

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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The RESURRECTION was NOT on SUNDAY!

Christ did not rise on Easter! Neither the Apostolic church nor the churches of Gentile converts under Paul observed Easter—but pagans, centuries before, did! No truth was ever more shocking! But your own Bible PROVES IT!

by **Herbert W. Armstrong**

JESUS said He would be three days and three nights in the tomb. (Mat. 12:40). Can you figure three days and three nights between sunset "Good Friday," and sunrise Easter Sunday?

It is commonly supposed, today, that Jesus was crucified on Friday, and rose from the dead at sunrise Easter Sunday.

It would seem that for the past 1600 years no one, until recently, ever questioned, or sought to PROVE this "Good Friday-Easter" tradition. Yet the Bible admonishes us to PROVE ALL THINGS!

The Bible PROOF on this venerable tradition is ASTOUNDING! It brings to light the shocking truth that neither the Spirit-inspired true Church under the Apostles, nor the churches of gentile converts under the Apostle Paul, ever observed Easter, Good Friday, Holy Week, or Lent.

All these were observed in pagan idolatry for centuries before Christ—believe it or not! Easter was an ancient pagan goddess! Pagan idolatrous worship included a special sunrise service in honor of the goddess Easter at this time in the spring! For fully documented FACTS about Easter, write for the free booklet on "Easter."

For PROOF of the exact day of the

resurrection, there is but one historical authority—a sole historical record—the BIBLE!

Tradition No Evidence

There were no eye-witnesses to the resurrection. Even so-called "apostolic fathers" had no source of information save that record which is today available to us. Tradition, then, must be dismissed.

What are the recorded facts?

The doubting Pharisees were asking Jesus for a SIGN—a supernatural evidence—in proof of His Messiahship.

Jesus answered: "An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly, so shall the Son of man be THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:38-40).

Now consider, please, the tremendous import—the overwhelming significance—of Jesus' statement!

He expressly declared that the ONLY SIGN He would give to prove He was the Messiah was that He should be just THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the rock-hewn sepulchre in "the heart of the earth."

The Significance of the Sign

These Christ-rejecting Pharisees demanded PROOF. Jesus offered but one evidence. That evidence was not the fact of the resurrection itself—it was the LENGTH OF TIME He would repose in His grave, before being resurrected.

Think what this means! Jesus staked His claim to being your Saviour and mine upon remaining exactly THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS in the tomb. IF He remained just three days and three nights inside the earth, He would PROVE Himself the Saviour—if He failed in this sign, He must be rejected as an impostor!

No wonder Satan has caused unbelievers to scoff at the story of Jonah and the "Whale!" No wonder the Devil has set up a tradition that DENIES Jesus is the Messiah!

The Dilemma of the Higher Critics

This one and only supernatural PROOF ever given by Jesus for His Messiahship has greatly bothered the commentators and the higher critics. Their attempts to explain away this sole proof for Christ's divinity are ludicrous in the extreme. For explain this away they

must, or their "Good Friday-Easter" tradition collapses!

One commentator says, "Of course we know that Jesus was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be!" Some expositors impose upon our credulity to the extent of asking us to believe that "in the GREEK language, in which the New Testament was written, the expression 'three days and three nights' means three PERIODS, either of day or of night!"

Jesus, they say, was placed in the tomb shortly before sunset FRIDAY, and rose at sunrise Sunday morning—two nights and one day.

The BIBLE Definition

But the BIBLE definition of the duration of "nights and days" is simple.

Even these same higher critics admit that in the HEBREW language, in which the book of Jonah was written, the expression "three days and three nights" means a period of 72 hours—three twelve-hour days and three twelve-hour nights.

Notice Jonah 1:17: "And Jonah was in the belly of the fish THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS!" This, they admit was a period of 72 hours. And Jesus distinctly said that AS Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish's belly, SO He would be the same length of time in His grave!

As Jonah was in the "GRAVE" (see marginal reference, Jonah 2:2) 72 hours, after which he was supernaturally resurrected by God, by being vomited up, to become a saviour to the people of Nineveh upon proclaiming the warning to them, so should Jesus be 72 hours in His grave, thereupon being resurrected by God to become the saviour of the world!

Did Jesus know how much time was in a "day" and in a "night"? Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in a day . . . but if a man walk in the NIGHT, he stumbleth." (John 11:9-10).

Notice the BIBLE DEFINITION of the expression, "THE THIRD DAY." Text after text tells us that Jesus rose THE THIRD DAY. See how the BIBLE defines the time required to fulfill "THE THIRD DAY."

In Genesis 1:4 God "divided the LIGHT from the DARKNESS. And God called the LIGHT Day, and the DARKNESS He called Night. And the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were THE FIRST DAY . . . and the evening (darkness) and the morning (light) were THE SECOND DAY . . . and the evening (now three periods of darkness called NIGHT—three nights) and the morning (now three periods of light called DAY—three days) were THE THIRD DAY." (Gen. 1:4-13).

Here we have the ONLY BIBLE DEF-

INITION which explains and COUNTS UP the amount of time involved in the expression "THE THIRD DAY." It includes three dark periods called NIGHT, and three light periods called DAY—three days and three nights, and Jesus said they contained TWELVE HOURS for each period—a total of 72 hours!

That ought to be conclusive! Any seven-year-old, near the end of the second grade, could figure it easily. We praise God that His plain truths are revealed UNTO BABES, and hidden from the wise and prudent!

What Is Wrong?

What is wrong with these plain, simple words of Jesus? How do these wise and prudent theologians KNOW Jesus was crucified "Good Friday" and rose "Easter Sunday"?

The simple answer is, THEY DO NOT KNOW IT—for IT IS NOT TRUE! It is merely TRADITION—a tradition we have been taught from childhood, and carelessly ASSUMED! Jesus warns against making "the Word of God of none effect through your TRADITION." (Mark 7:13).

We have examined two scriptural witnesses, in Matthew and in Jonah, both setting the duration of the body of Jesus in the tomb as three days and three nights, which the Scriptures plainly define as 72 hours of time. Now let us examine four other Scriptural witnesses that PROVE THE SAME THING.

Notice Mark 8:31. "And He began to teach them that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and AFTER three days rise again."

Our young second grader can figure this. IF Jesus had been killed on Friday, and then AFTER one day He had risen, the resurrection would have occurred on Saturday evening. IF AFTER TWO DAYS, it would have occurred Sunday evening, and if AFTER THREE DAYS, it would have occurred MONDAY EVENING!

Examine this text carefully. You cannot, by any process of arithmetic, figure any less than a full 72 hours—three days and three nights—in a resurrection which occurred three days AFTER the crucifixion! If Jesus was in the grave only from Friday sunset to Sunday sunrise, then this text too, must be torn out of your Bible or else you must reject Jesus Christ as your Saviour! If He rose AFTER THREE DAYS, it might have been more than 72 hours, but it could not have been a second less!

Notice now Mark 9:31. ". . . they shall kill him; and AFTER that he is killed, he shall rise THE THIRD DAY." The duration expressed here must be between 48 and 72 hours. It could not be

one second PAST 72 hours, and Jesus still rise THE THIRD DAY. And it could not be Friday sunset to Sunday sunrise, because that is only 36 hours, carrying us into the middle of the second day, AFTER He was killed.

In Matthew 27:63 Jesus is quoted as saying, "AFTER THREE DAYS I will rise again." This cannot possibly be figured as less than 72 full hours.

And in John 2:18-22, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and IN three days I will raise it up . . . but HE spake of the temple of his body." To be raised up IN three days after being destroyed, or crucified and buried, could not be more than 72 hours.

If we are to accept all the testimony of THE BIBLE, we must conclude that Jesus was exactly three days and three nights—three full 24-hour days—72 hours in the grave or the only supernatural proof He gave must fail.

The TIME OF DAY of Resurrection

Now notice carefully this fact: In order to be three days and three nights—72 hours—in the tomb, our Lord had to be resurrected at exactly THE SAME TIME OF DAY that His body was buried in the tomb!

Let us realize that very vital fact.

If we can find the TIME OF DAY of the burial, then we have found the TIME OF DAY of the resurrection! If the burial, for instance, were at sunrise, then in order to be left an even three days and three nights in the tomb, the resurrection likewise had to occur at sunrise, three days later. If the burial were at noon, the resurrection was at noon. If the burial were at sunset, the resurrection was at sunset, three days later.

Jesus cried on the cross soon after "the ninth hour" or three o'clock in the afternoon (Matt. 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:44-46).

The crucifixion day was called "the preparation," or day before "the sabbath" (Matt. 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54; John 19:24). This day ended at sunset, according to Bible reckoning (Lev. 23:32).

Yet Jesus was buried before this same day ended—before sunset (Matt. 27:57; Luke 23:52-54). John adds, "There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day." According to the laws observed by the Jews all dead bodies must be buried before the beginning of a Sabbath or feast day. Hence Jesus was buried BEFORE SUNSET on the same day He died. He died shortly after 3 p.m.

Therefore—notice carefully!—the BURIAL OF CHRIST'S BODY WAS IN THE LATE AFTERNOON! It was between 3 p.m. and sunset as these Scriptures prove.

And since the RESURRECTION had to
(Please continue on page 15)

PROPHESED TO HAPPEN to the United States and Britain!

This is the third installment of the most startling and eye-opening book of this generation. But we cannot know what's prophesied for our peoples, UNTIL we first learn WHERE the American and British peoples are mentioned in prophecy.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

SYNOPSIS OF PREVIOUS INSTALLMENTS

THE MOST astounding prophecy in all the Bible warns of what is to happen to America and Britain—the very next prophesied event to occur!

It's staggering! *Many* prophecies thunder this warning! But first we must learn *where* our peoples are spoken of in prophecy—HOW we are identified! No nations ever were so wealthy or so great or so powerful.

The strangest fact of history is that this same national wealth and dominance were promised by God Almighty to the patriarch Abraham. Few today seem to know that *God made DUAL promises to Abraham*. The spiritual promise of the Messiah and salvation thru Him is well known. But not so well understood was the *material* promise of *multiple seed*, NATIONAL resources and power.

The purely material and national promises are found in Genesis 12:1-3, and Gen. 17:1-5: . . . "thou shalt be the father of **MANY NATIONS**." And, verse 7, "I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in *their* generations." The seed here is *plural*! "And I will be *their* God." (V. 8). The Jews have never been more than one nation!

In Gen. 22:16-18 the promises were made UNCONDITIONAL. "And thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies." "Let thy seed possess the gate of those that hate them." (Gen. 24:60). Speaking nationally, these gates would be narrow commerce passageways, such as the Suez and Panama Canals, the Strait of Gibraltar, etc. The Jews have never possessed these.

These material and national promises the Bible calls the Birthright. The promise of the kingly line, to culminate in Christ and the spiritual promise of salvation thru Him, is termed the Sceptre. The material promises are of RACE—the spiritual are of GRACE. It is vital to see the sharp distinction between these dual promises! See also Gen. 26:1-5; 27:26-29; 28:13-14; and 35:9-12.

The two phases of the promises were

separated—the Sceptre was never to depart from JUDAH (Gen. 49:10; "but the BIRTHRIGHT was JOSEPH'S," (I Chron. 5:2). This Birthright conferred, by UNCONDITIONAL promise of God, the richest, most colossal material inheritance ever in this world to be possessed by any nations. The magnitude of this Birthright is staggering!

Isaac was chosen by the Eternal to inherit both Sceptre and Birthright. Ishmael and Abraham's other illegitimate sons were rejected. Isaac had twin sons, Esau and Jacob. But before their birth God chose Jacob. Jacob resorted to stealth and deception, aided and abetted by Rebecca his mother, and Esau sold his birthright for a mess of pottage. But after years of trial and test—after finally wrestling all night thru with the angel—after confessing his name which meant "Supplanter," God bestowed His blessing upon Jacob, and gave him the new name of "ISRAEL," which means "Prevailer with God," or "Overcomer."

Up to now, the promises had been handed down to one man at a time. For three generations it was a "one-man nation." But Jacob had *twelve sons*, and thru them the future great "nation and company of nations" was started on its way.

Reuben Lost the Birthright

The next legal inheritor of the Birthright was Reuben, first-born son of Israel, by his first wife, Leah. But Reuben, like Esau, lost it. And Joseph, eleventh-born of Jacob, but first-born of Rachel, his second and truly loved wife, received it.

The Birthright belonged, legally, to Reuben, not Joseph. It is related in I Chronicles 5:1-2 how it fell to Joseph:

"Now the sons of Reuben the first-born of Israel, (for he was the first-born; but, forasmuch as he defiled his father's bed, his birthright was given unto the sons of Joseph the son of Israel: and the genealogy is not to be reckoned after the birthright. For *Judah* prevailed above his brethren, and of *him* came the chief ruler; but the BIRTHRIGHT WAS JOSEPH'S:")"

So at this point the two divisions of the Abrahamic promises—the Birthright, involving material and national promises, and the Sceptre, including the kingly and spiritual promises—were separated.

It is of first importance to keep in mind that the Birthright, including the promised land now called Palestine—the assurance of multitudinous population, material and national prosperity, dominance over other nations, *was now given to JOSEPH and his sons*.

These material promises for THIS life, then, belonged to an altogether different TRIBE among the Children of Israel than the Sceptre promise of the kingly line culminating in Jesus Christ, which spiritual promise belonged in the Tribe of Judah!

These national promises of the MULTITUDINOUS SEED, then, became the possession of an altogether different *Tribe* than the promise of the ONE SEED, Christ, who sprang from Judah! This fact of the two sets of promises, stressed in the preceding installment, ought to be plain and clear to every reader by now. Fix it permanently in the mind. It is one of the vital KEYS to Bible understanding!

At the time of Jacob's death, he and his sons were living in Egypt. We assume, of course, that you are familiar with the story of how Joseph was sold by his brothers into Egypt—of how he grew, there, to become food administrator and prime minister, next under the king and in actual rule of the nation—of the seven years' plenty, followed by seven years' famine in which food had been stored only in Egypt under Joseph's supervision—of the visit of Joseph's brothers to Egypt in quest of food, and how Joseph induced them to bring their father and brother Benjamin down to Egypt, and finally, of the dramatic revelation of Joseph's identity to his brethren, amid weeping and rejoicing.

Birthright to Joseph's Sons

And now the time came to pass on the Birthright to another generation. Let us look in on the dramatic scene.

It was reported to Joseph that Jacob,

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his father, was ill. He took with him
his two sons, Manasseh and Ephraim,
sons of an Egyptian mother, and hastened
to the dying patriarch's bedside.

"And Israel strengthened himself, and
sat upon the bed. And Jacob said unto
Joseph, God Almighty appeared unto
me at Luz in the land of Canaan, and
blessed me, and said unto me, *Behold
I will make thee fruitful, and multiply
thee, and I will make of thee a multitude
of people; and will give this land
to thy seed after thee for an everlasting
possession.*" (Gen. 48:2-4).

Notice carefully these promises!

The Birthright is about to be passed
on to another generation. Notice that
nothing whatsoever is said about all
the families of the earth being blessed
in his seed—the ONE seed. Nothing is
said about kings. Nothing is said about
spiritual blessings whatever. THESE
promises are those of the Birthright. THESE
promises are of MULTIPLE SEED—a
MULTITUDE of people—and POSSESSION
OF THE PROMISED LAND. Now let us
continue.

"And now thy two sons, Ephraim and
Manasseh, which were born unto thee
in the land of Egypt before I came unto
thee into Egypt, are mine; as Reuben
and Simeon, they shall be mine."
(Verse 5).

Thus did Jacob ADOPT Joseph's two
sons, making them, legally, his own
sons. THIS, no doubt, was done because
they were half-blood Egyptians. Israel
made them his own adopted sons, so
the Birthright could be passed on to
them. Notice, too, that in the first verse
of this 48th chapter of Genesis, Manasseh's
name is mentioned first, because
Manasseh was the elder. But old Jacob
now mentioned the name of Ephraim
first. Here we see supernatural guidance!

Jacob said to Joseph, "Bring them, I

pray thee, unto me, and I will bless them.
Now the eyes of Israel were dim for
age, so that he could not see." (Verses
9-10).

The Birthright, remember, belongs
legally to the firstborn, unless altered
by divine interference. The inheritor of
the Birthright, in receiving the blessing
conferring it, should have Jacob's RIGHT
hand resting upon his head.

That is why "Joseph took them both,
Ephraim in his right hand *toward Is-
rael's left hand*, and Manasseh in his
left hand *toward Israel's right hand*,
and brought them near unto him."
(Verse 13).

Name ISRAEL Given Joseph's Sons

But once again the Eternal interfered
in conferring this momentous Birthright!

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Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes to-
day's news, with the prophecies of
The WORLD TOMORROW!

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Jacob, though blind so he could not
see the lads before him, CROSSED HIS
HANDS, "and Israel stretched out his
right hand, and laid it upon Ephraim's
head, who was the younger, and his
left hand upon Manasseh's head, guid-
ing his hands wittingly, for Manasseh
was the firstborn. And he blessed Joseph,
and said, God, before whom my fathers
Abraham and Isaac did walk, the God
which fed me all my life unto this day,
the Angel which redeemed me from all
evil, bless the lads; and *let my name be
named on them*, and the name of my
fathers Abraham and Isaac; *and let them
grow into a multitude in the midst of
the earth.*"

Let WHO grow into this promised
MULTITUDE? Let WHOSE descendants
become that numerous seed, which shall
number into billions? Not Judah the
father of the Jews—note it!—but EPHRA-
IM AND MANASSEH! Why have the
eyes and understanding of Church lead-
ers and Bible students been blinded to
this plain fact of Scripture?

Notice, Israel did not confer this
blessing on just one, but on BOTH—
"Bless the lads," he said. This blessing
went upon them jointly.

"Let my name be named on them,"
was part of this blessing.

His name was ISRAEL. Hence, it was
the descendants of THESE lads, nor the
descendants of Judah, or the Jews, who
were named ISRAEL. Note it. Remember
it! Ephraim and Manasseh TOGETHER
received the RIGHT to the name "ISRAEL."
It was to become the national name of
their descendants. AND THEIR DESCEND-
ANTS WERE NEVER JEWS! Fix this fact
forever in the mind!

TOGETHER the descendants of these
two lads, Ephraim and Manasseh, were
to grow into the promised multitude—
the nation and company of nations.
These national blessings are poured
upon them jointly. These are the col-
lective blessings which the lads to-
gether received.

Jacob Crosses Hands

But at this juncture, Joseph noticed
that Jacob's right hand was not resting
upon the head of the firstborn. He en-
deavored to remove it.

"Not so, my father," said Joseph, "for
this is the firstborn; put thy right hand
upon his head. And his father refused,
and said, I know it, my son, I know it:
he (Manasseh) also *shall become a
people, and he also shall be great: but
truly his younger brother shall be great-
er than he*, and his seed shall become a
multitude, (or, COMPANY) of nations.
And he blessed them that day, saying,
In thee shall Israel bless, saying, God
make thee as Ephraim and as Manasseh:

(Please continue on page 10)

How YOU Can Have FAITH

**Millions lack the faith to free their minds
from fears and worries. Why?**

by Herman L. Hoeh

WE LIVE in a fearful age! In every nation there are fears of impending war, fears of depression, fears of poverty, sickness and death. Never before has humanity been threatened with the fear of *annihilation* as it is TODAY.

And yet, at this crucial moment in human history when FAITH is so essential, nearly everyone is the SLAVE OF FEAR. Faith is almost totally absent.

WHY Fear the Future?

YOU can have faith to meet life's problems! There is no need to fear the future—IF . . .

IF you have faith! But *how* can you have faith? *How* can you abolish every doubt, every worry, from your mind? *How* can you have perfect confidence in God that He will perform what He has promised?

Yes, HOW?

Before I tell you God's answer to this little understood question, let me first explain one thing.

Why You Lack Faith

The *living faith* that God wants you to have—the kind that overcomes the difficulties of life and endures suffering without worry or doubting—that kind of faith YOU WEREN'T BORN WITH! It is a *gift of God*.

Faith is one of the gifts of the Spirit (I Cor. 12:9). The *first* reason you may have been lacking in faith, is that you have been relying on *your own human faith* which can't dispel doubts.

It did take *our own faith* to believe in Jesus Christ. But when the Holy Spirit comes into us, if we believe, repent of sins and are baptized, then we have the *faith of Christ* planted in us. Paul didn't live by his own faith, "But Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by *the faith of the Son of God*" (Gal. 2:20).

The Holy Spirit of God planted in Paul's mind the *same kind of faith* that can be in *your* mind! This faith—the very faith of Jesus Christ living in you—will dispel every doubt and worry. You will not need to struggle continually against lack of confidence in God's promises.

The First Step

Faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen. Paul tells us so in Hebrews 11:1. It is the assurance that what God promises in

His Word He will perform. But before you can *know* what God will perform, you first have to know *what God promises*.

The first step, then, is to search the Scriptures to learn what God promises. "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but understanding what the WILL of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17). God reveals His will in the Bible. You can KNOW that God will perform what He promises because He cannot lie! "It is impossible for God to lie" (Heb. 6:18). God will never break a promise.

Once you know what His will is, then you must pray. You must ask God to do what He promises, the same as any child needs to ask his parent to perform what he promises. Too few people really *claim* the promises God makes in His Word. Too few people really pray! It is little wonder that they don't know God. How can you come to know God—know that He cannot break a promise—unless you *talk* to Him?—unless you become acquainted with Him through prayer?

Once you know God's will and have claimed His promise, then TRUST Him, RELY on Him. Quit wondering whether He will do what He says! He just finished telling you He *will* do it! Fill your mind, instead, with the duties *you* need to perform. Most people worry about God's duties instead of taking care of their own duties.

It is comparatively easy for you to think, "I believe." But when sickness overtakes you, when financial difficulties suddenly loom up, it is a great deal harder to say, "I *still* believe." It is usually easy to *start* trusting God for His protection and for the things He has promised. But worries and doubts always seem to creep into your mind because you haven't *yet* received what God promises.

It is the natural thing to *fight* these fears and worries with your weak human faith, isn't it? That is the method most people use. Faith is visualized as the struggle of human faith against doubt and worry. It is commonly thought of as the way you *convince yourself to feel* about a promise made in the Bible.

This is NOT real faith!

Let's understand the kind of faith God wants *you* to have.

Faith Must Grow

After conversion it seems that nearly

everyone expects to have *complete faith*. No more fears, no more doubts or worries! Many think that just receiving the Holy Spirit which is the character of God—the impregnating germ of eternal life from the Father—will give them all the faith they need! But is this what you have found by experience? Certainly not.

There doesn't seem to be any more faith than before. What can the matter be?

Did you know that faith is *not* implanted whole and complete when we receive the Spirit of God? Faith is something that *grows*. It needs to be nourished in order to develop into complete and perfect faith. Faith needs to be *lived* and nourished to maturity *by experience*. The apostle Paul rejoiced that the Thessalonians had faith that "groweth exceedingly" (II Thess. 1:3).

Yes, faith is like a grain of mustard seed. It must *continually grow* to maturity. It has to be alive! It starts small, just like the grain of mustard seed, but it grows into perfection (Luke 17:5).

As we have so little of the faith of Christ in us when we are begotten by the Holy Spirit, how can we develop the faith of Christ in us, to meet greater and greater problems and overcome all worries and doubts?

A Living Faith

Did you know that you may have a *dead faith*, as dead as a grain of mustard seed that will never sprout? But what you *want* is the kind of faith that is *living*, active and growing. Do you know the Bible says you have to *put something with faith* in order to make it a *living faith*?

Contrary to what most people believe, there *is* something that must be added to faith to make it alive and perfect! James tells us: "Faith, IF IT HATH NOT WORKS, is dead, BEING ALONE." "Faith WITHOUT WORKS is dead" (James 2:17, 26).

But how can that be? Can faith be made perfect by *works*? Can faith grow to perfection by works? Yes, because faith must be *practiced*. It can't lie dormant as an empty belief because it can't increase that way. Faith needs *exercise*, just as the mustard plant needs sunlight, moisture and soil. The *trying of our faith* works patience! (James 1:3).

When faith is tested we *learn* patience. We learn to endure suffering pa-

tiently. When the lesson of patience is learned, then we have had the *experience* of knowing that God will answer prayers, if we have had patience. This is how faith develops.

James does not say that you *earn* salvation by works of penance or good deeds. Salvation is a free gift of God. But God will not give you salvation unless you learn to LIVE BY FAITH. And you can not live by faith until you prove your faith by your works. You must *obey* God and do what is pleasing in His sight. Notice how John says you can know absolutely—in faith—that God will answer your prayers: "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, *because we keep his commandments*, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22).

Faith Alone Insufficient

Let us examine the case of Abraham. He is called the *father* of the faithful. How did God perfect faith in Abraham? He put Abraham to the test. But what did Abraham do, sit back and say "I have faith" and yet do nothing about it?

When put to the test, Abraham didn't doubt and try to create his own faith. Instead he *obeyed* God and *acted on his faith*. He offered up his only begotten son as a proof of his faith. James concludes: "Seest thou how faith wrought with his works, and *by works* was faith made perfect?" (James 2:22). So faith must be acted upon.

Notice how Abraham and all the holy men of old acted upon their faith: "By *faith* Abraham, when he was called to go out into a place which he should after receive for an inheritance, *obeyed*; and he went out, not knowing whither he went" (Heb. 11:8).

Noah did not have a dead faith; he built an ark. Moses did not have a dead faith; he chose to suffer affliction with the people of God and forsook Egypt. Paul refrains from mentioning the great multitude "who *through faith* . . . wrought righteousness, *obtained* promises, out of weakness were made strong, women received their dead raised to life again . . . that they might obtain a better resurrection" (Hebrews 11:33-35).

All these people proved that they believed God by *acting* on their belief, instead of trying to sit back and conquer fears by themselves. But if your faith is so weak, how can you have the will to act on your faith?

Why, Paul tells us that "it is God which worketh in you both to *will* and to *do* of his good pleasure." (Phil. 2:13). God gives every child begotten of Him the *will* or *determination* to do what pleases Him. God puts in our minds the desire, the *will* to do what is

right, just as we *by nature* have the desire to do what is *wrong*. But we must yield to the right desire and restrain the wrong wish. Having yielded to the right desire, we have within us the nature or character of God which helps us carry out the will of God, just as our human nature led us to carry out the will of the flesh before we were converted.

Thus by having faith planted in us by the Holy Spirit which is God's very nature (II Peter 1:4), we have the *strength of will* to perfect faith by exercising it—to make faith strong enough to meet every obstacle.

Doing What Is Right

Since faith must be acted upon, by works, we can now see why the apostle John said: "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, *because we keep His commandments*, and do those things that are pleasing *in His sight*." (I John 3:22.) It not only takes faith to know that we will receive what we ask for, but it also takes our *obedience* to God to prove that our faith is real and living.

But many will ask why obeying God needs to be added to faith to receive answers to prayer. Let's take an example. How often it is said: "Sure, I know that God would prosper me if I tithe." That's the kind of *dead* faith that most people have. Their faith is not growing because they are not putting it to the test. *We must prove our faith* that God will prosper those who honestly pay the tithe. Then it can be seen just how much faith we have.

We may start to trust God and give our tithes and offerings faithfully. Then what happens? When we look on the outward circumstance, it always seems that God is not faithful to carry out his promise. And so we begin to *doubt*. We lack faith, and our works prove it so. Unless you would have put faith to the test, you would never have known just how *weak* your faith really was!

By *continuing* to tithe, no matter what the circumstances may indicate, you are *developing faith* in the *promise* of God. And when you have faith, living and growing, then God promises that whatever you ask according to His will shall be done unto you. The reason most people do not get their answers to prayer is that, as in the case of tithing, they *prove* their lack of faith by refusal to obey God. They distrust and disbelieve God. Such people are not pleasing God, because it takes faith to please Him.

Where Your Heart Is

Not only is tithing a good test for faith, to see whether you will trust God to supply your every need, but it is

also indicative of where your heart is. "Where your treasure is, there will your heart be also," said Jesus (Mat. 6:19-21). By giving your treasure to God, toward His Kingdom, you are seeking *first* the kingdom of God and His righteousness. And the promise of Jesus, you remember, is that if you seek these *FIRST*, all the other things that you need in this life will be added (Mat. 6:33).

Thus by proving your faith by your works, you are developing Christ's faith in you. You learn to trust God *without doubting*. You are actually *living* by faith! Each successive time your faith is put to the test you strengthen it, increase it so that you are able to believe greater and greater promises and overcome increasingly serious problems. It becomes gradually more natural to possess faith without wavering, because whenever faith might have wavered, you are put to the test and strengthened!

Faith is like the grain of mustard seed that by nature becomes sturdier with each passing day. No wind of circumstance causing doubt can root it out of our hearts. With faith exercised, you no longer doubt when some material circumstance seems to indicate that God has failed. You need never look to the outward appearance, but live as though, through patient endurance, you continually expect the promise. Only when you quit living by your trust and faith in God will doubts overtake you.

The promises of God are absolute because God can not lie. But you must fulfill the conditions by a living faith in God. By obeying God and proving that you *know* what He promised He *will perform*! Cast *all* your cares upon God for He cares for you (I Peter 5:7).

As you would like to know more about faith, be sure to write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's two FREE booklets on faith, entitled "What is Faith?" and "What Kind of Faith is Required for Salvation?"

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?" The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon THE PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read THE PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

Why You Have Financial Worries—God's Financial Law

You may be under a CURSE! Here are facts you probably didn't know about your income!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

FINANCIAL worries seem to plague us all! IT JUST DOESN'T MAKE SENSE!

When you stop to think about it, never in the history of this world were any nations so rich as the English-speaking and the western European nations today! Our peoples possess more developed resources and national wealth than any people *ever* had before.

Yet nearly every one of us is engaged in a constant STRUGGLE to make ends meet. Financial worries seem *constantly* to bear us down—rob us of real happiness and joy! WHY SHOULD THIS BE?

There is a reason! YOU CAN BE FREE from financial worry!

What Most People Don't Know

Let me tell you something you probably *don't know* about your income. If there is anything people are jealous of, it is the money they earn. They usually work hard for it. And they want full freedom in deciding for themselves what they do with it.

People say: "What I earn is MINE—I can do what I please with it!" But *is* the money you earn really *your own*? Don't be too sure. Listen to FACTS about your income you probably haven't known!

What you earn *is not yours!*

The man who says, "What I do with the money I earn is nobody's business!—I produced it—it belongs to *me*," is mistaken.

What you earn by work performed, by services rendered, from investments made, is *not yours*—not any of it—that is, not UNTIL!—and I will have to explain that "until."

There are two prior claims on your income. One, of course, is taxes.

But the *first* is GOD'S claim. You probably never realized this fact before—but it *is* a fact. God Almighty the living CREATOR-RULER of the universe *claims it all*—every dollar—every pound—every franc—every mark. Your Maker who gives you the very air you breathe tells you it *all* belongs to Him, not to you!

But didn't you *earn* it? Didn't YOU produce it?

Not exactly! Everything produced—

money, and the things that money can buy—comes out of the earth. You didn't produce the earth! GOD created *that!* You merely applied certain energy in thinking and in physical action to that which GOD created and owned. And where did the ENERGY you expended come from? YOU didn't create or supply it—you merely UTILIZED what GOD created and supplied. God created even your thinking processes.

God Almighty created not only MATTER, but all force and energy. God set them in *motion*, in the laws of physics and chemistry—He created the human mind; He supplies even the ENERGY used in thinking and acting. Yes, ALL has come from GOD! It is God who SUSTAINS, preserves in motion, guides and directs, all the forces and energies. God is not merely a creator of the long ago! God is the sustaining, directing, living RULER over all, TODAY! It's a simple FACT that, after all, it was GOD'S LABOR of original thinking and planning and creating, and of continuous sustaining and directing, that REALLY produces all.

Therefore GOD'S CLAIM to ownership of all you have THOUGHT you produced or earned is VALID. It is PRIOR to yours!

God Almighty says (Psalm 24:1-2): "The earth is The ETERNAL'S, and the fulness thereof; the world, and they that dwell therein." These inspired words are repeated in the New Testament in I Corinthians 10:26.

God Almighty OWNS this earth and everything that exists or lives upon it! " whatsoever is under the whole heaven is mine," claims God in Job 41:11.

Turn to Deut. 10:14: "Behold, the heaven and the heaven of heavens is the ETERNAL'S thy God, the earth also, and all that therein is." And in Ex. 19:5, God says: "All the earth is MINE."

"If I were hungry," says God (Ps. 50:12), "I would not tell thee: for the world is MINE, and the fulness thereof." "For every beast of the forest is MINE, and the cattle upon a thousand hills" (verse 10).

Yes, even the money—even the gold and silver: "The silver is MINE, and the gold is MINE, saith the ETERNAL of hosts" (Hag. 2:8).

DARE any man deny this claim of

God? God's claim STANDS! Admit, then, *your* income BELONGS to GOD! It's HIS to do with as HE wills.

How God's Law Regulates It

But God is a God of love. *He knows* your need. God is concerned about you. He has your interest and welfare in mind. Therefore God has made A LAW respecting that portion of HIS WEALTH which *your* thinking, and *your* labor has extracted and worked upon.

Get this fixed thoroughly in your mind. Your wages, your salary, your profit, your income BELONGS TO GOD, not to you. Probably you never realized this before. This may seem like a new idea to you. But it is *not* an idea—it *is* a fact!

So God, the rightful OWNER of your income, has MADE A LAW respecting its disposal and its use.

God's LAW respecting what you earn is in fact a DEAL He has made with you. He allows you to work on HIS EARTH, to use a part of the earth, or what is in it, or on it, to utilize its forces and energies, and to extract from it food, materials, supplies, wood, metals, oils, coal,—or to work on or with that which others have extracted from the earth, in manufacturing, distributing, buying, selling, investing—whatever may be your occupation or job or profession—and so, whether you have realized it or not YOU HAVE BEEN WORKING IN PARTNERSHIP WITH GOD.

The farmer or gardener may plant seed, plow, and expend his labor in raising food. But WHO supplied the SOIL? WHO created the living process that makes the seed sprout and grow? Who sends the rain, or provides water for irrigation? Who set the sun in the sky and causes it to shine and warm the earth? Who causes the plant to drink out of the soil the minerals, vitamins, and good elements, and to grow into the vegetable, the grain, or the fruit? Did YOU perform this part of the business of raising the food you eat?

I think when we sit down and really THINK, we shall see that God supplies about NINE parts of everything man makes or produces, and man's thinking, planning, and working supplies only

about ONE part. But God does not take nine-tenths of the proceeds, or the income. He doesn't take even eight-tenths, or seven, or even three or two tenths. God is GENEROUS. God has reserved for HIS use only *one* little tiny tenth of what is produced out of His earth thru His forces and energies!

God takes only ONE tenth. And *after* you have been honest in PAYING God's tenth to God's chosen representative, then—AND NOT UNTIL THEN—God has decreed that the other NINE tenths becomes legally YOURS!

THAT'S GOD'S LAW!

Not a penny of what you earn, or a penny's worth of the value of what you produce, is YOURS—it ALL belongs to God to do with as HE directs. God has legally directed that after you have honestly paid Him the one little tenth He requires for His work, then the other NINE tenths He gives to you. Then, and not until then can you rightfully claim OWNERSHIP over that nine tenths.

When we get our thinking straight—when we get UNDERSTANDING—when we stop to realize HOW MUCH of what we have was *provided by* GOD—then we realize how LOVING, how GENEROUS, how solicitous for our welfare God is.

The CURSES and BLESSINGS

But that's only *part* of the story.

What does God want with that first TENTH? How does He use it? He requires that small fraction of what is produced out of HIS earth for the purpose of disseminating to the people HIS MESSAGE of THE WAY OF LIFE *that will free them from fears and worries*, give them peace of mind and happiness, give them joy and success and LIFE ETERNAL!

Yes, even this tenth which God withholds for His use is expended for HUMAN GOOD! For proclaiming His GOSPEL of Peace, and happiness and joy and salvation! For letting people know God will heal them when they are sick—that God will deliver them from every trouble—supply their every need! Give them Eternal Life!

THIS UNHAPPY WORLD IS STARVING FOR THAT KNOWLEDGE! THIS WORLD IS UNDER A CURSE because it has *robbed God* of His money and His wealth, and thereby withheld *from itself* the knowledge of WHY it is in chaos—WHY it is at war—WHY there is no real *peace*—WHY it finds life empty and fruitless, full of suffering and unhappiness, frustration and death!

All of God's laws are for MAN'S GOOD!

Obedience to God's laws brings BLESSINGS! When we violate His laws, we bring CURSES upon ourselves!

Even the true Christians—the Spirit-begotten sons of GOD—need to cry out

to God for HELP, for DELIVERANCE. In this world today, even those who TURN to the ways of God suffer from the common violations of mankind as a whole. But there IS help. There IS deliverance! In Psalm 34:19 we read: "MANY are the afflictions of the righteous: but the ETERNAL delivereth him out of them all." And in the 18th verse we read: "The ETERNAL is nigh unto them that are of a broken heart; and saveth such as be of a contrite spirit."

If we want that prayer answered—if we want the BLESSINGS of God, and not the curses of transgression—THE WAY is to FORSAKE *our* ways, and *our* thoughts, and return to GOD'S ways.

How to Have More

Throughout the Scriptures, both Old and New, God makes it A LAW that the first tenth of every individual's income shall be paid to GOD thru His own called and chosen ministers—for the purpose of PROCLAIMING HIS GOSPEL MESSAGE!

That LAW has always been in force and effect, and we find Abraham, 400 years before Moses, paying the TITHE, or the first TENTH of his income to God's High Priest. Four hundred years later, when the LEVITICAL priesthood started under the Law of Moses and the Old Covenant, we find THE TITHING LAW continued thruout that dispensation, too. During that period God commanded the people to pay the tithes to God's ministers for that dispensation—the Levites.

And in Hebrews 7 in the NEW Testament, God shows us that, since the priesthood is changed to that of JESUS CHRIST, there is also made a CHANGE in the law respecting tithes—not an *abolition* of that law, but a CHANGE, so that tithes are now paid to the ministry of Jesus Christ for the GREAT COMMISSION of proclaiming HIS GOSPEL—the very Gospel CHRIST preached—to the WORLD TODAY! In I Cor. 9 the Apostle Paul is inspired of God to instruct us that God has ORDAINED that the NEW Testament GOSPEL ministry of Christ shall be financed exactly as the Levitical priesthood of the Old covenant—by the TITHES and free-will offerings of the people. More of the Scripture teaching and LAW of tithing at a later time.

GOD'S OWN FINANCING SYSTEM is making possible this very WORK of GOD in proclaiming the GOSPEL Christ preached TO THE WORLD on the WORLD-WIDE program, The WORLD TOMORROW! Hundreds are writing in asking, HOW can you send out this powerful broadcast to the world, without ever asking for money—HOW can you publish a magazine of world-wide circulation, WITHOUT SUBSCRIPTION PRICE?

The plain, simple, straightforward answer is, THIS is the work of *God*, and it is sponsored and endowed ONLY BY GOD ALMIGHTY, thru FAITH,—and it is financed and conducted GOD'S WAY, as God directs IN HIS WORD! God has simply laid it on the hearts of enough scattered individuals—many of them belonging to NO denomination or religious organization, others belonging perhaps to MANY churches or denominations, to PAY GOD'S TITHE and give generous offerings to GOD thru His called and chosen servant whom He uses, and thru whom He speaks! Frankly, I don't understand it myself—I'm a human being like you,—and THIS is the doing and the work of GOD!

But now I want to show you more of the BLESSINGS for OBEDIENCE, and for HONESTY in money matters with GOD, and the curses for neglect or disobedience.

When you pay tithes you are not GIVING God anything. They are not YOURS to give. The tithes BELONG to God. They *never* were yours! You PAY your tithes—or rather, God's tithes. They belong to Him, and He says YOU ARE STEALING when you take them.

God says to us thru Malachi: "Will a man ROB GOD? Yet you have robbed me. But ye say, 'Wherein have we robbed thee?'" And God answers, "IN TITHES AND OFFERINGS. Ye are *cursed with a curse*: for ye have ROBBED me, even this whole nation" (Mal. 3:8-9).

UNDERSTAND THIS: All wealth is produced out of GOD'S EARTH. Do you realize God *adds* His part to this partnership? It is GOD who sends the rain and the sunshine. God has a thousand ways of making what *you do* PAY OFF BIGGER!

When you work diligently in this partnership to produce all you can, when you are honest with your Senior Partner—God—in paying Him HIS PORTION of the proceeds, then God works *with you*, blesses your effort, causes the partnership to produce and earn more. He promises repeatedly in the Bible to PROSPER the tither. The tither has FAR MORE retaining his honest nine tenths than the man who cheats God and robs himself of God's blessing in this partnership. It's a *blessing*, OR a curse, depending on YOU!

Let me give you one actual experience.

One Man's Experience

I was intimately acquainted with a large-scale vegetable farmer in the state of Oregon. One spring the Santiam river overflowed its banks. His year's crop, and those of his neighbors, already planted and growing, were flooded. His friends offered condolences and deepest

(Please continue on page 13)

WHY World Chaos?

The real CAUSE of this world's ills and of your individual troubles is little understood. Here is the reason—and the ONLY solution.

by Roderick C. Meredith

IN SPITE of earnest attempts to bring about a lasting peace—WAR still looms ahead. With the emergence of the hydrogen bomb—the possibility of *global destruction* is now a *reality*!

Although we are warned that the only solution is *world government*—all attempts at really achieving this objective have *failed miserably*.

WHY?

Why also, are the individual lives of people the world over increasingly filled with anxiety, frustration, and suffering? Newstands and bookstores are well stocked with the written ideas of *men* on how to achieve "peace of mind" and the "happy life" so many long for. But the increase in suicides, in broken homes, in "mental breakdowns" is alarming. Psychologists, social workers, and church leaders have all attacked the problem. *But people are NOT finding the answer.*

The Cause

When Jesus Christ was here on earth nineteen hundred years ago, He knew what the *ideas of men* would lead to in years to come. When His disciples asked Jesus what signs would precede his second coming, He told them: "Take heed that no man deceive you. For many shall come in my name, saying I am Christ; and shall *deceive many*" (Mat. 24:4-5).

First, then, would be false ministers who would come in Jesus' name—claiming to represent Him—but who would *deceive* the MANY through their false teachings. Next, Jesus foretold a state of *war* and finally *world war* followed by *famines, pestilences*, and increasing *earthquakes* (verses 6 and 7).

Then would come a period of persecutions upon God's people, culminating in a period of general strife and *tribulation* brought on by man's evil devisings (verse 9 to 21).

Jesus knew that in the end time men would be groping in the dark for the *way to peace*, but would be on the verge of *human annihilation*. "Except those days should be shortened, there should *no flesh be saved*" (verse 22).

This *same Jesus* in His written Word, the Bible, has revealed the CAUSE for this state of *world chaos*. Later in this same prophecy (Mat. 24:37), Jesus said, "But as the days of Noah were, *so shall also* the coming of the Son of man be."

What were men doing in Noah's time that brought on the terrible destruction then?

Genesis 6:12 gives us the answer: "And God looked upon the earth, and, behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted HIS WAY upon the earth."

Carnal men had used their own *human reason* and had departed from *God's way* upon the earth. This brought on *world destruction*. Jesus said the *same* conditions would prevail just before His second coming.

In His second letter to Timothy, the apostle Paul warned that "in the last days perilous times shall come" (II Timothy 3:1). He then enumerated some of the vices men would have. He described them as "having a *form of godliness*, but denying the *POWER* thereof" (verse 5).

How well this description fits our "Christian" society of today. Men have developed certain religious *forms*, but by their words and deeds alike they *deny* that God Almighty, the Creator of heaven and earth, has any real *POWER* to intervene in world affairs and *act*.

Is God unreal to you? He is to most people. Or else they think that God has gone "way off" somewhere. That is why they deny His *power* and *authority* to direct the affairs of this world, and to govern our individual, private lives.

As Paul wrote of the pagan philosophers of his day, "Even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a reprobate mind, to do those things which are not convenient" (Romans 1:28). Even so today, men like to forget about God when they make their plans for peace. They do not seek His guidance in their conferences. They do not study His Word for the answer.

As in the days of Noah, men are stumbling and bungling their way to *DESTRUCTION*. They have rejected and corrupted *God's Way* upon the earth.

How It Began

The key to how man's troubles developed is given by the apostle Paul, as he continued his second epistle to Timothy. He warned Timothy to preach the Word, "for the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine; but after their own lusts shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall turn away their ears

from the truth, and shall be turned unto fables (II Tim. 4:2-4).

Paul *knew* that men would corrupt his teachings and the teachings of Christ—and be turned to *fables*. False prophets would come and *pervert* the way of *PEACE* which Jesus proclaimed.

Christ came preaching the gospel of the kingdom, or *government*, of God. He said, "The time is fulfilled and the kingdom of God is at hand: *repent ye*, and believe the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15).

In Old Testament times, the Israelites had regarded the heathen nations as "dogs," and had often been commanded by God to destroy them out of their land. But Jesus Christ revealed the spirit of God's will and enunciated the principle of *all international law*.

He said: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. **BUT I say** unto you, *Love* your enemies, *bless* them that curse you, *do good* to them that persecute you, and *pray* for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Mat. 5:43-44).

WHY have so-called "Christian" nations rejected this plain scriptural teaching? Why have men, individually and collectively, continued to resort to *violence* and *bloodshed* as the supposed way to happiness and peace?

It is because nearly all men—yes, probably YOU too, are ignorant of the fact that God is *Supreme Ruler*, and is only *permitting* humans to rule themselves *their* unhappy way in order to teach them an everlasting lesson.

The book of Daniel records a number of instances when God struck down the greatest kings on earth at that time to teach them that He alone is the over-all Ruler of this earth. In Daniel 5:21, king Belshazzar is reminded of how his grandfather, Nebuchadnezzar, was driven out and punished "till he knew that the *most high God* RULED in the kingdom of men, and that he appointeth over it whomsoever he will."

Almighty God, then, by virtue of being the *Creator*, is also the Supreme RULER of this earth. Although in His purpose He is permitting men to do so for a time, puny, mortal men have *no right or authority* to institute anything contrary to God's will.

But how do we know God's will? How does He rule?

God Is Lawgiver

Christ said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4). Paul tells us in Ephesians 5:17, "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but *understanding* what the will of the Lord is."

God's will is revealed in His written Word, the Bible. And the Bible reveals not only that God is Ruler, but that He is Supreme Lawgiver as well. "There is *one lawgiver*, who is able to *save* and to *destroy*" (James 4:12).

Christ continually taught obedience to God's spiritual law. He said, "For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled" (Read Matthew 5:17-19). When a young man came to ask Jesus the way to be saved, He told him, "If thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*" (Mat. 19:17).

God's law is the *way* to both *personal* and *international* peace and happiness. James was inspired to write: "So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the *law of liberty*" (James 2:12). Keeping God's law *liberates* us from the terrible burden of sin and woe that is the lot of most people today. If entire nations would obey it, we would be free from the curse of war and international strife for all time.

Yes, there is only ONE true Lawgiver, and that is God. Jesus Christ came preaching *obedience* to the laws of God's kingdom. He gave us the principle of God's spiritual law in regard to *international law*. He pointed the *only* true way to PEACE.

But, as Paul prophesied, men have been "turned unto fables." They have *rejected* God as their Ruler and as Supreme Lawgiver. The nations of the world are going to have to *suffer* to learn their lesson. They are unwilling to learn that the real CAUSE of this world's ills is *disobedience to the Laws and the Rule of God*.

But *you* can escape the terrible suffering that lies ahead—if you really want to.

What You Should Do

If you sincerely want to find God and come under His special protection through the chaotic times ahead, you will, first of all, have to be willing to CHANGE from your present way of living. If you are *not willing* to pay that price, you may as well stop reading this article right now and learn your lesson by *suffering* with the rest of the world.

But *if* you see the "handwriting on the wall"—*if* you have been brought to the place where you realize that something is terribly *wrong* with the way most of this world has been living

—and *if* you are willing to really open up your mind and heart and see if *you*, personally, ought to *change* some of your ideas, beliefs, and practices—then you may escape the impending tribulation on this world.

Make no mistake about it! When Jesus Christ said that in these end times human beings would *completely destroy themselves*—"there should *no flesh* be saved"—He meant *exactly* what He said. There are HORRIFYING times just ahead such as this world has never dreamed of. Men are going to reap the *awful penalty* of defying the inexorable laws of God and corrupting His way upon the earth. These things will soon be a *reality!*

If you are to escape this, your willingness to *change* and to REPENT must be *just as real*. The time for "kidding ourselves" about obeying God is long past.

But you may as yet be uncertain of *exactly* how you are violating the ways and laws of God. That is only natural in this world of mixed-up and divided church denominations and of confusing human ideas.

You must begin to re-examine all of your present beliefs. *Study* the Bible as you never have before—asking God *fervently* to guide you into the *truth*. When you have discovered Truth through the pages of the PLAIN TRUTH and through "The WORLD TOMORROW" broadcast, *study* the articles and compare them, and the broadcasts, with your Bible. Be sure to "*prove* all things" (I Thes. 5:21). Don't believe what *any* man or organization says except as you find their teachings confirmed in your Bible. But be willing to accept *correction* and *reproof*. God's true servants are *commanded* to use His word to show you your sins (II Tim. 4:2).

Be *serious* about the business of giving your life to God. Perhaps later you will wish to be *baptized* as the outward sign that you are willing to *repent* and to *bury* your old "self" which goes contrary to God. Then you have the promise of receiving God's Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38), and of becoming His begotten son. Only then can you be assured of God's protection during the awful times ahead. And prophecy shows that a HORRIFYING time of global destruction, starvation, misery, and *death* lies just ahead!

Remember that the very *chaos* around us shows that most men have lost sight of the true God. This world is plunging to its DOOM. So be in *dead earnest* about really finding the true way of obedience to God so you may be protected by Him as your own Father, and inherit eternal life in the glorious *world tomorrow*.

"*Watch* ye therefore, and *pray* always, that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things that shall come to pass, and to stand before the son of man" (Luke 21:36).

Prophesied to Happen

(Continued from page 4)

and he set Ephraim before Manasseh." (Gen. 48:18-20).

Thus, the promises are no longer collective, possessed jointly. Jacob here was prophesying as to the blessings of each, individually. As we have seen from the preceding chapter, the numerous seed is to become "a nation, and a company of nations." Now we see that the "nation," to become truly GREAT, is to spring from the seed of Manasseh the son of Joseph. The "Company of Nations" is to grow out of Ephraim. TOGETHER the boys were to grow into a great multitude. Notice that, before dividing the promises, this dying prophetic blessing indicated plainly that the descendants of these lads should remain TOGETHER, and TOGETHER grow into a great multitude, then becoming separated, Manasseh becoming a GREAT NATION, and Ephraim a still greater COMPANY OF NATIONS.

Here, then, is still another detail of the future national characteristics of these people. We must *not* look for the fulfillment among the sons of Judah. The promise of a future GREAT NATION, and a COMPANY OF NATIONS, together great for multitude, rich in national material prosperity, possessing the "gates" of the earth's other nations, applies solely to these lads and the tribes which sprang from them. And remember that, far from having the appearance of the Jew, these lads were half-blood Egyptians!

We might add here, too, that the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh *NEVER* became such in ANY sense in the times of Bible history. Some might suppose the house of Judah was the nation, and the Ten Tribes the Company of nations. But NONE of these promises went to Judah. Nor were they to be fulfilled in any of the other tribes, save Joseph's double-portion, the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh!

It was Ephraim who was to become the "Company, or multitude, of nations," and Manasseh who was to become the great single nation. And these promises never were fulfilled in them, in times of Bible history.

If these promises ever have been fulfilled, we must look for their fulfillment between the close of Bible history and the present!

Prophecy for TODAY!

While still in the spirit of prophecy, Jacob called his twelve sons together to tell them what their posterity should become "IN THE LAST DAYS."

Here are prophecies which should assist us in identifying the tribes of Israel TODAY—for surely these are the LAST DAYS! We shall here take space to con-

sider only the destiny of Judah and of Joseph. Joseph's descendants were actually divided into TWO tribes, Ephraim and Manasseh, and usually are called by those tribal names instead of the name "Joseph." The fact that these tribes are here spoken of as "Joseph" plainly indicates that the prophecy applies jointly to Ephraim and Manasseh.

"And Jacob called unto his sons, and said, Gather yourselves together, that I may tell you that which shall befall you IN THE LAST DAYS

"Judah, thou art he whom thy brethren shall praise: thy hand shall be in the neck of thine enemies; thy father's children shall bow down before thee. Judah is a lion's whelp: from the prey, my son, thou art gone up: he stooped down, he crouched as a lion, and as an old lion; who shall rouse him up? *The sceptre shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver (margin, ruler's staff) from between his feet, until Shiloh come; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be*" . . . (Gen. 49:1, 8-10).

Regarding Joseph, the combined Ephraim-Manasseh tribes, at this present day, Israel prophesied: "*Joseph is a fruitful bough.*" Here is pictured the Birthright promise of multitudes in fulfillment. "Even a fruitful bough by a well; whose branches (margin, *daughters*), run over the wall."

In other words, in the last days we are to find the children of Joseph a *numerous people*, a great nation and a company of nations, whose daughters, or children, shall "run over the wall"—that is, run over, or past, the nation's boundary.

In other words, be a COLONIZING PEOPLE! We shall see that these descendants of Joseph, possessing these birthright promises—to become numerous, to colonize, thus spreading to the "north and the south, and east and the west," until they encircle the globe, to possess the "gates" of enemy nations—never returned to Jerusalem from Assyria, where they were driven with the Ten Tribes in 721 B.C., and were never again mixed with the Jews from that time!

Here are promises and prophecies which never have been fulfilled by the Jews, by the Church, by the American Indian, or other fanciful counterparts of modern Israel. But they ARE FULFILLED today, if the Word of God is to stand!

CHAPTER III THE DAVIDIC COVENANT

AFTER the death of Jacob and his twelve sons in Egypt, their children grew in four hundred odd years to a population probably between three and six million in that land.

Then God raised up MOSES, fitted him in a special way to lead these children of Israel out of the bondage that had come to them in Egypt.

When they reached Mt. Sinai, in the peninsula wilderness, God made a covenant with them establishing them as a NATION—*His* nation—among the kingdoms of the world. Their government was theocratic, with the civil, as well as the spiritual and religious laws, given direct from God. God Himself was their king and He ruled them by a system of Judges.

Israel's First King Was GOD!

God was Israel's only King! Israel was BOTH church and state.

In Acts 7:38, in the New Testament, we are told that the Israelites formed the CHURCH in the wilderness. The name "Congregation" of Israel used throughout the Old Testament has the same meaning exactly as the word "Church" in the New.

Israel, consequently, had more than one set of laws. God gave Israel a two-fold form of government. The Congregation, or Church, was given ritualistic laws—animal sacrifices, meat and drink offerings, carnal or fleshly ordinances.

But Israel also was a CIVIL government and as such God established civil officers and civil laws—statutes and judgments. The one great central code of law, basis for both Church and civil government—the over-all SPIRITUAL CODE—was the TEN COMMANDMENTS, spoken by God direct to all the Congregation, written with the very finger of God in tables of stone.

For several generations after leaving Egypt, God was their King! This history is found thru the books of Moses, Joshua and Judges.

Each tribe kept separate by itself, but together they formed ONE NATION in much the same manner as the United States is one nation composed of several states. Each tribe occupied its own land, or district.

The Levites became the priestly tribe, mingling throughout the other tribes, having no inheritance in the land and no separate territory (except for cities) of their own. To offset this, however, the children of Joseph were divided into TWO tribes—Ephraim and Manasseh—thus leaving twelve distinct and separate tribes, each occupying its own territory or province, *in addition to* the Levites who were sprinkled among the tribes.

All these years the Birthright and the Sceptre remained within the one nation—the Birthright, of course being handed down thru the tribe of Ephraim, the Sceptre with Judah.

The children of Israel were human, even as you and I. They continually

grumbled and complained. Soon they became dissatisfied with GOD as their King and demanded that a *man* should be their king like the Gentile nations around them. So, today, we want to be like the non-Christians around us instead of conforming strictly to the ways of God as we are instructed in His Word! Human nature has ever been thus.

When the elders of Israel came to Samuel demanding a man be made their king, it naturally displeased Samuel, their prophet. But the Eternal said: "Hearken unto the voice of the people in all that they say unto thee: for they have not rejected thee, *but they have rejected ME, that I should not reign over them* howbeit yet protest solemnly unto them, and show them the manner of the king that shall reign over them" (I Sam. 8:4-9).

Saul was their first human king. He refused obedience to God and was finally rejected. His dynasty ceased with him. His son did not reign in his stead. That is HOW God rejected him. He and his entire family were cut off!

David's Dynasty Forever!

David succeeded Saul. David sat on the *Eternal's throne*. David's son Solomon succeeded him, also sitting on the Eternal's throne. "Then Solomon sat on *the throne of the Eternal* as king instead of David his father" (I Chron. 29:23. See also II Chron. 9:8).

I wish here to impress another special point. Before Saul, the Eternal had been king over Israel. These human kings were sitting upon the Eternal's throne. The Eternal—"LORD"—IS Jesus Christ who was WITH the Father before the world was (John 17:5 and 1:1-2, 14). Jesus is both the "ROOT" and the "OFFSPRING" of David (Rev. 22:16). As the "Root," the throne was His before David was born. David merely sat upon the Eternal's throne. Secondly, as David's lawful fleshly son, this same throne shall once more become His right by inheritance, continuing David's dynasty. And so, when Christ returns to earth, David's throne will doubly be His right!

Now we come to a seemingly incredible fact—fantastic—almost unbelievable, but *true!* While David was king, God made with him a perpetual covenant, unconditionally, which God cannot and will not break!

This covenant is even more amazing, and less understood, than the unconditional covenant with Abraham!

I want you now to plant firmly in mind the specific nature and character of the covenant the Almighty made with David. For it is a vital link in the purpose and mission of CHRIST—an important KEY to Bible UNDERSTANDING!

In II Samuel 23:1,5, we find: "Now these be the last words of David . . . 'God hath made with me an *everlasting covenant*, ordered in all things and *sure*.'" In other words, a covenant that shall endure forever, and CANNOT FAIL!

Turn back to the seventh chapter of II Samuel for more specific details. God gave David this covenant promise at a time when David was much concerned over the Ark of the Covenant dwelling in a tent. David wanted to build a great Temple at Jerusalem.

"And it came to pass that night, that the Word of the Lord came unto Nathan, saying, 'Go and tell my servant David, Thus saith the Lord, "Shalt thou build me an house for me to dwell in? . . . When thy days be fulfilled, and thou shalt sleep with thy fathers, I will set up thy seed after thee, which shall proceed out of thy bowels (Solomon), and I will establish the kingdom. He shall build an house for my name, and I will establish the THRONES of his KINGDOM FOREVER. I will be his father, and he shall be my son. If he commit iniquity, I will chasten him with the rod of men, and with the stripes of the children of men: but my mercy shall not depart away from him, as I took it from Saul, whom I put away before thee. And *thy house and thy KINGDOM shall be ESTABLISHED FOREVER* before thee: *THY THRONES SHALL BE ESTABLISHED FOREVER*.'" (II Sam. 7:4-5, 12-16).

Notice carefully these points:

1) David's throne was set up and established with Solomon, David's son.

2) The throne—David's throne (v. 16)—was established FOREVER in Solomon (v. 13). Observe that this nowhere says that when Christ comes, God will establish it in HIM forever. It says it was to be established FOREVER in Solomon.

3) What if Solomon, or the children of Israel, disobey? Would that cancel this covenant? Verses 14-15 plainly say that if they commit iniquity, God will chasten them *with the rod of MEN*, but will NOT break this covenant. The throne shall go on FOREVER just the same!

4) Notice particularly, in case of disobedience, God will NOT take the throne away AS He took it from Saul. How did He take it from Saul? Saul's *dynasty* ended! No son of Saul ever again sat on the throne. But Solomon's *dynasty* would not end. The punishment for disobedience would be chastening at the hands of MEN.

5) If, once established, as God did establish this throne with David and with Solomon, David's throne ceased from existence, EVEN FOR THE LENGTH OF ONE GENERATION, could we say it

had been established FOREVER as God here promised?

Here is the fact as little realized as any in the Bible! Almighty God made an absolutely binding—just HOW binding we shall see!—covenant with David, UNCONDITIONALLY guaranteeing that there should never be a single generation from that time forward when there would not be a descendant of David, in UNBROKEN DYNASTY, sitting on David's throne, ruling over Children of Israel! It was the promise of continuous, unbroken DYNASTY—all generations forever—that was guaranteed.

This is hard to believe! Yet God promised and *unalterably guaranteed* just that! There were no conditions. Nothing that would happen could prevent it. The sins of the people were not to change it. The promise stood immutable!

The END of the Record

But WHERE is that throne, today?

The history of the Bible records a line of kings, all descendants of David in continuous dynasty, down to King Zedekiah. But in the year 586 B.C. this last recorded king ever to sit on this throne was captured by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon, his eyes put out, taken to Babylon, and there he died in a dungeon!

More, all his sons were slain! All the nobles of Judah at that time were killed, so that none could remain to sit on the throne of David! The Chaldeans destroyed Jerusalem, burned the Temple and the king's houses, took the Jews a captive, slave people to Babylon. There is certainly no record of any Jewish king from that day to this.

Some will say, however, that this throne is established today in Christ. But Christ *has not yet taken over this throne!* He pictured Himself as the nobleman who went to a far country (heaven) to GET for Himself a Kingdom, and, having received the right to the Kingdom, TO RETURN. Jesus Christ will not sit upon the throne of David until His Second Coming to earth, yet future!

But what of the nearly 600 years between King Zedekiah, and the birth of Christ? WHO was reigning over Israelites, sitting on David's throne, during THOSE generations? If no one, then we must conclude God broke His Word, or the Scripture has been broken!

The answer is a mystery more astounding than any tale of fiction! The BIBLE reveals it, step by step.

But, then again, some will point to the expression "I WILL establish," and conclude that possibly God meant that, AT the Second Coming of Christ, He would establish this throne forever. And still that will not do. From whom

would Christ take *over* David's throne, if that throne has ceased these centuries to exist?

But now I give you a Scripture that ends all speculation as to WHEN this throne was *established*: "Hear me, thou Jeroboam, and all Israel. Ought ye not to KNOW that the Eternal God of Israel GAVE the kingdom over Israel to David FOREVER, even to him and to *his sons* by a covenant of salt?" The margin says, "PERPETUAL Covenant." (II Chron. 13:4-5).

This shows the establishing of the throne was THEN *in the past!* God GAVE, DID GIVE, this kingdom to David, and HIS SONS, continuously forever.

Now turn to the 89th Psalm.

Established for ALL Generations

"I have made a covenant with my chosen, I have sworn unto David my servant, Thy seed (DYNASTY—Moffatt) will I establish forever, and build up *thy throne to ALL GENERATIONS*." (Psalms 89:3-4).

Note it!—this throne, established forever, was built up to *all generations*. God *did* establish that throne, beginning with David and Solomon. We have a record of it for a number of generations—as far as King Zedekiah, 586 B.C.

It was established to ALL generations, continuously, perpetually, FOREVER! That term "all generations" certainly must include those generations from Zedekiah to the birth of Christ. WHO OCCUPIED THAT THRONES DURING THOSE GENERATIONS?

Christ is not sitting on that throne now, but on the throne of Almighty God in heaven (REV. 3:21).

So what about *this present generation?* WHERE is there a descendant of David *today* sitting in unbroken line of kings on the throne of David, ruling over *children of Israel?*

Can one wonder that men like Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in the Bible? They saw these unconditional promises. But they could not see how they had been kept. But, if we have patience, WE SHALL SEE!

But to continue, in the 89th Psalm, beginning, now with the 28th verse.

"My mercy will I keep for him for evermore, and my covenant shall stand fast with him. His seed (DYNASTY—Moffatt) also will I make to endure forever, and *his throne as the days of heaven*."

Consider, a moment, the meaning of this word "seed" in this sense. Moffatt's translation in Modern English, available at nearly all libraries and book stores in cities, translates it, properly, "DYNASTY." This "seed" is not the general population of the children of Israel. This is speaking of DAVID'S seed, or David's sons. His sons

were to be **KINGS**. David was of the Tribe of **JUDAH**, possessor of the **SCEPTRE**, not the Birthright, promise. His "seed," therefore, was the **KINGLY** line. So, literally, it means his **DYNASTY**.

Now **WHILE** his throne is enduring thru all generations, as the days of heaven, consider the next verse: "If his children forsake my law, and walk not in my judgments; if they break my statutes, and keep not my commandments; then will I visit their transgressions with the rod and their iniquity with stripes. Nevertheless my lovingkindness will I not utterly take from him, nor suffer my faithfulness to fail. *My COVENANT will I not break* not alter the thing that is gone out of my lips. Once have I sworn by my holiness that I will not lie unto David. **HIS SEED** (dynasty) **SHALL ENDURE FOREVER**, and *his throne as the sun* before me. It shall be established forever as the moon, and as a faithful witness in heaven" (Psalm 89:28-37).

This is speaking of generations when his children may **DISOBEY** and forsake God's law. Some today are excusing their inability to locate this throne by saying the covenant was **CONDITIONAL**—that because the Children of Israel disobeyed God, the covenant was broken. But what does the Almighty say? If the children disobey and transgress, they shall be **PUNISHED** for their transgression—but **NOT** by the breaking of God's unconditional covenant with David!

Some say Christ took over the throne. But He didn't. Instead He was crucified, resurrected, and ascended to heaven. He **SHALL** come, and soon now, to sit upon that throne as the King of kings and Lord of lords. But **HOW** can Jesus Christ, when He returns again to earth, take over and sit upon a throne that long ago ceased to exist?

Will Christ Come to a Non-existent Throne?

IF the throne of David ceased with Zedekiah, then it does not exist today. And if it does not exist, *how shall Christ sit upon a non-existent throne?* See Luke 1:31-32. And, since it was to continue through *all* generations, how about those many generations between Zedekiah and the birth of Jesus?

"Thus saith the Lord; If ye can break my covenant of the day, and my covenant of the night, and that there should not be day and night in their season; *then* may also my covenant be broken with David my servant, that he should not have a son to reign upon his throne." (Jer. 33 Verses 19-21). Day and night still continue. Does David's throne?

But what do *the people say?* "Considerest thou not what this people have spoken, saying, The two families which the Lord hath chosen," (Israel and Judah), "he hath even cast them off? Thus

they have despised my people, that they should be no more a nation before them." (Verse 24).

But what does **GOD** say? "Thus saith the Lord," (verse 25), "If my covenant be not with day and night, and if I have not appointed the ordinances of heaven and earth; **THEN** will I cast away the seed of Jacob, and David my servant, so that I will not take any of his seed to be rulers over the seed of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob."

Strong words, those! Unless you can stop this old earth from turning on its axis—unless you can remove the sun and moon and stars from heaven, says the Almighty, you cannot prevent Him from keeping His covenant to maintain *continuously, through all generations, FOREVER*, from the time of David and Solomon, a descendant of David in one continuous dynasty on that throne!

He would not necessarily rule over **ALL** the House of Israel, or of the Jews—but at least some of them, and enough to form a nation.

Remember again, the **SCEPTRE** promise, which includes this line of kings until it culminates in **CHRIST** at His Second coming: "The Sceptre *shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver* (margin, ruler's staff) *from between his feet, UNTIL SHILOH* (Christ) **COME**; and unto Him shall the gathering of the people be." (Gen. 49:10).

The Test of Bible Truth

Has the Sceptre departed from Judah? *Has* the throne ceased? Or does it, as God so bindingly promised, exist today so that Christ can take over and sit upon a living, going, continuous throne when He comes?

The infallibility of the Bible is at stake! God's **WORD** is at stake!

Why Financial Worries?

(Continued from page 8)

sympathy. But this farmer was not at all perturbed.

"I have **TWO** promises from God," he said, simply. "One, that **ALL** things work together for **GOOD** to those who love the Eternal. The other, that God has promised to protect and prosper the **TITHER**. I love the Eternal—I serve Him and keep His commandments. I am honest and faithful in paying tithes and giving offerings. Of course I can't see, right now, how this apparent calamity can work for good—but I *trust* God, so I'm praising Him for the good that's coming."

Well, the waters went down—all his neighbors crops were washed away. But to everybody's astonishment this man's crops were not harmed! So many other farmers had their crops destroyed that

there was a rise in price on the market, and my friend received a much larger than average income that year! **GOD** was his business partner!

Now, finally, notice God's **PROMISE!**

How You Can Prosper

Continuing in Malachi 3, verse 10: "Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse that there may be meat in *mine* house, and **PROVE** me herewith, saith the Eternal of hosts, if I will not **open** you the windows of heaven, and **POUR YOU OUT** A **BLESSING**, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. And I will rebuke the devourer (crop-destroying pest) for your sake . . . neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, **SAITH THE LORD** of hosts."

That's **GOD'S PROMISE!** Why don't **YOU** put God to that test? Why don't **YOU PROVE HIM** to see if He doesn't increase your income so that your own **NINE** tenths God gives you will be much larger than your **WHOLE** income now, that your **FINANCIAL WORRIES WILL BE ENDED!**

"But I can't afford to tithe," complains one man. God's answer is, can you afford to **STEAL** from God? Pay **HIS** tenth—and watch God increase both His tenth and your **NINE** tenths. That's the way to get bills paid, to get **OUT** of debt, to be **FREE** from financial worries.

A Spiritual Blessing

Tithing is a **FINANCIAL** law—not a spiritual law. Notwithstanding, the biggest blessing of all is the **SPIRITUAL** blessing! Jesus said, "Where your treasure is, *there* will your heart be also." That, too, is a law. If your treasure is **IN** this world's amusements and pleasures—if your money—pardon me,—God's money—is being spent on yourself, and your selfish desires, even including your needs; then your whole heart and interest is in **THIS** world and not in the Kingdom of God.

Jesus also said, "Seek ye *first* the **KINGDOM OF GOD**," and all these *material* needs shall be added to you. Seek **GOD** and you'll prosper. The vast majority of people **NEVER** **KNEW** these facts. The times of this **IGNORANCE** God overlooks, but now **COMMANDS ALL YOU WHO KNOW THIS TRUTH** to *repent*, and to begin to pay God's tithe regularly.

The way to **GROW SPIRITUALLY**, and to enjoy the glorious **HAPPINESS** of God's grace is to put God's tithe and your offerings—your treasure—into **GOD'S WORK**. Seek with all your heart the **KINGDOM OF GOD** and financial troubles will soon vanish; your life will become happy, **FULL** and **ABUNDANT** with **ASSURANCE OF LIFE ETERNAL** thru Jesus Christ our Lord!

Counterfeit Baptism Today?

How churches today have been deceived into practicing an ancient PAGAN baptism is the startling revelation in this installment of Dr. Meredith's forthcoming book.

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

Part V

IN THE previous four articles we learned that *soon* after the flood Nimrod founded CIVILIZATION at BABYLON. IT REJECTED THE RULE OF GOD.

After Nimrod's death, Semiramis, his wife—for purposes of prestige and power—developed a religious system at BABYLON. IT DID NOT RECOGNIZE GOD AS CREATOR AND SUPREME RULER OF THIS EARTH. Knowing the Savior was to come, she formed a false religious system. She palmed herself off as the virgin mother and MADE HER DEAD HUSBAND THE RESURRECTED SAVIOR. She counterfeited Christ's teaching over 2000 years in advance. She gave them an *unscriptural* twist.

With these she deceived the world, and Satan has continued to use these SAME TEACHINGS to deceive the earth down to this very day! God speaks of today's world as "Babylon the Great"; for in all points it still remains basically the same as ancient Babylon in spite of Christ's birth.

Why Pagans Had Counterfeit Baptism

We have seen that through the Babylonian Mysteries, Satan distorted the Truth about the God-head and the Holy Spirit as spoken of in the first chapter of Genesis. He distorted the facts concerning himself, and Adam and Eve in the garden of Eden. Was he going to turn Noah and his experiences also to his benefit after the flood? We will see that he did just this in making the forgiveness of *past* sins a *mechanical* process through a counterfeit baptism.

Some churches consider water baptism so important that unless an infant is baptized, it cannot "go to heaven" (Bishop Hay's *Sincere Christian*, vol. i, p. 363). Says Hislop in *The Two Babylons*: "The doctrine of Rome is that ALL WHO ARE CANONICALLY BAPTIZED, HOWEVER IGNORANT, HOWEVER IMMORAL, if they only give implicit faith to the church, and surrender their consciences to the *priests*, ARE AS MUCH REGENERATED AS EVER THEY CAN BE This doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration also is essentially *Babylonian* Hindoos who have never opened their ears to Christian instruction are as familiar with the term and idea as ourselves" (p. 132).

The BRAHMINS in India make it their

distinguishing boast that they are "twice born" men, and that as such they are *sure* of eternal happiness. Among the ancestors of the people of Mexico, Scandinavia, and other countries the same practice was followed (*Asiatic Researchers*, vol. vii, p. 271). "In certain sacred rites of the heathen," referring to the worship of Isis (the Egyptian goddess corresponding to Semiramis), and Mithra (the Greek god corresponding to Nimrod as Mediator), "the mode of *initiation* is by baptism" (Tertullian's *De Baptismo*, vol. i, p. 1204). The term "initiation" clearly shows that it was to be the *Mysteries* of these divinities that he referred.

How did it come about that the Babylonians themselves adopted such a doctrine of regeneration by baptism? The Babylonian Mysteries of Semiramis, as usual, give the answer. In these mysteries, the commemoration of the flood, the ark, and the grand events in the life of Noah, were *mingled* with the worship of the Queen of Heaven (Semiramis) and her son, Tammuz (the "resurrected" Nimrod). Noah, having *lived in two worlds*—both before and after the flood—was called "Diphues," or "twice-born." He was represented as a god with two heads looking in opposite directions, the one old and the other young (Bryant's *Mythology*, vol. i, pp. 84, 319).

Semiramis saw it was necessary to identify her dead husband Nimrod with the great patriarch Noah who was Father of all. In this way he would thus become the Supreme One, the Father of all the deified "mighty ones." He would obtain the *authority* and *respect* essential to constitute him the head of the great system of idolatry that the apostates inaugurated.

The period in which Osiris (the Egyptian term for Nimrod) was in his coffin was precisely the same as Noah was in the ark—a whole year (*Apolodorus*, vol. i, pp. 356, 257). Osiris at the great and solemn festival, called "The Disappearance of Osiris," was looked upon as dead and buried when put into his ark or coffin. When he came out again, that new state was regarded as a state of "new life," or "regeneration" (Plutarch's *De Iside et Osiride*, vol. ii, pp. 356, 367).

"Whatever primitive truth the Chaldean (Babylonian) priests held, they utterly perverted and corrupted it. They

willingly overlooked the fact, that it was 'the RIGHTEOUSNESS OF FAITH' which Noah 'had *before*' the flood that carried him safely through They led their votaries to believe that IF THEY ONLY PASSED THROUGH THE BAPTISMAL WATERS and the penances therewith connected . . . , it would entitle them . . . to a new birth The WHOLE SPIRIT OF PAGANISM WAS OPPOSED TO THE SPIRITUALITY of the patriarchal religion and indeed intended to make it void, and DRAW MEN UTTERLY AWAY FROM IT, WHILE PRETENDING TO DO HOMAGE TO IT." Hislop's *Two Babylons*, pp. 137, 141).

THE ANCIENTS, KNOWING THE TRUTH CONCERNING BAPTISM, THAT IT SYMBOLIZED A RIGHTEOUS STATE OF MIND, MADE IT A MECHANICAL PROCESS!

Here again we see the Devil deceiving mankind. He says to man in effect: "Follow your *own* idea and ways, not God's and you can have your past sins forgiven." God says, "*Repent*, and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). *Turn* to the ways God commands! "In vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Matt. 15:9).

What does this mean?

Most churches today have been deceived into employing a *counterfeit* water baptism. True, some large denominations use the true scriptural *form*—immersion. But a counterfeit *looks like* the genuine. The deception lies in that which is associated with it—the *spirit* in which it is done.

BAPTISM IS DONE TODAY IN THE SAME SPIRIT IN WHICH IT WAS DONE IN ANCIENT BABYLON—many *are* baptized BUT their ACTIONS AFTERWARD DO NOT SHOW THEY HAVE figuratively BURIED THE OLD SELF IN BAPTISM. THEY CONTINUE IN THEIR OLD PRACTICES.

FORGIVENESS of SIN Made BONDAGE

We have seen that the *Devil's* deceptive *doctrine* practiced by many churches to this day is that man does *not* have to *change* from his old evil ways and then be baptized to obtain forgiveness of *past* sins. The question now arises: "What sort of perverted doctrine does he have regarding the forgiveness of sins we commit unwillingly *after* we have been baptized?"

(To be continued)

The Resurrection

(Continued from page 2)

occur at the SAME TIME OF DAY, three days later, THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST OCCURRED, not at sunrise, but IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, near sunset! Startling as this fact may be, it is the PLAIN BIBLE TRUTH!

If Jesus rose at any other time of day, He could not have been three days and three nights in His grave. If He rose at any other time of day, He failed to prove, by the only sign He gave that He was the true Messiah, the Son of the living Creator! Either He rose near the END of a day near sunset, or else He is not the Christ! He staked His claim on that one and only sign!

So a time-honored tradition must be shattered! Let us praise God for His TRUTH which has been preserved through the dark ages, so that the true light may now shine forth if our hearts and minds are still willing to receive it! Praise His name! Do you LOVE the TRUTH as it is revealed, or despise it and love the traditions you have heard? "Whosoever despiseth the Word shall be destroyed"! Let us say with David, "How precious also are THY thoughts unto me, O God!"

What Day Was the Resurrection?

Now which DAY OF THE WEEK was the resurrection day?

The first investigators, Mary Magdalene and her companions, came to the sepulchre on the first day of the week (Sunday) very early, while it was yet dark, as the sun was beginning to rise, at dawn (Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).

Now here are the texts most people have SUPPOSED stated the resurrection was at sunrise Sunday morning. But they do not say that!

When the women arrived, the tomb was already OPEN! At that time Sunday morning while it was yet dark—JESUS WAS NOT THERE! Notice how the angel says, "HE IS NOT HERE, BUT IS RISEN!" See Mark 16:6; Luke 24:3; John 20:2; Matt. 28:5-6.

Jesus was ALREADY RISEN at sunrise Sunday morning! Of course He was. He rose from the grave IN THE LATE AFTERNOON, near SUNSET!

And since we know the resurrection was just shortly prior to that Sunday morning, and that it occurred in the late afternoon of the day, we now may know THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST OCCURRED LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The Sabbath day ended at sunset. It was late on that day, before the beginning of the first day of the week. It was not, then, a Sunday resurrection at all—it was a Sabbath resurrection!

Did Christ Fulfill His Sign?

Now all this is based on the supposition that Jesus did fulfill His only SIGN of being three days and three nights in the grave. All our evidence is based on the claims of Jesus BEFORE His crucifixion. But some of the higher critics and doctors of divinity tell us that Jesus made a mistake—that He was only in the tomb HALF AS LONG as He expected to be. Let us have PROOF as to whether He did spend the exact amount of time in the grave He said He would.

Notice that in Matt. 28:6, THE ANGEL OF THE LORD gives this testimony, which we now present as EVIDENCE! "He is not here: for He is risen, AS HE SAID." And He certainly did not rise AS HE SAID unless He rose at the precise TIME that He had said! So we have the proof of the ANGEL OF THE LORD, recorded in the sacred WORD OF GOD that Jesus did fulfill His sign—He was three days and three nights in the earth—He did rise Sabbath afternoon, and not Sunday morning!

Another proof that Christ was in the grave the full length of time He expected to be is found in I Cor. 15:3-4.

"For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES; And that He was buried, and that He rose again the third day ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES."

His death and burial were ACCORDING TO THE SCRIPTURES—NOT CONTRARY TO THEM.

The THIRD DAY following His Wednesday burial was the Sabbath; THREE FULL DAYS spent in the grave ended Saturday afternoon just prior to sunset, not Sunday morning.

Which Day Was the Crucifixion?

It is not difficult now to determine the day on which Jesus was crucified. Counting back three days from the Sabbath when He rose, we come to Wednesday, the fourth or very middle day of the week.

Jesus was crucified on WEDNESDAY, the middle day of the week; He died on the cross shortly after 3 p.m. that afternoon, was buried before sunset Wednesday evening. Now COUNT the THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS. His body was Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday NIGHTS in the grave—THREE NIGHTS. It also was there through the daylight part of Thursday, Friday, and Saturday—THREE DAYS. He rose Saturday—the Sabbath—late afternoon, shortly before sunset, at the same TIME OF DAY that He was buried! And Sunday morning at sunrise He was NOT THERE—HE WAS ALREADY RISEN!

It is significant that in Daniel's prophecy of the "Seventy weeks" (Dan.

9:24-27), Jesus was to be cut off "in the midst of the week." While this prophecy has the application of a day for a year, so that this 70th week became a literal seven years, Christ being "cut off" after three and a half years' ministry, as He was, yet it is significant that He was also "cut off" ON THE MIDDLE DAY OF A LITERAL WEEK!

WHAT Sabbath Followed the Crucifixion?

Now we come to an objection some may raise, yet the very point which PROVES this truth! Perhaps you have noticed that the Scriptures say the day AFTER the crucifixion was a SABBATH! Hence, for centuries, people have blindly assumed the crucifixion was on Friday!

Now we have shown by all four Gospels that the crucifixion day—Wednesday—was called "the preparation." The preparation day for THE SABBATH. But for WHAT Sabbath?

John's Gospel gives the definite answer: "It was the preparation OF the PASSOVER."

"For that Sabbath day was an HIGH DAY" (John 19:14, 31).

Just what is a "HIGH DAY"? Ask any Jew! He will tell you it is one of the annual holydays, or feast days. The Israelites observed seven of these every year—every one called SABBATHS! Annual Sabbaths, falling on certain annual calendar dates, and on different days of the week in different years, just like the Roman holidays now observed. These Sabbaths might fall on Monday, on Thursday, or on Sunday.

If you will notice the following texts, you will see these annual holydays were all called Sabbath days: Lev. 23:24; Lev. 16:31; Lev. 23:39; Lev. 23:15; Lev. 23:26-32.

Notice Matthew 26:2: "Ye know that after two days is the passover, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified." And if you will follow through this chapter you will see that Jesus was crucified ON THE PASSOVER!

And what was THE PASSOVER? It was the ancient day of Israel commemorating their deliverance from Egypt, and picturing to them the crucifixion of Christ and their deliverance from sin. In the twelfth chapter of Exodus you will find the story of the original Passover. The children of Israel killed the lambs, and struck the blood over the door-posts and on the side-posts of their houses; and wherever the blood had thus been applied, the death-angel PASSED OVER that house, sparing it from death. Following the Passover, was a holy convocation or annual Sabbath.

Observe the dates: "And in the fourteenth day of the first month is THE PASSOVER of the LORD. And in the fif-

teenth day of this month is the FEAST" (Num. 28:16-17).

The Passover lamb, killed every year on the 14th of the first month called "Abib," was a type of Christ, the Lamb of God that taketh away the sin of the world. Christ is OUR PASSOVER, sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

JESUS WAS SLAIN ON THE VERY SAME DAY THE PASSOVER HAD BEEN SLAIN EVERY YEAR! He was crucified on the 14th of Abib, the first Hebrew month of the year! And this day, the PASSOVER, was the day before the feast. And it was the preparation day for THE FEAST day, or annual highday Sabbath, which occurred on the 15th of Abib. THIS Sabbath might occur on four days of the week. Frequently it occurs even today, and is observed by the Jews, on THURSDAY. The Jews observed this "high-day" Sabbath on Thursday, 1952 and will in '55, '59 and '62.

And the Hebrew calendar shows that in the year Jesus was crucified, the 14th of Abib, Passover day—the day Jesus was crucified—was WEDNESDAY. And the annual Sabbath was THURSDAY. This was the Sabbath that drew on as Joseph of Arimathea hastened to bury the body of Jesus late that Wednesday afternoon. THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE SABBATHS THAT WEEK!

Honest Objections Examined

Someone is sure to notice Mark 16:9, thinking this text says the resurrection was upon Sunday. But if you read the whole sentence, it does not say that at all. The expression "was risen" is in the perfect tense. What was Jesus' condition early the first day of the week? Does it say he "was rising" or that He "did rise" from the grave? No, according to the King James translation, early the first

day of the week, at the time He appeared to Mary Magdalene, He WAS RISEN. Of course He was! He had risen the late afternoon before; so naturally He WAS RISEN Sunday morning. The text does not in any way refute the scores of other texts we have given.

Another passage that might confuse is Luke 24:21: "... and besides all this, today is the third day SINCE THESE THINGS WERE DONE." "These things" included all the events pertaining to the resurrection—the seizing of Jesus, delivering Him to be tried, the actual crucifixion, and, finally the setting of the seal and the watch over the tomb the following day, or Thursday. Study verses 18-20, telling of "these things," and also Matt. 27:62-66. "These things" were not completed until the watch was set, Thursday. And the text says Sunday was the third day SINCE THESE THINGS were done. These things were not done until Thursday, and Sunday truly was the third day since Thursday. But it was not the third day since FRIDAY, so this text could not prove a Friday crucifixion.

The Final Proof

There is yet one final clinching PROOF of this amazing truth.

A vital text proving that there were two Sabbaths in that week has been obscured by almost every translation into English. Only Ferrar Fenton's version has this point correct.

Turn to Matthew 28:1. In the common versions it says, "In the end of the Sabbath," or more correctly, "after the Sabbath." Notice that both of these renderings use the singular—Sabbath. *But in the original Greek the word is in the PLURAL.* Fenton renders it correctly by saying, "After the SABBATHS," although the remaining part of the verse he has

not translated quite correctly. In a footnote to this text, he says, "*The Greek original is in the plural, 'Sabbaths.'*"

According to Mark 16:1, Mary Magdalene and her companions did not buy their spices to anoint the body of Jesus until AFTER THE SABBATH WAS PAST. They could not prepare them until AFTER this—yet after preparing the spices THEY RESTED THE SABBATH DAY ACCORDING TO THE COMMANDMENT! (Luke 23:56).

Study these two texts carefully.

There is only one possible explanation: After the annual high-day Sabbath, the feast day of the days of unleavened bread—which was Thursday—these women purchased and prepared their spices on FRIDAY, and then they rested on the weekly Sabbath, Saturday, according to the Commandment! (Exodus 20:8-11).

A comparison of these two texts PROVES there were TWO Sabbaths that week, with a DAY IN BETWEEN. Otherwise, these texts contradict themselves.

The PLAIN TRUTH concerning the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ is fast sweeping the world. Thousands are coming to see it. This truth has been published in the Sunday School Times. The Oxford University Press, in their "Companion" Bible, publish a table proving this newly revealed truth of the Bible.

Though the truths of God's Word became trampled upon and LOST through the dark ages of superstition, apostacy, and counterfeit doctrines; the ORIGINAL TRUTH has been carefully preserved in THE BIBLE ITSELF. We can STUDY to show ourselves approved unto God, and seek out and FIND these long-hidden truths IN THE BIBLE.

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