Nazareth was a praying man. During the night watch prior to His death, Christ prayed a tremendous amount of time. The disciples, groggy with sleep, just couldn't seem to stay awake. Jesus said to Peter, on that

night when He found them asleep: “What, could ye not watch with me *one hour?*” (Matt. 26:40.) The next few verses indicate He then spent at least two more long periods in intensive prayer that same night (see verses 41-45).

Scripture shows that Christ got the answers. Was there something different about the intensity of His prayers, something different about the conviction and belief He had as compared to ours? I think we know the answer.

The Bible makes it very plain and clear that Christians should imitate Christ — live as He lived — do as He did. “For even hereunto were you called: because Christ also suffered for us, leaving us *an example, that ye should follow his steps*” (I Pet. 2:21). (See also John 13:14-15; I Cor. 11:1 and I John 2:6.)

I have given you Christ's personal prayer examples and His true teachings. God is no respecter of persons (Rom. 2:11). If you will follow Jesus' example and instructions, God will begin to hear and answer your prayers, too.

Don't be too proud to pray! The God who gives you every breath of air that comes in and out of your lungs is a God to whom *you* can pray personally. He *will* hear and answer *if you will do it in faith*, and in the manner Jesus instructed (Luke 17:5-6; John 16:23-24). He said: “If you will ask anything in my name, I will do it.”

He means it.

Why put off until tomorrow what you *know* you need right now. You know you need it — God is waiting to listen — so go ahead — do it — PRAY! □

### ADDITIONAL READING

The whole Bible — from Genesis to Revelation — is full of the prayers of God's people. Scripture also contains much additional instruction about prayer. A free reprint article on the subject is available upon your personal request. Just ask for “The Answer to Unanswered Prayer.”

**T**HE CHANCES are *you* who are reading this article used a *Hebrew* word today and perhaps even more than once. It may well be the most universal word on earth, having found its way into the Spanish, French, German, Arabic and virtually *every* other language known to mankind.

The word *Amen* is used by Christians, Jews and Moslems the world over as the close for their prayers.

But why should one use amen? Is it the secret password that assures your prayer will be heard? Is it a "magic word" that promises an answer? Do you understand what it means? Do you know *why* you use it? Let's examine the background of *amen*.

In the Hebrew language, the three letters constituting a verb also are a root from which many other words stem. A knowledge of these can serve to embellish the original meaning. Amen, for example, stems from the verb *aman* meaning "to support, confirm, or rear up" (Harkavy, *Students' Hebrew and Chaldee Dictionary*).

Amen itself means "truly" (*ibid.*). Christ often used this word in the New Testament, where (in the King James Version) it is translated "verily." Now just why should *we* use this word to close our prayers?

In Matthew 6:9-13, where Jesus gave us the model outline for prayer, He shows us we should close our prayer with amen. But the use of amen goes back even prior to that time.

In Deuteronomy 27, the word "Amen" is used twelve times. The Levites were instructed to speak and proclaim that those who committed various sins would be cursed. After each proclamation, the people were commanded to say "Amen." What is the significance?

Related to the word "Amen" is the word *amanah* meaning "treaty, pact or contract." In saying "amen" the people were making themselves party to what the Levites had proclaimed. They were *agreeing* with what the Levites had said. They were in effect saying "so be it."

## Close Your Prayer With Power

by Harry Eisenberg

Therefore, if somebody says or prays something to which you say amen, you are showing you are in agreement with what that person said. In I Kings 1:36, Benaiah shows his agreement with David's command that Solomon succeed him by saying "amen."

The Apostle Paul has some words on this subject in I Corinthians 14. "Wherefore let him that speaketh in an unknown tongue [a foreign language] pray that he may interpret. . . Else when thou shalt bless with the spirit, how shall he that occupieth the room of the unlearned say Amen at thy giving of thanks, seeing he understandeth not what thou sayest?" (Verses 13, 16.) Here Paul is asking, "How can a person make himself party to something he doesn't understand?" He can't rightly. We should be careful about what we say amen to. A Christian's word should be good. God will hold us to our word (Matt. 12:36).

Jesus Christ Himself is called "the Amen" in Revelation 3:14. Amen is

from the same root as the word *amnam* meaning "verily, indeed or truly." The Amen is the One who speaks truly, who *means what He says*.

Also from the same root is the word *amun* meaning faithful, loyal and dependable. Jesus Christ is all these, and we must continually grow in these attributes as well.

When we close our prayer with amen, we are telling God that our prayer has been *faithfully* and *loyally* offered up to Him. Amen therefore represents a final *reaffirmation* that we MEAN all that we prayed and truly take it seriously.

Yet more light is shed on amen in II Corinthians 1:19-20. Paul writes, "For the Son of God, Jesus Christ, who was preached among you by us . . . was not yea and nay, but in him was yea. For all the promises of God in him are yea, and in him Amen, unto the glory of God by us." Paul is showing that God does not vacillate, and all His promises are as good as done. From amen comes the noun *emunah* meaning "faith, belief, trust and confidence." In God is our faith, our belief, our trust and confidence because we KNOW and have *proven* He keeps His word and will bring *all* His promises to pass. His promises are all "yea."

When we say "amen" at the close of a prayer, we are telling God that our trust and our confidence are *in Him*. We are also telling Him that inasmuch as we have prayed in accordance with His will (Matt. 6:10), we do believe and have the faith that He *has heard* and WILL ANSWER that prayer. If you believe this, you should close your prayer with amen.

So we see amen can make us party to the words of another. Though we never uttered them, it is as if they become our very own words. When we close our prayer with amen, we are saying to God we truly mean what we have prayed. We are further saying that we fully believe He has heard that prayer and will answer it. Amen is one of those little words that means a very great deal! □



# UPDATE

## The Good News comes of age

Although the first *Good News* appeared as seven mimeographed sheets in 1939, volume 1, number 1 dates from April 1951. This makes today's *Good News* a full-grown magazine, 22½ years of age. Not only has its circulation grown from a few hundred scattered members of the Worldwide Church of God to a few hundred thousand, now including dedicated co-workers, its format has also come of age. Long-time subscribers will note these changes, but for the benefit of our thousands of new subscribers, we present this capsule history of *The Good News* and the "Work" (College and Church) which sponsors it.

In future issues, this column, titled "Update," will bring you the latest news and trends taking place at Ambassador College, the Worldwide Church of God, and other facets of the "Work." This introductory column will skim rapidly over the past 22½ years.

### The Good News Is Born

In the spring of 1951, as the first graduating class of Ambassador College approached commencement, it became apparent to College Chancellor Herbert W. Armstrong and the four pioneer students (Richard Armstrong, Herman Hoeh, Raymond Cole and Betty Bates) that the burgeoning "Radio" Church of God (as it was called then) needed its own special publication which would communicate a steady stream of pertinent biblical information, current campus happenings, and report on the progress of both Church and College activities.

*The Good News* magazine was officially launched in April of that year, and has, through the years, been sent to members of the Worldwide Church of God, under whose auspices Ambassador College was founded.

Mr. Armstrong has served as Editor of *The Good News* since its inception. However, even from the beginning, his increasingly busy schedule necessitated that someone else share the burden of responsibility.

The man chosen was Herman L. Hoeh, who was then a young College student (one of the original four). Since that time, Dr. Hoeh has remained in close association with all of the College publications, and is currently the Executive Editor of *The Plain Truth*.

Another of the early contributors and editors of this magazine was Dr. Roderick C. Meredith. Dr. Meredith enrolled at Ambassador College in 1949 when the fledgling institution was still struggling for survival. Throughout most of the last two decades, he has served on the editorial boards of both *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News*, and more recently, because of his intimate relationship with the College, has become Deputy Chancellor of Ambassador College's Bricket Wood, England campus.

One of the most interesting and assuredly the most well-known personality who has helped shape the editorial posture of the magazine has been Garner Ted Armstrong.

At the time when his father was establishing Ambassador College, and in the months just prior to the conclusion of its first year, the younger Armstrong left his classes in the College to join the Navy. Four years later, after service aboard an aircraft carrier during the

Korean War, he returned to his parents' home in Pasadena, and began working at odd jobs, finally accepting a position as manager of the mailing office. With College beginning that autumn, and being told his job could only be occupied by a student, Ted (as he is called) unwillingly enrolled for courses.

Following his naval service, marriage, and a series of stunning challenges he was receiving in those classes, he was converted, baptized, and began really studying into the Bible and many other subjects with zeal. Within two years, his articles began appearing in *The Good News*. As early as 1955 he appeared on *The World Tomorrow*, first on television, and later on radio.

He began carrying the major share of radio in 1958 and 1959, and has since completed over three thousand half-hour ad-lib programs over radio, and some 400 television programs, spanning over 18 years.

Currently, he is launching into a new season's television programs, planning more personal appearance campaigns, and planning to write on a regular basis for both *The Plain Truth* and *The Good News* magazines.

### Growing Pains

The decade of the fifties was a time of rapid expansion for the College. Mr. Herbert Armstrong is quite frank in admitting that when *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and *The Plain Truth* magazine were first envisioned during the early 1930s, there was no real conception of worldwide growth and influence. That notion, however, was soon to be dispelled.

In early 1953, the radio broadcast was beamed into Europe for the first time, and at once the entire thrust of Ambassador College's activities was profoundly altered. Prior to this time, both the broadcast and the publications were directed primarily toward an American audience.

The introduction of foreign language editions of *The Plain Truth*,



the Correspondence Course and a myriad of booklets was inaugurated from 1956 to 1964.

In addition to English, today *The Plain Truth* is published in the French, German, Spanish, and Dutch languages. Tentative plans call for expansion into Japanese, Arabic, and possibly one of the Scandinavian tongues.

### Two Colleges Added

All of this served to extend the influence of the College into many new areas of the world. One of the major evidences of this came in the fall of 1960 when Ambassador College established its second campus — at Bricket Wood, England about 20 miles from London.

During the thirteen years from 1960 until the present, an aggregate of students from around the world has been invited to attend the English campus, giving the College and every facet of its operations a cosmopolitan flavor. Graduates from Bricket Wood have provided executives and staff personnel for many of the overseas offices which the College maintains on every inhabited continent.

Four years after the Bricket Wood campus was initiated, a third branch of the College was founded at Big Sandy, Texas, where research in agriculture, horticulture and animal husbandry is conducted. The

Texas campus, now in its tenth year, is currently pursuing accreditation as a junior college.

All three campuses maintain high academic and character-building standards and provide the students with a vast range of cultural possibilities. Each in its own way has made an exceptional contribution to the purpose for which Ambassador College was established over 26 years ago.

### Meeting World Rulers

The educational extension program of the College continued to grow throughout the 1960s. Radio stations carrying *The World Tomorrow* increased from 80 to well over 300 in eight years, and the circulation of *The Plain Truth* topped the 3,000,000 mark by 1973. This growth, although remarkable, was anticipated by the College executives. Beginning around 1968, however, something occurred which was totally unexpected and which has since proved to be a primary thrust of God's Work.

It happened that the wife of our office manager in Bonn, West Germany, was acquainted with a certain European industrialist. This man, it

turned out, was a personal friend of King Leopold of Belgium.

During the course of a conversation, she happened to show the man a copy of the Ambassador College yearbook — the *ENVOY*. He appreciated it so much that he asked if he might show it to the King.

When King Leopold saw the beautiful yearbook, he was impressed, and requested that Mr. Herbert Armstrong come and visit him. A meeting was arranged, and very quickly a cordial rapport was established. During the succeeding years, a warm affection developed between these two remarkable men.

King Leopold, quite naturally, was well acquainted with many of Europe's royal families. Mr. Armstrong's association with the King soon began to open doors for visits with other notable leaders. These visits accelerated even further when Ambassador College was invited to participate in a 50-50 collaboration in scientific expeditions with Leopold's Belgian Foundation.

While this breakthrough was occurring, another important event was unfolding. In September of 1968, Dr. Herman L. Hoeh, then the Dean of Faculties at Ambassador

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**Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong** at the microphone in Eugene, Oregon — with Mrs. Armstrong by his side. *The WORLD TOMORROW* was first aired on local Eugene station KORE, October 9, 1933.

*Ambassador College Photo*



College, introduced Mr. Armstrong to the possibility of involving the College in an archaeological excavation in Israel.

It so happened that Dr. Hoeh knew Dr. Benjamin Mazar, one of the world's foremost archaeologists and at that time officially in charge of excavations at the ancient Temple site in Jerusalem.

Meetings were arranged between Mr. Armstrong and Dr. Mazar and Ambassador College was subsequently offered another 50-50 joint participation with Hebrew University and the Israel Exploration Society.

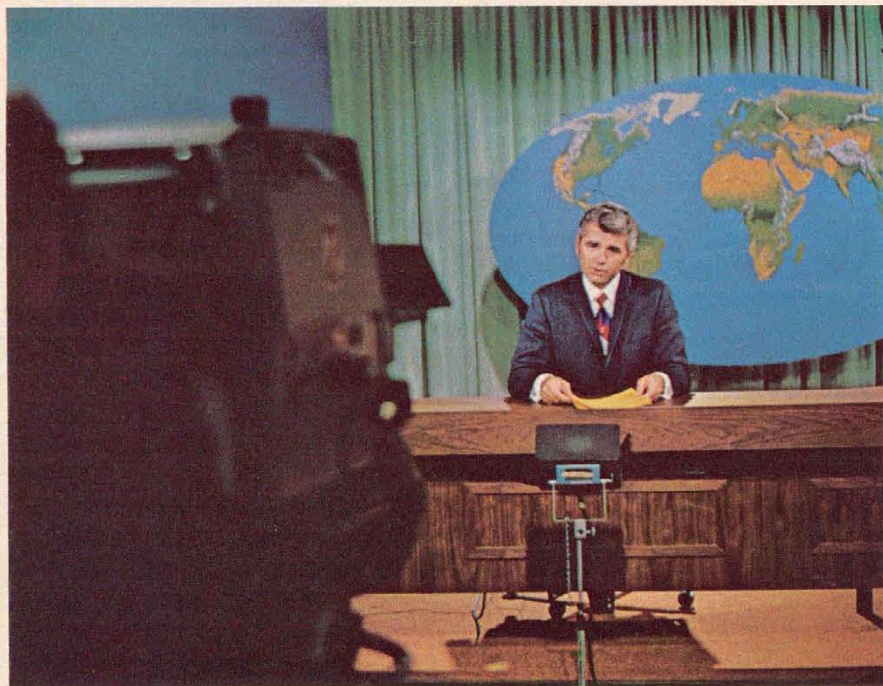
This project ultimately led to Mr. Armstrong being invited to visit Prime Minister Golda Meir and several other high-ranking government officials with whom he has since established a very close affinity.

Beginning in 1969, the College began sending selected students each summer to take part directly in the excavation. This has continued annually ever since, and has aided greatly in uncovering secrets the ancient Temple has kept for so many years.

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*Garner Ted Armstrong is seen daily on many TV stations, nationwide. Color-telecasting began in 1967.*

*Ambassador College Photo*



### Introduction to the Orient

A third major event occurred during this same general period of time which opened up yet another new area of the world for Ambassador College's effort to reach all nations with Christ's "Good News." Mr. Osamu Gotoh, Chairman of the Asian Studies Department at the College, was acquainted with Prince Mikasa, brother of Emperor Hirohito of Japan.

Through his association with Mr. Gotoh, Prince Mikasa expressed a desire to meet with Mr. Armstrong. This meeting, like all the others preceding it, led to a warm and deep friendship between the two men, and also to additional contacts in both government and education.

In December of 1970, Mr. Armstrong was asked to meet with Prime Minister Sato. Since then, he has visited the former Japanese leader several times, and has also met with Japan's current Prime Minister, Kakuei Tanaka.

All of these various meetings resulted not only in close friendships, but also in the proposal that Ambassador College study the possibility of establishing an Institute of Biblical Studies in Tokyo. The idea



*Ambassador College Photo*

*Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong embarks on another visit with world leaders carrying the Message of world peace.*

is presently under serious consideration.

The word soon spread that Mr. Armstrong was in contact with high officials in many countries, and a subsequent deluge of invitations from dozens of national governments was received. To date, Mr. Armstrong has visited the kings, prime ministers, presidents, or ambassadors, of Belgium, Israel, Japan, India, Thailand, Korea, Nepal, Vietnam, Indonesia, Taiwan, Ceylon, Okinawa, Costa Rica, Rumania, Hong Kong, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Mexico, the Philippines and Singapore.

Several other nations have extended invitations — among them Spain, Argentina and the People's Republic of China. All of these contacts have opened up many opportunities for the College to expand its influence and educational service around the world.

### Television

As of January 1974, *The World Tomorrow* will have been on radio continuously for 40 years. During that time remarkable progress has been made in spreading the message of peace and love which Christ brought when He walked the earth.

Although the radio coverage of *The World Tomorrow* had been widespread and effective, Mr. Armstrong had realized for years that the most potent method of reaching an audience was through television.

As early as 1955, *The World Tomorrow* was on national television, although that involvement was a brief few months. A number of limiting factors, among them money and the time required to produce programs, caused Mr. Armstrong to cancel television coverage at that time.

Color television in 1967, however, proved to be quite different. In March of that year, Mr. Ted Armstrong made the first video tape of *The World Tomorrow*. The program has been on television ever since, growing from an original four stations to over eighty by 1973.

When television production began, the program was carried by only a very few stations once a week. Through negotiations in 1972, however, it soon became possible to air *The World Tomorrow* on a daily basis which has proved to be one of the most effective means ever devised to communicate God's truth to as many people as possible.

The rapid success of the televised version of *The World Tomorrow* was due, in part, to the fact that the College was able to build and equip its own professional television studio and hire its own staff of qualified operators. This has been a boon to the production of high-quality color programs, which has led not only to more and more people being able to appreciate and understand the content, but also to large-scale personal appearance campaigns by Mr. Ted Armstrong in many cities of this nation and Canada.

These campaigns have taken Mr.

Ted Armstrong to such places as Calgary, San Antonio, Richmond, Salt Lake City, Shreveport, St. Petersburg, Dallas, and Winnipeg. In each of these cities, he has fully explained Ambassador College's objective in spreading the message which Christ preached and has discussed quite frankly such subjects as how world events and biblical prophecy are related, and the purpose of human life.

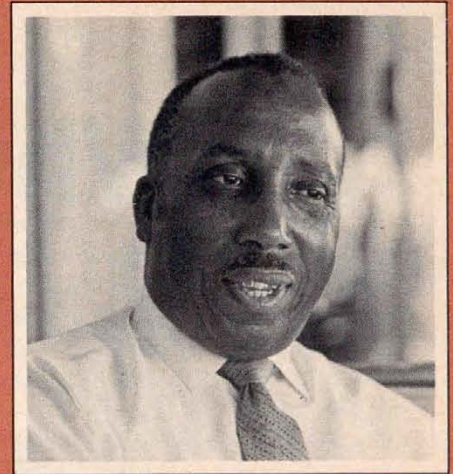
These meetings, attended by multiple thousands of people, helped pave the way for a team of speakers to follow in Mr. Armstrong's footsteps. Many cities in Canada have been visited, among them Toronto, Edmonton, Regina, Kitchener, Victoria, Saskatoon and Sudbury. Many more are planned throughout the United States as well as Canada for the coming year.

The personal appearance campaigns have allowed Mr. Ted Armstrong and many of his associates to have a direct contact with the public which is simply not possible via radio and television. Each of these meetings has been eminently successful.

Perhaps the most significant news during the last several months has been the announcement that Mr. Herbert Armstrong has made arrangements to hold campaigns similar to those of his son in major overseas cities such as Saigon, Jakarta, Addis Ababa, Tokyo and others.

In such encounters, Mr. Armstrong will be able to present the Bible and its unique message in such a way that it will be fresh and new to the peoples of these essentially non-Christian nations. The possibility presents itself as a most appealing opportunity for this Work, and one which delights each of us involved in the efforts of Ambassador College.

This latest development brings you up to date. It is hoped that from this recapitulation you have gained at least a capsulized history of the College and its multifaceted operation. □



Ken Evans Ambassador College

## AFRICAN BAPTIZING TOUR

ON AUGUST 10, Harold Jackson (pictured above) and Roland Sampson began the fourth African baptizing tour. The 30,000-mile journey will cover a three-month period and will find Messrs. Jackson and Sampson traveling from Morocco along the west coast and across the continent to Tanzania, Kenya and Zambia. Approximately 403 prospective members and 70 members will be contacted.

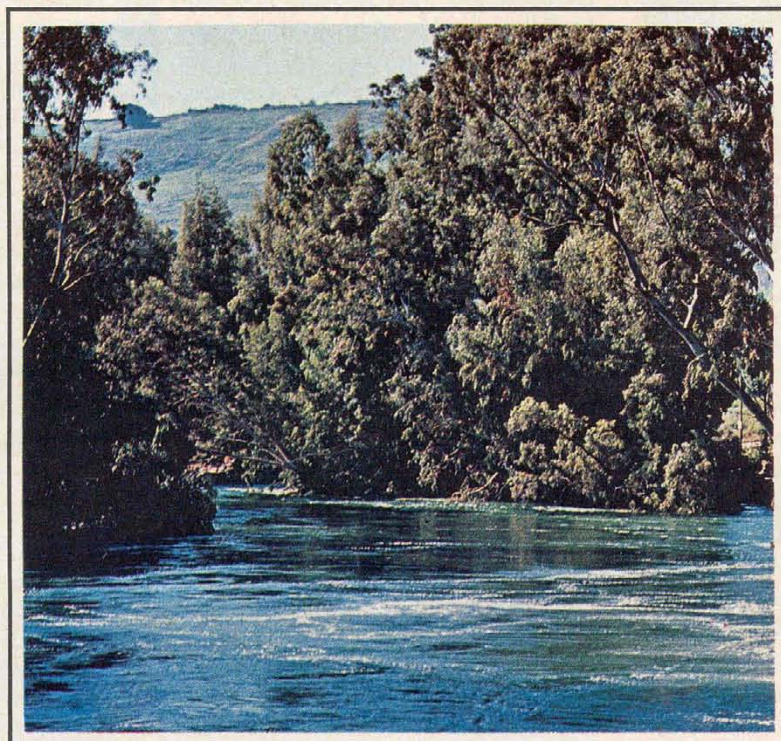
Mr. Jackson, Regional Supervisor of the Black African area, hopes to be able to form Bible studies among the interested parties, particularly in West Africa.

After the tour, Mr. Jackson will return to Bricket Wood, England, where his work will entail projecting and planning for the future growth of the Work in West Africa, and personally answering the correspondence from that area.

The chance to extend the influence of Ambassador College and the Worldwide Church of God into Africa is now beginning to increase, and the work of Mr. Jackson and Mr. Sampson will help further that cause greatly.

# Why Be Baptized In Water?

by John R. Schroeder



Ambassador College Photo

**S**UCH an ancient ritual as water baptism seems passé in the Western world. Today's sophisticated brands of society religions no longer require baptismal rites — especially those entailing total immersion in water. Most people dismiss water baptism as an anti-

quated ceremony to be relegated to a primitive, medieval church.

But can we afford to cashier this biblical custom without a hearing? The purpose of this article is to briefly examine the scriptural revelation's teaching — beginning with the man who instituted New Testament baptismal ceremonies.

## John the Baptist

John the Baptist prepared the way for the first coming of Jesus Christ (John 1:23; Luke 1:17).

But today this rugged and rustic individual would probably be looked upon as a prime candidate for the proverbial funny farm. His

contemporaries accused him of being demon possessed because of his unconventional behavior. He habitually resorted to the wilderness of Judaea — subsisting on locusts and wild honey. He was a nondrinker — never touched a drop of hard liquor in his life. He never even performed a miracle.

Yet Jesus said of John: "Among them that are born of women there hath not risen a greater than John the Baptist..." (Matt. 11:11). A very singular compliment indeed!

John was named after his profession. Little wonder! He was among *the first* to literally baptize with water.

The Apostle John (no relation) documents the details: "John [the Baptist] answered them, saying, *I baptize with water*" (John 1:26). "...Therefore am I come *baptizing with water*" (verse 31). "...But he that sent me *to baptize with water*" (verse 33).

"John also was *baptizing* in Aenon near to Salim, because *there was much water there...*" (John 3:23).

## But Why Water?

The foregoing biblical passages make it plain that John employed abundant amounts of water while performing baptismal ceremonies.

But why use water? And why even baptize period? And for that matter, what possible need could there be for such first-century religious rituals in modern-day Christian life?

To begin with, this earth is simply filled with what is chemically known as H<sub>2</sub>O. Not so with the universe.

Surprisingly, "... In the universe as a whole, liquid water of any kind — sweet or salt — is an exotic rarity..." (Lincoln Barnett, "The Miracle of the Sea," *Life*, February 9, 1953, p. 58).

However, a gracious God made water one of the most plentiful and widely distributed substances on the face of the earth. It is nature's most perfect cleansing agent.

Biblical revelation, therefore, symbolizes water as a spiritual cleanser. Ananias charged Paul: "... *Arise and be baptized, and wash away thy sins...*" (Acts 22:16). Christ cleanses the Church "with the washing of water by the word" (Eph. 5:26). God cleansed the earth of universal sin by a universal flood of waters (Gen. 7).

Peter wrote of Noah's Flood: "... Eight souls were saved by water. The like figure whereunto even *baptism* doth also now save us... by the resurrection of Jesus Christ" (I Peter 3:20-21).

### Baptism Is Symbolic

Water baptism is figuratively symbolic of death and the resurrection. Paul further explains: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are *buried with him by baptism into death*: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (Rom. 6:3-6).

The baptismal ceremony is crucial to true Christian salvation. It profoundly pictures the repentant sinner's willingness to bury his old self in water; then, rising up out of the water *completely cleansed from past sins*, to begin to live a totally different life — pleasing to God.

The children of Israel sym-

bolically acted out this experience in the Red Sea. Paul wrote: "... All our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea; and were all *baptized* unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (I Cor. 10:1-2).

### A Brief History of Baptism

Biblical revelation fixes the fact that baptism continued from John's ministry to Christ's ministry — and then through the time of Paul and the twelve apostles.

John baptized Jesus (Matt. 3:16). "... Jesus made and baptized more disciples than John" (John 4:1). Philip baptized the Ethiopian eunuch (Acts 8:36-39). Peter baptized the Gentile Cornelius (Acts 10:47). And Paul baptized Crispus and Gaius (I Cor. 1:14).

But, should the Church sanction this deeply symbolic ceremony today?

### Baptism Necessary Today?

Jesus Christ commanded His disciples to baptize repentant persons throughout *all* ages: "Go ye there-

fore, and teach all nations, *baptizing them* in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you *always*], even unto the end of the world..." (Matt. 28:19-20). And again, "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth *and is baptized* shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark 16:15-16).

Christ's clear injunctions are plain. Water baptism is imperative — a vital link in the Christian chain of events. Peter said: "Repent, and *be baptized*... and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost [Spirit]" (Acts 2:38). Water baptism symbolically cleanses and purifies the repentant sinner from his past sins.

Are you willing to study the subject further? If so, write for two free Ambassador College publications titled *All About Water Baptism* and *What Is a Real Christian?* These two attractively printed booklets clarify many common misconceptions concerning water baptism. Your copies are on reserve for you in our mailing room. □

## Personal Counsel

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their areas to counsel with them personally — to answer their questions — and to baptize them in certain cases.

The answer is yes, we do.

The Worldwide Church of God sends personal representatives (ordained ministers) into most communities of the United States and British Commonwealth and many other parts of the world. All of these dedicated men are carefully trained under the sponsorship of the Ambassador College Department of Theology.

These ministers can visit you

directly in your own home. Of course, none of them will ever call on you unless invited.

But, if you do have questions — or require personal counsel for any reason — feel free to write us and request a private appointment. Or, if you'd prefer faster service, please dial this toll-free number in the *Continental* United States: 800-423-4444. (Readers in California should call 213-577-5225 collect.)

In any case we'd be happy to send our men to see you.

Worldwide mailing addresses are listed on the inside front cover of this magazine.

# DID MOSES WRITE THE FIVE BOOKS OF MOSES?

Higher biblical criticism has long been peddled among theologians and laymen alike. Many are affected by its theories. What is "higher" biblical criticism? Why should we be concerned about it? What motivates it? How does it work? Where did it come from? It's time to examine and explode this intellectual charade!

by Robert L. Kuhn

REMEMBER the Groucho Marx television quiz show — *You Bet Your Life?* On this program couples won money by answering questions. Whenever a couple would give the wrong answer, they were allowed a "consolation question." An example: "Who is buried in Grant's tomb?" The answer was always humorously obvious — *Grant* is buried in U. S. Grant's tomb — and every couple won the consolation prize.

Let's ask what might have been a typical Groucho Marx consolation question: "Who wrote the first five books of the Bible, the *Five Books of Moses?*"

Moses?

NOT according to many modern theologians. No, modern biblical scholars emphatically assert that *Moses didn't even write ANY PART* of the Five Books of Moses! These theologians would fail to win even the consolation prize on the Groucho Marx quiz show!

## Higher Biblical Criticism

Since so many biblical critics unequivocally state that Moses did not write the Five Books of Moses, the question naturally arises: Who did? Their answer can be found in almost any 20th-century biblical dictionary, commentary, or reference. It will confuse and amuse you all at once. So let's examine two vitally important sections of Scripture — and discover just who the critics foist off as the supposed authors.

But first — a warning. You're going to run into a lot of strange letters — "P," "J," "E," etc. — in addition to the expected pedantic language. Don't be alarmed — we'll find *them* to be the myths before we're through!

Let's take a sample of higher critical ideas from a commonly accepted source: *The Interpreter's Bible*.

*The Creation*: "Chapters 1-2 [of Genesis] contain two accounts of the creation of the world by God... The first is basically from 'P,' the second from 'J,' both of them bear the marks of having been elabo-

rated by writers other than their original authors" (Vol. I, p. 465).

*The Ten Plagues on Egypt*: "Our record is a narrative carefully constructed from the three literary traditions, J, E, P... J's hand is discernible in seven of the plagues... P is present in five accounts... five items show the hand of E and... it seems very likely that no single tradition or cycle originally counted ten plagues" (Vol. I, p. 838).

You're probably not going to believe this — and I don't blame you — but all of those funny letters are really supposed to be the true, original, authenticated *authors* of the Bible!

Now GOD tells us that *Moses* wrote the first five books of the Bible (Deut. 27:3; 31:9; Joshua 8:31-35). But do many of these critics even mention Moses? No! Not so much as a vague hint to even the possibility that Moses might have made a *miniscule* contribution to his own books!

What about God? Must we ignore His simple statements because they are so easy to understand? Is it old-fashioned, unintellectual, or naive to challenge the critics who challenge God?

## Enlightened Theology Speaks

Why are *letters* used to represent the supposed *authors* of the Bible? Because, according to Modernist reasoning, the many different authors and editors who actually "fabricated" the Bible are presently *unknown*. So, since names aren't available, letters must be used instead. How do biblical critics describe this fabricating process? Read on.

According to them, the Five Books of Moses — also called the *Torah* ("Law" in Hebrew) and *Pentateuch* ("Five Scrolls" in Greek) — are merely a crude *composite* of unknown authors and editors. First, numerous writers composed their own fanciful versions of ancient myths, legends, and traditions. Then, hundreds of years later, vari-

ous editors collected, arranged, revised, and compiled these earlier authors' manuscripts. These manuscripts were meticulously "pieced together" into "intermediate stage" documents, and finally, at some very late date, the Bible — as we know it today — emerged.

An *evolution* of the Bible. Or so goes the theory.

In plain words, the critics are saying that the Bible was *not* written by *whom* it claims and *not* written *when* it claims! If this were so, let's face it, the Bible would be a complete fake, an utter sham, and a malicious misrepresentation.

Did you notice the absolute — even audacious — certainty of those higher biblical critics whose opinions are represented in the sections quoted? They have *no* doubts — they speak as if they have incontrovertible facts!

But do they?

#### The Public Reaction

After reading what these modern scholars and theologians have to say about the Bible, the average person might well reason: "I had always thought the Five Books of Moses were written by Moses. Wow! Was I simple-minded and naive! Now I can plainly see that *many* authors and editors wrote these ancient myths. And they all lived hundreds and even thousands of years after Moses — if Moses ever lived at all! The Bible is nothing more than a mish-mash of human legends."

A more inquisitive person would go further: "I would sure like to read some of these original biblical manuscripts."

So he goes to a library — but he doesn't find *any* evidence of "original manuscripts." He becomes a bit disturbed. "Surely these manuscripts about which the critics write so much *must* exist; those modern theologians were *so sure* of their theories."

In desperation, he sets out for Washington, D. C., and the Library of Congress. Again — *nothing*. Nothing at all! No evidence of the "original documents" of the critics.

As a matter of fact, our frustrated friend could go around the world — to every library, every religious institution, every museum — and never find anything. Why? The reason is obvious. These so-called "original manuscripts, documents, accounts, and sources," which we are asked to believe were patched together to form the Bible, *do not exist*.

*They never have existed!* As a matter of fact, the only place that the *concept* of biblical documents can be found is in the imaginations of certain self-styled 17th to 20th-century scholars.

#### Who Can Understand?

Scholars hope that the title "higher biblical criticism" will scare you off. They would have you believe that you must know Hebrew, Greek, and Latin fluently (plus have two to five earned degrees after your name) to even comprehend the issues involved.

But that's simply *not* true. Scholars *do* employ strange words, complicated sentences, and unusual logic. But their boiled-down concepts and their basic reasonings are rather simple-minded. Many people can understand these "scholarly proclamations" — and *refute* them. *You* can. It's easy. And you're going to be surprised just how easy it really is. We're all going to have some fun!

#### Why Was the Bible Attacked?

The Bible represents God, and God is law. "Law" means authority, and authority necessitates obedience. Man, by nature, foams with *rebellion* (Rom. 8:7). He despises obedience, resents authority, and ridicules law. Man does *not* want to worship a Supreme God. Man wants to be supreme himself.

Yet, it was silly for philosophically vain men to claim to be supreme when the Bible was continuously radiating and fulminating the full power of God Al-

mighty. The Bible was a thorn in their sides — the one obstacle to their supreme rule! "Get rid of it" was the cry! Some way had to be found.

For if the majestic authority of the Bible could be shattered, then the "God of the Bible" would be denuded, emasculated, exposed as a fraud, and unmasked as a "myth of superstitious men" to the *delight* of all! Who would remain? Only man! Man would no longer be subject to the law and authority of God — man would be his own law, his own authority, and his own god!

Everything rested upon the destruction of the Bible. How would it be done? The solution was simple: deny everything supernatural, ridicule the inspired revelation of the Bible, attribute the entirety of the Bible to the thoughts and "moral reasonings" of ancient "religious geniuses." Anything, but *not* a higher power. *Not* revelations of a Creator God, but rather inventions of *human* "geniuses." Sure, call the *man* a genius — and subtly displace God. Destroy the Bible and God is dead; destroy the Bible and man is god.

#### How Was the Bible Attacked?

The Bible claims to be the revelation of Almighty God (Isa. 45:5, 11-12; 46:9-11). "Unacceptable, absurd, impossible" rant the critics. "It must be a fake, a forgery."

Forgery! That's it! That's the key to shake and topple the Bible. If it could be demonstrated that the Bible is not the inspired Word of God, but rather a forgery — the hodge-podge concoction of ancient "mystics" — then the Bible and its God collapses.

Forgery. That word is a touchstone among the learned. Scholars not uncommonly resent everything that the word authority stands for.

Go back two centuries in time for a moment, and see how criticism and the charge of forgery began. Scholars saw in the Greek and Roman classics the symbolism of au-

thority and tradition. They attacked them in their 18th-century classrooms, opening wide the floodgates of criticism. Thousands of youths, flocking to the German universities for their doctorates, were assigned the task of criticizing classical literature. At the height of the epidemic, scarcely a single ancient work remained unimpugned — most were said to be biased, untrue to fact, or unauthentic.

With the quantity of classical raw material strictly limited in the early nineteenth century, a new field of study had to be thought up. A “new” discovery had to be found, the critics agreed, if Germany were to maintain her absolute educational domination of the world.

Such a discovery necessarily meant something to attack, for assailing a commonly accepted idea has always created interest. What literature, the critics asked themselves, did people believe to be true, but which had not yet been subject to higher criticism?

The answer became obvious.  
The Bible!

So now all the methodology and reasoning, once feverishly applied to classical literature, was directed in a frontal assault on the authenticity and historicity of Scripture. The Bible, proudly announced the critics, was pieced together from tradition in much the same fashion as the ancient Greek and Roman classics had been. The extremists declared it a pious fraud.

Did you catch the *motivation* of these critics? The destruction of authority! And what is the greatest authority? The Bible and its God! Is it any wonder then that a fanatical campaign was launched to incapacitate and paralyze the Bible?

#### Source and Thrust of Higher Biblical Criticism

Where was the main *source* of Biblical criticism? Germany! Germans had long believed that *they* were the “chosen people.” Yet here was the Bible proclaiming that the Eternal Creator made the houses of

Israel and Judah His “chosen people” — chosen for a purpose they have failed to fulfill.

“One cannot remain oblivious of the fact that this system of [biblical] criticism developed most strongly in Germany. It was a particular source of pleasure to the Germans to degrade everything pertaining to Jews and Judaism [and the Bible]. We cannot forget the letter published by Kaiser Wilhelm after Delitz’s lecture, ‘Babel and Bible,’ in which he writes: ‘And, by the way, it is not at all bad that it somewhat reduced the prestige of the chosen people’” (*The Modern Jew Faces Eternal Problems*, Dr. Aron Barth, p. 274).

Now, toward which *part* of the Bible did critics thrust the brunt of their attack? Well, what section of the Bible is the most *annoying* to men? What part do they *resent* the most? Simple! Those books proclaiming the great power, the absolute authority, and the eternal law of Almighty God — The Five Books of Moses, Gods’ Law (Torah) — Genesis, Exodus, Leviticus, Numbers, and Deuteronomy.

In these first five books, God is the ruling Creator of the universe: punishing mankind for his disobedience, choosing Israel as His people, reaffirming His eternal commandments, and ordering *all* to obey His law. So it’s hardly surprising that insolent and contemptuous critics, scorning God’s commandments (for example, the fourth), desperately strive to cripple, muzzle, and destroy the Five Books of Moses.

What happened? Let’s trace the history.

One of the first biblical critics was the third-century Neo-Platonist philosopher, Porphyry. He stated that the book of Daniel was not written — as Daniel declares — during the Jewish captivity in Babylon, but rather four centuries later in the second century B.C.

Why does this pagan philosopher feel compelled to try to redate the writing of Daniel’s prophecies? How else could Porphyry explain the huge number of intricate prophecies

— elaborating the successive histories of the Babylonian, Persian, Macedonian, and Roman Empires — *all* of which were *perfectly* fulfilled? Could he admit that these prophecies were the pronouncements of the great God, who can and does exert authority over *his* life? Obviously not! The “rational” mind of man must be almighty!

Could Porphyry deny the historical facts? No! His only way out was to blatantly declare that these prophecies were written *after* the historical events had occurred. Therefore no “God” would be needed. Proof? “Who needs it!” went the cry. “Get rid of God. Make man supreme! And scholars will flock to your side!”

How about Luther, the first Protestant? He believed the Bible, didn’t he? “Thus it is to Luther a matter of *indifference* whether or not Moses wrote the Pentateuch . . . and he considers that the books of Isaiah, Jeremiah and Hosea probably owe their present form to later hands” (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th ed., Vol. III, p. 861). “Human reason” became god in the seventeenth century. But the Bible was ever present. This would not do! So the champions of “human reason” — the philosophers (for example, Hobbes and the Jewish scholar Spinoza) — continued the discrediting attack on the Bible.

#### Modern Criticism

Modern higher biblical criticism had its origin in 1753 in the work of a French Catholic physician, Jean Astruc. He argued that in Genesis and Exodus, Moses had used *different documents* and that of these, the two main ones were distinguished by their use of different divine names: *Yahweh* and *Elohim*.

Different documents!

Different divine names!

These were the *keys* that critics were waiting for. Scholars whetted their swords. Here was their long-awaited opportunity. Their hostility could now be directed in a concerted attack upon the Bible. They



smelled victory. The “downfall” of the Bible and its God was at hand.

Quickly, the German critics took command. The Bible? No more the Word of God! Now merely ancient literary “documents,” recounting the twisted traditions and garbled legends of some “nomadic Hebrew tribes.”

Scholarly debate — like the clashing of wild animals over a kill — raged for decades. Eichhorn, De Wette, Ewald, Vatke, Graf all added their own theories. Finally, in 1883, Wellhausen published what came to be widely accepted as a “final solution” to the problem.

“To the theory of documents there was added at this time, most notably by Wellhausen himself, a reconstruction of the history of Israel’s religion. This had its ultimate origin in the philosophy of Hegel . . . It was held by proponents of this school that an *evolutionary* pattern was observable in all of human history, and in the history of Israel no less than elsewhere. It was assumed that Israel’s religion developed from the most primitive forms to the highest within the Old Testament period. . . . The religion of the Hebrew ancestors was customarily described as an animism or polydemonism. . . . The worth of these ‘documents’ — centuries removed, as they were, from the events they purport to tell — was held to be minimal” (John Bright, *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*, 1961, p. 4).

“Philosophy of Hegel,” “evolutionary pattern,” “primitive forms”! Where is God mentioned?

God? Forget Him say the critics. Listen to their comments:

Man and man alone *developed* the “God of the Bible”! The “religion of the Hebrews” evolved! The Hebrew God was created by ignorant savages!

Listen to what Theophile James Meek had to say about the personal name of our Creator: “Our contention, then, is that Yahweh was originally a *storm-god*, first known in Arabia. At some early period, for reasons beyond our ken, he was adopted by Judah as its tribal god,

and then as Judah absorbed other tribes into itself by conquest or alliance, the domain of Yahweh was correspondingly extended” (*Hebrew Origins*, Theophile James Meek, 1960, p. 116).

Such are the theories and contentions of modern critics concerning the written word of ancient Israel’s God. But what about Moses’ authorship of the Pentateuch? How was that specifically challenged?

#### Arguments Against Moses

Biblical critics have developed an elaborate system of arguments and counter-arguments in their attempt to show that the Five Books of Moses were *not* written by Moses. This is the primary thrust in their overall war against the divine inspiration of the Bible.

Did Moses write what Scripture says he wrote? Here is the main battleground. If the critics could successfully prove their point, the dike would be broken, a mortal wound struck, a precedent set — the Bible would be proven *fallible* — and all Scripture would lie uninspired, discredited, exposed as a fake, and completely vulnerable to every subsequent critical attack.

God commands us to “prove all things” (I Thess. 5:21). He has no special love for blissful ignoramuses, floating around on blind faith, ignoring the critics. We need not be scared of critics. Though their language and reasoning is tortuously complicated and obscure, their illogic and misunderstanding is embarrassingly naive and obvious.

All right, let’s investigate a few example arguments of higher biblical criticism — as documented in the article “Hexateuch” in *A Dictionary of the Bible*, edited by James Hastings (1910), from which all the following quotes are taken:

“A century ago it was a matter of common belief that the Pentateuch [first five books of the Bible] was written by Moses; but this belief never rested on anything but tradition [what about Scripture itself?] and will not bear examination. It

will be shown that, in fact, these books are the result of complicated literary processes extending over a long period.”

The Mosaic authorship is easily disproved at the “very outset” — according to the critics who wrote and edited this article — by three basic categories of objections to the scriptural record.

1. The many unnecessary repetitions.
2. The frequent discrepancies and inconsistencies.
3. The lack of continuity and order in the narrative.

#### Many Unnecessary Repetitions?

Like what?

Which “repetitions” are “unnecessary” according to the critics? “The creation of beasts and birds is related in Gen. 1:21-25 and again in 2:19, of man in 1:27 and 2:7. . . . The charge given to Jacob to flee to his Uncle Laban is twice related in 27:42-45 and in 28:1-7. . . . There can be little doubt that the three deceptions on the part of the patriarch’s wife narrated in 12:10-20; 20:1-18; 26:1-11 are mere variants of the same story. . . . The frequent repetitions of similar laws . . . is obvious to the most casual reader.”

And that’s exactly the point!

*God uses repetition to get His most important concepts through the thick skulls and closed minds of “the most casual reader.”* Peter writes, “And so I will not hesitate to remind you of this again and again . . . to keep refreshing your memory. . . .” (II Peter 1:12-13, *The New English Bible*). Check Genesis 41:32 — God repeats a matter to emphasize that He *established* it. It’s no accident, *God does indeed repeat* — for emphasis and for our benefit.

Fine. Now let’s look up these “repetitious” scriptures quoted by the scholars. I think it will amuse you. Because the slur of “unnecessary repetitions” is absurd. There is often no repetition whatsoever, but rather totally different circumstances. For example:

The two times Abraham passed Sarah off as his sister were obviously different with respect to time, geography, persons involved, and sequence of events. This pregnant example of biblical criticism becomes astonishingly outrageous since the third such situation involved *Isaac* and *Rebekah*, not Abraham and Sarah!

In Genesis 27:42-45 Rebekah tells Jacob to flee to Laban, while in 28:1-7, it is Isaac (at the behest of Rebekah) who gives the same charge.

The "repetition" between the first and second chapters of Genesis is easily understood by anyone except those who would demand that the Bible be written with the simplicity of a second-grade reader.

#### Discrepancies and Inconsistencies?

Some examples?

"The Creation story beginning with Gen. 2:4b differs from that of 1:1-2:4a in almost every particular. . . the flood according to 7:12, 17; 8:6, 10, 12 lasted 54 days, according to 7:24; 8:3 at least 150. . . The youth of Sarah implied in 12:10-20; 20:1-8 is inconsistent with Sarah's age as stated in 17:17. . ."

A detailed explanation and interpretation is hardly necessary. The literal understanding of these "discrepancies" is obvious.

Of course the second narrative of Creation differs from the first. Each has its own separate and distinct flavor and purpose — the first describes the earth in general, the second zeros in on man and describes his mind, his attitude, and the crucial changes in both, as vividly told in the third chapter of Genesis.

The Flood "discrepancy" would be incredibly simple-minded if presented by a seventh-grader. This "scholarly" attack assumes that the forty days mentioned in Genesis 7:12 is the same forty days of 8:6. Being unable or unwilling to read too much of the Bible at one time, the critic conveniently ignores the

chronological context of both verses. To calculate the number of days from the 17th day of the 2nd month of Noah's 600th year (Gen. 7:11) to the 1st day of the 10th month of the same year (Gen. 8:5-6) does not really require advanced calculus.

How could Sarah have been attractive at 90? Considering "modern society," where so many women are "over the hill" at 35 and deteriorated at 55, our critic's wonderment is understandable. However, in those "primitive cultures" there was no pollution, smog, over-population, depleted soil, refined and processed foods, hectic urban life, or exercise-saving "conveniences." Furthermore, the life span was much longer in those first 15 to 20 generations after the Flood than it is at present (Isaac lived to 180). Consequently, a woman of 90 might appear and feel as a (healthy) woman of 40 would today.

Only a prejudiced mind — with the preconceived notion that the Bible is a composite of garbled fairy tales — useful only for bedtime stories and simple moral lessons — could possibly call these three examples (like all the others) "discrepancies and inconsistencies."

#### Lack of Continuity in the Narrative?

For instance?

"In Gen. 20:1 'Abraham journeyed from thence' should naturally have followed some statement mentioning the place where he was, instead of a chapter dealing with the history of Lot. . . Moses ascends [Mount Sinai] . . . no fewer than three times in Ex. 24 without any descent being mentioned between 24:9, 13, 18."

These "objections" are so trivial and the answers so apparent that one wonders whether good time, paper and ink should be expended in refuting them. These critics obviously treat the Bible as a children's story where everything must be spelled out, leaving nothing for the reader to contribute. Such would be terrible literature. Furthermore,

God doesn't spoon-feed His potential Sons. Rather, He nurtures and develops our mental acumen by enabling us to *participate* in the Bible. God expressly designed the Bible to require thoughtful analysis on our part, "precept upon precept; line upon line . . . here a little and there a little" (Isa. 28:10).

Concerning Genesis 20:1, do we need a computer-like memory to recall from Genesis 18 that Abraham was in the same general area as Lot? In Exodus 24, why must God specifically state that Moses came *down* from the mountain in order to have him go back *up* again? Such things are self-evident to children — but apparently not to certain theologians, who are more than convinced by the grandiosity of their own rhetorical skills.

#### Other Questions

Obviously, the last eight verses of Deuteronomy — "So Moses the servant of the Lord died. . . " — were not written by Moses. (One doesn't have to be a genius to figure that out.) Furthermore, there are some references to locations not yet present in the days of Moses — for example, "Dan" in Genesis 14:14.

These and a few other similar questions are easily answered when we recognize that God inspired certain of His prophets to make *very minor* editorial additions to the Sacred Text. Joshua probably wrote Deuteronomy 34:5-12, and Ezra probably edited it. Perhaps Ezra also added the later geographic references and made other minor comments when he and the "men of the Great Synagogue" prepared the final canonization of the Hebrew Bible after the return of the Jewish exiles from Babylon.

And God has *preserved* His Word. Peter wrote: "The word of the Lord endureth for ever" (I Pet. 1:25). Jesus said: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my words shall not pass away" (Matt. 24:35). When all is said and done, critics grow old, die, and are largely forgotten — and the Bible is still the Bible. □

**A** FEW years ago the religious world was all aglow with hopes of getting back together into one big happy family. The Roman Catholic Church called Vatican II and the world held its breath as what many on the outside felt was the world's most intolerant church changed its views toward the Protestant churches. The spirit of brotherhood was in the air. A breath of fresh air seemed to be blowing through the musty halls of Christendom. However, as the gusts became stronger, it seemed an ill wind indeed to the conservative establishment.

The minute that the churches began to allow new fresh thinking among their theologians, all of their pet ideas and theories were under attack. It soon became evident that the churches were not as willing to examine and change their beliefs (where necessary) as their ecumenical glow had first indicated. That willingness is illustrated in the following news items. The ecumenical movement for all intents and purposes has come to a screeching halt.

#### **Papal Infallibility Reasserted**

In its latest proclamation, *Mysterium Ecclesiae* ("The Mystery of the Church"), the Vatican may well have ended all hopes for the ecumenical movement by once again asserting papal infallibility.

This doctrine, long a major bone of contention between Catholics and Protestants, states that the pope, as successor to the Apostle Peter, cannot make a mistake when he speaks for the church on matters concerning morals from the papal chair.

Many of the more liberal and ecumenically minded Catholic theologians feel that this latest declaration has all but killed the ecumenical movement. One such theologian is Avery Dulles, S. J., author and a professor of theology at Woodstock College. He wrote in *American* magazine: The declaration "gives the impression that the

# RELIGION

## WHATEVER BECAME OF THE ECUMENICAL MOVEMENT?

Catholic Church lacks nothing and that other Christian communities can have nothing positive to contribute to the ecumenical dialogue."

The infallibility doctrine, once a bitter pill to swallow, will surely not be received any more readily by Protestants. It seems that the official Catholic stand is that the Protestant churches are the ones who have erred by leaving the Catholic fold — let them change and come back.

#### **Lutheran vs. Lutheran**

The problems with the world ecumenical movement are not confined to Catholic papal authority. The Lutheran Church's largest American branch, the Missouri Synod, is threatening to split apart.

The division is along liberal, conservative lines. The problems began when the conservative wing of the Synod felt that the organization was taking giant steps toward liberalism. As a result, at their conference four years ago they voted in a conservative president, J. A. O. Preus. He took four years to set the stage for this year's New Orleans conference. The conference was stacked against the liberal wing (which would be considered conservative by most other Protestant churches).

President Preus called for the resignation of Concordia College's liberal president John Tietjen and his following. Some liberals are calling for the formation of a new denomination. A division would nearly split the two-million member organization in half. The vote against the liberals was six to four.

Obviously, if the Lutherans are fighting among themselves, they are

not ready to unite with any other organization.

#### **Presbyterian Problems**

In the battle for leadership in the Presbyterian churches, it was the liberal faction that won out. As a result, in August, 450 dissident delegates representing 200 Southern Presbyterian churches met in Asheville, N. C. to lay the groundwork for a new conservative denomination.

"The churches represented at the convention voted to withdraw in June after a history of disagreements with the parent church over liberalized interpretations of the Bible and doctrinal policies. They claimed it has become too liberal on such matters as women's rights, abortion, premarital sex and other social and political matters."

This inter-Presbyterian strife is one more nail in the coffin of the ecumenical movement. "The organization committee voted to remain independent of all national church organizations such as the National Council of Churches and the World Council of Churches" (UPI release).

#### **World Council of Churches on the Way Out?**

An editorial in the August 10, 1973 *Christianity Today* clearly shows that the World Council of Churches, originally founded in 1948 as an organization to encourage biblical evangelism, has failed in its mission. The editorial points out that the Council has traded its biblical evangelism for social and political pronouncements. The trend toward the liberal wing is blamed.

The editorial concludes: "Sadly, the WCC not only has strayed from its mission, but also is losing out on unity. Its official programs and policies are representing fewer and fewer Christians in its own constituency, let alone outsiders. The ecumenism sought in the euphoria of the 1948 Amsterdam meeting is seldom mentioned any more. The WCC has sacrificed unity for an aberrant mission."

— George L. Johnson

# Collections on the First Day of the Week?

by Richard Wiedenheft

**T**HE story begins around A.D. 42 when Agabus foretold a famine that began in the reign of Claudius Caesar (Acts 11:27-28). Claudius ruled from A.D. 41 to A.D. 54.

Around the spring of A.D. 55 (during this famine), Paul wrote to the Corinthians concerning the plight of the Christians of Judaea. Read carefully and analyze I Corinthians 16:1 and 3.

"Now concerning the collection for the saints. . . ." Paul was writing to them about a *special* collection — not about regular tithes and offerings which would be used primarily for the Work of God.

Now notice verse three. "And when I come, whomsoever ye shall approve by your letters, them will I send to bring your liberality unto Jerusalem." This particular gathering included more than money — for several men were required to carry it to Jerusalem.

It was probably a few months later, during the summer of A.D. 55, that Paul again wrote to the Corinthians about this special emergency collection for the poor brethren at Jerusalem who were suffering the worst of the famine.

In II Corinthians 8:1 and 3 he wrote: "Now, brothers, I have to tell you about the grace God has given to the churches of Macedonia. . . . I can testify that up to their means, aye and beyond their means, they have given — begging me of their own accord, most urgently, for the favour of contributing to the support of the saints" (Moffatt translation).

In chapter 9:1-2 Paul again made

reference to this collection: "Indeed it is quite superfluous for me to be writing to you about this charitable service to the saints; I know how willing you are, I am proud of it, I have boasted of you to the Macedonians: 'Achaia,' I tell them, 'was all ready last year.' And your zeal has been a stimulus to the majority of them" (Moffatt). And in verse 12: "For the service rendered by this fund does more than supply the wants of the saints, it overflows with many a cry of thanks to God" (Moffatt).

Clearly, this was a *special* collection being taken up among the Christians of Macedonia, Achaia and Galatia to aid their brethren in Judaea!

When Paul wrote to the Romans, probably during the winter of A.D. 55-56, he was taking this collection to Jerusalem.

"At the moment I am off to Jerusalem on an errand to the saints. For Macedonia and Achaia have decided to make a contribution for the poor among the saints at Jerusalem. Such was their decision; and yet this is a debt they owe to these people, for if the Gentiles have shared their spiritual blessings, they owe them a debt of aid in material blessings. Well, once I finish this business by putting the proceeds of the collection safely in their hands, I will start for Spain and take you on the way" (Rom. 15:25-28, Moffatt).

Luke, also, wrote of this special offering in Acts 11:29-30. "Then the disciples, every man according to his ability, determined to send relief unto the brethren which dwelt in Judaea: which also they did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul."

With all this background, I Corinthians 16:2 becomes very plain. "Upon the first day of the week let every one of you lay by him in store. . . ." Paul was actually telling the Corinthian Christians to *work* on Sunday, the first day of the week. They were to go out to gather what they wanted to contribute — and *store it at their own homes!* Obviously this was not *money*, but more likely *foodstuffs* — dried fruit, meat, etc. — for those in Jerusalem afflicted by the famine.

He concluded, verse 2: ". . . That there be no gatherings when I come." Paul wanted them to spend the *first* part of each week assembling their contributions so they would not have to do the work of gathering it when he came on the Sabbath.

Here is an obvious command to do work on the first day of the week. Yet Christians are commanded to rest on the Sabbath day. This seeming dilemma is solved when one realizes which day of the week is truly the Sabbath in God's eyes. (Write for our free booklets *Which Day Is the Christian Sabbath?* and *Which Day Is the Sabbath of the New Testament?* The latter booklet examines all of the texts in the New Testament which mention "the first day of the week," showing that in *none* of them was a religious meeting or preaching service held on the hours we *now* call Sunday.)

Far from being a command to take up an offering every Sunday, I Corinthians 16:1-2 was an instruction for the Corinthians to do the work of assembling a special collection at their own homes for the brethren in Judaea.

**Q** **UESTION:** "Please explain Proverbs 27:14 — 'He that blesseth his friend with a loud voice, rising early in the morning, it shall be counted a curse to him.'"

John S.,  
Kenedy, Texas

**ANSWER:** This short biblical verse represents just one proverb among many. Solomon actually spoke 3,000 in all, although only a part were penned for posterity (I Kings 4:32).

Solomon gave the purpose of the Proverbs in chapter one: "To know wisdom and instruction; to perceive the words of understanding; to receive the instruction of wisdom, justice, and judgment, and equity . . . to the young man knowledge and discretion" (verses 2-4).

Proverbs 27:14 involves *discretion*. Trying to cheer up your friend with a loud voice, when he is trying to sleep, is hardly using discretion. And it is hardly loving your neighbor. It is about akin to the crowing of a noisy rooster.

Let your friend sleep. And if you have to awaken him, be gentle. The golden rule reads: "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." *Use discretion*, and you will keep a good friend, neighbor, or brother. If you don't, your friend will count you as a curse — at least for that moment.

**Q.** "Did you say that Jesus was here on earth before He was born to Mary?"

Lige S.,  
Erwin, Tennessee

**A.** Yes, we did. Jesus Himself said: "Your father Abraham [who lived hundreds of years *before* Christ's human birth] rejoiced to see *my* day: and he saw it, and was glad. Then said the Jews unto him, Thou art not yet fifty years old, and hast thou seen Abraham? Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily [truly, truly], I say unto you, *Before Abraham was, I am*" (John 8:56-58).

Jesus occasionally appeared on earth prior to His human birth —



**We are inviting you — our readers — to send in your questions. In this new feature, questions will be answered on a wide range of biblical subjects every month. Using the Bible as our primary source, we will answer questions on academic, prophetic, doctrinal, historical, and Christian-living topics.**

**If you have questions arising from any of the articles appearing in The Good News, be sure to send them in as well. While we cannot promise that all your questions will find space in this new feature, we shall try to answer all that are in the general interest of our readers.**

**Please send your questions to the appropriate address listed on the inside front cover.**

as the God of the Old Testament.

**Q.** "Is there anything in the New Testament that says we cannot drink tea or coffee?"

Mrs. Laural G.,  
Newhall, California

**A.** Actually the Bible does not specifically say anything about either drink. But, *in principle*, Scripture forbids us to eat or drink anything that will harm or defile our bodies (I Cor. 3:16-17; 6:19-20).

However, according to most authorities, coffee and tea are mild stimulants which are not necessarily harmful if used moderately. Most people can tolerate and enjoy a couple of cups daily.

Of course, some with certain health problems might be better off not to drink either. It's an individual matter — not necessarily a religious issue. The Kingdom of God is not meat and drink (Rom. 14:17).

**Q.** "Is the Trinity anywhere in the Bible?"

Muriel H.,  
Dover, Delaware

**A.** No! Not in the original Scriptures. I John 5:7 was added centuries after the New Testament Canon was closed. Most Bible commentaries will verify this.

For any who are interested, a brand new thoroughly researched and carefully edited booklet just came off our presses. It is titled *Is God a Trinity?* This attractively printed publication will be mailed without charge upon your personal request.

**Q.** "I'm in Shakopee Women's Reformatory at the moment and would sincerely like to reform myself inside out. I am 19 years old and have considered myself saved for three years up until now. I have been looking for someone and something all my life. How could I arrange to meet someone to talk to?"

Mary M.,  
Shakopee, Minnesota

**A.** We will send one (or two) of our ministers out to visit you. All have been thoroughly trained under the sponsorship of the Ambassador College Department of Theology. Any one of these dedicated men would be happy to converse with you.

**Q.** "I've asked several people if they knew who wrote the book of Genesis and no one can give me an answer. Can you help?"

Mrs. Edward C.,  
Berwyn, Illinois

**A.** Pick up any authorized King James Version. Open it to the book of Genesis. The title will be "The first book of Moses called Genesis."

Jesus said, in a conversation with certain religious leaders of his day, "Do not think that I will accuse you to the Father: there is one that accuseth you, even *Moses*, in whom ye trust. For had ye believed *Moses*, ye would have believed me: for he wrote of me. But if ye believe not *his writings*, how shall ye believe my words?" (John 5:45-47.) Here is

Jesus' own personal testimony that Moses wrote Scripture.

But what part?

Jesus gave the division of the Old Testament in Luke 24:44. "... All things must be fulfilled, which were written in *the law of Moses*, and in the prophets, and in the psalms [a representative book of the writings], concerning me." A little earlier, Jesus "*beginning at Moses* and all the prophets ... expounded unto them [the disciples] in all the scriptures the things concerning himself" (verse 27). Jesus began with Moses because he wrote the Pentateuch — the first five books of the Bible. Each book bears his name.

Of course, there are certain higher critics who deny that Moses wrote the Pentateuch. Many of their arguments are answered in the article on page 20 of this magazine.

**Q. "My little son asked me this: 'If we are all children from Adam and Eve, why aren't we all white?' I couldn't give him a good answer. I would like to be able to satisfy his curiosity with the correct information."**

**Loretta S.,  
Valley Stream, N. Y.**

**A.** All nations and people have sprung from Adam and Eve. Adam was the first man (I Cor. 15:45). Eve was the mother of all living (Gen. 3:20). And God "hath made of *one blood all nations of men*" (Acts 17:26).

Ancient history and racial genealogy indicate Adam and Eve were white. But two pure white people cannot *now* engender a black, brown, or yellow child. So how can we explain the different races?

A logical answer is this: when a woman is born, she is born with her full complement of ova (egg cells). God must have created within Eve, the potential for each primary race. In other words, she had some ova with white genes, some with black, and some with yellow.

Race is a matter of God's marvelous creativity and His appreciation of variety in nature.

**Q. "Do you have anything on the**

**word 'fulfilled'? God said He came to fulfill the laws."**

**James C.,  
Decatur, Michigan**

**A.** Christ actually said: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfill" (Matt. 5:17).

The Greek scholars acknowledge that the word translated "fulfill" in this verse means not only to do or perform, but to "fill to the full." The English word "fulfill" is an Indo-European cognate of the English words "full" and "plus."

In this particular context, it has the meaning "to bring to full expression" or "to bring out its [the law's] fullest significance and meaning. The word "fulfill" in verse 17 could be easily substituted by the word "magnify."

The prophet Isaiah said of the first coming of Christ: "The LORD is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will *magnify* the law and make it honorable" (Isa. 42:21).

Christ came *not* to destroy the law, but to magnify it. And to magnify means to enlarge.

One good example of this is given by Jesus in Matt. 5:28. "... Whosoever looketh on a woman to lust after her hath committed adultery ... *in his heart*" (Matt. 5:28).

**Q. "Is Watergate mentioned in the Bible?"**

**N. J. S.,  
Lyle, Washington**

**A.** No, not specifically.

But the attendant deceit, lies, and hypocrisy, symptomatic of a state of spiritual decline in the Western world, was predicted in principle in the pages of Scripture.

Notice Isaiah 59:2, 3 — "Your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear ... Your lips have spoken lies, your tongue hath muttered perverseness. None calls for justice, nor any pleadeth for truth."

See also Isaiah 59:13-15; Hosea 4:1-2; Jeremiah 9:3-5, 8; II Timothy 3:13; Jeremiah 17:9 for a potpourri of scriptures on the subject.

One vital lesson of Watergate is simply this: *tell the truth.*

## How your Good News subscription has been paid

Jesus said, "This gospel of the kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matt. 24:14) at this time, just before the end of this age. A price must be paid for this magazine, the Correspondence Course, booklets and other literature.

But how? Christ forbids us to sell it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received, freely *give*," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His gospel. "It is more blessed to *give*," He said, "than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's way is the way of love — and that is the way of giving. God expects every child of His to give freewill offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying the gospel to others.

We, therefore, simply trust the Living Christ to stir the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting this precious gospel truth in the hands of others.

The faithful, tithe-paying members of the Worldwide Church of God and our ever-growing family of co-workers gladly give of their incomes that we may give this precious gospel to an ever-widening number of readers.

The living, dynamic Christ Himself enables us to send you this *Good News* magazine without charging a price. God's way is right — the way of giving to others.



COMING!  
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**COMING!**

## **INVASION FROM OUTER SPACE**

**O**N October 30, 1938, several hundred thousand Americans experienced the most shattering scare of their lives. The Columbia Broadcasting System was airing its regular program, *Mercury Theatre on the Air*. The music of Ramon Raquello and his orchestra was suddenly interrupted by the terse voice of an announcer stating that several explosions of incandescent gas had been observed on the planet Mars. The gas was said to be hydrogen and moving toward the earth with enormous velocity.

The regular musical broadcast was then resumed. Thousands remained glued to their radios awaiting further developments. They were not disappointed. Before long, the music was again interrupted for

another bulletin. Still more announcements followed. Authentic sounding reports were coming in from observatories around the nation. Thousands, perhaps millions, of minds were now focused on the red planet.

The announcer then stated that a meteorite had fallen on a farm in the neighborhood of Grovers Mill, New Jersey.

What could it be? Thousands tingled with excitement. Reports continued to come in. "Mobile units" were dispatched and listeners were treated to "on the spot" reports.

A vast pit was said to have been created by what appeared to be a large cylinder which had fallen from space. The cylinder was apparently made of some strange yellowish-white metal and was described as

*Truth is sometimes stranger than even science fiction. But, will there actually be a future invasion from "who knows where" in the universe?*

by Brian Knowles

being some thirty yards in diameter!

Hundreds of automobiles began to converge on the site, beaming their headlights directly into the pit with its strange visitor.

Shortly, a curious "humming sound" was said to have emanated from the confines of this bizarre space vehicle. Before long, the end of the cylinder began to slowly unscrew. A gasp went up from the surrounding crowd as the end of the cylinder fell off.

By now the vast CBS radio audience was on the edge of its collective chair as they anxiously awaited further developments. What was inside the sinister cylinder? Shortly, the announcer's voice again crackled across the airways. He breathlessly described the emergence of a nightmarish creature "large as a bear" with tentacles and a hide that "glistened like wet leather." The crowd that had gathered at the pit fell back in terror.

Radio listeners were then subjected to the sound of hissing followed by intensified humming coming through their speakers. The broadcaster then described a sinister machine that was rising out of the pit commanded by the hideous creature. Without warning, a jet of flame sprang from a mirror mounted atop the eldritch machine. Dozens died as they were hit by the searing heat-ray. Fields, barns, woods turned to flame. The holocaust spread rapidly. Automobile gas tanks exploded. Death and destruction were everywhere.

### The Great Hoax

Of course, such an invasion never actually took place. The whole thing was phony. It was all carefully planned by the now-famous actor Orson Welles and scripted by the ingenious writer, Howard Koch. Welles narrated the broadcast with such convincing effectiveness that millions had thought that the Martians were really on the march! Near panic had seized the vast radio audience. The broadcast became the

most famous and perhaps most notorious script in the history of radio.

But it wasn't all Welles' original idea. Nor did Howard Koch dream up the invasion. It had all originated with another Wells — H. G.

### How It All Began

In 1898, the English novelist H. G. Wells made literary history with his novel *War of the Worlds*. It was the first serious treatment of the space-invasion theme. Since that time, his *War of the Worlds* has set the pattern for *thousands* of space-invasion stories.

Today, the concept of the alien invasion has become one of the richest and most varied of all the categories of science fiction. Since Welles' broadcast in 1938, thousands of such tales have emanated from the fertile minds of science-fiction writers. Multiple possibilities have been explored.

But in spite of the colorful variety of situations and characters encountered in space invasion stories, certain factors are common to most. For example, you can almost always bank on the invader being of *superior intelligence* to man. His technology is usually developed to a high degree of sophistication. The typical aliens' mental powers often border on the supernatural. Telepathy and ESP are frequently discussed.

*Methods of transportation* are rarely conventional from an earthlings viewpoint. The invaders move about in glass bubbles, mysterious saucers and disks, tripods and bizarre rockets. Time machines and teleportation are frequently used devices. The sky is rarely the limit in this area.

And the invaders *weaponry* would chill the soul of any human general. Strange rays and beams pierce the earth's atmosphere dealing death and doom everywhere they strike. Man's weapons are traditionally helpless against the superior armaments of the invading alien.

But why do the invaders invade? Frequently it is to *colonize* the earth

and set up a *government* of extra-terrestrial beings.

Usually, the alien conquest is successful until the eleventh hour. Then some freak occurrence brings defeat to the invading beings and the earthlings triumph.

At least that's the usual formula. And with one notable exception, it's not too far from the truth of what actually *is* going to happen!

### A Real Invasion Coming

Science fiction is one of the most popular forms of modern literature. It is read by millions. Movies, television series, comic books, magazines, all contribute to the public consumption of science-fiction themes. Isaac Asimov, the noted writer, once stated that science fiction is "the only kind of literature that fits this age."

But Asimov is wrong.

Science fiction is a combination of the known and the *unknown*. There is another form of literature that is even more relevant to this day and age and which is strictly limited to that which may be *known*. It does *not* dabble in speculation or far-out imaginings. And it is far more meaningful to this age than any science fiction that has ever been written!

It is called the Bible.

Now wait! Don't go shrieking off into some philosophical solar system! Let's give it an honest look first.

The Bible is not a book of fiction. It is a book of *facts*. It contains history written in advance of its occurrence. It is a volume of *revealed* knowledge, impossible for mankind to arrive at by conventional means. It is the Maker's Instruction Book — the Word of God.

The Book contains an account of a coming invasion from space that will *far eclipse* all such fictional invasions envisioned by men. And, more amazing, its writing was inspired by the Invader Himself! (II Tim. 3:16.) Surprisingly enough, this invasion will also fit the formula (with a few noteworthy exceptions!)



for all such invasions as envisioned by science-fiction writers.

Let's look into it.

#### Details of the Invasion

Does anyone know precisely *when* this invasion will take place?

"But of that day and that hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels which are in heaven, neither the Son, but the Father" (Mark 13:32).

No human knows *exactly* when the predicted invasion will occur. Only the great Master-Mind of the universe — God the Father — knows.

But don't forget. Mark wrote in the first century A.D.!

Nearly 2000 years have elapsed since these words were originally spoken. The situation could be different now in 1973! Perhaps plans are even *now* being drawn up for the certain arrival of the Son of God and His army.

#### The Nature of the Invader

Will the coming invader be human? In Numbers 23:19 we find that "God is *not* a man." He is *not* human!

Well, what is He then?

"*God is a Spirit*," answers John 4:24.

God is not a mere mortal. He is a supernatural spirit being! And as such, God is of markedly *superior* intelligence. (What Creator is not superior to His creation?)

Notice Isaiah 55:8-9: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways *higher* than your ways, and my *thoughts* than your thoughts."

God thinks and operates on an entirely different plane than does man — a *much* higher plane. Read the book of Job (chapter 38; 40:1-2). Gain a small glimpse into the mental capacity of God! Enough said.

#### The Return of Jesus Christ

Biblical revelation tells us that a powerful, super-intelligent spirit being will eventually invade this

earth. But from what point in the universe will the invasion be launched? The Scriptures are specific. "... Jesus shall be revealed *from heaven* with his mighty angels" (II Thess. 1:7).

Here we see the returning Christ leaving heaven and being revealed to the naked eye of those on the earth (Rev. 1:7). Heaven is the residence of God — the Master Control Center of Operations for the entire universe.

But where is heaven?

The Word of God speaks of *three* distinct "heavens." The first is the atmosphere surrounding the earth. The second is the known universe containing the galaxies, solar systems, etc. But there is a *third* heaven. The Apostle Paul referred to it in II Corinthians 12:2. He was explaining how he had been taken there *in a vision* (verses 1, 7) so vivid that he was unable to discern (at the time) whether his experience had been *actual* or merely visionary.

This heaven is the present residence of God and His angelic army. "... For God is in heaven..." (Eccl. 5:2).

#### Spirit Space Travel

A careful analysis of the twentieth chapter of John reveals that Jesus Christ and His angelic host are capable of extremely rapid space travel — faster than the speed of light!

Christ said to Mary Magdalene: "Touch me not; for I am not yet ascended to my Father..." (John 20:17). Now note that *on the same day* Christ had been able to travel to the Father and return: "And as they went to tell his disciples, behold, Jesus met them, saying, All hail. And they came and held him by the feet..." (Matt. 28:9).

Spirit, of course, is not hampered by the constraints of the material universe.

But just how does God normally travel throughout the universe? Does He utilize some special vehicle or does he simply "free fall" through space?

In the book of Ezekiel we are given a hair-raising glimpse of a bizarre vehicle. Read the entire first chapter of the book of Ezekiel for yourself.

See if you can figure it out! This strange vehicle with its wheels and multicolored precious-stone ornaments is occupied by a Being "like" a man. Its crew is made up of spirit beings called angels.

It appears to be a portable throne which is conducted throughout the universe by spirit power!

The last half of Revelation 19 pictures Christ's second coming to this earth. His space flight is *symbolically* shown to be on a white horse. His angelic army is also symbolically descending upon white horses (Rev. 19:11-15).

In reality, He *may* actually use the means of transport pictured in Ezekiel 10.

But, whatever the means, when is the general time setting of His second coming? Many scriptures show it will occur in what the Bible describes as "the end time."

#### When Is the End Time?

We have already seen that no human can know the day or hour of His second coming. Jesus Himself, however, revealed that His servants can discern the general time period. "Now learn a parable of the fig tree; When his branch is yet tender, and putteth forth leaves, ye know that summer is nigh: so likewise ye, when ye shall see *all these* things [the signs described in Matthew 24], know that it [Christ's second coming] is *near*, even at the doors" (Matt. 24:32-33).

The question is: Are we in that time period shown in Matthew 24? Are we in the end time? Are the sure signs of this prophecy occurring all around us today?

The poignant answers are revealed in two free Ambassador College publications. Write for your copies of *Is This the End Time?* and *The Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse*. You will be astonished at the answers given. □

# IS DAVID IN HEAVEN?

by Ronald Beideck

**I**F heaven is the reward of the saved, where the righteous go immediately at death, we should certainly expect David, of all people, to be in heaven. God called David, king of Israel, "a man after mine own heart" (Acts 13:22). Further, in Acts 7:46 we are told that David "found favour before God." Yet the Apostle Peter, in the first sermon of the New Testament Church, was inspired to say: "Men and brethren, let me freely speak unto you of the patriarch David, that he is both *dead and buried*, and his sepulchre is with us unto this day" (Acts 2:29).

Peter then added: "For David is NOT ascended into the heavens" (verse 34).

Plainly, David is dead and buried, in his grave, and *not* in heaven. God's Word says so.

In Hebrews 11:32, David is included among those who died in faith. Now turn to verse 39 of this same chapter: "And these *all* [and that includes David] having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they [including David and all the worthies of old] *without us should not be made perfect.*"

In other words, David will *not* precede the rest of God's saints in receiving the promise. He, too, is awaiting the time when he will be made perfect.

And when does this occur? When will David be made *perfect*? Philipians 3:20, 21 gives the answer: "For our conversation [citizenship] is in heaven; *from* whence also we look for the Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ: who shall [at that time — the second coming of Christ] change our

*vile body*, that it may be fashioned like unto *his* [Christ's] glorious body. . . ."

Jesus Christ is now in heaven, *from* where He will return to the earth. *Then* David, together with the rest of the saints, will be resurrected — changed — no longer mortal, corruptible flesh, but given a glorious body like Christ's.

What kind of body does the glorified Jesus Christ have? Read the description for yourself in Revelation 1:13-18. His eyes are as a flame of fire, his voice thunders as the powerful crashing sound of many waters, his countenance shines as the sun.

David will be resurrected immortal, incorruptible, in a glorified *perfect* spiritual body not subject to death or decay. "Now this I say, brethren, that flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God; neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. . . . For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality" (I Cor. 15:50, 53).

David could not already be in heaven in this glorified condition, for we read that David is not to be perfected "*without* [before] us." Notice verses 51, 52: "Behold, I show you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall *all* [*all* includes David] be changed." *When* shall we be changed? "In a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trump*: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead [remember, Peter said that David was dead] shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall all be changed."

And when is the last trump? At the second coming of Christ! (Rev. 11:15; I Thess. 4:16.)

Here is when David will be made perfect. The time setting of this stupendous event is given unmistakably by the Apostle John: "Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth *not yet* appear what we shall be: but we know that, *when he shall appear* [Christ's coming and the resurrection are yet future events], *we shall be like him* [like the glorified Christ], for we shall see him as he is" (I John 3:2).

David's *resurrection* is spoken of in Jeremiah 30:9: "But they [Israel] shall serve the Lord their God, and David their king, whom I will RAISE UP." Notice the time setting of this event is yet future. Ezekiel adds, ". . . And my servant David *shall be* their prince *for ever*" (Ezek. 37:25). This is the time — still to occur — when David will receive *eternal* inheritance in God's Kingdom.

Furthermore, David could not possibly be in heaven. Jesus said, over 1000 years after David had died, "*No man* hath ascended up to heaven. . ." (John 3:13). Jesus had been in heaven. He knew!

David himself understood and described what happens to man at death. He wrote: "His breath goeth forth, he returneth to his earth; in that very day his thoughts perish" (Ps. 146:4). There is no knowledge or consciousness in the grave (Eccl. 9:5, 6, 10). The dead, Scripture says, await a resurrection (I Thess. 4:15-17; I Cor. 15:50-52; Dan. 12:2).

How plain! David is dead and buried, awaiting the resurrection with all of God's saints. At that time he will receive the promises. To find out what these promises are (you'll be surprised to find they do not include heaven), be sure to request our free booklet *What Is the Reward of the Saved?* □

# What Our Readers Say

## Television Specials

A series of three television summer specials was shown in many major cities throughout the United States. They were specially selected from the highly successful personal appearance campaigns conducted by Garner Ted Armstrong. Viewer comments follow:

"I have just finished watching the last of your television specials — Garner Ted Armstrong in New Orleans — and I wanted to tell you how very much I enjoyed watching all three programs. I have been listening to *The World Tomorrow* radio program and subscribing to *The Plain Truth* for nearly two years. But, I believe the specials have been the most informative. For some time I have wanted to know and understand something more about Garner Ted Armstrong, the person, as well as Garner Ted Armstrong the commentator, the professor, etc."

Lynette N.,  
Ocean Springs, Mississippi

"Being a 17-year-old senior in high school, I had to let you know how enthused I was while listening to your sermon "Is Sex Sin?" Sir, I couldn't keep from taking the initiative to write and tell you just how much I learned. You were so frank about the whole subject that anyone could listen without being misled or embarrassed. I had always wondered about that topic. I have never had an adult talk to me so outright like that. That is why I considered your talk so easy to understand. Before, I always asked questions, and quite often I never got the answers."

Deborah B.,  
Vanceboro, North Carolina

"Last night your son, Garner Ted, spoke on WLOS-TV about the end time. I have never heard the Bible taught with such great authority in my life. I want to tell you I was shocked at his words even though I have been a *Plain Truth* subscriber for years. He brought me to tears a couple of times. He spoke as a man inspired by the Holy Spirit."

Will B., Jr.,  
Walhalla, South Carolina

"I saw one of the hour-long specials on TV by Ambassador College. The program was great. I am pleased that the small amount I send in can go toward a presentation like that. Keep up the good work."

Stan H.,  
Meridian, Mississippi

## The Real Jesus

"I and many of my friends were very impressed by the first part of your program on the real environment of Jesus. I am one of the many that you spoke of who was taught in Sunday school the myth of the poor, tiny town in which Jesus grew up. All my life I have seen samples of pictures which show His town as a dry, desert village in front of a barren landscape. I was amazed, myself, to see the magnificent structures which dotted the city in the time of Jesus. Why did history fail to record the splendor of this huge city?"

Jeff D.,  
Fort Worth, Texas

• *History did record it! The Jewish historian Josephus reported what he saw in the first century (Josephus, Wars of the Jews, III, 3,2,4; Wars, V, 5, 6; Wars, I, 21, 1-8; Antiquities, XVI, 5,3; Wars, VI, 1,1).*

## Creation vs. Evolution

"I recently saw one of your television productions in which you replied to a letter from a viewer. I was intrigued by the articles you mentioned on evolution and would very much like to receive these articles and any additional information and reprints you might be able to supply me with. Students in this area are increasingly interested in paralleling the Bible and science and are particularly interested in encouraging the inclusion of the creationist theory in their high school curriculum. They need now, more than ever, facts to back up their beliefs."

Sue W.,  
Winchester, Virginia

• *The Good News will feature future articles about science and theology.*

## Homosexuality

"Thank you for all you and your associates are doing for the good of all. I believe you may think misinformation is a really bad thing. That is why I write on homosexuality. Documentation shows this represents 10% of the population, but you imply there may be an increase. And you infer it is deviate if not perverse. Where in the Bible do you find it is wrong?"

Bill T.,  
Detroit, Michigan

• *Several places in both testaments: I Corinthians 6:9-10; Romans 1:24-27; Leviticus 20:13; Genesis 18:20; 19:1-29, etc.*

## Good News Comments

With this issue, our inner family of co-workers begin to receive *The Good News*. We thought our new subscribers would appreciate reader comments about past issues:

"We came home yesterday and found in the mail our first *Good News*. We sat down and tried to read it all that afternoon. The articles were very good. They made some things clearer than they had ever been before. But the two things I enjoyed most were the question box and what the members had to say about how happy they were."

Lewis and Nancy D.,  
Wichita Falls, Texas

"I just wanted to say how much I enjoyed the last issue of *The Good News*. All the articles were superb, but I was so happy to read of Mr. Herbert Sam Hei, the first person to be baptized in Burma. It's so exciting to see how a man of his position could understand so much of God's laws with so little education. God's spirit is really fantastic!"

Mrs. Theresa B.,  
North Babylon, New York

## Mustard Seed

"I believe the words of Jesus when He said if we have faith as a grain of mustard seed nothing shall be impossible. Please accept the enclosed contribution as an expression of my "mustard-seed faith." The outcome I leave in the hands of God."

Dorothy W.,  
Fresno, California

## Immortal Soul?

"I was very disappointed to see that you do not believe in the immortality of the soul. If the soul is not immortal, stop your work because you write and speak in the wilderness and you wrong the God in whom you say you believe. During His life on earth, Jesus Christ spoke many, many times about eternal life. Those words would make no sense if the soul would not be immortal. If the human soul is mortal, then there is no other life, our God is not perfectly good and just, and the materialists are right in practicing the old pagan maxim *carpe diem*."

Dr. J. L.,  
St. Georges, Quebec

• *Many confuse the immortal soul concept with the biblical "spirit in man" (Job 32:8). Future articles will explain.*

## Meat and Man's Diet

"A few months ago I became involved in Yoga. Now I have a very difficult time convincing those vegetarian gurus that meat is a necessary part of man's diet. Could you please indicate where in the Bible mention is made of clean and unclean animals?"

Ms. A.,  
Toronto, Ontario

• *See Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14.*

## STUDY THE BOOK

**W**hy do so many people say, "I can't understand the Bible"?

Why do so many interpret the Bible differently? Doesn't it strike you as strange that there is only one book — the Holy Bible — that seems to have so many diverse meanings?

Isn't it obvious that there are reasons why this one Book has been interpreted, misinterpreted, twisted, distorted and maligned?

But what are they?

One big reason is that people simply don't study their Bibles anymore.

The apostle Paul instructed the young evangelist Timothy:

**"Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15).**

But, most people don't even know what their church teaches — much less study the Bible. And if they study their Bibles at all, most certainly don't do it to show themselves approved to God. That would mean studying the Bible for reproof, correction, and instruction in righteousness — the antithesis of human nature (see II Tim. 3:16-17).

But, can you learn to study the Bible for the avowed purpose of self-correction?

The answer is an unequivocal "yes."

Ambassador College has published a brand new booklet entitled *How to Study the Bible*. This new attractively printed publication will show you why your attitude when studying

the Bible can and must be one of self-correction — of showing yourself approved to God. It will show how to prove all things and explain to you why God's Word never contradicts itself.

In addition, this new booklet shows you how to mark your Bible systematically. You may have thought it a sin to make a mark in the Holy Bible. But God nowhere sanctifies the ink, paper, binding, or other physical components of His Word. The Message contained in the Bible is the important thing (John 6:63).

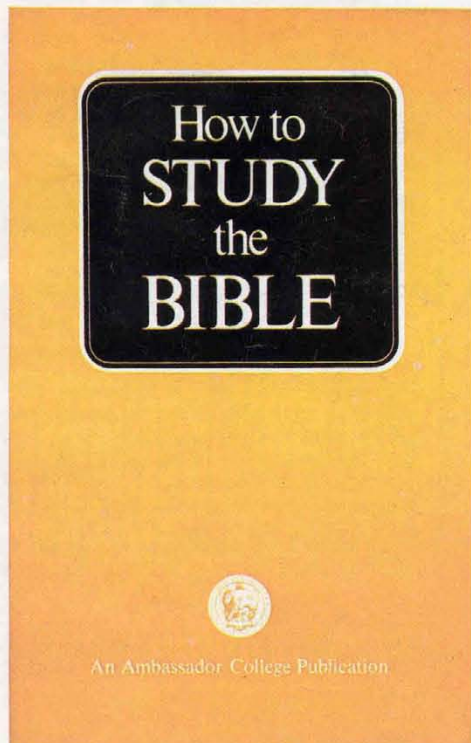
And with so many translations on the market, did you ever wonder which one(s) to use? That information is in this booklet too.

Here's how to receive *How to Study the Bible* absolutely free of charge:

Simply send your request to:

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**Pasadena, California 91123**

If you live outside the United States, see the inside front cover of this magazine for the address of our office nearest you.



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