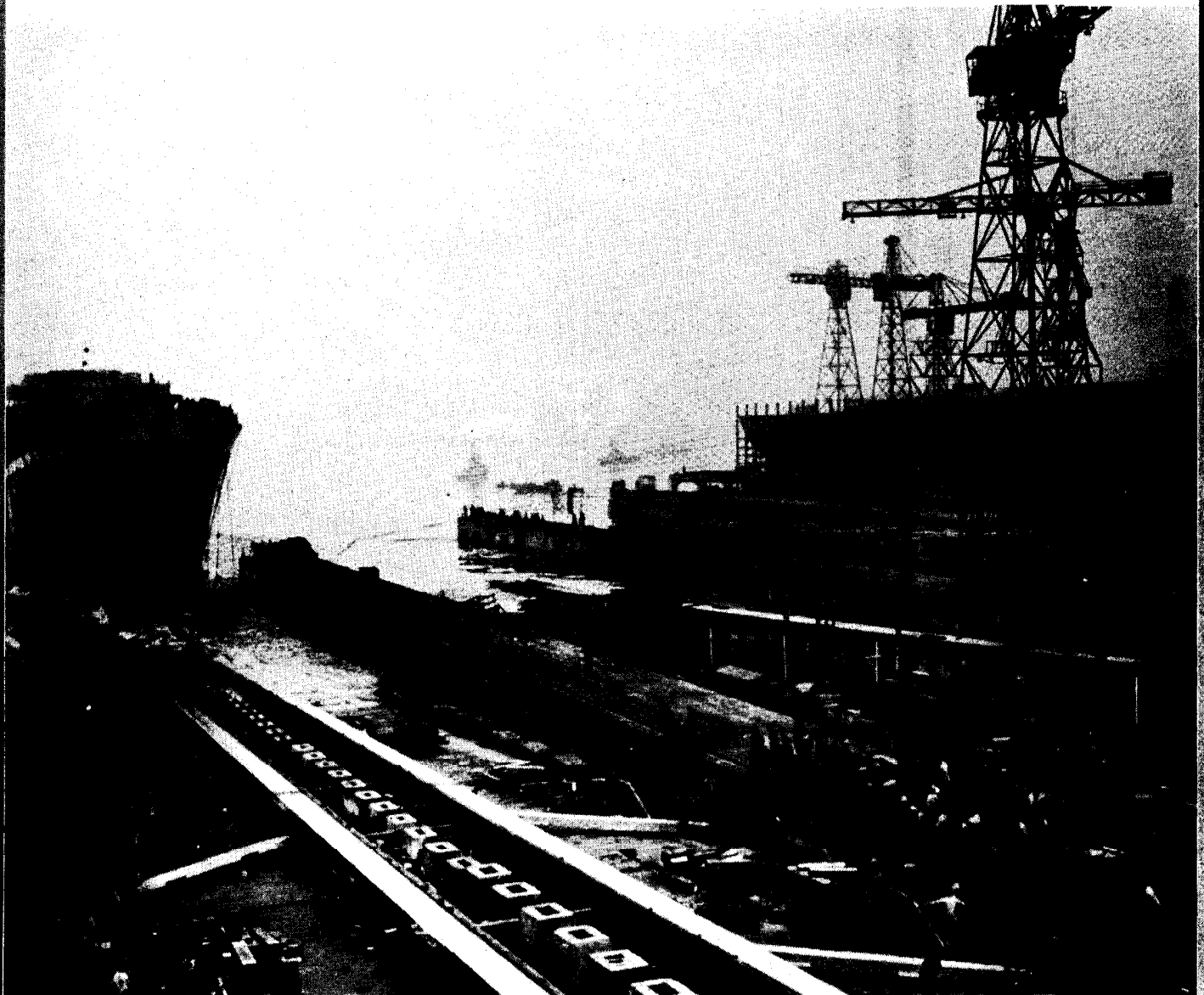


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

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APRIL, 1959



Wide World Photo

GERMANY'S commercial might sparks efforts toward a United Europe. Russia is desperately trying to stop German economic and military resurgence. BERLIN is the focal point of this East-West tension. Will it end in World War III? Read the answer in this issue!

NOW! Christ's Gospel to RUSSIA!

Here is BIG NEWS! A gigantic door has swung wide open through the Iron Curtain. Now we go to Russia in the Russian language.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT APPEARED impossible! The Kremlin has set out to eradicate religion from Russia—and, ultimately, from the entire face of the earth!

Missionaries have been barred. Evangelists, preachers, ministers of religion are not allowed. The foreboding "IRON CURTAIN" has stood an impassable barrier to the entrance of any religion—let alone the true Gospel of Jesus Christ—into Russia.

Russian People Religious?

Communism teaches that "religion is the opium of the people." Communism is *godless atheism!*

Russian leader Zinoviev said that the Communists were going to chase Almighty God out of His high heaven; and wherever God fled to escape them, they would search Him out and destroy Him!

Bold words! But blustering blasphemous Zinoviev is now rotting in his grave. And the GOD he defied has now *opened a gigantic door* through the vaunted "iron curtain" for the shouting and thundering of HIS OWN MESSAGE to all the people of Russia, in their own language! And God says that NO MAN CAN SHUT THAT DOOR!

The Russian people are inherently religious by nature. The Soviet government has *not* been able to stamp religion out of Russia. There are still churches in Russia. But the Russian people, under the Czars, had only the Greek Orthodox CATHOLIC religion—a degenerated, paganized counterfeit of true Christianity—an empty form and ceremony. They never had God's TRUTH. But they are really *hungry* for it!

Unto ALL Nations

Our commission is found in Matthew 24:14: "This gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a

witness *unto ALL nations*" just before the END of this age—just before the return of Jesus Christ to earth!

I want to tell you that for years I have looked at those three words "UNTO ALL NATIONS," and realized it means EVERY nation. Now, for example, that means RUSSIA, and Communist Red CHINA, and SPAIN. And yet *every door* for getting Christ's own Gospel into these three nations was CLOSED TIGHT!

Every possible avenue for getting past that Iron Curtain into RUSSIA had been closed and blockaded so totally that at times I was tempted to wonder if maybe God wouldn't overlook it if we failed to find a way to get His Message to the Russian people! Surely God would not expect the impossible! But we must remember that our God is the ALL-Mighty God—the miracle-working God—and He has said (Rev. 3:7-8), that He will OPEN DOORS for us! Yet no door was open.

In February, 1947, Mrs. Armstrong and I went to Europe to search out ways of getting the Message into Britain and Europe. There were absolutely NO radio doors open over there anywhere! It was discouraging. But when God's time came, at the end of our first 19-year time-cycle of broadcasting (it was after exactly 19 years that God "OPENED A DOOR" for the Apostle Paul to take the Gospel to Europe, in 50 A.D.), then ON THE VERY WEEK that was the 19th anniversary of our first broadcast, we started on the most powerful station in Europe at that time—Radio Luxembourg!

Three years ago we went to Spain, but we found Fascist Dictator Franco has CLOSED EVERY DOOR for any kind of religion except the Roman Catholic. Yet a little later God opened the SUPER-

power *Radio International* at Tangier, just across the Strait of Gibraltar from Spain—BUT IN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. We still were not reaching many in Spain.

Also some two or three years ago God opened the super-power door of Chiang Kai-shek's RADIO TAIWAN, which now beams The WORLD TOMORROW twice weekly across the Bamboo Curtain into RED CHINA.

But, at last, while we were in New York in late February came the *BIG NEWS!*

First, Radio Tangier opened its doors to us now to begin broadcasting to SPAIN in the SPANISH LANGUAGE! Franco does not control Tangier or its great radio station which is heard all over Europe!

And then, the *BIGGEST NEWS!!!*—Altho the United States government has been spending hundreds of millions to broadcast the message of Democracy to Russia by the powerful transmitters of the "VOICE OF AMERICA," the Kremlin has spent many *more* millions to construct *gigantic more* powerful transmitters to JAM the "Voice of America," so it cannot be heard in Russia. Then the U.S. builds still additional radio transmitters on new wave-lengths, but the Russians immediately build more powerful transmitters to JAM them, and BLACK OUT the message of Democracy.

The B.B.C. of Great Britain has had the same experience. The Russians have JAMMED THEM OUT! Thousands have contributed to "RADIO FREE EUROPE" in an effort to broadcast religion and democracy messages into Russia. But the Russians have JAMMED THEM OUT!

Until we were in New York this was the situation. It seemed hopeless. But THIS is GOD'S WORK! *This is GOD'S*

(Please continue on page 16)

WAR in MAY?

The great powers are headed for a showdown over Berlin!
Deadline is MAY 27th! Many fear WAR—if not deliberately,
then by accident! Here's what is going to happen.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

KHRUSHCHEV has threatened, "any violation of the borders" of Communist East Germany in a Western attempt to reach West Berlin, should a blockade occur, will be regarded by the Soviet Union "as a violation of the sovereignty of the [East German Communist] republic and as the BEGINNING OF WAR!"

President Eisenhower has replied: "We are not going to give one single inch in the preservation of our rights, and of discharging our responsibilities in this particular region, especially Berlin. There can be no negotiation on this particular point of right, and of retention of responsibility."

BERLIN—Bomb with a Short Fuse!

Think of it! Two world leaders, representing the greatest military powers on the face of this earth have now committed themselves to WAR, unless one of them backs down.

But each has said *he will not back down!*

What WILL happen in Berlin? In the December, 1958 *Plain Truth* magazine, Mr. Herman Hoeh made plain to you the real behind-the-scenes goals of Communist Dictator Khrushchev. The divided city of Berlin is to be used as a focal point to accomplish the major goals of the Soviet Union in present world affairs. Khrushchev cleverly induced the East German Communists to *take control* of the traffic routes to isolated Berlin, and the *deadline* is this coming May 27th!

Berlin, for the second time since the end of World War II, has become the time bomb ticking away the seconds toward an explosion which could ignite the horrifying spectre of WORLD WAR III!

And your newspapers, news magazines and radio broadcasts have told you frankly another WORLD WAR could well mean the *end of this present civilization!*

IT'S TIME TO WAKE UP!

Whether you REALIZE it or not—even the great MILITARY and POLITICAL leaders of this world realize the minutes and hours are ticking off *right now* toward the potential "D Day"—May 27th! Yes, *May 27th*, a day that could spell your DOOMSDAY!

World leaders are frightened. All-out war *now*, with over TEN TIMES the amount of atomic and hydrogen bombs *already stockpiled* that could literally blast this earth into a smoking desolation, would mean virtual WORLD SUICIDE!

And yet that's exactly where we're headed!

And the BERLIN crisis is the KEY to it all.

What's Behind It?

Let's get our bearings—let's understand WHY the furor over Berlin. Khrushchev wants recognition of the puppet East German Communist government. The Western powers have so far *refused* to recognize the sovereignty of East Germany. But more than anything else, Khrushchev has a healthy *fear* of West Germany! He said, "Americans seem not to realize the danger which their present policy of rearming Germany may well bring down upon them."

More than anything else—the Communist boss wants to *prevent the nuclear arming of West Germany!* Here's what he sees. A revitalized, industrially booming West Germany, riding the crest of the wave of robust prosperity, making a remarkable "comeback" to become a major power in the world. He sees constant attraction toward their western fellows on the part of millions of East Germans. He sees what our western leaders seem *not* to see, dismissing the danger as only a "calculated risk"—the *danger* of a rearmed Germany!

In Mr. Macmillan's recent visit to Moscow, he and other British visitors

were struck by the obsession they found among the Russians, particularly Khrushchev, of the DANGER from Germany.

If Khrushchev *fails* in his present policy, he may play his trump card—a *deal* with Germany! He said, referring to Stalin's successful inducement to the Germans prior to World War II, "*Another German-Soviet pact is at least as possible today as in 1939—indeed MORE PROBABLE—since a German attack on the Soviet Union has now become 'suicidal!'*"

The *real reason* for the Communist showdown over Berlin is FEAR OF GERMAN!

WHY Khrushchev Fears Germany

To repeat the scores of amazing quotations, the pages of startling statistics about the surging industrial power of West Germany which have already appeared in the *Plain Truth* magazine would be impossible now. But here are just a few of the really KEY reasons why the Communists *fear* Germany—and WHY GERMANY SHOULD BE FEARED!

"Drang nach Osten" was the slogan of the geopoliticians under the Kaiser and Hitler. It means "push to the *East*." The "Berlin to Baghdad" idea—opening the vast markets of the East to Europe has fascinated the Germans for centuries. The Kaiser tried it, and failed. Hitler sang of his "Berlin to Baghdad" railway, and it, too, failed.

But today GERMAN BUSINESSMEN, not German tanks, planes and guns, are succeeding in just that!

Krupp, the most feared name among German industrialists, is the author of such a fabulous "success story" that it necessitates *whole books* to even tell of it. Krupp now reaches tentacles of steel into all parts of the world!

I stood on the site of the huge Krupp steel mill being erected near Sao Paulo, Brazil. Locomotives, bridges, hydroelectric projects, railways, toolmaking indus-

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By the Radio Church of God

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tries, shipping, all these are synonyms with Alfried Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach.

Prime Minister Menderes of Turkey beamed when Krupp practically committed himself to build, with Krupp steel and Krupp technicians, the long coveted bridge over the Bosphorus-Dardanelles. A Krupp mill DOUBLED Turkey's iron output in just over a year.

In Beirut, the beaming manager of a local Volkswagen agency complained he could not get cars shipped in from Germany fast enough to meet the skyrocketing demand. In northeast Iran, West German engineers and technicians roamed the hills drawing up plans for factories, power plants and municipal water systems.

All this is exactly according to plan!

Prior to the end of World War II, the German General Staff had complete plans which were to go into effect *regardless* of the outcome of the war! In the event Germany lost—she would go underground! Vast hordes of money, foreign currency, and gold looted from Europe were to be transferred to other

parts of the world. Germany would come back!

Since World War II, the planned revival of Germany, gaining every dollar possible from the gullible West, while pointing to the threatening Communist giant, has been carried out with such effectiveness as to make abysmal fools of the rest of the world.

A captured geo-political document, published in 1950 from Madrid, Spain, from the underground NAZI headquarters, stated: "The Americans fondly hope that we will one day repay with our blood all the benefits we received from them. They want us to sign a pact whereby we, as mercenaries and vassals, shall back American power politics . . . However long we may continue to milk the Americans of millions of dollars, there must come the inevitable moment when we shall have to make it crystal clear to them that we are not willing to join the fight against Russia for American interests . . . The Americans have lost the peace, the cold war and their entire future, but they are not as yet aware of it."

General von Stuelpnagel, in his memorandum of 1944 said, "Defeats are simply lessons to be learned in preparation for the next and greater attack."

The Germans have a passion for HARD WORK! A favorite slogan around Germany today goes, "Other people work to *live*, while we Germans LIVE TO WORK!"

Former Prime Minister Eden of Great Britain once declared that the Volkswagen was about to do to Britain what Hitler's submarines *could not do!*

Yes—the Germans are out to conquer the world—BY TRADE!

And the Communists FEAR the Germans.

The West German success story is mostly the result of the hard driving tactics and business acumen of its technicians and businessmen. To illustrate how the Germans are capturing not only the markets, but the respect and admiration of tradesmen around the world, let me relate to you a story I heard while in South America in 1954.

A South American businessman was comparing the merits of the leading trading nations of the world. He said, "If

I ask an Englishman about his product, he immediately begins to tell me why *his* product is the best. If I ask a Frenchman, he simply doesn't answer. Ask an American, and he sends me a catalog. Ask a German, and two Germans show up and say, 'Where do we put it?'"

An intelligent American observer who had intimate knowledge of Germany's post-war plans said, "South America will be conquered by *business* agents, not by guns."

And so it is, *around the world!*

And today, Germany is concentrating on the *East*. The shabbiness of some American products, the slow delivery of the British and French, all have bogged Western trade deep in the mud, while the German industrial machine continues to drive forward.

For example, Saudi Arabia's King Saud said he needed a three-truck caravan (sleeper with bath, dining car with throne, and a supply van), and both the British and French firms told him there would be a six month waiting period. West Germany's Daimler-Benz, however, teamed up with a specialty body firm, and did the job in just seven weeks!

Twice in 30 years, Germany's stakes in the nations around the eastern end of the Mediterranean have been wiped out by defeat in war. But today, IN A TIME OF PEACE—BY BUSINESS METHODS ALONE, West German exports to Greece, Turkey and the Middle East have jumped from less than \$10 million a year to \$500 million, and in Iran, Syria and Greece, West Germany outsells any other nation!

In Egypt and Israel the West Germans are now No. 2 in sales.

World News . . . In Advance!

All this is *prophesied!*

Constantly, we have been showing you how the *prophecies* of the Bible, the inspired word of God, have been grievously misunderstood. Men have not known the KEYS to Biblical prophecy, and so do not comprehend the direct *relationship* between prophecy and TODAY'S WORLD NEWS! One of the most outstanding keys is the knowledge of where the United States, Great Britain, and the northwestern European nations

are mentioned in the Bible! If you have not yet read Mr. Armstrong's eye-opening explanations of this, write for the booklet, "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy" immediately!

Hundreds of years ago, God caused His prophets to record, *in advance*, the events that you see happening before your eyes today!

The prophet Daniel recorded the mysterious symbols he *saw*, but he didn't *understand* them. He was told, "Go thy way, Daniel, for the words are CLOSED UP and SEALED till the time of the end!" (Dan. 12:9).

And yet—Daniel specifically told Nebuchadnezzar he was showing what would be "IN THE LATTER DAYS" (Dan. 2:28) and God said the book was to be sealed *only until* the TIME OF THE END!

YOU are living in that time, NOW!

Never before in earth's history has there been such a time as this. Gigantic weapons of destruction now exist which signal the approaching *end of an age!* World conditions themselves shout the warning that we are living in dangerous times!

What Did Daniel See?

Daniel saw a great image. Nebuchadnezzar, the Babylonian King, had a mysterious dream. Daniel was given a special revelation from God to enable him to *interpret* that dream—and God had it recorded and preserved for us, today!

Notice! "And in the second year of the reign of Nebuchadnezzar, Nebuchadnezzar dreamed dreams, wherewith his spirit was troubled, and his sleep brake from him" (Dan. 2:1). Perhaps you're partly familiar with the account. The King sent for his wise men, his astrologers, and the leaders of the various religious sects of Babylon. None of them could interpret the dream. Finally, *Daniel* was brought in, and asked the King for a little time. God then *revealed* to Daniel—supernaturally—the dream *and* the meaning of it.

Daniel said, ". . . there is a *God in heaven* that REVEALETH SECRETS, and maketh known to the king Nebuchadnezzar WHAT SHALL BE IN THE LATTER DAYS!" (Dan. 2:28).

God gave that ancient King a brief glimpse into TODAY'S NEWS!

Daniel then began describing the great image, or statue, whose head was of gold, his breast and arms of silver, his belly and thighs of brass, his legs of iron, his feet part of iron and part of clay (vs. 31-33).

The Astounding MEANING

But God did not leave the King without the real MEANING of this great dream-image. Daniel began to *interpret* its meaning. "This is the dream; and we will tell the interpretation thereof before the king. THOU, O king, art a king of kings, for the God of heaven hath given thee a kingdom, power, and strength, and glory . . . THOU art this head of gold!" (Dan. 2:36-38).

Nebuchadnezzar was used as a *type*, a *representation*, of the Babylonian government! "And after *thee* shall arise *another kingdom inferior to thee*, and another third *kingdom* of brass, which shall bear rule over all the earth. And the *fourth* kingdom shall be strong as *iron*, forasmuch as iron breaketh in pieces and subdueth all things, and as iron that breaketh all these, shall it break in pieces and bruise" (Dan. 2:39-40).

Practically *all* Bible commentaries are agreed on the HISTORICAL portion of the fulfillment of this prophecy. They know God was showing FOUR SUCCESSIVE WORLD-RULING GOVERNMENTS to come. The first, Babylon, was conquered by the *Persian* Empire, under Cyrus; later, Alexander's Graeco-Macedonian empire fulfilled the "third kingdom of brass" and was succeeded by the ROMAN EMPIRE, or the *fourth* kingdom, which was strong as iron.

But, just as is the case with DOCTRINE as it is taught in the Bible, the *whole* picture is not always given in only ONE portion of the Scriptures. Daniel, himself, saw and recorded *another* vision. Turn now to Daniel's *seventh* chapter.

Here, Daniel saw four great BEASTS. And again, nearly *all* of the commentaries, the Bible reference books, are agreed on the *historical* fulfillment of this chapter. But almost NO-ONE, it seems, understands the PROPHEPIC SIGNIFICANCE FOR OUR DAY, NOW!

Notice it!

These four beasts correspond *exactly* to the four governments already described in the *second* chapter. But now let us notice the FOURTH of these great beasts. It was *unlike* any earthly animal or creature (vs. 7), and had TEN HORNS. These horns are used as a symbol for *governments* (vs. 24).

This *fourth* creature, then, which corresponds to the ROMAN EMPIRE, was to have TEN SUCCESSIVE GOVERNMENTS—TEN "STAGES" in its duration.

How *long* was it to last? Listen! "Then I would know the *truth* of the fourth beast, which was diverse from all the others, exceeding dreadful, whose teeth were of iron, and his nails of brass, which devoured, brake in pieces, and stamped the residue with his feet; and of the ten horns that were in his head, and [it] . . . MADE WAR WITH THE SAINTS, and prevailed against them UNTIL . . ." (Dan. 7:19-22).

Yes! A *religious persecution* sanctioned by this final government UNTIL a certain time! Until WHEN? THIS WILL TELL US WHETHER OR NOT THESE PROPHECIES ARE FOR OUR DAY, OR NOT!

Read it! ". . . UNTIL THE ANCIENT OF DAYS CAME, AND JUDGMENT WAS GIVEN TO THE SAINTS OF THE MOST HIGH AND THE TIME CAME THAT THE SAINTS POSSESSED THE KINGDOM!" (Dan. 7:22).

Then a *final revival* of the ancient Roman system is to exist RIGHT UP UNTIL THE SECOND COMING OF CHRIST! It is at *Christ's return* that the Saints will take the Kingdom (Rev. 20:4).

How plain! Notice how directly this parallels Daniel 2. "AND IN THE DAYS OF THESE KINGS shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed, and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (Dan. 2:44).

In the second chapter, the great image is pictured having TEN TOES! And the STONE that is supernaturally cut out without hands, which is CHRIST (I Cor. 10:4), *strikes the image on its feet!*

Christ, then, will DESTROY an *end*—
(Please continue on page 16)

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

This 16th installment of the Autobiography finds Mr. Armstrong at the crossroads—forced to make the most momentous decision of his entire life.

IT WAS humiliating to have to admit my wife had been right, and I had been wrong, in the most serious argument that ever came between us.

It was shocking, disillusioning, to learn, after intensive study of the Bible for the first time, that what I had been taught from a child in Sunday School was, in so many basic points, the very opposite of what the Bible plainly states!

Disillusionment

My wife had taken up with a religious doctrine which, to me, had been disgraceful fanaticism. She said she found it IN THE BIBLE!

I had argued. I had commanded her to drop this ridiculous nonsense. I had said she was CRAZY!

Finally I had entered upon an intensive study of the Bible for the first time in my life. I was determined to PROVE she was wrong, for her new belief and practice was contrary to the orthodox teaching of the large-denomination churches that call themselves Christian. My study started early mornings, lasted often until 1:00 or 2:00 a.m. It had continued six months. I was determined to prove to my wife that "all these churches could not be wrong."

But to my utter disappointed astonishment, I found that the popular church teachings and practices were *not* based on the Bible. They had originated, as research in history had revealed, in paganism. Numerous Bible prophecies foretold it. The amazing, unbelievable TRUTH was, the SOURCE of these popular beliefs and practices of professing Christianity was, quite largely, paganism and human reasoning and custom, *NOT the Bible!*

I had first doubted, then searched for evidence, and found PROOF that God exists—that the Holy Bible is, literally, His divinely inspired revelation and in-

struction to mankind. I had learned that one's God is what a person OBEYS. The word "LORD" means MASTER—the one you OBEY! Most people, I had discovered, are obeying *false* gods, rebelling against the one true CREATOR who is the supreme RULER of the universe.

The argument was over a point of OBEDIENCE to GOD.

The opening of my eyes to the TRUTH brought me to the crossroads of my life. To accept it meant to throw in my lot with a class of humble and unpretentious people I had always looked upon as inferior. It meant being cut off from the high and the mighty and the wealthy of this world, to which I had aspired. It meant the final crushing of VANITY. It meant a total *change of life!*

Life and Death Struggle

It meant real REPENTANCE, for now I saw that I had been breaking God's law. I had been rebelling against God. It meant turning around and going THE WAY OF GOD — the WAY of His BIBLE — living according to every word in the Bible, instead of according to the ways of society or the desires of the flesh and of vanity.

It was a matter of which WAY I would travel for the remainder of my life. I had certainly reached the CROSSROADS!

But I had been beaten down. God had brought that about—though I didn't realize it then. This made surrender less difficult. Repeated business reverses, failure after failure, had destroyed self-confidence. I was broken in spirit. The SELF in me didn't want to die. It wanted to try to get up from ignominious defeat and try once again to tread the broad and popular WAY of vanity and of this world. But now I knew *that* way was WRONG! I knew

its ultimate penalty was DEATH. But I didn't want to die *now!*

It was truly a battle for LIFE—a life and death struggle. In the end, I lost that battle, as I had been losing all worldly battles in recent years.

I told God I was only a burned-out hunk of junk. In final desperation, I threw myself on His mercy. If He could use my life, I would give it to *Him*—not in physical suicide, but as a *living* sacrifice, to use as He willed. It was worth nothing to me any longer.

Jesus Christ had bought and paid for my life by His death. It really *belonged* to Him, and now I told Him He could have it!

From then on, this defeated no-good life of mine was GOD'S. I didn't see how it could be worth anything to Him. But it was His to use as His instrument, if He thought He could use it.

JOY in Defeat

This surrender to God—this REPENTANCE—this GIVING UP of the world, of friends and associates, and of everything—was the most bitter pill I ever swallowed. Yet it was the *only* medicine in all my life that ever brought a healing!

For I actually began to realize that I was finding joy beyond words to describe in this total defeat. I had actually found JOY in the study of the Bible—in the discovery of new TRUTHS, heretofore hidden from my consciousness. And in surrendering to GOD in complete repentance, I found unspeakable JOY in accepting JESUS CHRIST as personal Saviour and my present High Priest.

Somehow I began to realize a NEW fellowship and friendship had come into my life. I began to be conscious of a contact and fellowship with Christ, and with God the Father.

When I read and studied the Bible,

God was talking to *me*, and now I *loved* to listen! I began to pray, and knew that in prayer I was talking with God. I was not yet very well acquainted with God. But one gets to be *better* acquainted with another by constant contact and continuous conversation.

A Doctrine at a Time

So I continued the study of the Bible. I began to write, in article form, the things I was learning. I did not then suppose these articles would ever be published. I wrote them for my own satisfaction. It was one way to learn more by the study.

I had been reared of Quaker stock. The Quakers do not believe in water baptism. But now I wanted to PROVE, by the Bible, whether I ought to be baptized. So I began to study about baptism—and receiving the Holy Spirit.

As this study of the Bible continued, I was forced to come out of the fog of religious babylon a single doctrine at a time. It was years later before I came to see the WHOLE picture—to understand God's PURPOSE being worked out here below, and why, and how, He is working it out. Like a jigsaw puzzle, the many single doctrinal parts ultimately fit together, and then, for the first time, the WHOLE picture burst joyfully into view.

It was like being so close to one tree at a time I could not see the forest. I had to examine every doctrinal tree in the religious forest. Many, as I had been brought up to believe them, were felled on close examination IN THE BIBLE. New doctrinal trees came into view. But finally, after several years, I was able to see the whole forest of TRUTH, with dead doctrinal trees removed.

That is why students at Ambassador College today are able to learn the TRUTH much more rapidly than I could. That is why the readers of The PLAIN TRUTH, the regular listeners of The WORLD TOMORROW program, and the students of the Ambassador College BIBLE Correspondence Course are able to come to mature knowledge of the truth so quickly. The pioneer work has been done. The weeds have been removed. The very *trunks* of the trees of false doctrines have been chopped down and uprooted.

But I myself had to check carefully and test every doctrine, one at a time.

And so next, after repentance and surrender to God, came an intensive study of water baptism.

Disillusioned About Preachers

During my initial six months' study, I had studied not only the Bible, but every book, booklet or tract I could get on the religious subjects under study. On the Sabbath question, I had sought out eagerly and studied avidly everything I could find *against* the Sabbath and supporting Sunday as the "Lord's Day." But I had tried to be fair, and searched also the literature on the other side of the question. But always the BIBLE was the sole authority. Thus I became quite familiar with Seventh-Day Adventist literature.

Never, however, did I attend any Seventh-Day Adventist church service.

Also I checked over carefully the literature of the Church of God, with headquarters at Stanberry, Missouri.

Upon surrender to God, I had lost all sense of animosity toward Mrs. O. J. Runcorn, the elderly lady who had started my wife on the religious "fanaticism" which proved to be God's TRUTH. We even came to call her and her husband our spiritual parents. Mrs. Armstrong and I visited with her frequently when in Salem at the home of my parents. Through her and her husband we became acquainted with a small group of "Church of God people" in Salem and near Jefferson, Oregon.

One day when we were in Salem we learned that a preacher of this Church of God had just arrived from Texas, an Elder Unzicker. He and his wife were staying at the home of a neighbor, member of the Church of God. Mrs. Armstrong and I walked across the street to this neighbor's house to see him. I wanted to ask him questions about water baptism.

"Well I don't have time to explain water baptism to you now," said Elder Unzicker, "but I am baptizing a man over at the Seventh-Day Adventist church Sunday afternoon. I will give a short talk on the subject of baptism then. If you wish to know more about it, you are welcome to attend this service and listen."

His talk failed to answer my questions. I still had some questions I wished to ask. Again Mrs. Armstrong and I went to the neighbor's house to see Elder Unzicker. I suppose I was rude in presuming to ask for more of his time, but I was hungry for the truth, and was accustomed to "going after" what I wanted. He seemed quite nettled and impatient. His manner led me to say, rather taken aback:

"Why, Elder Unzicker, you talk as if I am not a Christian."

"I *know* you're not a Christian!" he said impatiently. "Anyone who hasn't been baptized is certainly not a Christian, but a child of the devil!"

I suppose Mr. Unzicker felt impatiently disgusted with a man, new in the truth, hungry to know GOD'S way, coming to him for help. But I couldn't help being deeply disappointed.

"Mr. Unzicker," I replied quietly, "I would not think of making such an accusation against *you*. I am grateful to God that in the Judgment *you* will not be my judge."

Mrs. Armstrong and I left without another word. I saw no more of Elder Unzicker at that time, but we were to see a great deal more of him in later years. This first meeting with a minister of this church was quite disappointing.

Questioning Other Ministers

Next I went to a Baptist minister in Portland, to learn *why* Baptists believe in baptism. He was courteous and patient, glad to explain his church's teachings. He seemed sincere, though he was later dismissed from his pastorate under accusation of some kind of disgraceful or sinful conduct. I never knew whether he was really guilty.

I went to a Seventh-Day Adventist minister. He, too, was courteous and glad to explain his belief, according to the Bible, but my personal impression was that he was rather cold and legalistic.

Then, finally, I went to see a minister of the Friends Church.

I asked him *WHY* the Quakers did not believe in water baptism. He explained the Quaker belief. But by this time I had made a pretty thorough study of the subject in the Bible, and I had the BIBLE answer for his every

argument. Some of his supposed Bible reasons were taken out of context, and were clearly refuted by *other* Biblical passages. These I carefully pointed out to him.

"Well, Herbert," he said finally, "I'll have to confess I can't honestly justify our church position by the Bible. This very thing bothered me a great deal when I first felt called into the ministry. At first, I felt I could not consistently become a minister in the Friends Church because this stand on water baptism really bothered me. But then, I looked at some of the great preachers of the church (naming several, including my own great-uncle Thomas Armstrong), and they all seemed to be holy men of God. And so I decided that if such great and holy men could preach against water baptism, so could I."

Here was a man who looked into the WORD OF GOD, and saw one thing. Then he LOOKED TO MEN, who appeared to be righteous and holy, and he followed the example of MEN instead of the teaching of GOD!

To me this was disillusioning and discouraging! Yet this preacher seemed to be very sincere.

This was only the *start* of my disillusionment about preachers. I had to learn that they are HUMAN, like other people. As a boy I had somehow taken it for granted that preachers were *different* from other people. Preachers were HOLY. Other people were sinners. Other people had human nature, but preachers, I supposed, were *above* the temptations and weaknesses of mortal humans. They were a sort of special species, about half way between ordinary humans and God. I had looked on preachers with a sort of embarrassed awe. I think many people do today.

But my eyes were painfully opened.

Preachers Are Human!

I had to learn that preachers are, after all, the same human species as the rest of us. Most of them are the victims of their upbringing and of the influence of the religion or denomination in which they found themselves.

Are they sincere? I believe most of them *think* they are. Certainly most are not deliberately, knowingly, intentionally insincere. But after all, WHY do

people believe what they do? Most people believe what they have been taught—what they have always heard and therefore assumed without question—and also what they *want* to believe.

And we live in a deceived world. The deceived do not realize that.

Somehow, God saw to it early in my Christian experience that I became painfully aware that "the heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked: who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9). That is true of EVERY human. I had to realize it was true of me, as I was naturally born. I had to realize that I must trust NO man, as the Bible instructs—to trust *only* GOD, but to have love and charity for all men. That meant I must not trust even myself. I had to learn that each man is his own worst enemy. And that, too, meant ME! And so I became very early conscious of the need constantly to fight my own self.

At this point one of the lessons Mr. Arthur I. Boreman had taught me when I was about 21 years of age proved a valuable lesson. He had told me that I was inclined, in those early days, to take too much for granted—to assume things without questioning, without PROVING whether true.

I believe most ministers grow up believing what they are taught—what they read, hear, or find others of their group believing. It's a common fault of humanity. Our school system fails abysmally to teach growing children to *think*, to *question*, to seek *proof*, before accepting anything as true. They are taught to believe what's in the textbook, probably written by a man who had not checked out and proved what he purported to be truth. In school pupils and students are graded on how well they have *memorized* what the textbook said. If the textbook should be examined by a thinking student, and certain points proved to be in error, and the thinking student should turn in an exam paper correcting the error and stating the truth properly, he would probably be flunked.

A minister has been inoculated with a certain combination of doctrinal points. He *assumes*, without question, that they must be true. His denomination teaches it. Then if he comes across a Scripture contradictory to it, he



Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong's daughter Beverly at age 6

thoughtlessly and habitually reads right on past it. It never seems to stop him. He merely brushes it aside—*forgets* it—*ignores* it. I have heard some of the most famous radio evangelists do that very thing on the air—read a passage of Scripture, and stop dead at a certain verse when the very next verse, continuing the sentence or the thought, totally *reversed* the meaning they were reading into the portion they had read.

Now did these world-known evangelists *deliberately* stop where they did, *knowing* that to read the next verse would be to expose that they were teaching the public lies and errors? *Could* they be utterly in *ignorance* of what that next verse says?

No, I do not think they were altogether in ignorance of it. And I am inclined to be a bit charitable and say that it is very possible they did not intend deliberately to deceive their audience. I cannot know their hearts, or what was in their minds. But I know it could be possible that this was one of those instances explained above. They may have read that next verse at some time in the past—but, finding it totally at variance from the doctrine they had accepted for years, they had sub-con-

(Please continue on page 30)

The Plain Truth about the PROTESTANT Reformation

Did the Protestant reformers lead their followers back to the "faith once delivered"? Read the shocking RESULTS of their activities in this revealing series based on Mr. Meredith's forthcoming book.

by Roderick C. Meredith

PART X

STARTLING though it seems, most of us have never really *proved* why we believe the things we do—especially those things about GOD and eternity!

WHY is this so?

It is because of a quirk of human nature which makes us tend to *assume* that whatever our parents, friends and associates tell us is completely *true*. And, once we have carelessly accepted from them various ideas and beliefs, we HATE to *change* or to consider that *we may be wrong!*

Thus, the plain facts of history brought out in this series seem shocking to many who have previously *assumed* that what is called "Christianity" today is in truth the religion taught by Jesus Christ and His apostles. But this is decidedly NOT the case! We can now say that the Biblical and historical *proof* of this statement has been *abundantly demonstrated* in this series of articles. It is something every sincere person must *face squarely!*

Let us not blind our eyes to the meaning of TRUTH!

In this series, we have seen from authentic history that *pagan* ceremonies and traditions were introduced wholesale into the professing Christian church soon after the death of the original apostles. It has been demonstrated that heathen philosophies and beliefs came in also at this time.

We have discussed the spiritual *corruption* and *depravity* of the visible church during the "Dark Ages." Examining Luther's rebellion against this system, we found that at the same time he rebelled against *all* the authoritative commands of God and His Word. Having an aversion to the stress James puts on the need to *obey* God's law, Luther

called this inspired book "an epistle of straw."

We have seen how Luther relied on the *political power* of the German princes to see him through, and how this caused him to *condone bigamy* and counsel "a good strong lie" in order to keep in their political favor.

John Calvin's dictatorial methods and involvement in politics have proved shocking to many. His willingness to *burn alive* a religious opponent will be discussed in this installment.

Last month, we saw how the *sexual lust* and greed for *power* caused Henry VIII to bring about the English Revolt—a movement that cannot honestly be styled a religious movement at all in the true sense of the word.

Often, we have asked the sobering question: Was the Reformation inspired and guided by God's Holy Spirit? Did it actually lead men to return to the belief and practice of Jesus and the apostles?

Remember Jesus warning: "Beware of false prophets" (Matt. 7:15). He said: "Ye shall know them by their *fruits* (verse 16). Surely the "fruits" of the Protestant reformers contain a tremendous lot which is NOT good. Their *motives, methods* and *results* were not by any *measure* those of Jesus and His apostles!

After having given the *facts* from authentic history throughout this series, let us now probe the motives and methods of the Protestant reformers in the light of the book they profess to believe, the Holy Bible.

The Bible and the Reformation

We have examined the basic *foundations* of the Protestant churches today. We have gone to the *source* of the

"divided Christendom" of our time.

If there is any one thing that all religionists agree upon, it is in lamenting the fact that the Protestant reformers have bequeathed to us a religious "Babylon" of monstrous proportions. For, as we have seen, nearly every major Protestant denomination must trace its history—directly or indirectly—from the Reformation of the sixteenth century. Until that time, their *religious ancestors* were all within the pale of the Roman Catholic Church.

Jesus Christ said: "I will build *my Church* (Mat. 16:18). We can only imagine His reaction at seeing hundreds of *differing* churches all laying claim to His name and approbation.

We wonder what might be the judgment of Christ's faithful apostle who urged us "to keep the *unity* of the Spirit in the bond of peace," and was inspired to state: "There is *one body*, and *one Spirit*, even as ye are called in *one hope* of your calling; *One Lord*, *one faith*, *one baptism*, *One God* and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and in you all" (Eph. 4:3-6).

Needless to say, this *unity* is *not to be found* in the Protestant world today. There are *many* faiths, and *many* bodies, or churches. All too often, they express the *antagonism* which Luther felt toward the Swiss reformers: "Yours is a *different spirit* . . . We cannot acknowledge you as brethren" (Schaff, *History of the Christian Church*, vol. VII, p. 645).

Jesus said: "Ye shall know them by their *fruits*" (Mat. 7:16). It is an *undeniable fact* that the "fruit" of the Protestant Reformation is the *divided churchianity* of our day. We must say at the outset that this is *bad fruit*.

Paul tells us that the Spirit of God produces *unity*—not division. Therefore, we should examine in retrospect to see what the spirit was, and what the *motivating factors* were, that produced the religious *confusion* resulting from the Reformation.

Nationalism and Lust

We have seen how the spirit of *nationalism* was growing throughout Europe just prior to the Reform movement. The people of Europe were tired of the religious and financial oppressions of Rome.

Therefore, Luther immediately gained a large following among the German nobles and middle class when he cried: "We were born to be *masters*. . . . It is time the *glorious Teutonic people* should cease to be the puppet of the Roman pontiff" (Bettenson, *Documents*, p. 278). And we have seen how the English nobility were wedded to Henry VIII's "reformation" *because* they had been allowed to *seize the wealth* of the monastic lands and establishments. But in the latter case, as we have noted, their Parliamentary representatives *changed* their "religion" *three times* and "would have voted the establishment of the Mohametan religion" at the monarch's bidding.

And it was the *sexual lust* of Henry VIII for Anne Boleyn that very clearly marks the starting point of the English revolt against Rome.

Of course, there is *no doubt* that many thousands of the common people in all of these countries sincerely desired not only a release from the tyranny of Rome, but for a restoration of religious truth and religious freedom. But *people follow their leaders*.

So the real question is not what *might* have happened, but what *did* happen, and what motivated the political and religious *leaders* of the Reformation.

"In the end, it was a *national system* of Reformation that was carried out. . . . In those countries in which the *national and political* stimulus was absent or was weak, the religious movement failed" (Plummer, *The Continental Reformation*, p. 16).

So we see that the spirit of nationalism was a *major factor* in helping the Reformation to success. It is important

to realize that this very *exaltation of nations* has now resulted in the threat of *human annihilation* in our time!

For *political, financial and nationalistic* reasons, men revolted against the church of Rome. They exalted private judgment and reason. And in place of the Roman authority which was supposed to represent *God*, they have placed *nationalistic authority*—and the *gods of war*!

It is true that Luther and Calvin had personal religious motivations. As we have described, Luther's mind was tortured with a perpetual sense of *guilt*. In his extreme emphasis on salvation by faith *alone*, he was trying desperately to devise some system where the *law* of God and the *justice* of God would have no place.

But Luther's *personal* spiritual upheaval would have had little effect on Germany or the world had he not appealed to the *political and financial* instincts of the German princes. And "it is true to say that the motives which led to the Lutheran revolt were to a large extent *secular* rather than spiritual" (Plummer, p. 9).

Thus, we may say that the original English revolt was motivated almost entirely by *lust and greed*. And while the reforms under Luther and Calvin contained an element of religious conviction in the spiritual leaders, they primarily employed the *materialistic grievances* of the princes and the people as a stimulus to rebel against Rome. It was a spirit of *nationalism* which assured the widespread success of these movements.

Violent Methods of the Reformers

When it came to a showdown, the Protestant reformers were as ready to resort to *violence, bloodshed and persecution* as their Roman Catholic adversaries. In any discussion of the *methods* by which the Reformation triumphed, this fact must be acknowledged.

We have already seen how Luther *won* the German princes to his cause. How he *used* them to fight Catholicism and to *persecute* those who disagreed with him, is another matter. And the same principle may apply to Zwingli and Calvin, and the political councils

under their sway, and to King Henry VIII and his subservient Parliament and nobility.

Do we remember Luther's raving appeal to the German princes to "*smite, strangle, and stab, secretly or publicly*" those peasants who had applied the principle of his teachings to their own circumstances? Do we remember that he reversed himself in 1529, and said that Christians were "bound" to *resort to arms* to defend their Protestant beliefs?

It is also a fact that Luther *approved* the *persecution and martyrdom* of the Anabaptists and other sects who rejected his teachings. Commenting on the *beheading* of Anabaptists in Saxony, he said that "their courage showed that they were possessed by the devil" (Plummer, p. 174).

The same treatment was given those who did not go along with the *national church system* which was *forced* upon the English people. Besides the *several hundred* nobles and commoners who lost their lives through the personal and religious bigotry of Henry VIII, many hundreds of others lost their lives under the reign of his Protestant daughter, Elizabeth.

Those who refused to acknowledge the *religious supremacy* of the English monarch were dealt with as if they were guilty of high treason. "Before 1588 *twelve hundred* Catholics had already fallen victims to the persecution. In England alone, during the last twenty years of Elizabeth's reign, one hundred and forty-two priests were hanged, drawn, and quartered, for their faith, ninety priests and religious [persons] died in prison, one hundred and five were banished for life, and sixty-two laymen of consideration suffered martyrdom (Deharbe, *A History of Religion*, p. 484).

And it was not just the monarchs who practiced intolerance in England, but the *Protestant religious leaders* as well. During the reign of young King Edward VI, Archbishop Cranmer persuaded him to sign the *death warrant* of two Anabaptists, one of them a *woman*. They were *burned at the stake*. In relating this, Schaff tells us: "The English Reformers were not behind those of the Continent in the matter of

intolerance" (*History of the Christian Church*, Vol. VIII, p. 711).

After Calvinism was introduced into Scotland, those who professed the Catholic religion were subject to the *death penalty*, and many paid with their lives for their religious beliefs (Deharbe, p. 485).

Remember that these people were victims of *Protestant persecution!*

By appealing to *financial* or *nationalistic* motives, and by getting into and *dominating* the *political power*, the leading Protestant reformers were able to *force* their doctrines on the common people. Before gaining *political power*, the reformers all insisted upon the *inalienable right* of every Christian to search the Bible for himself, and to judge its teachings independently (Deharbe, p. 620). But once they were in power, *woe* be to the Catholic, the Anabaptist, or to any other who continued to insist upon this "inalienable right"!

As we have seen, it was the *same picture* under John Calvin's "theocracy" in Geneva, Switzerland. Fisher states: "Not only profaneness and drunkenness, but innocent amusements and the teaching of divergent theological doctrines, were *severely punished*" (*The History of the Christian Church*, p. 325). We have already catalogued some of the many *hundreds* of instances where people were subjected to *imprisonment*, to *public whipping* or to the death penalty because of some innocent amusement, or because they *disagreed* with John Calvin's religious ideas.

But *one instance* stands out which was defended by almost *all* the reformers of that day. It is one that we should especially remember as an outstanding example of the *reasoning* of the early reformers on the subject of religious *toleration*. It is the martyrdom of Michael Servetus.

The Burning of Michael Servetus

Servetus was a man about the same age as Calvin. Although he was born in Spain, he practiced medicine in France and is said to have anticipated Harvey's discovery of the circulation of blood. When still a young man, he published a book on the "errors of the Trinity." In it, he disagreed with the common doctrine of God as a Trinity held by

Catholics and Protestants alike. His position was similar to that held by those of the Unitarian belief today (Plummer, *The Continental Reformation*, p. 170).

For teaching and writing about this doctrine, and also for holding a divergent view on the exact nature of Christ's divinity, he was hated and persecuted by Catholics and Protestants alike.

Fleeing from the Catholic Inquisition at Vienna, France, he foolishly passed through Protestant Geneva. Someone recognized him and reported his presence to Calvin, who had him arrested and imprisoned (Plummer, p. 172).

As Servetus' trial began before the Calvin-dominated Council, John Calvin wrote to a fellow reformer: "I hope that the judgment will be sentence of *death . . .*" (Plummer, p. 172).

Plummer continues: "At the trial Calvin acted as prosecutor and had no trouble in causing Servetus to incriminate himself hopelessly. . . . It is one of the many painful features in the case that it was distinctly to Calvin's interest to get Servetus condemned, for such a triumph would greatly strengthen his position in Geneva. The case dragged on, and, as in the case of Bolsec, there was much correspondence with other authorities, both ecclesiastical and civil, in Switzerland. In the end it seemed to be clear that Calvin's enemies had failed, and that Protestant feeling was in favor of removing such a pest as Servetus from the earth. On October 26 he was sentenced to be burned alive the next day. Calvin asked for a milder form of death, but his request was refused. Through the clumsiness of the executioner the agonies of Servetus were prolonged. His last cry was: 'Jesus, Thou Son of the Eternal God, have pity on me,' and it has been noticed that 'eternal' is the epithet, not of the Son, but of God. The book for which Servetus was condemned was tied to his neck to be burned with him. It fell off, and was rescued from the flames. It may still be seen, a ghastly memorial of Reformation ethics,' in the National Library at Paris.

"We have always to remember that in putting Servetus to death, neither Calvin nor the Council nor the Swiss Governments whom they consulted had any

jurisdiction whatever. Their action was lynch law of the most revolting kind" (*The Continental Reformation*, pp. 172-173).

We notice that even the Protestant historian is forced to acknowledge that one of the *two greatest* of the Protestant reformers resorted to an illegal "lynch law" procedure in order to *destroy* a religious antagonist!

The blunt *truth* is that this was nothing but "*respectable*" *murder!*

Jesus Christ said: "*Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you*" (Mat. 5:44).

The apostle Paul was inspired to write: "Dearly beloved, *avenge not yourselves*, but rather give place unto wrath: for it is written, Vengeance is mine; I will repay, saith the Lord. Therefore if thine *enemy* hunger, *feed him . . .*" (Romans 12:19-20).

In very clearly indicating that the right of civil judging or condemning to death of others in spiritual matters was *not given* to fallible human beings, Jesus *freed* the woman taken in adultery (John 8:11). He commanded: "*Judge not, that ye be not judged*" (Mat. 7:1).

Did John Calvin know these Scriptures? Did he understand these principles which nearly all civilized men have since come to acknowledge?

Did Calvin Act in Haste or Ignorance?

The Protestant historians answer: "He easily takes the *lead* among the systematic expounders of the Reformed system of Christian doctrine." "Calvin's theology is based upon a thorough knowledge of the Scriptures" (Shaff, *History*, Vol. VIII, pp. 260-261).

Here was a man who really *knew* the Bible. He wrote learned commentaries upon it, and was thoroughly familiar with the teaching and example of Christ and the inspired New Testament Church.

Yet he was willing not only to *condone*, but to *directly cause* a man to be *burned to death* for disagreeing with his religious doctrines. In the absolute sense of everything that Jesus Christ taught, stood for, and lived for, John Calvin stands condemned as a *murderer!* But

did he *mean* to be? Was he *sincere*? Or was it a *rash act* carried out in the heat of passion?

To the last question we may answer in the *negative*. For after plenty of time for mature consideration, John Calvin sought to *defend* this vile act and *justify* himself. And, remarkable as it may seem, so did *many* of the other leading reformers!

In the year after the burning of Servetus, Calvin dogmatically asserts: "Whoever shall now contend that it is unjust to put heretics and blasphemers *to death* will knowingly and willingly incur their very guilt. This is not laid down on human authority; it is God who speaks and prescribes a *perpetual rule* for his Church" (Schaff, Vol. VIII, p. 791).

It is a *sobering truth* that if John Calvin's kind of "perpetual rule" against heretics were carried out today, *very few* of us would long remain alive!

Fortunately for his name, Luther was not living to pronounce a judgment in favor of Servetus' burning. Knowing his past record, however, it is almost *certain* that he would have agreed with Calvin in putting Servetus to death.

However, Luther's closest associate and advisor, Melancthon, was quick to express his *agreement* with Calvin. He later wrote Bullinger, another of the Swiss reformers: "I judge also that the Genevese senate did *perfectly right*, to put an end to this obstinate man, who could never cease blaspheming. And I wonder at those who disapprove of this severity" (Schaff, Vol. VIII, p. 707).

Thus, we see that the German reformers *agreed* with the Swiss in *burning to death* a man *simply because he disagreed with their theological opinions!*

We have asked if Calvin could be *sincere* in all of this. It is a difficult question, the *complete* answer to which *only* God knows. The human mind sometimes plays tricks on us. We often *willfully overlook* those things which we don't wish to acknowledge. As we shall soon see, it is evident that both Luther and Calvin did this in the development of their doctrines and in some of their actions as well.

However, judging from the facts at our disposal, and from contemporary

testimony, it appears that Calvin *meant* to be sincere. Within his own sphere of thinking, Calvin was somehow sincere in feeling that it was right to *burn Servetus* for religious disagreement, even though he and the other reformers claimed the freedom of the individual conscience in their struggle with Rome.

The Reason for Protestant Violence and Persecutions

The answer to the killing of Servetus, then, does not lie in rashness later repented of, nor does it lie in a complete lack of sincerity on Calvin's part. But what *is* the answer?

The same answer is given, in essence, by many Protestant historians. It is one that *every* honest student of the Bible and history must acknowledge.

The *answer* is that, even long after their separation from Rome and their "conversion" to Protestantism, the early reformers and their followers were still literally *saturated* with the *doctrines*, the *concepts* and the *practices* of their "mother" church at Rome. "The reformers *inherited* the doctrine of *persecution* from their mother church, and practiced it as far as they had the power. They fought intolerance with intolerance. They differed favorably from their opponents in the degree and extent, but *not* in the *principle*, of intolerance" (Schaff, *History*, Vol VIII, p. 700).

As we shall see, this frank admission by Schaff reveals why so *many* of the

Protestant doctrines and actions seem so totally inconsistent with their avowed intention of basing everything on "the Bible *only*."

We have seen that Martin Luther *played politics*, *condoned bigamy*, counseled a *lie*, encouraged the *slaughter* of the peasants and the *drowning* of Anabaptists.

It has been shown that the English revolt began with the *lust* of Henry VIII, and that he and Queen Elizabeth and their Protestant theologians all had a part in *slaughtering* hundreds of Catholic, Anabaptist and, later, Puritan dissenters.

Now we have reviewed the part that John Calvin and the Swiss reformers played in the *persecution* and *drowning* of Anabaptists, in the cruel *punishment* and *execution* of their own Genevese citizens for failing to conform in all respects to Calvin's doctrine. Finally, we have described the *agreement* of nearly *all* the early Protestant leaders in the famous "lynch law" execution by *burning at the stake* which Calvin inflicted upon Michael Servetus for *purely religious reasons*.

We have *proved* that these were "cold-blooded" killings. They were *not* the result of the passion of the moment. Nor were those responsible afflicted by *temporary insanity*.

These *crimes* in the name of religion were *calculated* beforehand, and they were still *defended* by theological argument long after they had occurred!

We have seen that the *real explanation* lies in the fact that the early reformers "inherited" *much* of the *doctrine* and *spirit* of their "mother" church. They were as men *spiritually drunk*—unable to see clearly the *real meaning* and *outcome* of their teachings and actions.

Next month, we propose to reveal the actual *PURPOSE* behind the Protestant movement—and the startling *reason* behind the religious *confusion* and spiritual *drunkenness* bequeathed to our generation.

The facts contained in this series have a direct bearing on *your* life and *your* future! Ask God for an *OPEN* mind. *Don't miss* reading and *studying* the final installment of this vital series in next month's PLAIN TRUTH!

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What Is REAL Repentance?

Millions have heard the cry, "REPENT! Receive Christ!" But what does it mean? What is real repentance? Here's the BIBLE ANSWER!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

IN A WORLD fraught with tension and fear, increasing thousands are turning to *religion*. Somehow, many feel they need to "get right" with God—to join a Church—to become more "religious."

Vast evangelistic campaigns have netted thousands of "decisions for Christ." In a moment of remorse over their past lives, many have decided to "accept" Jesus as Saviour. But what IS this "receiving" of Christ? Is it REAL?

Mass evangelism has been severely criticized recently by many who have shown the "decisions" made usually don't LAST very long. Were these decisions *real repentance*?

The Common Belief

A foremost religious leader once said: "First, let us understand what Christianity is NOT. It is NOT a *way of life*!"

But what does the newly converted Christian DO then, that MAKES him a Christian? Commonly, it is believed that the remorseful feeling of sorrow over past mistakes and misdeeds, plus the *acceptance* of Christ—the *worship* of Christ—is a saving experience. Hundreds of thousands of sincere, well-meaning, earnest people are content they are Christians—satisfied they are headed toward eternal life—*when they actually have never taken the first step toward becoming a true Christian, believe it or not!*

But listen to what the Bible actually says!

"From that time Jesus *began to preach . . .*" (Matt. 4:17). Jesus was a preacher! Jesus Christ came with a *message* from God the Father—and that message was what He preached! What was the *very first thing* HE told His audiences to do? ". . . REPENT: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand" (Matt. 4:17). Notice—the words of Jesus are: "REPENT!"

Later, the Apostles—Peter, James and John, the Apostle Paul and others—preached the same message Jesus brought from His Father. When Peter stood up

to explain the amazing events of the Day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. he said, "REPENT, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the *remission of sins*, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Later, Peter said, "*Repent* ye therefore, and *be converted*, that your SINS may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19). Jesus gave stern warning that "except ye REPENT, ye shall all likewise perish" (Luke 13:3, 5).

Then there *is* something required *in addition to* the acceptance of Jesus as personal Saviour! Jesus said so!

To repent and be converted is to CHANGE. That is the very *meaning* of the word "convert." Just what *is* that change, then?

Change What?

"I'm a changed man," said the reformed smoker. "I have finally quit the tobacco habit!" This man felt, because he had dropped a bad habit, he was a *changed* man! But was he really?

What is it Christ wants you to change? Merely your way of "thinking" about Him? Do you change your "outlook" on religion? Do you change your Church? Change your habits? Change WHAT?

The Apostle Paul explained that the ". . . carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). That *carnal* mind is the NATURAL human mind—the normal, sincere, natural, common "way of looking at things" that all of us were born with! It's the mind of every normal human being PRIOR to this *change* Christ was talking about! Paul went on to say, "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*" (Rom. 8:9). Did you notice it? If a man have not the *Spirit of Christ*—he doesn't *belong* to Christ, and therefore IS NOT A CHRISTIAN!

This change has something to do with the carnal mind, and the Spirit of Christ! Let's notice another important scripture.

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that ye present your bodies a *living sacrifice*, holy acceptable unto God, which is your reasonable service. *And be not conformed to this world*, but be ye TRANSFORMED by the *renewing of your mind*, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2). Read that scripture again! *Study it!*

God says you must undergo a renewing, a *transforming*, a CHANGING—OF THE MIND!

This changing of the mind is a change of *human nature*!

The normal, natural way of human nature is the way of SELFISHNESS. The SELF is the entire motivating drive in human nature. It is the pleasing of the self, the satisfaction of the *self*—the way of *getting* for the *self* that is the basis of human nature. YOU are extremely selfish! All human beings are selfish.

And, behind the selfishness of every person lies the root cause of it all: *vanity*!

"Vanity of vanities, saith the preacher, vanity of vanities; ALL is vanity" (Eccl. 1:2). Every person is filled with *vanity*, in one form or another. Notice that Paul tells us, "For the creature [correct meaning, "*creation*"] was made subject to *vanity*, not willingly, but by reason of him who hath subjected the same in hope" (Rom. 8:20).

All is vanity! The desire of every person to be "liked" by others—to be "well thought of," to be *accepted* by the society, looked up to, respected, admired, and loved by others—*all this is vanity*!

It is this *vanity* which leads a person to say, "What will my friends say?" or; "What will *people* think?"

Ensnared in Society

Having been reared in a world that measures everything by *what people think*, you probably are *quite concerned* about the opinions of your friends, neighbors and relatives. You are wrapped up in this age, this society!

Whatever is the standard, whatever is looked upon with approval *by* these people, whose acceptance you covet, *that* becomes the standard of your life! If you're like most people—you live in the way which is *most* likely to *gain* for you the acceptance and approbation you seek. You are a *part of this world*. Your life is regulated by this world and its customs, its holidays, its practices in business, in social life, in religious life, and all the many accepted standards of society which make up this "world."

Most people are *ensnared* by it—trapped into CONFORMITY with whatever is the way of the majority—following like blind *sheep* wherever society leads, never *questioning* WHETHER it is right, but simply *conforming* to the ways of others.

It is the *vanity* in human nature, the *selfishness*, which drives individuals on and on, seeking the respect and approbation of *other people!*

It is to RELEASE us from these shackles of tradition and society that Jesus calls us *out* of this world!

Jesus Calls You OUT of Society

Jesus said, "My kingdom is NOT of *this world*" (John 18:36). He was the Messenger from God the Father of a *better* kingdom—the world-ruling Kingdom of God! When Christ walked this earth *as a man*, He spoke to His disciples of a soon-coming WORLD GOVERNMENT that would *supersede* and PUT DOWN all opposing, man-made governments, and RULE THIS WORLD! (Rev. 2:26-27).

He prayed that His disciples would be SEPARATE from this world. "I pray for *them*: I pray *not* for the world, but for them which thou hast given me; for they are thine" (John 17:9).

Did you know Jesus Christ Himself said—IF YOU ARE A TRUE CHRISTIAN, YOUR FORMER FRIENDS, YOUR RELATIVES, THIS SOCIETY—WILL HATE YOU?

Listen!

"If the world *bate* you, ye know that it hated me before it hated you. If ye were *of* the world, the world would love his own: but because ye are *not of the world*, but I have chosen you *out* of the world, therefore the world *hateth* you" (John 15:18-19).

Jesus said *your own family* would be-

gin to look down on you, if you are really willing to OBEY HIM! "*Think not* that I am come to send peace on earth: I came *not* to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matt. 10:34-36).

If you are *really following Christ*—LIVING as He lived, DOING as He did—keeping God's LAW as He did—this society, even your closest former friends and your own relatives, will begin to RESIST and PERSECUTE you.

"Forasmuch then as Christ hath suffered for us in the flesh, arm yourselves likewise with the same mind: . . . For the time past of our life may suffice us to have wrought the will of the Gentiles . . . Wherein *they think it strange* [the former associates, with whom you followed the courses of society] that ye run not with them to the same excess of riot, *speaking evil of you*" (1 Pet. 4:1-4).

Notice HOW STRONGLY God impresses on every Christian that they must discontinue their relationships with this sinning society! "Love NOT the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, *the love of the Father is not in him*. For all that is in the world, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that *doeth the will of God* abideth forever" (1 John 2:15-17).

Count the Cost

In Luke 14 Jesus sternly warns every prospective Christian to COUNT THE COST of being a true follower of Him! How many people are being told to COUNT THE COST—or even told WHAT THAT COST IS, in today's great evangelistic efforts which invite people to "make a decision for Christ?"

Are they being TOLD what it really *means*? Are they being told HOW to GIVE themselves to God—HOW to serve Christ—WHAT to do—WHAT it means—are they being told to COME OUT of this society, and be NOT conformed to the world?

No! They *most decidedly are not!*

Many people are being led to "accept

Jesus" or to "receive Him" today, in a moment of emotional remorse over past mistakes. But many thousands DO NOT KNOW WHAT TO DO to really become a Christian!

What IS the Cost?

Remember, Jesus *tells* you what you must *do* to become a Christian!

"Not every one that saith unto me, 'Lord, Lord' shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *DOETH* the WILL OF MY FATHER which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21). "REPENT" said Christ! "DO THE WILL of God," said Jesus!

God's *will* is expressed in His word. "Thy word is truth" (John 17:17). It is the *truth*, the *word* of God that will set you free.

Here, then, is what it really COSTS to become a true Christian, and to become a begotten son of God!

IT COSTS YOUR LIFE!

LITERALLY!

Does that shock you? Perhaps it does, unless you think I mean that statement as a kind of "spiritual phraseology" which is just another way of saying "set your heart on the Lord" or some similar sentiment.

God's word tells you that you must *literally* LAY DOWN YOUR LIFE for Christ.

"Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

After you have been BROKEN UP, and *your own human will* has been totally SHATTERED, after you are DISGUSTED with yourself—FILLED with ABHORRENCE at your own actions, your own way of life—your own SELF, which is the VANITY within you—*then* you should be *baptized!*

What It Means

Immersion into a watery "grave" is a deep spiritual symbolism which signifies the actual, LITERAL BURYING of the *old self*—YOU—the way you HAVE BEEN, and the *resurrection* of a NEW YOU—now *conquered* by God, *surrendered* to God, meekly and humbly CHILD-like in your obedience and TRUST in Him as your Living Saviour.

"Know ye not, that so many of us as were *baptized* into Jesus Christ were

baptized into his death? Therefore *we are buried* with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so WE should WALK IN NEWNESS OF LIFE. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection. *Knowing this*, that our OLD MAN IS CRUCIFIED with him, that the *body of sin* [the former "you"] might be *destroyed*, that henceforth *we should not serve sin*" (Rom. 6:3-6).

Paul explained this principle further when he said, "For I was alive without the law once [without a knowledge of the law]: but when the commandment came [to his consciousness—so he became *aware of what sin was*] *sin revived* [he was able to see clearly that he was a *great sinner*] AND I *DIED!*" (Rom. 7:9). Paul said, "For sin, taking occasion by the commandment [being brought to light for what it was by the laws of God] deceived me, and *by it SLEW* me. *Wherefore* [because God's law had *shown him* he was a sinner] the law is HOLY, and the commandment HOLY, and JUST, and good!" (Rom. 7:11-12).

A Change of Mind

The Apostle Paul was a true Christian. He had the Spirit of God, which is promised to every one who will literally *lay down his life*, and surrender the *self will*, performing the ordinance of baptism, and coming to God's throne of grace as a meek child. Paul said, "I am *crucified* with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Gal. 2:20).

After REPENTING, and *being baptized*, which symbolizes the BURYING of the old carnal self, which was formerly HOSTILE toward God—the Holy Spirit is then implanted *within* your mind, and CHANGES your mind. Jesus Christ begins to *motivate* your thoughts, guide and direct your every action—LIVE HIS LIFE over again, WITHIN YOU!

And He does it through the power of God's Holy Spirit!

This is a great mystery to most human beings—and yet, the Spirit of God MUST enter our CARNAL minds to *change* those minds, and make them yielding,

humble, and *obedient* to God, where they had been hostile, antagonistic, resentful, and bitter toward our Creator!

The receiving of God's Spirit to *change* human nature is the receiving of an outside POWER—a *begettal* which makes us His sons!

A Changed Attitude

If you are a true Christian, *you will not be able* to blindly follow the customs and practices of this society any further. Instead, you will begin asking, "What is *God's will*, what does *God* say about it?" And you will begin to SEARCH THE BIBLE TO GET TO KNOW the will of God.

Your outlook and attitude will gradually become *Christ-like*. You will begin saying, with Christ, "Nevertheless not *my will*, but *THY will*, be done!"

Where you formerly "went along with the crowd" in social activities, in customs of dress, in business practices, you will then begin to *question* the ways of the crowd. You will want to first ascertain *what God's will* is concerning these ways of life!

THAT IS THE DEFINITION OF A CHRISTIAN!

A Christian is a person who LIVES BY EVERY WORD OF GOD!

"Man shall not *live* by bread alone, but by every word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4). So said your Saviour! But are most professing Christians really LIVING by every WORD of God?

Not so! *Most professing Christians do not even know a small portion of what the Word of God says!* It is because they don't STUDY the Bible, and begin to *drink in* of the Word of God that they gullibly swallow and accept whatever others say and believe!

What It Means to You

A Christian, then, is CONQUERED by God. His carnal will is *broken!* He realizes He has SINNED! Sin is any action that is contrary to the LAWS of God (I John 3:4). He then CRIES OUT to God and asks for *forgiveness* for those sins, and a *lifting* of the death penalty, which every sin brings (Rom. 6:23). He accepts God's promise of forgiveness, *on faith*, by accepting the sacrifice of *Christ*, accepting Jesus' death *in place* of his

own. The Christian then takes the ordinance of *baptism* which shows God *he really means it*.

He expects God to stand back of His promise to give him the Holy Spirit, as a result of the REPENTANCE and the baptism which God demands.

THEN — AND NEVER UNTIL THEN—WILL YOU BECOME A TRUE CHRISTIAN.

Finally, you will begin to *practice* as a HABIT, the very life of Christ. "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). "He that saith he abideth in him [*is a Christian*] *ought himself also so to walk* [LIVE], even as HE [Christ] walked" (I John 2:6).

The true Christian, who has REALLY repented, will LIVE as Christ lived! He will keep the LAWS of God, being obedient to God in every way, and becoming a recipient of the great HAPPINESS and tremendous BLESSINGS that come with that obedience!

"For even hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, *leaving us an example*, that ye should *follow his steps*" (I Pet. 2:21).

CHECK UP on yourself!

Study these scriptures *in your own Bible*. Many of you THINK you are already "saved" and that you are already good Christians! *But* "Let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall" (I Cor. 10:12).

Remember, to "*examine yourselves, whether ye be in the faith; prove your own selves. Know ye not your own selves, how that Jesus Christ is IN you, except ye be reprobates?*" (II Cor. 13:5).

Serve Christ—OBEY Christ—LIVE as Christ lived, FOLLOW Christ, IMITATE CHRIST!

THAT IS WHAT IT MEANS to give yourself to Him!

Baptizing Tours

If YOU are one who really feels you *have* come to know what real repentance is—and *you want to repent*, you really WANT TO OBEY GOD—then here is GOOD NEWS!

Each summer, Mr. Armstrong sends teams of ministers, or advanced students of Ambassador College who are thor-

oughly trained, consecrated and *dedicated* men, to visit those wishing to be baptized.

These men are Mr. Armstrong's *personal representatives*, who drive many thousands of miles to visit and counsel with those whose hearts have been made *willing*, and who want to be baptized. They are true servants of *Jesus Christ*, and they speak and act *in His name*, and are seeking to serve Him.

If YOU would wish one of these teams to call on *you*, in your own home, to talk to you about water baptism—then write to Mr. Armstrong *immediately*.

The tours are being planned NOW, so write soon, if you want to be baptized. And, if you have not read the booklet "All About Water Baptism," better ask for it, too.

But remember—if you're *not sure*, then *read this article again*.

* * *

Self-Sacrifice

All the practical side of religion is summed up in the exhortation of Paul, that we present our bodies a living sacrifice to God. Anciently, a man brought a lamb and presented it to God, laid it on the altar to be consumed by God's fire. In like manner we are to present our bodies. The first thing is not to be a worker, a preacher, a saver of souls; the very first thing in a Christian life is to present one's self to God, to lay one's self on the altar. We need to understand this. It is easier to talk and work for Christ than to give ourselves to Him. It is easier to offer God a few activities than to surrender our lives to Him.

But the heart must be first, else even the largest gifts and services are not acceptable.

"Tis not thy work the Master needs,
but thee,

The obedient spirit, the believing
heart."

"A living sacrifice." A sacrifice is something really *given* to God, to be His altogether and forever. We cannot take it back. One could not lay a lamb on God's altar, and a minute or two afterward run up and take it off. We cannot be God's today, and our own tomorrow. If we become His at all, in a sacrifice which He accepts, we are His always.

NOW! Gospel to RUSSIA!

(Continued from page 2)

Program! And God is a miracle-working God. He says He will OPEN DOORS for HIS Message!

And—MIRACLE OF MIRACLES!!—HE HAS DONE IT!!

Here is the **TREMENDOUS NEWS!!** There is one little tiny nation in Europe which Russia considers too insignificant to notice, the little nation of Monaco, made famous by the marriage of movie actress Grace Kelly with its prince, and the birth of their son, which saved this little nation's independence. Well, this little nation NOW has a super-super-power radio station more powerful than Radio Luxembourg—the *most powerful in Europe*—EIGHT TIMES more powerful than our biggest in the United States. It is Radio Monte Carlo, with 400,000 watts of power, BEAMED DIRECTLY ON MOSCOW, RUSSIA! Besides this, there are two very powerful short-wave stations, also beamed, on different wave-lengths, on Russia.

The Russians have not jammed this giant station. They let its programs come into Russia. *God has kept this station FREE for HIS Message!* In order to jam it, the Russians would have to construct at least SIX stations in Russia, still more powerful than these three, and beam them directly on Monte Carlo—and this would cost MANY millions of dollars! The Russians want to be on friendly terms with Monaco. There is little chance they will try to black out

this station—and if they did, it would take a long time.

RADIO MONTE CARLO has just opened up to us a choice half-hour broadcasting time *every Saturday* and every Sunday—the BEST possible time because Saturday is now the Russians' day off from work! The WORLD TOMORROW program is to be broadcast simultaneously on all three stations into Russia every week at this ideal time!

WE ARE TO START IMMEDIATELY BROADCASTING TO ALL RUSSIA, IN THE RUSSIAN LANGUAGE, ON ALL THREE OF THESE STATIONS—the 400,000-watt standard broadcast, and the two short-wave stations, all at the same hour, 7:00 a.m. in Monte Carlo, which is 9:00 a.m. in Moscow! This will be every Saturday and every Sunday on this super-power station! Thus, we now have the BEST possible time ON THE ONLY BROADCASTING DOOR GOD HAS OPENED TO REACH RUSSIA!

This is a WORLD FIRST!! This is the FIRST TIME that the true Gospel of Christ has ever been allowed to be broadcast into Russia! Think of it! *For the first time MILLIONS* of the Russian people are going to hear the TRUTH!

WAR in MAY?

(Continued from page 5)

time revival of the ancient Roman Empire!

A Great TRADING Power!

The book of Revelation has long been a mystery to most people. Many ministers simply tell their congregations not to bother reading it—that it can't be understood. And yet—Jesus said the book was written to "SHOW unto his servants things which MUST SHORTLY COME TO PASS" (Rev. 1:1). For one of the most exciting things you've ever read, write in and ask for the free booklet, "The KEY to the Book of Revelation."

Jesus is the Revelator. And Christ Himself *fills in some of the details* for us concerning this final revival of the Roman Empire. In Daniel's interpretation of Nebuchadnezzar's dream, the great image had TEN TOES which were destroyed by the Rock. Notice the

UND JETZT INS DEUTSCHE ÜBERSETZT!

Die Broschüren

„Wie oft sollten wir das heilige
ABENDMAHL nehmen?“

„WOZU sind wir geboren?“

„Die AUFERSTEHUNG war
nicht an einem Sonntag!“

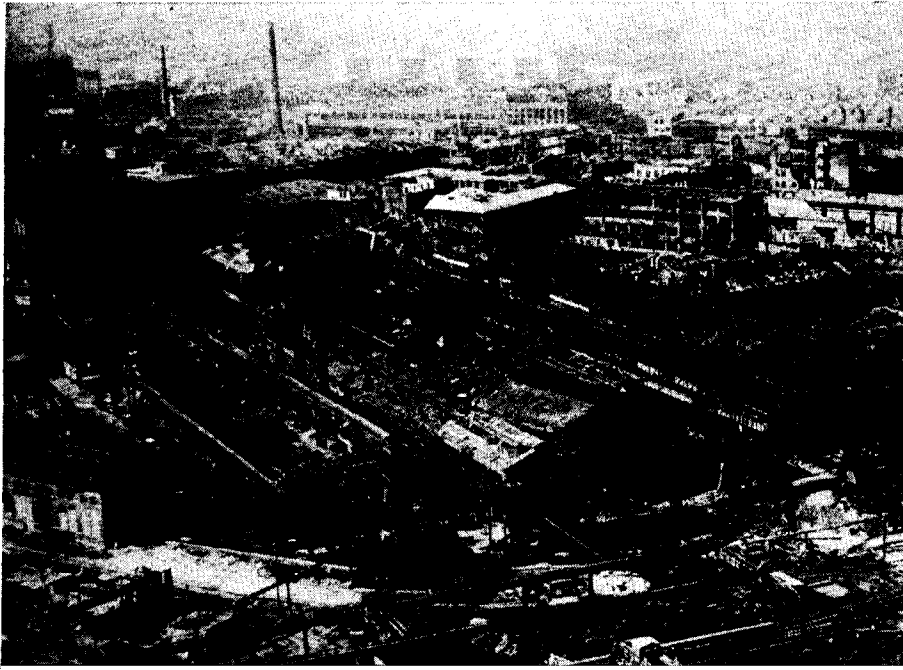
sind erschienen!

Postanschrift:

Die Welt von Morgen

P.O. Box 1030

Pasadena, Kalifornien



Frightfully demolished Krupp Works in Essen at the end of World War II. From this devastated condition Germany has rebounded to prosperity in 14 short years.

WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

not by guns, but BY ECONOMIC TIES!

The six nation "Euromart," or the "common market" now in effect in Europe, *already* comprises the bulk of the nations included in the "ten toes" of Daniel 2, and the "ten horns" of Revelation 17! So far, Germany, France, Belgium, Netherlands, Luxembourg and Italy have bound themselves together into a single unit for economic cooperation. **FOUR MORE ARE TO FOLLOW!**

In December, 1951, the leading geopolitical paper in Western Germany, *Christ und Welt*, stated, "Continental Europe would break away from the Atlantic Pact if the Soviets agree to withdraw their forces behind the Pripet Marshes and release not only the Eastern Zone of Germany, but the whole of Eastern Europe into the European

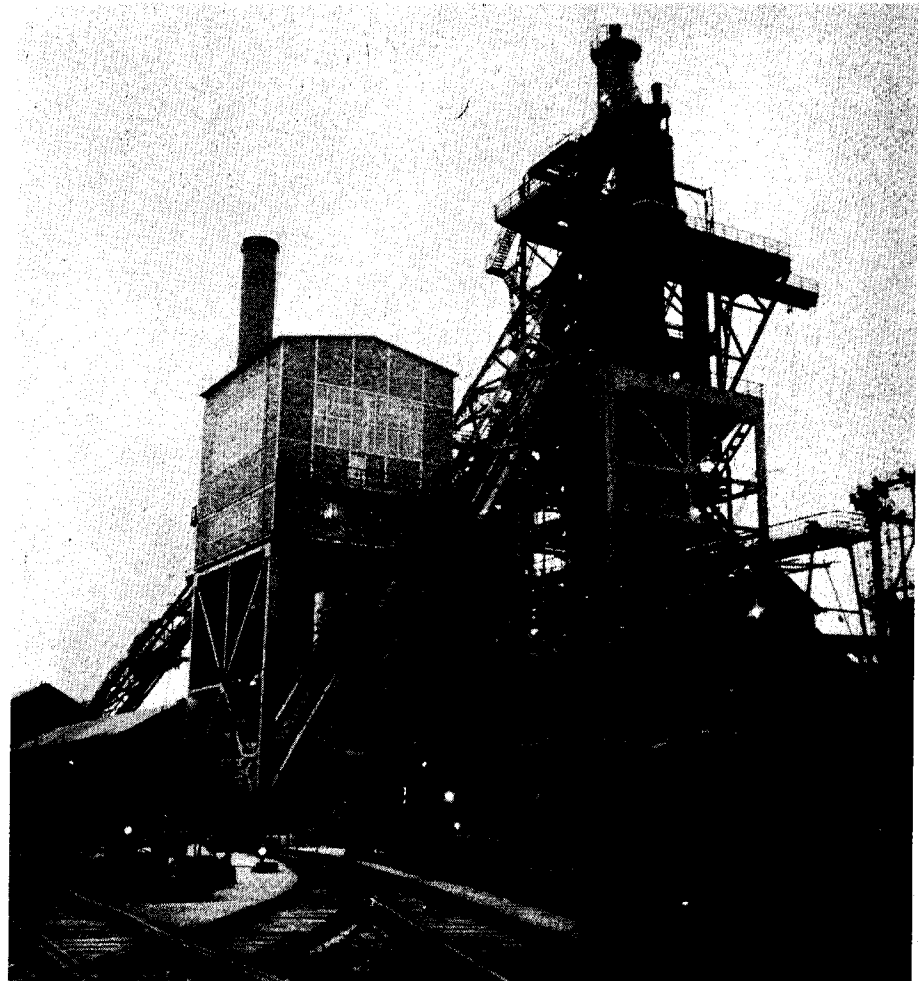
exact parallel in the book of Revelation. "And the ten horns which thou sawest [of the *beast*] ARE TEN KINGS, which have received no kingdom as yet, but receive power as kings ONE HOUR [a very *short* time in Biblical prophecy] with the beast. These have one mind, and shall give their power and strength unto the beast. *These shall make war with the Lamb*, and the Lamb shall overcome them, for He is LORD OF LORDS AND KING OF KINGS" (Rev. 17:12-14).

There it is! This great end-time revival of the ancient Roman Empire will be a union of TEN NATIONS IN EUROPE—a union existing until the very second coming of Jesus Christ! God calls it **BABYLON THE GREAT** (Rev. 17:5; 18-2) and tells His people to *come out* of it! (Rev. 18:4).

Notice the 18th chapter of Revelation, comparing it with Ezekiel 27. Here is described a great commercial, financial, *trading* power! At the final *destruction* of this great power, already described, "The merchants of the earth shall weep and mourn over her; for no man buyeth their merchandise any more!" (Rev. 18:11).

And Europe is being united now—

Giant blast furnace—one of the largest in the world—at Dortmund, Germany. Russia is still afraid that German steel may once again be directed for war—this time a war of human annihilation!



Union. A Western Europe standing on its own feet and possessing its own powerful army . . . could afford to carry out such an independent policy because it will have the strength of a third power."

Germany intends to hold out neutrality, and withdrawal from NATO as bait to the Russians for Russian withdrawal from East Germany!

The United States of Europe

The U.S. News and World Report printed a special interview with Jean Monnet, who has been called the "Architect of a United Europe" in its Feb. 20, 1959 issue.

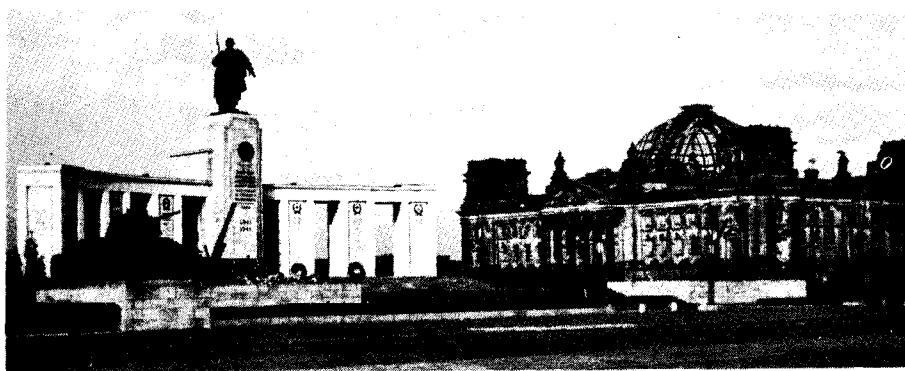
When asked what he saw ahead *economically* for West Europe, since the forming of Euromart, Mr. Monnet replied he saw *much more* than just the removal of age-old trade barriers—that these nations are now *pooling their resources*—and implied this is *just a beginning*, that the European Economic Community *is open to other nations!*

It's time to WAKE UP! The European union is the world's NUMBER ONE IMPORTER, the world's NUMBER TWO INDUSTRIAL POWER, *already* outproducing Russia! It is destined to GROW by leaps and bounds in the future. *Your Bible says so!*

Konrad Adenauer stated, in 1950, ". . . A federated Europe will become a Third Force in the world . . . powerful enough to intervene successfully—in a decisive moment—to safeguard the peace . . . Germany has again become a factor with whom others will have to reckon in international affairs . . ."

And so a gigantic trading bloc is

Russian Victory monument in West Berlin. This is the only Communist toehold in West Berlin. Russia would like to plant her firm boot permanently on the whole city.



Fourteen years ago one atomic bomb could ruin a whole city as seen in this photo. Today a Berlin-sparked atom war could destroy all mankind!

being built—to fulfill the Bible prophecies of a great BEAST rising up in Europe! This great power is destined to play a vital part in YOUR FUTURE! The stage is set RIGHT NOW, in the Berlin crisis, for Germany to begin to bargain with Russia!

WORLD WAR by May 27th?

Prophecy shows it is NOT yet time for the cataclysmic war Jesus said God would have to cut short! (Mat. 24:22). The United States seems to have its eyes fixed with hypnotic intensity on RUSSIA—and seems not to realize RUSSIA IS NOT THE ONLY ENEMY OF DEMOCRACY!

The Bible reveals many things *must happen* prior to the beginning of WORLD WAR! The United States WILL NOT get into a world war this May! Russia

WILL NOT attack the United States with missiles and nuclear weapons.

But a small "brush fire" type war, while UNLIKELY, *COULD* occur! Jesus said, "You shall hear of wars and rumors of wars" (Mat. 24:6), but said the END is *not yet!* World War III is not yet!

SOMEONE IS GOING TO HAVE TO BACK DOWN! GOD SAYS SO! And the chances are—THIS time, it's going to be Khrushchev! The East Germans may refuse to allow either civilian or military vehicles to gain access to Berlin on May 27th. They may allow civilian travel, but ban all *military* travel. *Whatever* they do—WORLD WAR will NOT be the result!

But be assured of one thing! Germany is out to unite all Europe, *including* the eastern nations, now Communist dominated. The Berlin crisis may well have forced upon Germany the decision to declare herself NEUTRAL, to *withdraw* from NATO, even sooner than she had planned. Whether Germany bargains with Russia NOW, and another East-West pact is signed, remains to be seen. But to fulfill the plainly revealed prophecies of God, such a pact appears *absolutely necessary* in the not-too-distant future!

Keep reading the PLAIN TRUTH magazine. Keep listening to the *World Tomorrow* program. Startling things are just ahead in world conditions—that will drastically change YOUR FUTURE!

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER SIX

ABRAM JOURNEYS TO CANAAN

TWO YEARS after the flood, when Noah's son Shem was a hundred years old, Shem had a son called Arphaxad. (Genesis 11:10.) When Arphaxad was thirty-five years old, he had a son named Salah. (Gen. 11:12.) Several generations went by in this manner. When about three hundred years had passed, a man by the name of Abram was born. (Gen. 11:26.)

Abram was brought up in a city in Mesopotamia (Acts 7:2) called Ur, not very far from the spot where the Ark landed. (Gen. 11:28.) Like Noah, Abram learned to obey God's laws.

Once again the people of that world were worshipping idols and living further and further from God's ways. Abram was one of the few who learned not to take part in pagan ways, and so when he was about seventy-five years old God spoke to him and told him to take his family and move to another country.

Abram Obeys God

God promised Abram that if he would obey all His instructions, Abram would become the father of the most famous nation on the whole earth, and that in time this nation would enjoy some very special blessings.

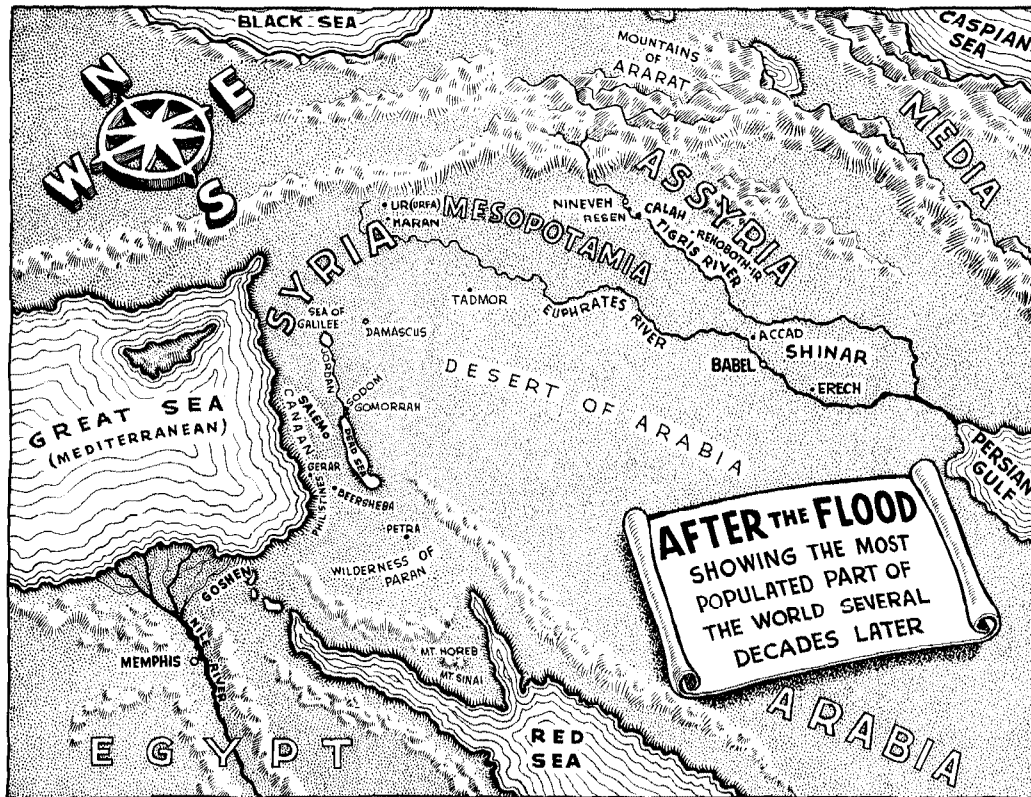
Abram didn't know what the land he would go to would be like, and he didn't know what the blessings to his people would be, but he trusted God and obeyed.

Besides his wife, Sarai, he took along a nephew named Lot, Lot's wife and herdsmen to take care of flocks of sheep and herds of cattle. It was no small task for Abram to move on foot to a distant land. (Gen. 12:4.)



God speaks to Abram, telling him to leave Haran and go to the land of Canaan.

After weeks of travel, they arrived in the land of Canaan, where God had said Abram should go. (Gen. 12:5.) Canaan was a very fertile land, where there was good



soil and plenty of growing things. But the people of the land were wicked, and for that reason God caused a famine to come on that area. This famine happened just after Abram reached Canaan. (Gen. 12:10.)

Lack of rain caused the fruit trees, vegetables and grass to dry up, and there was little food for the flocks which Abram and Lot had brought to Canaan. And without cattle or sheep, there wouldn't be enough food for Abram and those with him.

Abram Goes to Egypt

Reports came from travelers that down in the land of Egypt there was no famine. Therefore Abram and those with him journeyed down into Egypt to save their flocks.

In the land of Egypt a great civilization had grown up since the flood. The Egyptian kings, or pharaohs, had become very powerful and wealthy, although they worshipped false gods and idols. They enjoyed all the good things that came from the earth, and whatever they wanted they took from others.

Realizing that his wife, Sarai, was a very beautiful woman, and that the Egyptian ruler might see her and want her for one of his many wives, Abram asked Sarai to pose as his sister instead of his wife. (Gen. 12:12-13.)

Actually, Sarai was only Abram's half-sister, because her father was Abram's father, but her mother was not Abram's mother. Abram told this half truth because he feared that if it were known that he were Sarai's husband, the Egyptians might kill him so that Sarai would be free to be married.

The thing that Abram feared soon happened. Sarai, although about sixty-five years of age, still appeared as a young and beautiful woman. She was of lighter skin than the Egyptians, and before long it was reported to Pharaoh that this unusual woman had journeyed in with a group of other people.

The king commanded that the woman be brought to his palace, and thinking that she was unmarried, he had her lodged in a place where the future brides of the king were prepared for marriage.

The pharaoh was so pleased at the prospect of Sarai becoming his wife that he gave many gifts to Abram, including livestock and servants and a fine place to live.

But it did not please God that Sarai would become Pharaoh's wife. He sent great plagues on Pharaoh's house. We don't know what those plagues were, but they must have been something to cause Pharaoh and those about him great misery. Whatever happened, Pharaoh soon realized that these things were coming on him because of Sarai, who, he soon learned, was really Abram's wife!

Pharaoh was displeased. He had Sarai taken back to Abram, and then he scolded Abram for allowing Sarai to pose as a sister. God must have protected Abram by causing Pharaoh not to be angry enough to have him slain for such a deed. God was pleased that at least Abram was willing to tell the whole truth to Pharaoh about Sarai.

As it was, the king gave orders to his men to help Abram and his band depart from Egypt. (Gen. 12:14-20.)

Back to Canaan Again!

Abram and his wife and Lot and his wife and the servants and all they had then moved back into the land of Canaan. Abram went to a spot there where he had built an altar to God when he first came to Canaan. There he called upon God to forgive him and to strengthen him. (Gen. 13:1-4.)

By the time Abram and Lot and their families had returned to Canaan, the famine was over. Again their flocks, which were now greatly enlarged, could feed upon the lush grass. But because their flocks were so large, there was trouble between Lot's herdsmen and Abram's herdsmen. They began quarreling over the spots where there was the most grass and water.

Abram did not wish to have trouble with Lot's herdsmen. He suggested that they choose separate regions in which to dwell.

God had promised this land to Abram, and it was Abram's right to choose the part where he wished to have his herds graze. But he unselfishly told Lot to take the first choice. Lot looked down on the rich land in the Jordan valley, and chose to go there. That left the upper lands to Abram. But Abram was satisfied because Lot was satisfied. (Gen. 13:5-13.)

After Abram and Lot separated, God again spoke to Abram. He told him that all the land he could see in all directions—and Abram was standing in a high, mountainous area at the time—would forever belong to him and those who came after him. Also, God told him that his descendants would be so many that their number would appear to be equal to that of the number of specks of dust on the earth. (Gen. 13:16.)

This was indeed a great promise to Abram, for at that time he was nearly eighty years old, and had no children.

After coming down from the mountains, Lot and his family pitched their tents near the city of Sodom in the rich Jordan valley. Lot thought he had made a wise choice in coming to the valley lands. But he didn't realize what trouble he would experience with the people who dwelt there. They were a wicked people, and Lot, who was a Godly man, should not have come in among them.

War Breaks Out in Canaan

Shortly after he moved close to Sodom, a war broke out between the kings of the five cities of the Jordan valley and four kings who lived in the land of Assyria and in Shinar where Nimrod first began his kingdom.

The four distant kings beat the five Jordan Valley kings in battle. The people of the two main cities, Sodom and Gomorrah, were pursued to the mountains, where some of them escaped. But most of them were taken prisoner, to become slaves of the victors.

Among those prisoners were Lot and his family. All Lot's goods were taken, too, and then Lot realized that his decision to choose the valley lands was very unwise.

Some of those who had escaped to the mountains got word to Abram about what had happened. At once Abram gathered together all his men, three hundred and eighteen, and set out in pursuit of the kings who had taken Lot and his family as prisoners. (Gen. 14:14.)

As the world's population was still small Abram did not need more than his own men with which to attack the victorious kings who were carrying off slaves and riches. However, it must have taken great courage for Abram to make the attack against what were at least many hundreds and perhaps even thousands of trained soldiers.

But God was with Abram in his race to rescue Lot and Lot's family. By the time

Abram and his men finally spotted the enemy forces, it had become dark, and the four kings and their men were camping for the night. Abram had his men quietly encircle the camp, then gave the signal to attack.

The kings and their men were taken by surprise. In the darkness, they couldn't tell how much of a force was attacking them, nor did they stop long enough to find out. They fled to the mountains near Damascus leaving all their loot and all their prisoners they had taken from the cities in the Jordan valley. (Gen. 14:13-16.)

Thus Abram rescued Lot and his family and all his goods.

Then the king of Sodom came with his men to honor Abram for what he had done. This meeting took place at a spot near the city of Salem, which later was called Jerusalem.

Melchizedek, the king of Salem, also came out to meet Abram. Melchizedek had his servants bring out bread and wine for Abram and his men. (Gen. 14:17-19.)

Now probably you don't think there is anything very unusual about a king providing food and drink to tired soldiers. But the unusual part about this bit of history is the fact that this king is a most unusual person. The Bible doesn't say very much about him, but it does say that he was also "King of Righteousness" (Hebrews 7:1-3.) There are no completely righteous beings except those in the God-family. Therefore Melchisedek must have been Jesus in human form!

Melchisedek blessed Abram for rescuing the people who had been taken captive by the four attacking kings. Abram then gave Melchizedek one tenth of all the goods that had been left behind by those kings when they fled even though Abram did not keep any of it for himself. (Gen. 14:20-24.) This was according to God's tithe law, which says that we are robbing God if we do not give one tenth of what we earn to God's priests, or ministers. (Malachi 3:8-11.)

All we have or earn really belongs to God in the first place, and so to honor Him by "giving back" only one tenth is a wonderful bargain for us, don't you think?

The king of Sodom offered to reward Abram for all he had done, but Abram refused to take any reward. He preferred God's blessings to the riches that an earthly king could give him.

The Lord Makes a Promise to Abram

Some years later, when Abram was again living peacefully in his tents in the hill regions above the Jordan valley, the Lord spoke to him in a vision. Abram knew who He was because he had seen Him at Salem shortly before. He told Abram again that he would become the father of a great nation as a reward for learning to live the right kind of life.

But Abram was getting to be an old man, and his wife was also elderly. It was difficult for him to understand just what God could mean by His promises.

Therefore Abram reminded God that he had no children, and that the nearest person he had to a child was a servant or steward born in his house. (Gen. 15:1-3.)

God replied to Abram that no servant would take the place of a son. God then showed him the stars, and told him that if he, Abram, could count them, he would know the numbers of people who would in time be born from his own son!

Abram believed God in this matter, and God blessed him for his belief. (Gen. 15:6 and Romans 4:20-22.) But God thought it would be good to show Abram a sign that the promise would be kept. He told Abram to slaughter some clean animals and birds and lay them out as though for an offering.

Abram obeyed.

A little later a deep sleep fell on Abram. He dreamed he was in dreadful darkness, and that God's voice came to him out of that darkness, telling him things that would happen many years later after Abram would die. (Gen. 15:8-12.)

"The people who live after you shall continue to be as strangers in the land," the Voice said. "And they shall later become slaves for four generations to a foreign nation. But in about four hundred years they shall come back with great possessions to this land." (Gen. 15:13-16.)

Abram awoke to see a strange, smoking flame passing between the animal and bird carcasses he had laid out for an offering. When he saw this amazing thing, his faith in the presence of God became stronger than ever. (Gen. 15:17.)

Ever since the time of Adam, God has promised good things to those who obey Him. This promise to Abram is one that has had a great effect upon the whole world for thousands of years. We who are Abram's descendants today are being affected by it right now, because, for one thing, we are enjoying great material blessings, like our nice homes and automobiles and our clothing and the food we eat, and the radio and television sets, electric lights and many other things.

Abram's First Son

Sarai, Abram's wife, was now about seventy-five years old, and she didn't believe that it was possible for her to have a child, therefore she couldn't see how it was possible for Abram to become the father of children that would in time grow into millions of people.

Sarai had an Egyptian maid, Hagar, who was a much younger woman. Sarai told Abram that he should take Hagar as a second wife, with the hope that Hagar would have a child for Abram and for Sarai. In those times a man often had more than one

wife. Abram did as Sarai suggested, and in time Hagar did have a son, whose name was Ishmael. (Gen. 16:1-16.)

Thirteen years passed. Abram came to be ninety-nine years of age. Then one day a figure appeared before him and said:

"I am God Almighty! Live according to my laws!" (Gen. 17:1.)

Trembling, Abram fell down with his face to the ground while God continued talking. God told him that because he was learning to obey His laws, He would keep the promises that He, God, had made years before. He told Abram that his name would now be changed to Abraham, which meant *father of many people!* (Gen. 17:3-6.) Sarai's name, God said, would be changed to Sarah, which meant *princess.*

Then God promised Abraham that Sarah herself would surely have a son, even though at that time she was already eighty-nine years old. God said that their son would be called Isaac. (Gen. 17:15-16, 19.)

Abraham Learns that Sodom Is to Be Destroyed

Not long after that, three strange men came to Abraham's tent. Perhaps Abraham didn't know it at the time, but two of these men were angels, and one was Jesus appearing in the form of a man. (Gen. 18:1-2.)

In those days, when there weren't so many people in the world, it was the custom to offer refreshment to travelers, who generally had to journey long distances to get from one town or village to another or even from one tent to another.

Abraham invited the three to rest and eat. He had a fine meal prepared for them. (Gen. 18:3-8.) After they had eaten, the men told Abraham that within the year Sarah would have a son. This was wonderful news to Abraham and Sarah. Sarah, especially, could hardly believe it. (Gen. 18:9-15.)

The three strangers didn't come just to tell Abraham and Sarah that they would have a child. Jesus had come down with two angels to visit the city of Sodom, to see if its wickedness was so great that it should finally be destroyed. (Gen. 18:16-22.)

The two angels went down to Sodom. The third one, who was Jesus in a man's form, stayed with Abraham and told him what He was planning to do to Sodom.

When Abraham learned that the city might be destroyed, he asked if the good people were to be killed along with the wicked ones.

"If you find fifty good people there, won't you spare Sodom so that those fifty won't die?" Abraham asked.

"If I find fifty good people in Sodom I will not destroy it," Jesus replied.

Then Abraham asked if the city would be spared if only forty-five good people could be found there.

"If I find forty-five good people there, I will not destroy it," was the answer.

Abraham kept on asking his God about this matter, each time making the number of good people smaller. Finally Abraham was told that if only ten righteous men could be found in Sodom, then the city would be spared. (Gen. 18:23-33.)

Lot, the nephew whom Abraham had rescued from the kings who had attacked Sodom, had unwisely returned to that city to live. He, however, took no part in the idol worship and other wicked ways of the Sodomites. But it was not good to live so close to people who had no use for God's laws.

That evening, the two angels who had been with Abraham arrived at Sodom. One of the first persons they saw was Lot, who was seated by the gate at the entrance of the city. (Gen. 19:1.)

Lot greeted the two, and invited them to come to his place to eat and stay for the night. He didn't know they were God's messengers. It was his manner to be helpful to strangers.

At first the angels refused. But Lot begged them to stay at his house, and when they saw that Lot was not like the other people around them, they agreed.

Lot had a special meal prepared for his guests. Then, as they were about to go to bed, a great, noisy crowd surrounded Lot's house. These people knew that Lot had two strangers in his home. The crowd yelled in and told Lot to put the two out into the street, so that they could treat them in a terribly evil way which came into their minds. (Gen. 19:4-5.)

Lot went outside and pleaded with the crowd to go away. He was so worried about his two guests that he even offered to send his two daughters out for the crowd to treat as they pleased—if only they would leave his house.

The shrieking, evil crowd wouldn't listen to Lot. Some of the men rushed at him, pushing him against the door. The angels inside the house reached out, yanked Lot inside, and slammed the door shut. (Gen. 19:6-10.) The mob stormed against the door to break it in—and then a strange thing happened!

Those who were crowding against the door suddenly began to stagger in all directions, rub their eyes and yell out that they couldn't see. (Gen. 19:11.)

God's messengers, with powers that only spirit beings have, had caused sudden blindness to come upon the wicked men who were trying to harm Lot and break into his home!

When the howling mob saw that something awful had come upon those who were at Lot's door, the mob drew back from the house. But something worse was about to happen.

All the men in the city were in that evil mob surrounding Lot's house. (Gen.

19:4.) The angels could therefore plainly see that there weren't even as many as ten good men in Sodom. That meant that there was no reason for God to spare Sodom as He promised to Abraham that He would do if there were ten good men there.

God would now destroy the city!

"If you have relatives you want saved, tell them to get out of Sodom at once!" the angels said to Lot. "This city and the people in it are about to be burned up!"

Lot hurried outside to find the three young men who had married his daughters. He told them what was about to happen, but they would not believe him. (Gen. 19:14.)

Lot was very disappointed that the three men would not believe him. He came back into his house, but he made no attempt to leave. The angels told him again that he must leave. Lot still lingered. (Gen. 19:15-16.)

Then the angels seized him and his wife and two other daughters and formed them outside the city.

"Hurry to the mountains!" they warned Lot. "Do not stop or even look behind you at what is about to happen to this plain!" Still Lot hesitated.

"It is too far to the mountains," he argued, "but there is a little city over there in the valley we can reach sooner. Let us go there instead!" (Gen. 19:17-22.)

This was asking quite a favor of God, who, for the sake of his servant, Abraham, was holding back the destruction so that Abraham's nephew would not die with the wicked people.

Lot and his family set out at once, remembering the warning not even to look back. The sun was just coming up as they reached the edge of the little city of Zoar.

Back in Sodom and in Gomorrah, the other main city on the plain, people looked up to see a frightening, vast black cloud settling down over them. Perhaps they thought that a heavy thunderstorm was suddenly coming upon them. But no rain came! Instead, blobs of smoking, hissing fire belched out of the black cloud!

At this early hour probably most of the people were asleep or in their homes, and didn't have any warning of what was falling out of the skies. It wouldn't have mattered much, because there were no ways to escape.

Those few who were in the streets or out in the fields hardly had time to run in shrieking terror for the nearest buildings. People who were caught in the open were burned at once in the rain of flame and white hot sulphur and rocks!

For those who managed to reach buildings or were already in them, it was like being trapped in hot ovens, for even stone houses became glowing hot under the horrible heat roaring down from the sky!

It was an awful sight, this destruction of two cities and all the people in them! Even the vast plain on which Sodom and Gomorrah were built withered in the fan-

rastic flames, so that nothing—not even a blade of grass—was left alive. This was due to the fact that the plains were then pitted with holes lined with flammable materials that had been in the ground since before Adam. (Gen. 19:24-25.)

Thus God dealt with the evil people of that place because they were living in their wicked ways instead of by His laws.

At the beginning of the fire storm, just as Lot and his family were about to enter Zoar, Lot's wife was so curious to see what was happening that she turned and looked upon the terrible scene. Lot and his two daughters hurried on into the city and to safety. But Lot's wife never arrived with them, for she had been turned into a pillar of rock salt just the size and shape of a human being! (Gen. 19:26 and Luke 17:29-32.)

The angels had not said what would happen to any one who disobeyed the warning not to look back. But when God gives a warning, He means that if we do not heed it, something mighty unpleasant is sure to happen to us.

Thus it was that Lot lost his wife. Even though he was a good man, he had failed to use wisdom by choosing to live in a city of sinful people. God was indeed



Lot's wife looks back on the destruction of the cities in the Jordan Valley, and is turned to a pillar of salt.



Abraham views the smoke of burning Sodom, Gomorrah and neighboring wicked cities of the Jordan Valley.

merciful to him in sparing his life and the lives of his two daughters.

Abraham Views the Frightful Scene

Safe in his peaceful tent home in the mountains, Abraham got up early to look down upon the plain to see if God had moved to destroy the city where Abraham's nephew, Lot, had dwelt.

He must have been startled to see great clouds of smoke rising above the blackened plain and its cities. (Gen. 19:27-29.) It was plain to Abraham, then, that God had not found as many as ten good people in Sodom.

At first Abraham must have thought that his prayers for Lot had been for nothing. But later he must have learned, to his great joy, that God had indeed answered those prayers when it became known that the little city of Zoar, though it was on the plain with Sodom and Gomorrah, had been spared so that Lot would have refuge.

Realizing that by staying in Zoar he would still be dwelling among people who had no respect for God, Lot and his daughters soon fled to the mountains. (Gen. 19:30.) How much richer Lot would have been and how much less trouble and grief would have come to him if only he had abided by God's wish and had moved out away from the crowded cities in which so much evil took place.

To be continued

AUTOBIOGRAPHY

(Continued from page 8)

sciously ignored, or brushed aside the verse as something they felt they simply didn't quite understand.

My Dilemma

From this point on in the Autobiography, I am going to be forced to recount for my readers some of the great amount of opposition and persecution that has been thrown at me and at God's work by preachers, ministers, and evangelists. I do not wish to defame their characters. Yet the facts must be related, or I must stop publishing this Autobiography right here.

I actually believe that some of the lying, deceitful, underhanded and dirty political tricks that have confronted this work since I was plunged into it have been instigated by men who had somehow convinced themselves that they were "doing God service." Yes, perhaps they were sincere—or at least had somehow convinced themselves that they

were. I am not their judge. I shall not judge them. I shall merely record the facts, as they happened.

I have been much concerned over this dilemma. For months I have wondered what I would do when I came to this part of my life history where church officials and preachers began using deceitful and foul means to discredit me or the work God was doing through me—to steal the "flock" or, like hungry wolves, to devour the sheep God had given for my labors, and spiritually kill the shepherd. Many of these ministers are going to read these words. Many other people, familiar with part, but not all, of the facts are also going to read them.

I have prayed much over it. I have asked God for wisdom. I do not wish to speak evil of any man, even though that evil be absolute truth. I wish only to bear them charity and love. After all, they have not harmed *me!* God has not allowed them to harm or retard **HIS WORK!** They have only harmed themselves, and perhaps a few other

individuals. And since I do have only LOVE for them, I am deeply sorry.

I shall try to avoid imputing motives, even though motives of selfishness, greed, jealousy, and desire to harm have

Dorothy Armstrong, the younger daughter, at age 4



often appeared to be self-evident to the recipients of these actions. Yet I must realize I cannot know their inner attitudes and intentions of heart. Therefore I feel that I must *assume* that their intentions were not evil; that they honestly felt they were right, and that

I and the work God was doing through me ought to be opposed or destroyed; that they had somehow convinced themselves that they were only serving God.

Jesus foretold the time when His own called servants would be opposed, and even killed—when "they shall put

you out of the synagogues: yea, the time cometh, when whosoever killeth you *will think that he doeth God service*" (John 16:2).

I suppose that even Adolph Hitler had come to believe, in his own mind, that he was really serving God—that he

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was a man of destiny—that his dastardly deeds were really right and good. Yes, those who opposed, fought, and tried to destroy God's work from this point on, as I must recount it faithfully in this Autobiography, probably felt they were doing *right*. Yet the *facts* must be recorded, and let the chips fall where they may.

Begotten of GOD

Finally the study of the subject of baptism was completed. There was no longer doubt. Peter had said: "REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). To Cornelius and his house, who already had received the Holy Spirit, Peter said: "Can any man forbid WATER, that these should not be baptized, *which* have received the Holy Spirit as well as we? And he COMMANDED them to be baptized in the name of the Lord" (Acts 10:47-48).

It was a command. There was no promise of receiving the Holy Spirit until after being baptized—although Cornelius, the exception to the rule, had been begotten by the Holy Spirit prior to baptism. Yet even he was *commanded* to be baptized IN WATER. What I had learned in this study on baptism is recounted in our booklet "All About Water Baptism."

And so I was baptized forthwith and without delay.

Immediately upon coming up out of the water, a *change* was experienced in attitude and in mind generally. I had already repented and surrendered to God's rule over my life. The natural carnal hostility to God and His Law already had gone. Yet, now, for the first time, I felt CLEAN! I *knew*, now, that the terribly heavy load of sin had been taken off my shoulders. Christ had paid the penalty for me. All past sins were now blotted out by His blood. My conscience was clean and clear. For the first time in my life I experienced *real inner PEACE of mind!* I realized, as never before, how futile and useless and foolish are the ways of this world, on which most people set so much store. There was a quiet, wonderful happiness of mind in the sure knowledge that now

I was actually a begotten son of GOD! I could really call GOD *Father!*

There were no excitable *physical sensations* or exhilarating FEELINGS running up and down the spine. Nothing of the nervous system. Nothing of the senses—nothing *sensual*, as some people diabolically misled and deceived claim to experience. But there was a KNOWING! There was an unmistakable *renewing of the mind* (Romans 12:2).

For six months I had struggled night and day, with a carnal mind, to learn the truth about one single doctrine in the Bible. Prior to that my wife and I had read the Bible clear through—but *I had not understood a WORD of it!* Most of the time I asked my wife to do the reading, because she could read faster. More ground was covered. We got through quicker. But it was like reading or listening to a foreign language. I simply *could not UNDERSTAND the BIBLE!*

But now, from this point of baptism on, a strange, wonderful, delightful new thing took place. I could read the Bible and UNDERSTAND what I read! Of course I could not understand the WHOLE Bible in five or ten minutes! I still had to study it a doctrine at a time. But it was UNDERSTANDABLE! It MADE SENSE! Even though it took time, I was now getting some place. But I was comprehending and learning *so much faster* than during that initial six months' study!

It was like a miracle! And indeed, it *WAS* a MIRACLE! The very Holy Spirit of God had come into and *renewed* my mind. I had been *baptized* by the Holy Spirit *into* the true Body of Christ, the Church of God—but I did not realize that fact literally. I was still to search earnestly to find the one and only *true* Church which Jesus founded, before recognizing fully He had already placed me in it!

How my wife was stricken fatally, medically sure to die in less than 24 hours, and suddenly miraculously healed by prayer with faith; how, even at this time, I struggled once again to extract million-dollar gold out of a clay mine; how I was induced to preach my first sermon; how ministers began relentless opposition and persecution, will follow in the next installment.

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