

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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Is There a HELL?

If hell does exist, where is it—and can those who are there ever get out?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WILL THOSE in hell *leave* hell at the time of the resurrection—or are they confined eternally to hell, so that they shall be UNABLE to take part in the resurrection?

What did Jesus mean when He said in John 5:28-29: "The hour is coming, in the which all that are in their graves shall hear His voice, and shall come forth . . . they that have done evil, unto the RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT."

If "they that have done EVIL"—the UNSAVED—shall come forth in the RESURRECTION OF JUDGMENT, what is the connection between that resurrection of the UNSAVED, and their being in an eternal hellfire?

It's about time we took this question out of hiding, and took a good look at it! *What* is the TRUTH?

The Common Idea of HELL

First, what IS the generally accepted common belief in our western world about hell? Here's the terse and brief summation of this popular belief, which I quote from the *Encyclopedia Americana*:

" . . . As generally understood, hell is the abode of evil spirits; the infernal regions . . . whither lost and condemned souls go after death to suffer indescribable torments and eternal punishment. . . . Some have thought of it as the place created by the Deity, where He punishes with inconceivable severity, and through all eternity, the souls of those who through unbelief or through

the worship of false gods has angered Him. It is the place of divine revenge, untempered, never ending."

Now where, and how, did this popular belief about hell originate? The *Encyclopedia Americana* states further: "The main features of hell as conceived by Hindu, Persian, Egyptian, Grecian, and Christian theologians are essentially the same." The Western religious leaders through the Middle Ages borrowed the doctrine of eternal torture from the pagan philosophers. Certain writers of the Middle Ages had such tremendous influence on the Christian-professing world, that their writings and teachings came to be generally accepted and believed, until it became the doctrine of the Christian-professing world. Among these influential writers were Augustine, and Dante Alighicri.

Some years ago, I ran across a book in a large library, titled "*Dante, and His Inferno*." It summed up the history of the Christian-professing doctrine of *hell*. This factual history is rather amazing! Dante lived, 1265 to 1321 A.D. Only a few months ago I stood in front of his villa, where he lived in Rome—now one of the historic places of Rome. Dante wrote a tremendously popular book, titled "*Divino Comedy*," in three parts—Hell, Purgatory and Paradise.

From the Pagans

Now I quote from this book of history: "Of all poets of modern times, Dante Alighieri was, perhaps, the great-

est educator. He possibly had a greater influence on the course of civilization than any other man since his day. . . . He wrote, in incomprehensible verse, an imaginative and lurid account of a dismal hell—a long poem containing certain phrases which have caught the attention of the world, such as, '*all hope abandon . . . ye, who enter here!*' This had a tremendous impression and influence on the popular Christian thought and teaching. His '*Inferno*' was based on Virgil and Plato."

Dante is reported to have been so fascinated and enraptured by the ideas and philosophies of Plato and Virgil, pagan philosophers, that he believed they were divinely inspired. Here is an article on VIRGIL, from the *Americana*: "VIRGIL, pagan Roman poet, 70-19 B.C. Belonged to the national school of pagan Roman thought, influenced by the Greek writers. Christians of the Middle Ages, including Dante, believed he had received some measure of divine inspiration."

PLATO was a pagan Greek philosopher, born in Athens, 427 B.C., a student of Socrates. He wrote the famous book, *Phaedo*, on the immortality of the soul, and *this* book is the real origin of the modern belief on the immortality of the soul. I have before me, a copy of the "*Phaedo*," and in the introductory pages, I read this about Plato: "In fact, he acknowledges . . . three *kinds* of gods: superior, inferior, and intermediate."

There is the general statement of the popular belief about hell, and where that belief came from—actually from the imaginations of pagans who know not God!

What About the Millions of Heathen?

Now, before we examine this idea to see whether it is TRUE, I want you to consider one or two FACTS: See where this concept of hell, if true, leads us! On this earth are some two and a quarter billion people. The most POPULOUS lands are China, India, and other parts of Asia, and in spite of missionaries from the west, actually *more than half* of all the people on this earth *have never so much as HEARD* the ONLY name by which men may be SAVED—the name of Jesus CHRIST! Now is there some *other* way by which men may be saved? Your Bible says there is NOT!

That means that BILLIONS of people on this earth have lived, and DIED, without ever having known anything about Christian salvation—without SAVING KNOWLEDGE—never having heard the ONLY name by which men may be saved? Now think what that means! If all *unsaved* go immediately to hell at death—the hell commonly believed in—then more than HALF of the people who have lived on this earth have been consigned there—and they are there, now, without ever having been given so much as a CHANCE to escape it!

Ask yourselves candidly, do you believe THAT is the plan by which an all-wise, all-merciful, loving GOD is working out His purpose here below?

Now *what is the TRUTH?*

We face this alternative: Either the Holy Bible is the inspired WORD OF GOD, by which the CREATOR *reveals* the TRUTH on the subject, or else we must fling up our hands and confess WE JUST DON'T KNOW—we are *ignorant* on the question—because no one has ever COME BACK from such a hell to tell us about it, and SCIENCE knows nothing about it. We must believe what the BIBLE says, or we can believe *nothing*, if we are rational and honest!

Does the BIBLE say anything about "hell fire?" Didn't Jesus say something about hell fire? Yes, He did!

Hell Fire in the Bible

He said, in the passage most often quoted: "And if thine eye offend thee, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with one eye, than having two eyes to be cast into hell fire: Where their worm dieth not, and the fire is not quenched. For every one shall be salted with fire, and every sacrifice shall be salted with salt" (Mark 9:47-49).

Now exactly what *is* this hell fire?

This word "hell" is an English word. Mark wrote, originally, in the Greek language. The word originally inspired, which Mark actually wrote, was the Greek word "Gehenna" which certainly does refer to FIRE.

But in *most* passages in the New Testament where the English word "hell" is found in our English translations, the original Greek words was a *different* word, "hades"—which does NOT refer to FIRE at all, but has an altogether different meaning.

Remember we merely read a TRANSLATION of the Bible from its *original* languages. A leading Bible Dictionary, called *A Dictionary of the Bible* edited by James Hastings, a leading authority in such technical matters, says this:

Incorrectly Translated "Hell"

"In our Authorized Version the word 'hell' is unfortunately used as the rendering of *three distinct words, with different meanings*. It represents, (1) the 'sheol' of the Hebrew Old Testament, and the 'hades' of . . . the New Testament . . . It is now *an entirely misleading rendering*, especially in the New Testament passages. The English revisers, therefore, have substituted the original Greek word 'hades' for 'hell' in the New Testament. In the American revision the word 'hell' is entirely discarded in this connection. . . . The word 'hell' is translated (2) as the equivalent of the Greek word 'tartaros,' (II Peter 2:4; Jude 6), and, (3) as the equivalent of the Greek word 'gehenna.'"

The original Hebrew word "sheol," and the Greek "hades" mean the same—the GRAVE, and these original words are so translated in many places. "Hell" is an old English word, and 344 years ago, when the Authorized Version was translated, the people of England commonly talked about putting their potatoes in HELL for the winter—a good way of preserving potatoes—for the word then meant merely a hole in the ground which was covered up—a dark and silent place—a GRAVE. But PAGAN teachings gaining popular acceptance have caused people to apply to the English word the meaning of "hell" which came out of the imaginations of DANTE.

The Greek word "tartaros" occurs only twice in the New Testament, and does not refer to humans, but the place of fallen angels. Its meaning, translated into English, is "darkness of the material universe," or "dark abyss," or "prison."

And now the Greek word "gehenna." Here is the official DEFINITION of that very Greek word which was inspired by God, and written originally by Mark. I quote from the authoritative HASTINGS *Bible Dictionary*: "Gehenna: The word

occurs twelve times in the New Testament. This term 'gehenna' represents 'the Valley of Hinnom' (Nehemiah 11:30, II Kings 23:10, etc.). The place was . . . a deep narrow gorge in the vicinity of Jerusalem, understood to be on the south side. It is repeatedly mentioned in the Old Testament (Jeremiah 19:6, etc.). It became an object of horror to the Jews, and is said to have been made the receptacle for bones, the bodies of beasts and criminals, refuse and all unclean things. The terrible associations of the place . . . the *fires* said to have been kept burning in it in order to *consume* the foul and corrupt objects that were thrown into it, made it a natural and unmistakable symbol of dire evil, wasting penalty, ABSOLUTE RUIN. So it came to designate the place of future punishment."

Hell—a Place of DESTRUCTION

Gehenna was a place of DESTRUCTION and DEATH—not a place of living torture! Jesus was talking to Jews who understood all about this Gehenna. Utter DESTRUCTION by fire was complete. NOTHING was left, but ashes!

Every text in the Bible translated from this Greek word "gehenna" means *complete destruction*—not living torture—NOT eternal LIFE in torment! YOUR Bible says, in Romans 6:23, "The wages of sin is DEATH"—not ETERNAL LIFE in torture. The PUNISHMENT revealed in the BIBLE is DEATH—the *cessation* of life. Eternal life is the GIFT OF GOD!

Then WHY have we been believing that PUNISHMENT is ETERNAL LIFE? And WHY have we been believing we already *have* eternal life, and don't NEED to come to God through Christ, to receive it as HIS GIFT?

The PUNISHMENT is DEATH. It is the *second* death, from which there shall be no resurrection! The PUNISHMENT is for ETERNITY—DEATH for eternity—ETERNAL punishment—but NOWhere does YOUR BIBLE say anything about the PAGAN teaching of eternal punishment. It's eternal punishment, *not* eternal punishing!

When Jesus spoke of being cast into "gehenna FIRE," He was using this "gehenna" as an illustration of the LAKE OF FIRE, which YOUR BIBLE reveals is to be THE PLACE of this final punishment—this second DEATH. He referred to Revelation 20:14: "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

THAT fire will be much *hotter* than Dante's imaginary HELL! Do people go at DEATH to the fictitious hell of Dante's imagination to be TORTURED by flames of fire *forever*—and then are they to be brought OUT, to go into a JUDGMENT, (Please continue on page 15)

Today's Greatest Religious Hoax!

Do you know that hundreds of years before Christ was born, a false "savior" appeared on this earth? He claimed to be "supernaturally conceived." That man is the one whom the world accepts as its "Savior" today—though it calls him falsely by the name of Jesus!

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

IT COMES as a shock to realize that the professing Christian world is being deluded by a FALSE Messiah—one who has been masqueraded as Jesus Christ.

The apostle Paul knew of this clever deception that would be foisted upon the Church. Here is what he said under inspiration of God:

"I fear, lest somehow, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your thoughts should be corrupted . . . For if he who cometh preacheth *another Jesus*, whom we did not preach . . . or *another gospel*, which ye did not receive"—that is, if any minister comes who preaches about ANOTHER JESUS—a false Jesus whom the apostles did not preach about, or *another GOSPEL*—a different way to ETERNAL LIFE than the way you received from Christ and His apostles—"ye bear well with him"—you accept his false message! (II Cor. 11:3-4.)

Paul was shocked at the fact that Christians in his own day were giving heed to the false doctrines about *another Jesus*—a false Messiah to whom the name of Jesus Christ was appropriated!

A false savior, appeared long before Christ's time and is the one which people today are depending for their salvation! IT IS TIME TO WAKE UP! Bible evidence proves that this is just what has happened!

What Has Gone Before

The inhabitants of the earth just after the flood knew and understood that a Savior was to come (Genesis 3:15), but they did not know WHEN He would come. They were LOOKING and WAITING for HIM!

It was under these circumstances that Nimrod—the world's great leader and founder of civilization after the flood—died (Genesis 10:9-11). Semiramis, his wife—known also as the "Queen of Heaven" (Jer. 44:17, 25)—desired to retain the vast holdings of her dead husband at all costs.

She conceived a daring plan. Her family, even at the death of Nimrod, was considered very unusual because of their great exploits. It was not difficult when she gave notice to the world of that day that one of her several illegitimate children, TAMMUZ (Ezek. 8:14), WAS THE VERY Savior THEY WERE LOOKING FOR!

The world knew that Nimrod had "liberated" them from God's "distasteful" ways. Therefore, after Nimrod had been slain, Semiramis claimed that she miraculously conceived of God and that Nimrod was thus miraculously reborn to her as the "SAVIOR" in the form of her present illegitimate son, Tammuz. TAMMUZ, then, WAS THE "SAVIOR" THEY WERE LOOKING FOR! SEMIRAMIS WAS THE VIRGIN MOTHER! *The world accepted them.*

NIMROD, IN HIS NEW FORM OF TAMMUZ, WAS TO continue TO LIBERATE THE WORLD FROM GOD'S distasteful WAYS, AND WAS TO USHER IN A new WAY—another WAY OF LIFE!—THE WAY OF sin, IF YOU PLEASE!

This Semiramis, the Queen of Heaven, received the adoration of the world through her lie. She became the virgin mother of the "Savior!" Her position over the holdings of Nimrod was thus secure.

Even today, this woman Semiramis—whose Assyrian name was *Ishtar*, pronounced as "EASTER"—is worshipped. The world continues to pay homage to her as mother of *its* "Savior" in the pagan festival Easter.

Because of the fierce opposition of Noah's son Shem, Semiramis was compelled by this circumstance to use SYMBOLS to represent the three members of her family so that the early world after the flood could worship them *secretly*. Thus arose the MYSTERY system, referred to in the New Testament (II Thes. 2:7), by which EASTER and innumerable other pagan customs have been introduced into the church. Those who knew the MEANING of the SYMBOLS knew

whom they worshipped—the outsiders did not.

These three, the husband, the wife, and her illegitimate son, came to be worshipped in many *symbolical* forms, and under many *Babylonian* names. Her system has been perpetuated by monks, nuns and celibate priests down to this day!

PART XI

TODAY'S Religious Confusion from ONE MASKED SOURCE

THE POLLUTION of God's teachings, whether ancient or modern, came from ONE great *masked* source. It is hard to believe—yet it is absolutely true!

It came from *one family*—the family of Nimrod and Semiramis! THE KNOWLEDGE OF THIS HAS BEEN GRADUALLY LOST!

This is how it happened, step by step:

1. At first Semiramis—also called Ishtar or Easter—desired to have the members of her family worshipped openly, but, as we have seen, she was forced by the opposition of Shem to have them worshipped through SYMBOLS.

The *hero worship*, bestowed on Nimrod while he was alive, became transferred to symbolical rites in his honor after his untimely death. The remembrance of her dead Nimrod was so strong and his popularity had been so great that the worship of Nimrod, his Queen of Heaven (Semiramis), and her son Tammuz saturated the whole earth in the time of Semiramis' rule.

The very use of SYMBOLS to represent the human beings that were worshipped did, however, remove the people *one step* from the knowledge of whom they worshipped. The people were not as aware of whom they were *actually* worshipping as they would have been had they not been worshipping them through SYMBOLS!

The point is, the world even then, *af-*

er SYMBOLS were introduced, was not quite as aware that they were worshipping Nimrod's family, although *for a time* it was explained to them. SYMBOLS CLOUDED THE REALIZATION OF WHOM PEOPLE WERE ACTUALLY WORSHIPPING!

The Next Fateful Factor

2. The second great factor which made the people of the earth lose sight of whom they were *actually* worshipping was that the various family groups at the tower of Babel were miraculously given *different* LANGUAGES. *They could not understand what the other family groups were talking about!*

Thus, while each group was actually worshipping the *same* original three persons, ultimately, as they began to spread out upon the face of the earth from this central focal spot close to where their forefather, Noah, had landed the ark, THEY BEGAN TO BELIEVE THEY WERE WORSHIPPING *different* GODS! For the three were bearing DIFFERENT NAMES!

3. Now we come to the third great masking procedure. It was a method which brought to complete perfection the other two *masking* processes. It was a process which has culminated in *completely* blinding the world *today* to the fact that it also is worshipping only three *human* beings—Nimrod, Semiramis, Tammuz.

What is this procedure?

When Christ came, THE DEVIL INSPIRED CHRIST-IAN NAMES TO BE PUT UPON THE RITES AND DOCTRINES WHICH SEMIRAMIS FORMULATED BY WHICH SHE, HER SON, AND HER HUSBAND WERE TO BE WORSHIPPED!

Labeling Pagan Practices by Christian Names

Here is how it happened! The Gentiles all around Christ in His day, were still worshipping the *first* "SAVIOR"—Nimrod. The world in Christ's day was *saturated* with the worship of the "unholy" three. The worship was *attractive*—there was *still* the desire to be "liberated" from the authority of God by *their own* "Savior." Seeing the POWER of Christ manifested through miracles, people wanted to associate themselves with Him. Yet they would not accept Christ's gospel—a *repentance* or TURNING *from their former ways*, NIMROD'S WAYS. They rejected the *only* WAY to obtain eternal life. The people were in a quandary as to what to do about their TWO SAVIORS!

SO, WHAT DID THEY DO? THEY PAID "LIP SERVICE" TO CHRIST BY PLACING "CHRIST-IAN" NAMES ON THE OLD PROCEDURES BY WHICH THE *false* "Savior" WAS WORSHIPPED AND THEY *continued* TO WORSHIP and follow THE *first* "SAVIOR"! *Do you understand?*

OUR WORLD HAS REFUSED CHRIST, THE TRUE SAVIOR and His ways—IT STILL CLINGS TO THE FALSE "SAVIOR and His ways"—"another Jesus"—against which Paul warned (II Cor. 11:3-4). THIS WORLD APPARENTLY WANTS TO LIVE LICENTIOUSLY and DIE OF VIOLENCE, THE SAME AS DID THE FAMILY OF NIMROD WHICH REJECTED THE TRUE GOD AND HIS WAYS! *The world made its great decision at the time the TRUE SAVIOR appeared!* No wonder CHRIST MUST COME A *second* TIME TO SAVE THIS WORLD FROM ITS SINS! (Heb. 9:28.)

Pagan Rites Masquerading as Christian

The procedures for worshipping the counterfeit "Savior" *still* remain and are *observed*, although they bear "lip service" to the name of Christ. Nimrod's birthday on December 25 is still celebrated around the earth although it bears the somewhat Christ-ian name of "Christ-mas." Sun-day—the day of the SUN—*Nimrod's* day—is still observed world-wide, although it is now often called by the name of "Sabbath." Semiramis' sprinkling rite *continues to be used*, although it now falsely bears the Christian name of "baptism."

These pagan practices—falsely labeled "Christian"—are masquerading as the teaching of a "Jesus"—a DIFFERENT Jesus from the One whose life and doctrine is taught in the Bible!

The surface has barely been scratched here in naming all the ways which Semiramis formulated for the worship of her "Savior"—ways which are used by the whole world today to worship Nimrod instead of honoring Christ!

You Are Born into Your Religion

4. There is a fourth factor which comes *naturally* into play and which has aided in hiding from the world today those whom they are *actually* worshipping.

Here is how it works!

Semiramis was forced to introduce symbols for her family so that others could worship them. The worshippers were *at first* told that in adoring these symbols (idols, trees, animals, periods of time, etc.) they were actually worshipping the members of her family.

The priest who told a worshipper what these symbols *actually* represented bore the title of "Peter," which in the Babylonian language means "interpreter" (*The Two Babylons*, page 208). There was a "Peter" in Rome, for instance, who later became confused with Peter the apostle of Jesus.

In time the symbols were *no longer explained*—THE ONCOMING GENERATIONS WERE "born INTO THE FAITH OF THEIR FATHERS"—THEY WORSHIPPED

THEY KNEW NOT WHAT! Their father's old time "religion" was good enough for them. THEY WORSHIPPED THE *first* "SAVIOR" FOR THE SOLE REASON THAT IT WAS THE PATH OF LEAST RESISTANCE—they did not know of any other handy way to worship. THIS IS WHAT PROBABLY HAPPENED TO YOU! YOU WERE PROBABLY *born* INTO YOUR RELIGION!

PEOPLE ARE *not* PROVING THINGS BY THE *Bible* as the Bereans were *commended* for doing (Acts 17:11). People today *unquestioningly* accept the confused denominational teachings of their parents handed down by tradition from generation to generation.

Bible Proof that World Worships False "Savior"

If the world is so saturated with the worship of Nimrod, the counterfeit "Savior," and his family, many ask, "Why doesn't the *Bible* concern itself with the matter?"

This is naturally the thought that enters anyone's mind. Here is the answer:

The worship of Nimrod's family is the *only* false religious system that the *Bible* *does* speak of—it is *that* important! The *Bible* mentions Nimrod (Genesis 10:8-10), his Queen of Heaven—Semiramis (Jeremiah 44:17-19, 25), and Tammuz—the Queen of Heaven's illegitimate son (Ezekiel 8:14) who was supposed to be Nimrod miraculously re-born as the "Savior." Then THE BIBLE EXPLAINS NOTHING ELSE IN THE WAY OF A FALSE RELIGIOUS SYSTEM BUT OF THE *symbolic* idols WHICH STOOD FOR ONE OR THE OTHER OF NIMROD'S FAMILY—the symbols which were conjured up by the mind of Semiramis.

The world has noticed, and marvelled at the great variety of gods which the *Bible* shows were worshipped by the Old Testament people. There *seems* to be no connection between them. *But this is not true.* It is a fact that they all came from ONE source—from that first ruling family of Old Babylon!

Let us now notice IN THE *Bible* how the *world wide* worship of Nimrod, the first "Savior," and of his family caused Israel, the only nation that made any attempt to follow the *true* God, to turn away from Him. MARK WELL THAT THESE THREE—NIMROD, TAMMUZ, AND THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN—and *no others* WERE THE ONES WHOM THE WHOLE EARTH WORSHIPPED. But different names in different lands were applied to them. This was what God referred to when He said the people "went a whoring after other gods" (Judges 2:17).

Abraham and Israel

In Abraham God found a man after the flood who *would obey him.* He asked (Please continue on page 7)

WHY Such Confusion about Water BAPTISM?

by Herman L. Hoeh

TEN YEARS ago the Atomic Age dawned—and with it, the threat of total destruction of human life! It has made people THINK! It has led to a "revival of religion," especially in America and Great Britain.

Never has religion been so much in the news headlines. Yet, startling as it may seem, this "revival" is NOT an awakening to TRUTH!

IT IS MERELY A REALIZATION OF THE HOPELESS CONFUSION into which professing Christianity has sunk!

Time is fast running out. Never before have we so needed God's protection as we do now. But we need to WAKE UP to the sober realization that we will *not* have God's protection unless we FIRST separate ourselves from this quagmire of religious confusion.

It is *urgent* that we really *understand* WHY such confusion exists, and HOW we can disentangle ourselves from it. It is time the TRUTH were known.

Only ONE WAY to Escape Disaster

Jesus commissioned *His Church* to make known the TRUTH—to make known the way of escape from impending disaster—to make known the way to inherit eternal life.

Thousands are realizing for the first time that THIS WORK of God which is spreading the true gospel of the kingdom around the earth is fulfilling that commission: "Go therefore, and disciple all the nations, BAPTIZING them into the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit: *teaching them to KEEP all things whatsoever I commanded you* [the twelve apostles]" (Mat. 28:19).

Notice Jesus' parting commission, as recorded in Mark's account of the gospel of the kingdom: "Go into all the world, and preach the gospel to the whole creation. Who hath believed *and is BAPTIZED shall be saved*; but who hath disbelieved shall be condemned" (Mark 16:15-16).

Baptism is *important!* Jesus said so. It is one of the *conditions* to inheriting the gift of eternal life. It makes a difference to God whether or not we are baptized.

And yet baptism is one of the most misunderstood subjects preached today.

Some denominations refuse to baptize;

some sprinkle; others pour or immerse. Some baptize infants; others wait till children are about 12 years old; and others wait till each individual is adult.

WHY so much confusion about water baptism?

Obviously these contradictory doctrines did not all come from Scripture. It is just as Jesus Christ warned: "But in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commands of men. *Leaving the commandment of God, ye hold fast the tradition of men.* And He [Jesus] said to them, *Ye reject the commandment of God that ye may keep your tradition*" (Mark 7:8-9).

The confusion about baptism is a result of substituting *tradition* for the TRUTH OF GOD. Let's open our minds to understand what Jesus really commands.

New Meaning to CONVERSION

The true gospel gives *conversion* a new meaning. Conversion is not joining a denomination or merely believing in the person of Jesus Christ. That is the drivel of tear-jerking evangelists.

Conversion means a CHANGE, a turning around into the right way to live, instead of following the crowd or doing what seems right to the natural mind. It means a life of OBEDIENCE to God's laws. It means a total *change of behavior*, a new outlook on life, a new viewpoint, a new goal.

Conversion is not accomplished in an hour—it is a lifetime work. It is a process of *growing* to maturity—of learning self-discipline, self-mastery, self-control, patience and love. But you cannot achieve these qualities *alone*. You need God working in and through your mind. You cannot remain in a converted attitude without the continual assistance of the power of God. But how are you going to receive His help?

Notice!

Here is what the apostle Peter shouted to the multitudes on the day of Pentecost: "REPENT and be BAPTIZED"—then what? "and ye shall receive the gift of the HOLY SPIRIT" (Acts 2:38).

The Holy Spirit is the very *life* of God, the nature of God, the power of God, the character and mind of God implanted in your mind *after*, you *repent, believe* and are *baptized*. These are

the conditions to receiving the gift of God's spirit. You must be willing to OBEY. God gives the Holy Spirit "to them that OBEY Him" (Acts 5:32).

Repentance is your *unconditional surrender* to the rule, the authority of God. It means a total change of mind, an admission that you have been living wrong. When God deals with you He *breaks you up totally*—He brings you to heart-felt repentance and godly sorrow which makes you want to quit sinning and begin to obey Him. Repentance makes you want to BELIEVE what God says.

And God says you *must* be baptized if you are going to be saved from sin and live forever!

But *why* does God make baptism a condition to receiving the gift of salvation?

What BAPTISM Means

Baptism pictures a BURIAL, a death of the old self with its desires, appetites and sinful thoughts. It symbolizes a RISING from the watery grave to a new kind of life. "Or are ye ignorant that all we who were baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into his death? We were BURIED therefore with Him *through baptism* into death: that just as Christ was raised from the dead through the glory of the Father, thus we also might walk in newness of life. For if we have been *planted* together in the likeness of His death, we shall be also in the likeness of His resurrection" (Rom. 6:3-5).

Repentance and belief in Jesus Christ, as Savior from our sins, lead us to a new life of OBEDIENCE. *God has therefore commanded baptism not only as a SYMBOL of conversion, but also as a TEST of our obedience!*

Dozens of Scriptures make plain the TRUTH about baptism. As there is not sufficient space in this article for all the Scriptures on water baptism, you should write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, "All about WATER BAPTISM." You have never read anything like it which clears away so much of the confusion that surrounds this tremendously important subject.

But how did the churches become so confused?

(Please continue on next page)

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WATER BAPTISM

(Continued from previous page)

Baptism pictures a *burial* of the old self that we want to be rid of. Baptism therefore means IMMERSION, not sprinkling or pouring.

The word "sprinkle" occurs but seven times in the New Testament, and in every instance it is used in connection with the sprinkling of blood—NOT with baptism. "Pouring" is mentioned many times in the New Testament—but not once as a form of baptism.

Even the *Catholic Encyclopaedia* admits that immersion was the form originally employed. "The most ancient form usually employed was unquestionably immersion . . . In the Latin Church"—the Roman Catholic Church—"immersion seems to have prevailed until the twelfth century. After that time it is found in some places as late as the sixteenth century. Infusion and aspersion"—pouring and sprinkling—"were growing common in the thirteenth century and gradually prevailed in the Western Church." (From article "Baptism.")

Sprinkling and pouring, then, were late innovations of men—not the practice of the inspired apostolic Church of God.

The Startling Answer

The first recorded case of a professing Christian being sprinkled is that of Novatian, who lived at Rome in the middle of the third century after Christ. Of him even Eusebius, a Catholic historian in the days of Emperor Constantine, wrote: ". . . and being supposed at the point of death, [Novatian] was baptized by sprinkling, in the bed on which he lay; if, indeed, it be proper to say that one like him did receive baptism."

Observe that sprinkling was not even then considered a valid form of baptism.

It was the rule of the Catholic Church that "it was unlawful that one who had been sprinkled . . . should enter into any order of the clergy . . ." (*Church History* of Eusebius, bk. VI, chap. 43).

The baptism of infants became a practice in the second century, although many Catholic Church leaders stormed against it. It was not until the 6th century that it became a universal practice. Here is how it happened:

"The administration of baptism to infants was subsequently rendered *compulsory* by an edict of the Emperor Justinian, who reigned from A.D. 527 to A.D. 565. He enacted that such pagans as were yet unbaptized, should present themselves, with their children, and all that appertained to them, in the Church; and that they should cause their little ones immediately to be baptized . . ." (From *The Archeology of Baptism* by Cote, page 120.)

The question you face today is this: Are you going to follow the tradition of uninspired men who long ago reject-

ed the commandment of God, or are you going to *surrender your life to God* and do what He commands you?

Important News!

And now for some important news.

Baptism should never be delayed once you have come to real repentance and faith and are willing to surrender your life unconditionally to the authority of Jesus Christ.

If you have not already understood the TRUTH about baptism, be sure to write for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet which explains dozens of questions and problems that naturally arise. Then, once you have made up your mind to yield to God, and to become a member of His Church—not some denomination, WRITE TO MR. ARMSTRONG *immediately, telling us that you want to be baptized this summer.*

Plans are already being laid for baptizing tours to cover the United States and parts of Europe. Consecrated and (Please continue on next page)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophesies of The WORLD TOMORROW!

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTINENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult local newspaper radio schedules for time and station.

WLS — Chicago — 890 on dial — 10:00 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 11:30 Sunday morning—8:30 Sunday night.

WLW—Cincinnati—700 on dial—Sundays, 10:30 P.M. Central time.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time, 10:15 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.

WRVA—Richmond, Va.—1140 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time.

WCCO — Minneapolis, Minn. — 830 on dial—Sun. 11:00 P.M.

KOA—Denver, Colo.—850 on dial—Sun. 11:00 P.M.

KDKA—Pittsburgh, Penn.—1020 on dial—Sundays, 1:15 P.M.

XELO—800 on dial, every night, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 P.M. Mountain Standard time.)

XERF—1570 on dial (extreme top of dial) Sundays, 7:15 P.M. Central Standard time.

XEG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30 P.M. Central Standard time.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

XERB—50,000 watts—1090 on dial —7:00 P.M. S.T. every night.

KGER—Los Angeles—1390 k.c.—12:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 12 noon Saturday, 2 P.M. Sun.

KBLA — Burbank — 1490 k.c. — 7:30 A.M. daily, 9:30 A.M. Sunday.

KXL—Portland—10,000 watts. 750 on dial—2:30 P.M., Sundays.

KPDQ — Portland — 800 on dial — 8:30 A.M. daily.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. every night.

OTHER MIDDLE WEST STATIONS

KCMO—Kansas City—810 on dial—11:30 A.M. Sundays.

KRMG—Tulsa—740 on dial—9:30 A.M. Sundays.

KXOK—St. Louis—630 on dial—6:25 P.M. Sundays.

WIL—St. Louis—1430 on dial—9:30 A.M. Sundays.

TO ALL OF EUROPE

RADIO LUXEMBOURG—23:30 Mondays, Greenwich time

TO ASIA & AFRICA

RADIO CEYLON

Tuesday: 10:15-10:45 P.M. India-Pakistan Beam and Ceylon Beam.
Wednesday: 11:30 12:00 noon African Beam. 5:15-5:45 P.M. S.E. Asia Beam.

well-trained men, who have an understanding of God's Word and are competent to explain it and qualified to baptize, will plan to visit you this summer.

Be sure to write *immediately*, as these tours need to be planned weeks in advance! Do *not* put off writing until the last minute. (Those of you in Europe who want to be baptized should write to our London address.)

Your decision to surrender totally to God and be baptized is the most important resolution you will ever make.

Religious HOAX!

(Continued from page 4)

him to leave his home country and told him he would make of him a great nation and give him and his offspring forever all the land he saw (Gen. 13:15). "Abraham obeyed" (Gen. 12:1-4). Ultimately, Abraham's twelve grandsons found themselves in Egypt due to a famine in Palestine, and there they became the slaves of the Egyptians (Ex. 1:11).

They were in Egypt—the land which according to *other* evidence was full of the worshippers of the Mysteries (SYMBOLS) of Semiramis. They were among the pagans, and remained captives among them several hundred years. They learned, while there, how to worship the first "Savior"—Tammuz and his "virgin" mother—the Queen of Heaven (Semiramis). They forgot the True God, but God had not forgotten them because of His promise to Abraham.

He led them out of Egypt and promised them He would make them the greatest of nations if they would forsake their idol (SYMBOL) worship and follow Him. If they would not, He said He would punish them severely (Lev., Chapter 26).

Israel Worshipped Counterfeit "Savior"

The Israelites had scarcely started their journey to the promised land when the people called for their old SYMBOLIC pagan gods that they had known in Egypt. Moses had gone up on Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments. In his absence the people said to Aaron, "Make us gods (SYMBOLS), which shall go before us; as for this Moses, this man that brought us up out of Egypt, we know not what is become of him" (Ex. 32:1).

Aaron made them a golden calf to worship, which, as we have shown in

previous installments, was the way the Egyptians mystically worshipped Osiris (Nimrod), their "Savior." This was almost 1500 B.C.

Those who first worshipped the golden calf (Exodus 32:1-4), did so with the full knowledge that they were worshipping the "re-born" Nimrod—Tammuz, the "Savior" in one of his symbolic forms! The calf symbolized the false Savior, as the Lamb symbolizes the true Savior.

EVERY ONE OF THE NINETEEN KINGS THAT RULED OVER THE HOUSE OF ISRAEL WORSHIPPED THE GOLDEN CALF—the symbol of the FIRST "SAVIOR!"

Now continue through the Scriptures.

Do you recall the Europeans who passed through the bonfire in our "Christian" times? Now notice that your BIBLE shows it originates from the worship of Nimrod:

We have previously shown in another installment that *Molech* was also a title applied to Nimrod in one of his idol forms and that in order to "purify" themselves, people, usually children, were made to "pass through the fire to Molech." In Leviticus 18:21, just after they had left Egypt, God warned Israel: "Thou shalt not let any of thy seed pass through the fire to Molech" (Lev. 18:21). "Whosoever . . . giveth any of his seed unto Molech; he shall surely be put to death" (Lev. 20:2).

That this practice was picked up from neighboring pagan nations is evident: "Thou shalt not learn to do after the abomination of those nations . . . that maketh his son or daughter pass through the fire" (Deut. 18:10).

Today the teaching has become the doctrine of purgatorial fires in the next life.

Why Mentioned in Scripture

Now we can begin to see why God named in Scripture an endless array of pagan gods. ALL OF WHOM REPRESENTED THE THREE MEMBERS OF Nimrod's FAMILY! IT IS A VEILED WARNING THAT A WORLD SATURATED WITH THE WORSHIP OF THE FALSE CHRIST WOULD CONTINUE TO WORSHIP THE FALSE "SAVIOR" THEY HAD KNOWN SINCE THE FLOOD—BUT WOULD REJECT THE TRUE SAVIOR AND HIS GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM WHEN HE CAME, EVEN THOUGH THEY WOULD APPROPRIATE HIS NAME FOR THEIR PAGAN CUSTOMS.

Chemosh was the god of the Moabites. God says Israel had forgotten Him and was worshipping Chemosh (I Kings 11:33). Who was Chemosh? He is identified with Baal-peor, Baal-zebul, Mars, and Saturn (*Peloubet's Bible Dictionary*, p. 115). We have shown that Saturn was one name of Nimrod, and Mars, another name as the god of war of the

Greeks. *Chemosh, then, was the Moabite name for Nimrod.*

Solomon, despite his wisdom, built an altar to him (II Kings 23:13). *Even he was misled by this Babylonian worship.*

Israel also joined itself to the worship of the idol BAAL-PEOR which is but another form of the old Babylonian worship of Nimrod (Nu. 25:3). Again in Numbers 31:16, God rebukes Israel for worshipping PEOR, which is the abbreviated name Baal-peor.

A Dead "Savior"

Recall that the true Messiah is often pictured still hanging dead on a cross—whereas he is actually LIVING today.

God complains in Psalms 106:28 that Israel "joined themselves also unto Baal-peor, and ate the sacrifices of the dead"—the dead human Nimrod had been made a living god by Semiramis (*Hilop's The Two Babylons*, p. 69). These people were eating sacrifices offered to Nimrod. God was telling them a dead god could do them no good. The true God is a living God (John 6:57).

BAAL-ZEBUB, the god of Ekron (II Kings 1:3-4), the pagan god of medicine, was none other than Nimrod (*Hilop*, p. 279). Here we see Israel partaking of the Mysteries of Semiramis and worshipping Nimrod in this form also, by depending on healing from him through doctors and drugs. Luke 11:15 shows the real power behind Baal-zebul—it was the "chief of the demons"—Satan.

These are the pagan customs which have passed into the churches as Christian customs. They are labeled with the name of Jesus—but they originated among the pagans so they could worship the FALSE MESSIAH!

Paul warns you today that there is no other way to be saved than through the NAME AND PERSON OF THE TRUE MESSIAH! (Acts 4:12).

(To be continued)

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.

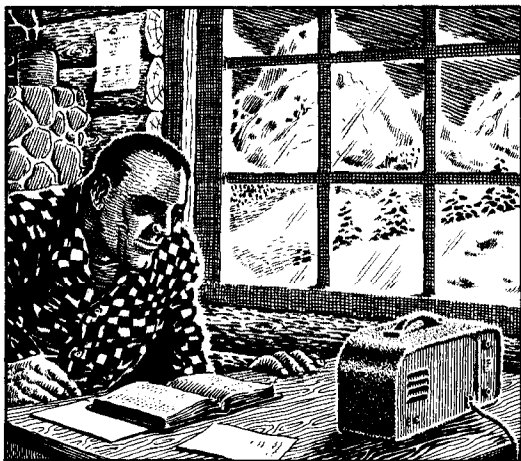
We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

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 riches 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.

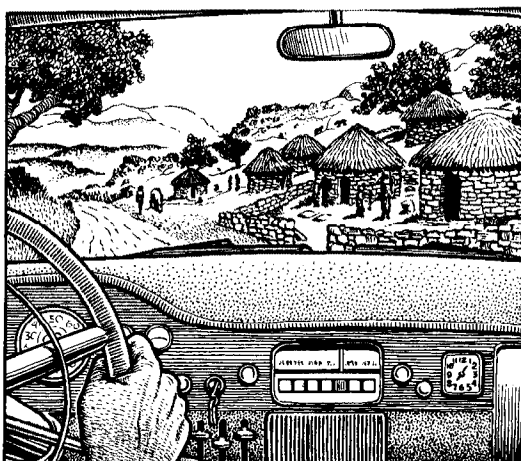
Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. WE must not fail HIM!

"GO Ye into all the WORLD"

In the far-flung corners of the world people listen to Christ's GOSPEL on The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast. Here are actual photographs, while ON THE AIR.



In Alaska—following the broadcast in the Bible



Listening on the car radio in South Africa



Look-out on guard while they listen in Malaya



HERE we show you two pages of pictures — on the right-hand column of each page are photographs of Mr. Armstrong, taken during a broadcast, live *on the air*. By looking from the top down, rather rapidly, you get the effect of a moving picture.

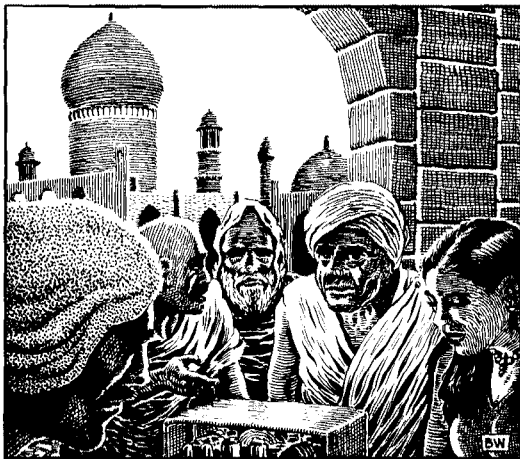
On the left-hand column of each page you see artist Basil Wolverton's illustrations of listeners in many far-off parts of the world, listening as Mr. Armstrong speaks in the studio in Pasadena, California.

We have just added the super-power

radio station covering South Africa, one of the British Commonwealth nations. More than 4 million watts of radio power per week carry the Message WORLD-WIDE. Soon the program goes on TELEVISION, Coast to Coast in the United States.



Listeners to The WORLD TOMORROW blanket the British Isles



Crowding around the community radio in populous India



Secretly gathering to hear the program behind the Iron Curtain





Are YOU under God's PROTECTION?

Don't be too sure of yourself! World suicide looms just ahead! Here are startling FACTS you cannot afford to ignore.

by Roderick C. Meredith

WE ARE living in the shadow of violent *death*. It could come any day or night. Any moment, any time. It could be detonated by the tiniest political spark struck in a far distant land.

This world is teetering on the edge of OBLIVION. Thoughtful men are beginning to *fear*.

But what are they *doing* about it? Have they really discovered the ONLY sure *protection* in these times?

Conscience Soothing

More Americans went to church this Easter than at any time in the history of the nation.

Why?

To get dressed up? To preen? To show off their scrubbed, over-gussied young?

Partly perhaps. But a lot went because they are *scared*.

Of God? No. Of themselves. Themselves collectively. And what they might do to each other if they aren't careful.

When our neighbor meets us coming down the highway at 60 miles an hour—he's the unpredictable. If he wanted to—coming at us at 60 miles an hour—he could give a gentle flick to his wheel and send us both to *eternity*.

That's how dependent we are on each other's whims, decisions and dementias.

Collectively, things are even more scary! This *big* thing—this *hydrogen* thing—now belongs to *others*. They will employ it as *they* see fit. They will decide where, when and why.

Knowing all this makes us a little restless. It makes us think about many things—not the least of which is our *hereafter*.

That's why so many Americans turned out for church this Easter. This reflects a significant trend in recent years. *People are turning to religion*. They are thinking more and more about making a peace with somebody, preferably God.

But are they going about it in the right way?

Are their actions really bringing them into contact with the *true God*—and under *His divine PROTECTION*?

Your Fate

And what about YOU? Can you afford to take a chance on a thing like this? Are you just following the crowd? Do you really *know* that you are in direct contact with the Creator and have His *protection*?

Jesus said, "In VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:7). They were following the ideas of *men* rather than *God*. They were worshipping the way that seemed right to *men*. But Jesus said it was all in VAIN.

Your Bible describes the Devil as a being "*which deceiveth the whole world*" (Rev. 12:9).

In II Corinthians 4:4, the apostle Paul was inspired to write, "But if our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are *lost*: In whom *the god of this world hath BLINDED the minds of them which believe not*." Satan is spoken of through-

out the Bible as the great DECEIVER of all mankind—of the *vast majority* of people on this earth.

Jesus said, "*Broad is the way that leadeth to DESTRUCTION*" (Mat. 7:13). Could this principle include *world-shattering hydrogen and cobalt bomb destruction in our time*? Could it happen NOW? TO YOU?

Our Time Described

Paul was inspired to describe men in the last days as being "covetous," "proud," "trucebreakers," "having a *form of godliness, but denying the POWER thereof*." Then he commands: "From such *turn away*" (II Timothy 3:1-5).

What about this "form of godliness"? Most of us have that, don't we?

But YOU want *more* than that. You need to be *certain* of God's protection in this age of world turmoil. You don't want to deny the POWER of God, do you? You want His *power* on your side—His *protection* during these terrifying times.

Then face the FACT that *you* are probably one of the multitude going the *broad way*! This way leads to DESTRUCTION!

Are you willing, then, to lay aside your prejudices and examine with a truly *open* mind the question of whether or not you are worshipping and *obeying* the *true God*? Of whether you are really under *His protection*?

If you *are* following the crowd, if you *are* deceived as the Bible says the "whole world" is, then you are *without God* and *without His help*. The question of

ON THE opposite page you see what man is about to do to himself.

God warns in His Word that the horrible punishment and callous ANNIHILATION of human life portrayed here is CERTAIN to overtake our peoples—Britain and America—unless we repent of OUR ways, and return to God and HIS ways. Otherwise, this destruction is SURE to come on YOU.

MAD DICTATORS will waste no time by burying their dead victims individually. It will all be taken care of "scientifically."

YOU may be a participant in such a scene as is here pictured—a mass burial of victims tortured to death—UNLESS YOU FIND THE TRUE GOD AND COME UNDER HIS PROTECTION.

This is your ONLY hope!

the hour is: Do you really *know* and *worship* the *true* God, and are you therefore *assured* of His protection in these cataclysmic end times?

Differing Opinions

"Well, here is the way *I* look at it," said an old gentleman I was discussing the Bible with. And then he proceeded to give me *his personal interpretation* of the passage in question which, however interesting, did not agree with the context nor with other statements in the unbreakable word of God.

But this man was *not alone*. His thinking is representative of literally *millions* of other people in every part of the globe. They are—in the main—honest and sincere people. But they have the notion that the Bible is a book which can be freely "interpreted" by any professing Christian—just as long as he is *sincere* in his ideas.

This notion applies in like manner to the *WAY* in which they worship God. Every person is free to have *his own* concept of God, they reason. And as long as he is honest in his ideas, they can see no harm in this:

Do you agree?

Basis of the Question

Atheists and agnostics quite often accuse Christians of "creating God in their own image." And in countless instances, *this is absolutely true!* In every nation, city, and family there are different *human* ideas of what God is like.

"My concept of God is a very *personal* and *sacred* thing to me," many people say. Yes, their own *personal, human*, and in most instances, *FALSE* concept of God *seems* "sacred" to them.

But is it?

Can *man* sanctify anything—make anything *sacred* and *holy*? Or is this within the power of *God alone*?

All these questions can be answered *IF* you will acknowledge the clear, consistent Biblical revelation of God—*IF* you will *believe* and *obey* Jesus' statement: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*" (Luke 4:4).

Once you have proved to yourself and fully believe that the Bible is the inspired revelation from God to man, you should *FEAR* to *twist* or *pervert* the natural intended meaning of scripture, or to *read into* the Bible your *own* ideas and pet doctrines which are not actually contained therein.

The Holy Bible is the *revealed* Word of the Creator God. It is *His message* to man. It was written to show us the *nature* of God and *how* we should worship Him. Every Christian is commanded: "STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed rightly dividing

the *word of truth*" (II Timothy 2:15).

As in other things, you may have had your own preconceived *human* ideas of what God is like. Most other people have too. Most other professing "Christians" have. *But they can't all be DIFFERENT and be right!*

So if you really want the *truth*, put aside your own particular *human* ideas on this question, and STUDY the "word of *truth*," the Bible, for God's answer. Remember that, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for *doctrine*, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *instruction* in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16). The Bible is to CORRECT and REPROVE us—to show us where we are *wrong*. Will you let it?

Unless you accept the Biblical revelation of God, you have no authoritative basis for any definite concept of your Creator. You are left in the *darkness* of human superstition and imagination.

But with the Word of God as the firm basis of your convictions, you *can* discover the real nature of the *true* God. And you can *prove* the truth of that belief by putting it to the *test* in your life. *It will CHANGE your whole concept of life!*

God Reveals Himself

Prior to the calling of Moses, God had permitted His chosen people, Israel, to be in captivity for many generations. But during the ministry of His servant Moses, God purposed to show forth His supreme *power* and *rulership* in freeing Israel from their Egyptian bondage. God began to bring great supernatural plagues upon Egypt until they should free Israel.

But the Pharaoh refused to let Israel go because "the heart of the Pharaoh was *hardened*, neither would he let Israel go" (Ex. 9:35).

Then the Lord said to Moses: "So go in unto Pharaoh: for *I have hardened his heart*, and the heart of his servants, that I might show these my *signs* before him: And that thou mayest tell in the ears of thy son, and of thy son's son, what things I have wrought in Egypt, and my signs which I have done among them; *that ye may know that I AM THE LORD*" (Ex. 10:1-2).

God was demonstrating His ruling *POWER* so that men might know that He is *Lord, Master, Supreme RULER* over the affairs of this earth. He worked great miracles in the sight of Israel time and time again to teach them this lesson.

Generations later, God's people were again in captivity, this time in Babylon. Once again, God revealed Himself in the sight of men as *Supreme Ruler*. God abased the great king Nebuchadnezzar by causing him to become insane and to dwell with the wild beasts, "till he

knew that the most high *God* RULED in the kingdom of men, and that he appointed over it whomsoever he will" (Dan. 5:21).

Jesus' Message

The clearest revelation of God's nature and purpose was given by Jesus Christ. "No man hath seen God at any time; the only begotten Son, which is the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18).

Jesus came to "reveal" the Father (Mat. 10:27).

Above all else, Jesus revealed God as the overall *Ruler* of heaven and earth. He proclaimed that man was not to seek his own ways and devices, but was to "live by *every word of God*." Jesus taught us to pray: "*Thy kingdom come. Thy WILL* be done, as in heaven, so in earth" (Luke 11:2).

He continually taught *OBEDIENCE* to the *law* and *will* of God. When a young man asked him the *way* to inherit eternal life, Jesus answered, "If thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*" (Mat. 19:17).

Jesus continually prayed to God the Father as a definite spiritual being having *POWER* to intervene in this world and heal the sick, raise the dead, and carry out His immutable Word.

Jesus said, "I go unto my Father, for *my Father is greater than I*" (John 14:28). Yet Jesus received God's Spirit without measure (John 3:34). God so completely directed Jesus' every thought and action through the Holy Spirit, that Jesus said, "*He that hath seen me hath seen the Father*" (John 14:9).

Do you grasp the significance of this statement?

The *nature* and *character* of God was manifested *so perfectly* in the life of Jesus, that if the Father himself should be manifested as Jesus was, His thoughts and actions would have been no different.

Jesus surrendered *totally* to the *RULE* of God and let the Holy Spirit direct His life completely. Even when facing an agonizing death on the cross, Jesus prayed: "Not my will, but *thine, be done*" (Luke 22:42).

God revealed himself through Moses, Daniel, *all* His prophets and apostles, and through His own Son, as Creator and present *RULER* of heaven and earth. This is the first and foremost attribute of the true God proclaimed from Genesis to Revelation.

Do you acknowledge God's *rule* in your concept of God, and in the way you practice it?

What Do You Worship?

The apostle Paul was inspired to
(Please continue on page 16)

What Is the PURPOSE of the Resurrection?

Why is a resurrection necessary if man has an immortal soul? If we are saved by the death of Christ, why did Jesus have to be resurrected?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

TODAY WE live in a time of world revolution. We begin to hear talk about the END OF THE WORLD!

Today we face a DUAL question! Not only regarding *man*, but now also concerning CIVILIZATION. WE need to find the answer to the question put by the patriarch Job: "If man die, *shall he live again?*"

This should be a time of HOPE—because, even if THIS WORLD dies—and it shall—there will follow a RESURRECTION of a new and *better* world—a world at PEACE—a world of contentment, happiness, abundance, JOY!

Now, as never before, we need to realize that the Eternal GOD is working out a purpose here below—and that His great PLAN involves a DUAL resurrection: the resurrection of *the individual*, and also the resurrection of a dying WORLD! *Very few*, indeed, have any conception at all of the NATURE of the resurrection!

Never a Time Like This Before

YOU live today in a time *different*—utterly *different*—from any past time on earth! YOU are destined, as no past generation has been, to live in two worlds! Yes, *this* world IS dying—that's the real *meaning* of world chaos today—but there will be a RESURRECTION:—and, *catch this!*—the resurrected body is *not* the SAME body that previously dies!

Why did God Almighty NEED to provide for any resurrection at all? What's the PURPOSE of the resurrection? What does it MEAN?

Most people have somehow come to believe that Christ *completed* God's Plan of redemption on the cross—by His death! But if salvation was made full and complete by Jesus' DEATH, then why is there any need of—why do people celebrate—the RESURRECTION from the dead?

You often hear people say, "Christ *died* to save sinners." Many suppose that's a Bible quotation—but it isn't. Many firmly believe that Christ's DEATH

imparts to us ETERNAL LIFE, that it is the BLOOD of Christ—his *death* that actually SAVES—that imparts everlasting LIFE! Many of *you* will be surprised to learn that the Bible says NO SUCH THING! What a self-contradictory, totally unscientific thing the Bible would be stating, if you could find that in the Bible!

There is no more basic and firmly established law known to science than the Law of Biogenesis—that only LIFE can beget life! DEATH has no power to impart LIFE! Life cannot spring from dead matter. The *living* does not come from the NOT-living! GOD ALMIGHTY *created* that Law!

WHY, then, was it necessary that Christ DIE for us—that He shed His blood? Let's understand!

Death Cannot Impart Life

The Scriptures reveal that ALL have sinned, and the PENALTY for sin is DEATH! The PUNISHMENT is *death*—yes, death for all eternity—ETERNAL PUNISHMENT! The BIBLE definition of SIN is the transgression of God's LAW—the immutable, inexorable SPIRITUAL Law of LOVE summed up by the Ten Commandments. God established that Law, actually *set it in motion*, to MAKE MEN HAPPY. It's THE WAY to peace, to prosperity, joy! It's the *perfect* WAY OF LIFE. It's the way to ENJOY life to the full! *This* world is filled with strife and war, fear and worry, poverty and want, discontent and SUFFERING, *only* because men have TRANSGRESSED that Holy, Spiritual LAW!

God's salvation does not impart *merely* eternal life! Salvation means FAR more than that! Jesus said He came that we might have eternal life, yes—but He also said something MORE—"I am come," He said, "that they might have LIFE, and that they might have it *more* ABUNDANTLY!"

God help us to comprehend! Not merely continuous existence—but the full, happy, interesting, ABUNDANT life!

Yes—and *that* for ALL ETERNITY!

Just stop and think a moment! For God to impart mere never-ending EXISTENCE, which we should live in ever-increasing emptiness, boredom, misery and suffering—why, that would be the most *cruel* punishment! GOD IS LOVE! He wants YOU to learn the way to ENJOY life—FOREVER!

Why God Hides Himself

Your transgression of GOD'S WAY of life, has not only brought unhappiness and suffering to you—it has *cut you off* from all contact with your Maker! You are a mere mortal. The penalty hanging over you is DEATH—and the most certain thing in life is that all shall DIE! You have no power to impart to *yourself* eternal life. And you are *cut off* from God the Father, the GIVER of eternal LIFE!

But God so loved this world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that if you believe on HIM, you shall not, after all, PERISH, but have the GIFT of everlasting LIFE! That can only come THROUGH CHRIST!

But HOW? Jesus Christ was CHANGED from the divine Word of God to mortal human FLESH—for the purpose of DEATH. He, ONLY, of all humans, lived without sin. He said, "I have *kept* my Father's Commandments." When He shed his precious blood—when He GAVE *His* life—He was not paying the penalty of HIS sins, for He never sinned. He was paying YOUR penalty FOR YOU!—in your stead!—the penalty you incurred by disobedience. So now if and when you really REPENT of your transgressions, and when you BELIEVE, not only IN Christ, but also His GOSPEL, your penalty stands PAID IN FULL—you are RECONCILED to God—you have ACCESS to God the Father! You are now JUSTIFIED. Your guilt is wiped CLEAN—*up to THAT moment!* You are UNDER GRACE—that is, undeserved PARDON for *past* transgressions. But that GRACE gives you *no license* to *continue* in sin! As the

Apostle Paul wrote: "What, then, shall we CONTINUE in sin—transgressing God's LAW—that grace may abound? GOD FORBID!" Justification refers only to a guilty PAST!

But *now* where do you stand? Are you now automatically already SAVED? You most certainly are not! Be NOT DECEIVED! The DEATH of Christ does *not* impart ETERNAL LIFE! You are NOT finally SAVED by the death of Christ—you are merely JUSTIFIED—your PAST GUILT removed—reconciled to GOD! You are merely PREPARED so that you CAN be saved. You now have access to GOD from whom eternal life comes!

What the Death of Christ Means

The BLOOD of Christ does NOT finally SAVE you, and had Christ REMAINED dead, you would have *no salvation*—NEVER could you have eternal life!

HERE'S the glorious TRUTH! *Here's* the point I want you to grasp: You are finally SAVED—you receive eternal LIFE, by the RESURRECTION of Christ—from the LIVING Christ—not a dead Saviour!

It's in YOUR BIBLE. Turn to it—SEE IT WITH YOUR OWN EYES! Turn to Romans 5:8-10: "God commendeth His love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, being now *justified by His blood*, we shall be saved from wrath through Him. For if, when we were enemies, we were *reconciled to God by the DEATH of His Son*, much more, being reconciled, *we shall be saved BY HIS LIFE!*"

There it is! Do you see? Do you comprehend? We are *forgiven*, JUSTIFIED OF PAST GUILT, reconciled to the Father, by the DEATH of Christ—but we SHALL be SAVED, not by His death, but BY HIS LIFE! Yes, BY HIS RESURRECTION!

In I Cor. 5:7-8 the Apostle Paul laid down the commandment for the CHURCH: "Christ, our Passover, is sacrificed for us; *therefore, let us KEEP THE FEAST!*" The original TRUE Church which *Jesus* built kept the PASSOVER, and the Feast of Unleavened Bread—NOT Easter. The Passover was the MEMORIAL of the DEATH of Christ, observed on its anniversary—picturing our JUSTIFICATION from past sins—our being RECONCILED TO GOD. *Therefore*, as Paul said, let us PUT SIN OUT OF OUR LIVES—for that's what the Festival of Unleavened Bread was given by God to picture to HIS CHURCH! Also *this* Festival of GOD pictured the RISEN, RESURRECTED CHRIST! And so, as CHRIST died for us, and ROSE again, the people of God are instructed (Rom. 6:11) "Likewise, reckon ye *also yourselves* to be dead indeed UNTO SIN—but ALIVE unto God, through Jesus Christ our Lord"—Yes, through Christ's LIFE.

Saved by His Resurrection

CHRIST'S resurrection makes possible OUR resurrection to immortal life in the very divine FAMILY of God—He is only the *first-born* of many brethren! Your gift of ETERNAL LIFE results NOT from the DEATH of Christ—but from HIS RESURRECTION!

Suppose Jesus Christ had remained dead in His tomb. Do you suppose that, in that case, your faith in HIS BLOOD—His DEATH—could have SAVED you? If you do, you'd be trusting in a FALSE HOPE! It's time we realize the TRUTH!

Notice again—read this in YOUR BIBLE: I Cor. 15:14-18: "IF Christ be not risen, then is our preaching VAIN, and *your faith* is also VAIN. . . . *if* Christ be NOT RAISED, your faith is VAIN . . . then they also which are fallen asleep (that is, DEAD) *in Christ*, are PERISHED!"—unless Christ ROSE from the dead!

Do you grasp the wonderful truth? Christ is not a *dead* Saviour! He ROSE from the dead!—He is our LIVING Saviour! But He *was* DEAD! He rose from DEATH—not from LIFE! It was the EVER-LIVING FATHER who raised Him—who imparted eternal LIFE to Him! Jesus Christ became mortal man for the very PURPOSE of *death*—to pay the PENALTY—DEATH—for you and for me. He was mortal. He died. YOU are mortal. YOU shall die. And there is NO immortal life—and no possibility of it, in mortal man. GOD ALONE possesses inherent immortality! God *is* Life—Life inherent—Life eternal! God alone has life to IMPART. WE can have it only as HIS GIFT!

No Immortal Souls

The Scriptures do NOT teach that the soul that sins shall go on living forever—but "the soul that sinneth—IT SHALL DIE," (Ezekiel 13:4). And ALL have sinned! YOU have sinned! Millions of people today have learned to HATE other people. People learn to HATE, in time of war. Do THEY have eternal life inherent—do THEY have an immortal soul—is ANY eternal life inherent in them? LISTEN: "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer: and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him" (I John 3:15).

DO SAVED mothers up in heaven see the writhing and hear the shrieks of their lost children down in HELL?

Thousands like you have been asking for the true explanation of the "Rich Man and Lazarus." Write immediately for your FREE copy of Mr. Armstrong's booklet "LAZARUS and the RICH MAN." Learn what the Bible really says!

GOD'S WORD says plainly such a person does NOT have an immortal soul! To our first parent, God said: "DUST *thou* art, and unto dust shalt THOU return." He didn't say "your body that you live in"—He said "Dust THOU art." YOUR Bible says "Man is MORTAL," but nowhere does it say he is immortal. Man is mortal flesh, subject to corruption—DEATH! All have sinned, and the penalty is DEATH for all ETERNITY—eternal DEATH!

But in John 4:24 it is written "GOD is a SPIRIT, "And again, "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). Notice also I John 5:11-12: "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life."

Christ Jesus is a LIVING Saviour! He DIED to pay the DEATH penalty for YOU—that your past guilt might be erased! God RAISED Him from the dead, to make a resurrection to ETERNAL LIFE possible for YOU. Jesus said, "I am the Resurrection, and the LIFE."

Paul wrote, I Cor. 15:20: "But now is Christ RISEN from the dead, and become the first fruits of them that slept."

But His resurrection made possible NOT ONLY *your* personal salvation and mine—but the resurrection of this dying WORLD! For Christ was raised from the dead, to ascend to the throne of God the Father in heaven—to be GLORIFIED—to RECEIVE for Himself the KINGDOMS OF THIS WORLD—and He promised that if He *went*, He would COME AGAIN—coming this time as KING of kings, and LORD of lords, to RULE THE WORLD with the supernatural power of God—to bring us the happy WORLD TOMORROW! Jesus' GOSPEL was the GOOD NEWS of The Kingdom of God—the REIGN of God—WORLD RULE!

Why the Gospel of the Kingdom?

The CONDITIONS to entering that glorious and GLORIFIED Kingdom are these: "REPENT"—repent of YOUR ways, YOUR thoughts, the ways of this world—the ways that have seemed RIGHT to a man, but are contrary to God's perfect and holy LAW; and "BELIEVE." Yes, believe the GOSPEL—believe on CHRIST as personal Saviour. The inspired Peter pointed the way: "REPENT, and BE BAPTISED," he said, "and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." That's the WAY to salvation—the WAY into eternal inheritance in the KINGDOM OF GOD.

At the RESURRECTION of the JUST—at Christ's coming it is proclaimed: "The kingdoms—the governments—of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord and His CHRIST; and HE shall (Please continue on page 16)

Is There a HELL?

(Continued from page 2)

to see if God had made a mistake in having punished them so long in this "hell"?

What Happens to "Hell"?

Notice verses 13-15: "And the sea gave up the dead which were in it; and death and hell delivered up the dead which were in them: and they were judged every man according to their works. And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death. And whosoever was not found written in the book of life was cast into the lake of fire." The LAKE OF FIRE, which JESUS referred to is a place of DEATH, not of eternal life—the SECOND DEATH—ETERNAL Punishment!

Notice what Jesus said in Matthew 10:28: "Fear him which is able to DESTROY both soul and body in GEHENNA." Here in plain language JESUS said the SOUL could be *destroyed*—and that it would be DESTROYED in this GEHENNA that has been falsely translated into the English word HELL! Gehenna is a place of DESTRUCTION!

Again Jesus used this word "gehenna" as quoted in Matthew 23:33: "Ye serpents," He said to the Pharisees, "how can ye escape the damnation of GEHENNA?"—the second DEATH—eternal PUNISHMENT!

The ancient rebellious cities Sodom and Gomorrha, suffered, as we read in Jude 7, the vengeance of ETERNAL FIRE. But they are not still burning. They were burned up FOREVER—eternal DESTRUCTION!

Now *what happens in this "hell"*—derived from the Greek word "gehenna?" Let the Holy Word of GOD answer: "For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble: and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch. But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall. And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts" (Malachi 4:1-3).

God Is Love—and Justice!

God is a God of LOVE—OR MERCY, as well as a God of ABSOLUTE JUSTICE! If He were the vain, angry, unjust god pictured by the PAGANS who invented this popular conception of heaven and hell, then, according to the common belief of the illustration of Lazarus and the Rich Man, saved mothers up in

heaven are hearing the shrieks, seeing the indescribable AGONY, *writhing*, of their own lost children down in hell—actually able to carry on a conversation with them—yet UNABLE to help them.

Would THAT be the heavenly BLISS it is generally represented?

The 37th Psalm OUGHT to make plain to us this matter of heaven and hell. Notice!

"For evildoers shall be cut off: but those that wait upon the Lord, they shall inherit the earth. For yet a little while, and the wicked shall not be: yea, thou shalt diligently consider his place, and it

shall not be. But the meek shall inherit the earth; and shall delight themselves in the abundance of peace. The wicked plotteth against the just, and gnasheth upon him with his teeth. But the wicked shall perish, and the enemies of the Lord shall be as the fat of lambs: they shall consume; into smoke shall they consume away. For such as be blessed of him shall inherit the earth; and they that be cursed of him shall be cut off. The righteous shall inherit the land, and dwell therein for ever" (Psa. 37:9-12, 20, 22, 29).

And now, Psa. 104:35: "Let the sinners be consumed out of the earth, and let the wicked be no more. Bless thou the Lord, O my soul."

Again, Obadiah 16, God's Message to Gentile EDOM: "For as ye have drunk upon my holy mountain, so shall all the heathen drink continually, yea, they shall drink, and they shall swallow down, and they shall be though they had not been."

And now, Isa. 66:24: "And they shall go forth and look upon the carcasses of the men that have transgressed against me: for their worm shall not die, neither shall their fire be quenched; and they shall be an abhorring unto all flesh."

Never to Be Quenched?

"Neither shall their fire be QUENCHED." Does that mean burning forever, and never burning up? Try this test: Put a piece of paper in a pan. Light it with a match. Now, *don't* QUENCH that fire! Don't put it out—for that's what "quench" means. Very soon the paper will *burn up*. Then put it down on the floor and step on it! NOW it's merely ashes under the sole of your feet—precisely as YOUR BIBLE plainly says the wicked shall be! In Jer. 17:27, God warned the Jews that Jerusalem would be *burned*, and the fire would *not be quenched*—unless they repented. In Jer. 52:13, you read the account of the burning of Jerusalem. That fire was NOT QUENCHED! It is NOT still burning!

Do you know that YOUR BIBLE teaches the *resurrection* of *all* who die? The Apostle Paul said his HOPE was the hope of the RESURRECTION! If the resurrection is true doctrine, then the pagan myth of an eternal TORTURE, beginning at death, is as false as Satan himself! If all UNSAVED—even all who never *heard* the ONLY name—are roasting, screaming, in such a hell, and can never get out, HOW can there be a RESURRECTION?

Thank GOD!—there is to be a resurrection to JUDGMENT, as well as a resurrection to eternal life of the dead in Christ! Yes, thank GOD, He so LOVED the world—we NEED not perish, but through Christ we may have EVERLASTING LIFE!

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Are YOU under God's PROTECTION?

(Continued from page 12)

utter a poignant truth which applies to you. Study it carefully.

"Know ye not, that to whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY; whether of *sin* unto *death*, or of *obedience* unto *righteousness*?" (Rom. 6:16).

When a *choice* has to be made between following the ways of your friends and family, or *obeying* what you have found to be the *will of God*—which course do YOU follow? Do you take the easy way out and follow *men*? Do you *serve* and thereby *WORSHIP* the ways of men more than the ways of God?

Don't "kid" yourself! You CAN'T fool God!

When you learn some new point of *truth* in the pages of this magazine, or on *The WORLD TOMORROW* broadcast, or in your own personal Bible study, do you put it into *PRACTICE* in your life—do you *OBEY* it—or do you *reject* it because it conflicts with what your *church* or your particular *society* believes and observes?

Are you like the Pharisees who rejected Christ because "they loved the praise of *men* more than the praise of God?" (John 12:43). God seems *far away* to some people, and their friends seem *so close* and *so important*. Which do YOU *worship*? Which do you *OBEY*?

If you had to give up your *job*—your *only source of income*—in order to obey some point of *truth* you found in God's Word, *would you do it*? Would you exercise *FAITH*, as Jesus did, and rely on God's many promises to "supply all your need"? (Philip. 4:19). Would you worship *God*—or *MAMMON*?

These questions apply to YOU!

The *true* God—the God of Creation,

of the Bible, of *Christ*—reveals Himself as the present *RULER* of this earth who is *permitting* man, during this age, to disobey Him and learn by suffering.

What to Do

God's supreme *Rulership* is the chief characteristic of God we need to recognize. It was the principal message of all His servants. Once you recognize God as your *Ruler*, and *surrender* *UNCONDITIONALLY* to His will, then you may be *assured* of God's protection—the *ONLY real* protection that exists.

Be *sure* to read Herman Hoeh's article on *baptism* in this issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. You must fully *repent* and *be baptized* to receive of God's Holy Spirit. (Acts 2:38). And you *MUST have God's Spirit to be under His protection!*

God inspired Paul to write, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9). And in Ephesians 1:13 and 4:30, and II Corinthians 1:22, we find that we are "sealed" as God's own when we receive the Holy Spirit.

And when you have given yourself to Him and have received of His Spirit, you may be *assured* of *divine* protection in the fearful days ahead. You will then be *spiritually baptized* into *God's true church*. And if you *grow* spiritually and remain *faithful* you will be among those taken to the place of safety described in Rev. 12:14-17.

Notice that this *woman*—that *church*—keeps the "*commandments of God*." It recognizes God's *rule* and *OBEYS* His laws.

As Jesus prophesied (Mat. 24:14), this gospel of the *kingdom*, the *RULE*, of God is being proclaimed as a "witness" to all nations. As thousands of you recognize this as the work of God and come to know the *true* God—yours is the solemn responsibility to *accept* or *reject* God's final warning.

"Lip service" is not enough. God re-

quires *OBEDIENCE*. "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a *liar*, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

"*Prove* all things." *Obe*y what you know is God's will. *Write* us for help if God has shown you that this is His prophesied work for these closing days of this age.

It's *later* than you *think!*

RESURRECTION

(Continued from page 14)

reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

If *WE* repent, believe, and are *BEGOTTEN* of God now, if we *OVERCOME*, and *grow* in grace and knowledge, we shall sit *WITH* Christ on His throne—we shall be given power over the nations to *RULE* them with a rod of iron, as *kings* and *priests* under Christ the *KING* of kings.

And now one glimpse into that *RESURRECTED* world—the glorious, happy *WORLD TOMORROW*—lying at *PEACE*, at last: "But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And he shall judge among many people, and rebuke strong nations afar off; and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more (Micah 4:1-3).

GOD SPEED THAT HAPPY DAY! Let us pray, "THY Kingdom come."

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