

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1960



Wide World Photo

ALGIERS, NORTH AFRICA

This is the city of Algiers, the capital and chief seaport of Algeria. The modern French city is shown in part in the foreground. The old Moorish citadel or Kasbah rises above it in the background. This city was the seat of the short-lived French rebellion against President Charles de Gaulle a few weeks ago.

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BE SURE TO NOTIFY US IMMEDIATELY of any change in your address. Please inclose both old and new addresses. IMPORTANT!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Marriage Saved

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I have just read your article, 'Your Marriage Can Be Happy!' and I felt compelled to write and thank you for saving our marriage. This article came just when we needed it most, as our marriage had reached the point of separation. In my prayers, I have been asking God to show me what was wrong with my marriage. He has shown me through this article."

Woman, Bridgeport, Ohio

Editor's Note: If you have not read this enlightening article, which has saved many marriages, write immediately for a free reprint.

Thanks to Co-workers

"I just do thank you for what you and all your co-workers have done to bring the TRUTH into my home. My

wife and I have come to know each other so much better, that I look forward to coming home every day after work to her and the children."

Man from Daytona Beach, Florida

Finds Broadcast in Africa

"It is through this Ministry of God that I have begun to find life more abundant. Truly God has greatly blessed me, and led me to a deeper understanding in His eternal Word."

Lady from Francistown, Bechuanaland Protectorate

Editor's Note: "The World Tomorrow" is being heard by increasing numbers in strife-torn Africa.

Magazines an Inspiration

"I would like to thank you very much for your letter and also the magazine 'The PLAIN TRUTH' which I receive every month. They are a great help and inspiration although I do not agree with everything that is written therein. Yes, it is true that your work is different from anything I have ever heard or read before."

Lady from Bristol

Church Member from North Ireland

"How my life has changed since hearing your sermons from Radio Luxembourg. Never before has the Gospel been made so plain and clear as you can make it. I have been a member of our largest denomination all my life, but have never heard the truth before. Things that puzzled me are now quite plain and I look forward to your broadcasts every Monday and Tuesday. My husband and I have learned so much of the truth from you. I feel so much better physically and mentally; being very troubled before, I now have peace and am very happy."

Housewife from Limavady,
County Londonderry

Bible Course Different

"I must confess that your Course is quite different from all the others I have encountered. I thought I knew the Bible as I am a professed Christian, but I had never worried myself about the Book of Revelation as I thought it was beyond human understanding on this side of the tweed. In fact, even my

Ministers never bother themselves about prophecies."

Man from Zululand, South Africa

Congressman Impressed

"Our congressman saw my December issue of The PLAIN TRUTH and was so impressed I gave it to him. In a few days I received a letter stating he really read and enjoyed every word. He is a true American."

Reader from Alabama

Binds Plain Truth into Book

"I am writing you in behalf of my Sunday school class of teenage girls. If you could only see their deep interest in all your work. I sent for The PLAIN TRUTH—I think March was the first issue. We are saving every issue and bind them into a reference book, and the girls come twice a week to study. We study the Bible together and also listen to your sermons over XEG, XELO, and WLS. You just can't imagine the real good we get out of that hour and a half of WORLD TOMORROW advice. We hope to continue to get The PLAIN TRUTH. There was never anything so inspiring published."

Metz, Missouri

From Far-away Singapore

"I am so thankful I came across your magazine not long ago in a fish-seller's shop. It was while I was seeking some magazines I was very interested in that I accidentally came across your PLAIN TRUTH. So I bought some of the magazines (including The PLAIN TRUTH) from the fish-seller's wife for 40 cents. I found it very interesting. It was so interesting that I kept reading them from the morning till midnight. I didn't mean the whole day, I got to have my breakfast and lunch. It was a real blessing to my heart, I do thank God that I had found the truth from this magazine."

Man from Singapore, Malaya

Editor's Note: This is the only way you can buy a copy of The PLAIN TRUTH. This magazine is sent entirely free to all who request it.

A Minister Writes

"I listen to you regularly over WSM, Nashville at midnight. I am interested
(Please continue on page 32)

The EXPLOSIVE '60s!

What will the 60's REALLY bring? Are peace, prosperity and happiness just around the corner? This is the most vitally important question of *your very life!* See, with your own startled eyes, the shocking TRUTH of *your Bible!*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

PRESIDENT Eisenhower said, in his State of the Union Message, January 7, 1960: "We now live in a divided world . . . with both sides of this divided world in possession of unbelievably destructive weapons, mankind approaches a state where *mutual annihilation* becomes a possibility."

Think of it! The President of one of the greatest nations on the face of this earth is now moved to *warn* our people that man is rapidly approaching the brink of *absolute human annihilation!*

The President went on to say: "No other fact of today's world equals this in importance—it colors everything we say, plan and do . . . we stand in the vestibule of a vast new technological age (with the) capacity for human destruction . . . we must strive to break the calamitous cycle of frustrations and crises, which, if unchecked, could spiral into *nuclear disaster*; the ultimate insanity. . . ."

Yes, the ULTIMATE *insanity!*

This is your life! President Eisenhower means YOU! These shocking words have not come from a wild-eyed fanatic, or a long-robed prophet of doom, or from a sect member wishing to "grind a religious ax"! No, these stern and sobering words have come from the President of the United States of America in a message which he delivered to the entire nation. Our country is hurtling around the corner into the most decisive decade of all of man's history!

Fantastic Weapons

Perhaps your mind will have difficulty *comprehending* the all-encompassing destructive force which man is now capable of unleashing upon himself!

Air Force planners recently revealed that they are working on a new "trilli-

ton H-Bomb." This fantastic, unbelievably destructive weapon (of the very nature to which Mr. Eisenhower referred) is equivalent in destructive force to *one trillion* tons of TNT!

This means, that if one thousand one-ton trucks had been dumping their full load of one ton of TNT *every single minute*, day and night, week after week, month after month, year after year, since the time of Jesus Christ, they would *just barely have finished* amassing a pile of TNT big enough to represent the destructive force of *this one bomb!*

Can you believe it? Does your mind grasp it? Perhaps not! A giant force such as this can only be discussed in comparative terms.

While the nations talk of peace—*they arm for war!* They continue to develop *super* weapons—weapons so great as to defy the very imagination!

Nuclear scientist Ralph E. Lapp said recently the Russians may well be working on an "orbital H-bomb" which could be stationed in *space* and launched or recalled *at will*. A recallable bomb in orbit around the earth would have "tremendous impact on the world as a psychological terror weapon," Mr. Lapp said.

A technical report published by the House Space Committee last year said such a bomb system is feasible!

Yes, startling though it may seem, it is now feasible for you to go out of doors, look up into the heavens, see the glittering reflection of a satellite hurtling across American, British, Australian, African, or South American skies, and know that contained within that satellite is an H-bomb of super destructive power which *at any second*, could come hurtling down upon *your nation* with all the destructive force of a miniature hell fire!

Yes, "*unbelievably destructive weapons!*" Inter-continental ballistic missiles, some even launched from beneath the sea! *Nuclear* surface ships and submarines, huge *space mirrors*, to change the weather patterns, or be focused upon an enemy nation so as to literally burn its countryside to a crisp! *Death rays* being worked upon to defy anything dreamed of in the weird imagination of fiction story writers!

These are all part of *your age!* They are the startling *facts* of the '60's!

Will Nations Disarm?

"But what about the disarmament talks?" you might ask. Well, *what about them?*

Listen to *this* sobering statement!

"An unreality of the forthcoming disarmament talks in Geneva is the fact that a nation with one of the largest armies in the world will not be represented. That nation is Red China. . . . Western intelligence at present estimates the strength of the Red Chinese Army at 3,500,000 men under arms. Well-placed sources say this figure could be practically *doubled* 'almost overnight'" (The *Dalhart Texan*, Jan. 13, 1960).

While the world looks hopefully toward the possibility of *Russian* disarmament, other nations are feverishly arming with no faint *hint* at future disarmament.

Books have been written, magazine articles published, and voices of alarm lifted up to warn a gullible public of the absolute unfeasibility, uselessness, and complete futility of "disarmament talks." Still, many "kid" themselves disarmament will succeed.

History teaches us that every disarmament agreement in the history of nations has merely been a signal for those nations to begin to develop arms *not specifically listed within the terms*

of the disarmament agreements.

Is World Peace Impossible?

President Eisenhower also said in his State of the Union Message, "We face what could be a TURNING POINT IN HISTORY, and we must act decisively."

What action are we going to take? A recent editorial in the Los Angeles *Times* for January 4, 1960 said, "World peace through law may be attractive to some from the standpoint of phrase-making, but the slogan is too visionary and elusive to represent a workable idea. World government and enforceable world law are unreal slogans in an age when the East and West are separated by insurmountable barriers of thought. Ours is not a world in which the Christ-idea and the anti-christ can be brought together to co-exist in harmonious relations."

Do you fully comprehend what world leaders and observers are saying?

They seriously *warn* we must find a solution to the world's ills! They tell us there is only ONE WAY by which this world can have peace!

That way is through LAW, through *one central government!*

Then, they tell us in all seriousness "world government and enforceable world law are *unreal slogans!*" They tell us there is only *one possible way to have peace—and then tell us that ONE WAY is impossible!*

Our World Predicament Was Prophesied

Over 1900 years ago the Jesus Christ of your New Testament SAID we would come to this seemingly inextricable world-wide chaos!

His disciples had asked, "Tell us, *when* shall these things be? And what shall be the SIGN of Thy Coming, and of the *end of the world?*"

They wanted to know about the *end of the world*—about *our* day, NOW!

Jesus warned "Ye shall hear of wars, and rumors of wars, see that ye be not troubled, for all these things must come to pass, but the end is not yet. For nation shall rise against nation and kingdom against kingdom {describing *world war*}, and there shall be *famines*, and *pestilences* and earthquakes in divers places" (Matt. 24:3-7).

Jesus said things would get so bad on this earth that only a Divine intervention from Almighty God would save us from ourselves!

Notice it! "For *then* shall be GREAT TRIBULATION such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be." Jesus was here describing a time completely *unparalleled* in all of the earth's history!

President Eisenhower says *we are living* in just such a day right now!

Christ went on to prophesy "And except those days should be SHORTENED, there should NO FLESH BE SAVED, but for the elect's sake those days *shall* be shortened!" (Matt. 24:21, 22).

Christ says man has reached the point of no return. Your very Saviour warned that unless Almighty God *intervenes*, all humanity is absolutely DOOMED!

Christ brought GOOD NEWS!

But Jesus said mankind is *not* going to suffer complete annihilation! He said for the elect's sake those days SHALL be shortened!

You can be mighty thankful there is a group on this earth God calls His own elect!

Jesus Christ came to this earth with a *message!* Recently, we received a letter coming from a lady overseas who said that in all her *years* and *years* of church attendance she had never heard nor realized that Jesus Christ came *with a message!*

The GOSPEL which He brought was a message of a coming future world-ruling GOVERNMENT! Contrary to what some world leaders tell us, world government WILL work—if it is the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, NOT of man! Jesus brought the good news of the world, the way it *will be*, TOMORROW!

The gospel is prophetic. It tells how Almighty God is going to *intervene* in the course of human affairs and save man from his own evil devices!

We have some mighty severe lessons to learn!

We Must Learn SIN Doesn't Pay!

President Eisenhower also warned, in his State of the Union Message, "A rich nation can for a time, without noticeable damage to itself, pursue a course of self-indulgence, making its

single goal the material ease of its own citizens . . . but the enmities it will incur, the isolation into which it will descend, and the *internal moral and physical softness* that will be engendered, will, in the long term, BRING IT TO DISASTER."

For years, the *World Tomorrow* program and the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine have been pointing out the great and heinous national crimes and SINS of the United States, Great Britain, and, for that matter, all nations!

We have shown you from technical, detailed, point by point prophecies how Almighty God says *unless we wake up*, unless we REPENT of our national and *individual* sins, and unless we RETURN TO OUR GOD, God is going to allow terrible national PUNISHMENT to come upon us!

God gives us GOOD NEWS that we will not be *totally* destroyed! But He also sends severe warning that we are going to go down and OUT as a nation unless we repent!

"Where There's Smoke . . ."

Most Americans and Britons are asleep at the switch! While there seems to be a certain *awareness* in Britons that is not quite so evident in Americans, concerning world conditions, no one, it seems, is really alert and aware of the frightening world conditions beginning to develop!

The explosive 60's are going to *jar* some of us awake!

Today, Communism is the big "Bogy-man" behind every threat, scare, and upset world condition.

Make no mistake! World Communism is an arch-enemy of Almighty God! It is Godless, atheistic, God-hating and God-denying! It seeks to enslave the very minds and bodies of men, bringing human beings into a mass collective organism where their very thought processes are enslaved by their leaders! Repeatedly, in the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine, we have labeled Communism for what it is, and shown by the clear prophecies of your Bible how Almighty God says He is going to BURY Communism in the near future!

But we must begin to realize Com-
(Please continue on page 9)

Is Church *Unity* Coming?

Can Protestants and Catholics get together in the coming Vatican Council? What is the CAUSE of division in the Christian world? What is the SOURCE OF UNITY? Here's the startling answer!

by Herman L. Hoeh

THE dramatic decision of Pope John XXIII to call a universal Church Council burst upon the public on January 25, 1959—just one year ago! It is to be the 21st Council in the history of the Catholic Church.

The great conclave—which may well prove to be *the last*—is presently scheduled to commence at the end of 1962. Its avowed purpose is to bring about UNITY in the Christian world in this present decade!

Will it be able to achieve unity among Catholics, Protestants and Orthodox bodies?

Why Called?

Only two other Roman Catholic Councils have been called in the last 400 years. Each was called to settle matters of world importance.

The Council of Trent—convoked between 1545 and 1563—was confronted with the Protestant Movement, which it condemned as heresy. The Vatican Council—convoked in 1871—dealt with the principles of Democracy. The Catholic Church at that Council condemned the principles of Democracy. It declared instead that Government and Authority *proceed from the top down*, not from the people upward. The Vatican Council unalterably bound this doctrine upon all Catholics by declaring the Pope *infallible* when he speaks to the people on matters of faith and morals *ex cathedra*—from his official throne as bishop of Rome.

Today, the time is ripe—according to official Catholic views—for making the FINAL EFFORT to *unite* the Church bodies of the Christian World. The mighty problem of achieving unity is *two-fold*. First, it involves *reconciliation of the Orthodox Schism* that officially commenced in 1054 and divided the Churches in the East—Greece, Russia, the Balkans and the Near East—from Rome. Second, it involves *restoration to the Roman Communion of Protestantism*

which developed from 1517 onward.

The immediate reason for the sudden calling of the Second Vatican Council has generally gone unnoticed.

The Man to Watch

An outspoken advocate of ending the division between the Eastern Catholic Church and the Western is Athenagoras I, Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, in Turkey. He is the man to watch! His outspoken positive reaction to Pope John's Christmas Message of 1958, calling for Church unity, is undoubtedly the immediate reason that Pope John XXIII suddenly called a Church Council.

Athenagoras I, who directly rules over two million Orthodox, may not compare with the Patriarch of Moscow who leads 125 million, but he is recognized as the "first among equals" in the Orthodox Christian world. By residing in the city of Constantinople, he has the prestige of ancient Byzantium, the "New Rome." (Constantinople was built in honor of Emperor Constantine, who made Christianity the religion of the Roman Empire.)

What the Pope hopes to achieve is a SPLIT between Protestants and Orthodox! The next step calls for the separate union of the Orthodox with the See of Rome. Then the Protestants would stand alone, vastly outnumbered, and quite divided among themselves. But the Pope is not over-optimistic about an immediate healing of the Schism between East and West. The Catholic publication *America* declares that "such a uniting of spiritual forces is, of course, not possible in the present state of division and discord which has existed for centuries" (Feb. 28, 1959).

Protestant Attitude

The Roman Catholic and the Orthodox Churches are not alone in seeking church unity. Protestants are being swept

by the theme of unity. In 1910 the World Missionary Conference marked the beginning of the ecumenical movement—the striving for world-wide religious unity—among Protestants. Assemblies of the World Council of Churches in Amsterdam in 1948 and in Evanston in 1954 represent the latest large scale efforts to achieve unity among the big Protestant bodies.

The greatest effort toward church unity has been effected in Germany. Many Germans declare that their country, as the land where cleavage between Catholics and Protestants first occurred, has a *special mission* to contribute to its healing. At the universities of Münster and Heidelberg, Ecumenical Institutes are being set up by theological faculties to study the causes of division and the means of achieving reconciliation. Many Lutherans in Germany today believe that if Martin Luther were here today he would not find the need for leading a "Protestant Revolt" against the practice of the Roman Catholic Church. Numerous Lutheran ministers openly teach doctrines of justification substantially in agreement with the Council of Trent which condemned Luther's "faith alone" thesis.

From the Abbey of Niederaltaich, in Lower Bavaria, the *Una Sancta* is published with controversial articles from Lutherans and Catholics. All over Germany there is talk of the *Kirchentag*—the "Day of the Church"—the Day of Church *Unity!*

One small, but conspicuous group of German Lutheran theologians, known as *Sammlung*—meaning "Gathering"—holds that "Roman Primacy," in some form, is an essential ingredient of a full and orthodox Christianity.

The Protestant Stumbling Block

This leads us to the real reason for division among professing Christians.

The real stumbling block keeping

Protestants and Catholics apart is the matter of *Church Government*.

Protestants are completely divided in matters of Church Government. Some bodies are ruled by an episcopacy, others by a presbytery, others by the congregational form of government. Whole church bodies are named after these forms of church government. Protestants generally believe in the concept of democracy—freedom of the individual to determine for himself what is right and what is wrong. The Protestant idea, as stated in the October 1959 *Christian Herald*, is that individuals "with enlightened consciences make their own decisions" (Page 49). They do not want any authority in the Church to command obedience or to tell the people what to believe.

Yet this same article in the *Herald* admits that "the only place where one can find unanimity is in an authoritarian structure with power to excommunicate dissenters—and we prefer freedom. Too many differences is a price we pay for it, but we feel it is worth the cost" (Page 48).

Even Protestants know that unity can be achieved only through the *proper kind* of authoritarian Church government. That is the reason they are trying voluntarily to work for unity among themselves. But unity cannot be achieved in religion from the bottom up!

Catholic Church Government

The Catholic Church contends it has the only form of Government which can bring about unity. Unity, among Catholics, rests upon communication with the Bishop of Rome who is the visible Head of the Church. Roman Catholics are ruled from the top down. They are told what to believe and what to obey. Catholics look to the Roman Pontiff to determine authoritatively what is right and what is wrong.

The Catholic view is that Jesus Christ, while on earth, was the Head of the Church, its Chief Shepherd. But before He ascended to heaven, He turned over His office to Peter and his successors, making each of them in succession the visible Head and Chief Shepherd of the Church. Christ, according to the Catholic view, is now the Lamb in heavenly pastures, but the Bishops at Rome are

the Shepherds ruling over the flock in Christ's place!

In other words, Catholic Church Government has the visible Pontiff—a MAN—as its Head, not the divine, invisible Jesus Christ. Catholic Government does not proceed up to Christ. It stops at Rome. And because it stops in Rome, where *man* rules, the Roman Church *was unable to provide UNITY*—for out of Rome came Orthodoxy and the host of Protestant sects!

But the Protestant Churches do not even have authoritative Heads who rule their churches from the top down. They are ruled *from the bottom up!* Protestants are not ruled by Jesus Christ as the Living Head of their churches any more than are the Roman Catholics. Protestants demand freedom to rule themselves—each doing what seems right to him (Proverbs 14:12)—whereas Catholics have submitted to the authority of a man on earth who claims to sit *in the place* of Christ—who claims to have authority *by himself* to make binding decisions on the flock.

Isn't it time we looked into the Bible to see what kind of authority God did put into the Church which Jesus built? Isn't it about time we looked to see how we got these various forms of Church government?

It's time you opened your Bible and looked into it. You will be shocked at what it reveals about who rules the true Church, and how all these sects and denominations developed as a result of rebelling against the Government of God in the true Church. The facts of history are dumbfounding—what prophecy reveals about Church Unity for this coming decade will utterly astound you!

How God Ruled the Inspired Apostolic Church

Unlike *any* denomination of today, the Christians in the early inspired Church were ruled by the Government of God. God set Christ to be the continuous, living *Head* of the Church, the Head of those individuals who are led by the Spirit of God. Under Christ were the apostles, evangelists and elders He chose. *They were not elected.* They were never voted into office. They in turn ordained evangelists and elders according to the Biblical specifications, because their

fruits proved that God *had already chosen them* (compare John 3:27, Acts 13:2, 3 and I Timothy 3). They ruled the Church under Christ.

Jesus has always been the absolute Head of the Church, not any board, man or *vicar* ruling in the place of Christ (Eph. 5:23). But He ruled through those whom He chose. The ministers were not free to legislate according to their will. *They were under the authority of Christ.*

Edward Gibbon rightly says "that the apostles declined the office of legislation." (*Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, Chapter 15.) The laws governing the lives of true Christians are not human canons or traditions sanctioned by boards or Church councils.

There were *elders* in every city to instruct, correct and to be examples to the churches (I Peter 5:3). The original Greek word for "elders" is also translated "presbytery" in I Timothy 4:14. From Acts 20:17, 28 it is obvious that presbyters or elders were also called overseers or bishops—"two appellations which," according to Gibbon, "in their first origin, appear to have distinguished the same office and the same order of persons. The name Presbyter was expressive of their age, or rather of their gravity and wisdom. The title of Bishop denoted their inspection over the faith and manners of the Christians who were committed to their pastoral care."

How vastly different church governments are today! What happened that church offices are so radically altered? When did it happen? What does prophecy reveal about Church unity? Who will ultimately rule the churches?

How the Catholic Church Began

The Roman Empire in the days of the apostles was *authoritarian*, and the use of *elections* for public office was an honored practice. This form of government quickly influenced the churches after the death of the apostles.

In various congregations were numerous unconverted individuals who wanted the "say-so." To have their way they soon elected teachers who not only sanctioned these elections but also allowing the people to readopt the customs of pagan Rome and Greece. All this was prophesied in II Timothy 4:3,

4. Gradually those ministers who were chosen of God were, by the unconverted majority, forced out of the visible church congregations (III John 10). The visible churches were ceasing to be

governed by Jesus Christ. A universal or catholic apostacy permeated almost the whole Christian world.

Even before the death of the apostles, the prophesied great apostacy set in (II

Thess. 2). Some of the very elders or bishops to whom Paul talked at Ephesus (Acts 20:30) were ringleaders in seducing the people into holding public church meetings and elections of officers

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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- KNBX—Seattle—1050 on dial—3:30 p.m., Sundays; 12:00 noon, Mon. thru Sat.
- KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
- KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.
- KFQD—Anchorage, Alaska—730 on dial—9:00 p.m., nightly.

TO EUROPE

- RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 G.M.T. (in English). Sun., 6:05 M.E.T. (in German).
- RADIO MONTE CARLO—1466 kc.; 11765 and 17855 kc. and 9705 and 15380 kc; 6:00 a.m. M.E.T. Sat. (in Russian) and Fri. (in English); 6:00 a.m. and 10:10 p.m. Wed. (in Spanish).

TO AFRICA

- RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE 10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.
- RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (Belgian Congo)—OQ2AD—7150 kc., 10:00 p.m., Sun. thru Fri.
- SIERRE LEONE BROADCASTING SERVICE—5:00 p.m., Sun. and 5:15 p.m., Tues.

TO ASIA

- RADIO GOA—60 metre band, 9:30 p.m. Mon.; 9:00 p.m. Fri.
- RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—4878 kc., Monday 10:35-11:05 p.m.
- RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—BED 62—1000 kc., BED 42—1190 kc., 18:00 T.S.T., Wed. and Fri.
- RADIO OKINAWA—KSBK—880 kc. Sundays: 12:06 noon. (Time in Japanese to be announced.)
- ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM—PHILIPPINE ISLANDS 9:00 p.m. Sundays—DZAQ, Manila—630 kc.; DZRI, Dagupan City—1040 kc.; DZRB, Naga City—1060 kc.; DXMC, Davao City—900 kc.

TO AUSTRALIA

- 2CH—Sydney, NSW—9:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:15 p.m. Sat.
- 2GF—Grafton, NSW—11:30 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
- 2GN—Goulburn, NSW—3:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
- 2AY—Albury, NSW—10:30 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
- 3AW—Melbourne, Vic—10:30 p.m. Sun.
- 3BQ—Bendigo, Vic—10:30 p.m. Mon.-Fri.; 4:15 p.m. Thurs.
- 4CA—Cairns, Qld—10:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.
- 4TO—Townsville, Qld—10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
- 4KQ—Brisbane, Qld—10:30 p.m. Sun.
- 4WK—Warwick, Qld—9:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.
- 6GE—Geraldton, WA—10:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.
- 6KG—Kalgoorlie, WA—9:45 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.
- 6PM—Perth, WA—10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.
- 6AM—Northam, WA—10:15 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.; 10:00 p.m. Sun.

TO LATIN AMERICA

- In English—
- RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru—6:00 p.m. Saturdays—1010 kc.
- HOC21, Panama City—1115 kc.
- HP5A, Panama City—11170 kc.
- HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.
- HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc. 7:00 p.m., Sundays—
- In Spanish—
- RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru—7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays
- RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay—8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays
- RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay—4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

following the pattern of Roman municipalities. Each local congregation took for itself, with variations, the form of the Roman *collegia*, associations, which were modeled after the Roman municipal government. (Boak, *A History of Rome to 565 A.D.*, pp. 398, 364.)

Here was the beginning of the Catholic Church Government—the Papacy.

Notice what occurred next: "The order of public deliberations soon introduced the office of a president, invested at least with the authority of collecting the sentiments, and of executing the resolutions, of the assembly," wrote Gibbon. Here were local congregations, making their *human resolutions* instead of following the Bible—forming human government to achieve unity.

Occasional elections induced the apostatizing Christians to constitute permanently one of the elders or presbyters with the office and "duties of an ecclesiastical governor. It was under these circumstances that the lofty title of Bishop began to raise itself above the humble appellations of Presbyter; and while the latter remained the most natural distinction for the members of every Christian senate, the former was appropriated to the dignity of its new president. So declares Gibbon!

Did you notice?

Each local congregation in its legislative practices developed into a little "senate" with one of its elders, elected to the permanent office of president, styled a "Bishop."

The Bishops Grow in Power

Notice how church government led to *unity in error*—not unity in truth!

From this time forward, only the leading elder, the president, was called "Bishop." The people were following the pattern of the Roman government. They found that voting on resolutions was a very satisfactory way of getting pagan "religious ceremonies, which imperceptibly increased in number and variety," into the churches. It invested them with *legislative power* over the flock.

In the same fifteenth chapter of Gibbon's *Decline and Fall* we read: "Whenever the episcopal chair became vacant by death, a new president was chosen among the presbyters by the suffrage of the whole congregation." No longer were

the ministers being chosen by Christ and ordained by the elders and apostles. Instead, in the Catholic churches the elders were elected and one of them, specially elected to preside over the local meetings, appropriated the title of "Bishop" above his equals.

Coupled with the advancement of the "Bishop" or president in each local congregation, was the rapid tendency to form local dioceses "by the union of several country churches with a church in a city" after 100 A.D. (Milman's footnote in Gibbon's *Decline and Fall*). Toward the middle of the ensuing century, numerous churches within a city united under the leadership of the most important Bishop of the leading church in each local diocese.

Thus far church government was shaped according to the model of the Roman civil institutions—was formed only after the city government and its municipal officials and jurisdiction. There was as yet *no supreme leadership* over all these apostate churches.

Called a "Divine Institution"

The Bible nowhere teaches that man rules in place of Christ. Christ has no one ruling in his place! Christ still rules His Church. But most people do not even know where the true Church is today! Every true minister in the Church is ruled by Christ and carries out Christ's will, not his own or the people's!

But notice how the churches of this world have sought to achieve unity.

The episcopal form of human church government was adopted within a hundred years after the death of the apostles by nearly ALL the apostate congregations scattered over the Roman Empire. It soon acquired the deceptive sanction of a *divine institution*. The bishops began to style themselves the "vicars of Christ." Bingham's *Antiquities of the Christian Church* gives several cases in the early Catholic writings wherein "every bishop is *vice Christi*, Christ's vicar or Vice-regent" (Bk. II, ch. II, sect. 10).

The bishops claimed to stand *in the place of Christ*—claimed that the episcopal form of human church government, falsely labeled "holy," was a unifying institution which the people should hold *in reverence*. This is how the *idolizing* of church government developed!

This church government—which ultimately became the PAPACY—is, in fact, "the image of the beast"! (Rev. 13:14-15). It is an ecclesiastical *model* of the "beast"—the pagan Roman Government.

Notice the facts of history:

"Long before the fall of Rome there had begun to grow up within the Roman Empire an ecclesiastical state, which in its constitution and its administrative system was shaping itself upon the *imperial model*. This spiritual empire," says Myer's *Ancient History*, p. 582, "like the secular empire, possessed a hierarchy of officers."

The PAPACY is "the Roman empire, again extended over Europe by a universal code and a provincial government; by a hierarchy of religious praetors or proconsuls, and a host of inferior officers, each in strict subordination to those immediately above them, and gradually descending to the very lowest ranks of society: the whole with a certain degree of freedom of action, but a restrained and limited freedom, and with an appeal to the spiritual Caesar in the last resort (*History of Latin Christianity* by Milman, p. 28.)

The Papacy, according to these historians, is a *model*, a counterpart—an image of the "beast" which is the Roman Government. This ecclesiastical government compelled people to *worship* a man-ruled church organized into a worldly government. Although palmed off as the government of God, it is in reality an *image* of a human civil government. And worshipping any image is idolatry!

Just as the old Babylonish *idolatry* spread and *altered* its form as it propagated throughout the world, so this modern Babylon the Great, a Mother Church, has propagated daughter churches which came out protesting (Rev. 17:5). And all of them have *different* forms of church government—each patterned in some way after *human* governments. When religious people speak of "MY Church," they mean their *humanly* organized denomination which teaches pagan doctrines and customs labeled "Christian." They IDOLIZE their Church, believing its teaching can't be wrong. This is idolatry and God commands you to come out of it! (Rev. 18:4).

(To be continued next issue)

The EXPLOSIVE '60s

(Continued from page 4)

munism is not the ONLY enemy of free men!

Almighty God, in the *particular* prophecies of His Word labels and identifies very clearly *another nation*, and a UNION of nations that is going to threaten the very national existence of Britain and the United States!

Repeatedly, we have warned of this union *now forming in Europe*, and given detailed reports upon the fantastic happenings now under way, *under cover!*

Today, even as my father, Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, has been warning for years, a *United States of Europe* is much closer to a *reality!*

I have been to Germany twice myself, and I have *seen*, with my own eyes, the vast belching smokestacks of the industrial Ruhr, filling the sky with a black pall which marks the scene of the most feverish industrial activity on the face of this earth!

A strong, revitalized GERMANY, united together with a final total of nine other nations (a total of six are already bound together in economic and scientific ties) is going to present a union of nations of such staggering power as to startle the world!

Repeatedly, we have warned in the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH* of a frightening TRADE WAR which is getting under way in Europe right now. Recently, the Los Angeles *Times* warned "In the decade past since the Soviets developed their own atomic bomb, both Russia's and America's European and Asian allies have recovered from war and are about to engage in a harsh struggle for new markets for their affluent industries. Africa and India are their principal targets. *The United States is likely to be their principal victim!*"

Recently, a two-day emergency meeting of Western countries was called at the insistence of the United States because a *trade war* could also threaten the United States with destructive trade discrimination!

Mr. T. H. Tetens warned in his book "Germany Plots with the Kremlin," "In spite of the many alarm signals, United States policy-shapers still have not been

awakened from their complacency and illusion. These officials really feel proud of what they have accomplished toward the resurrection of Germany. They will work like beavers to finish what still remains to be done in order to create the new *Frankenstein monster*—of course, as a 'bulwark against the East'" (pages 105-106).

Yes, where there's smoke, there's fire!

The Real Germany of Today

The Germany of today presents a vastly different picture even to the casual eye than ever before! Germany is enjoying a prosperity unrealized in any other period of her entire history.

The amazing burst of energy displayed by the West Germans, their capturing of the world markets, their industrial resurgence, and the major part they are playing in world affairs is basically attributed to two major factors. First, the indomitable German spirit of willingness to WORK, and, second, United States tax dollars!

In an article published recently by a leading English doctor, concerning the flocking of Turkish doctors and technical students to *Germany*, rather than England, the doctor said, "History repeats itself, *but we do not learn* from it. The allies have rehabilitated West Germany after the recent war as they did after the first, and with the rapid resurgence of that country in the economic and cultural field, *we are being left well behind*" (W. C. W. Nixon, *British Medical Journal*, Oct. 10, 1959).

In a recent book *Germany Rejoins the Powers* by Karl W. Deutsch and Lewis J. Edinger, the authors estimate, based on recent polls, that about one German in eight is a "hard-core" Nazi; about one-sixth of the younger voters, aged 18 to 29, would *welcome a new Nazi party* and declare that national Socialism was a good idea. About one voter in four shows up as an emotional supporter of the Nazis on all salient points; and about *one in three* favors the Nazi position on specific issues, such as *anti-Semitism*.

Brian Connell wrote, "To take only the example of one state, denazification in Bavaria was a farce. The Bavarian administration is largely in the hands of those who controlled it under Hitler.

Statistics show that 20,682 of the 49,445 civil servants belonged to the Nazi party or to its affiliates. A total of 14,443 of these were dismissed and later reinstated into service. Almost all of the 1,000 teachers who were removed have been reappointed, representing roughly 60% of the teaching staff employed by the Ministry of Education. Sixty per cent of the 15,000 employees in the Finance Ministry are former Nazis, and 81% of the 924 judges, magistrates and prosecutors in the Ministry of Justice" (page 119, *A Watcher on the Rhine*, Connell).

In a series of articles appearing in a west coast newspaper recently, as a result of the latest anti-Semitic outbursts in Europe and elsewhere, the survey of German school systems, with special emphasis on history teaching, reveals some striking things!

Most teachers in Western Germany either speak in *glowing terms* of Hitler's administration and claim everything about it was *good* except for a few "mistakes" Hitler made, or else *ignore it altogether*.

Some Western observers have charged the German teaching profession with ignoring and deliberately avoiding the facts of the brutalities perpetrated on the millions of helpless Jews, Czechs, Poles, Belgians, and others in the torture camps of World War II.

The world has *not learned* from its past mistakes!

Lewis Nizer wrote "Never again must we be deluded into misplacing responsibility for German aggression. It is not the leader of the day, whether he be Charlemagne, Barbarossa, Frederick Wilhelm, the Great Elector Frederick the Great, Bismarck, the Kaiser or Hitler, who wages war against mankind. *It is the German people. . . .* This is the greatest indictment of a people in all history. But it is the truth. Unless we recognize it as such, we will be unable to cope with the German problem—and that problem has been, and will continue to be, the greatest threat to future peace. For defeat will not deter the Germans from their determined criminality. They will force war upon the world again and again. Each succeeding effort comes frighteningly closer to success. The next slaughter, in-

flicted by rabid, wild-eyed Nazi youths grown to manhood, may actually blow out the light of civilization forever" (pages 52-53, *What to Do With Germany* by Nizer).

God Is Warning YOU!

Germany stands identified as *Assyria* in Biblical prophecy! In times past we have identified Germany in the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH*. (If you have not proved Germany's identity in Biblical prophecy as yet, please write immediately for a free article "Germany in Prophecy!")

The United States and Great Britain, together with other democracies in Northwestern Europe, stand clearly identified as the *Israel* of your Bible! (If you have not as yet proved this point, write for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "The United States and the British Commonwealth in Prophecy.")

Your Bible is literally filled with prophecies concerning the future of modern-day Israel! Prophecies taking shape in world events *right now!*

Understanding the identity of the peoples of Israel is *one* of the great KEYS to understanding the prophecies of your Bible!

In *many* prophecies, concerning the second coming of Jesus Christ, your Bible shows Jesus is coming to *release* from a national CAPTIVITY His own people *Israel!*

In every case, He releases them from the hand of the *Assyrians*, modern *Germany!*

Notice it! "And in that day there shall be a root of Jesse [Christ], which shall stand for an ensign to the people; to it shall the Gentiles seek, and His rest shall be glorious. And it shall come to pass in that day, that the Lord shall set His hand a SECOND TIME to recover the remnant of *His people*, which shall be left, from ASSYRIA. . . ." (Isa. 11:10, 11).

God says again, through Isaiah, "And it shall come to pass, in that day, that the great trumpet shall be blown [the *last trump*—signaling Christ's return and the kingdom of God on earth] and they shall come which were *ready to perish* in the land of ASSYRIA, and the outcasts in the land of Egypt, and shall worship the Eternal in the holy

mount at Jerusalem" (Isa. 27:13).

The prophet Ezekiel was given an amazing message to get to the *House of Israel* and give them a WARNING of a coming captivity!

Yet, Ezekiel was given this message of a future captivity over 127 long years AFTER Israel had already *gone* into captivity—and had been migrating across into Northwestern Europe!

Ezekiel's message is for our day, NOW! Ezekiel was told "Son of man, go, get thee unto the *House of Israel*, and *speak with My words unto them!*" (Ezek. 3:4). He then warned "Make a chain, for the land is full of *bloody crimes*, and the city is full of VIOLENCE. Wherefore I will bring the worst of the heathen, and they shall possess their houses, and I will also make the pomp of the strong to cease, and their holy places shall be defiled. *Destruction cometh*, and they SHALL SEEK PEACE and there shall be none!" (Ezek. 7:23-25).

Almighty God seriously warns our people great DESTRUCTION is coming upon us, unless we are willing to repent and change our national ways!

Punishment Coming!

God is going to *spank*.

As any *loving* father, who does not like to see his own children go astray, and do things which are going to bring frightening retribution *on them*, Almighty God is going to have to SPANK His children!

Notice what kind of a *rod* He is going to use!

"O Assyrian, *the rod of Mine anger*, and the staff in their hand is Mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation, and against the people of *My wrath* will I give him a charge, to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to tread them down like the mire of the streets" (Isa. 10:5-6).

God says He is going to use a revitalized, rearmed and united GERMANY at the head of a great union in Europe which is going to form a resurrection of the symbolic BEAST of your Bible, to PUNISH His people!

For *years and years*, the *World Tomorrow* program and the pages of *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine have been giving particular, definite, point by point

prophecies in great detail of *exactly how* this frightening union of nations is going to form in Europe. We have shown how it may be called, in all likelihood, "The United States of Europe!" We have shown how a great fantastic *trade war* is getting under way, and is going to threaten the very economic survival of the United States and Britain!

We have shown and *proved* that Almighty God is intervening in the weather! He is bringing droughts, floods, hurricanes, tornadoes, earthquakes, and other natural calamities which are breaking the very staff of our produce and affecting our national economies.

The dollar and the pound sterling are growing more and more unstable, and foreign nations are gradually draining gold from the United States at a frightening rate. There is a vast, world-wide trade war under way—and most of you have been unaware of it!

All of these *internal troubles*, combined with the rapid rise to power of a frightening huge combine in Europe, are going to spell out great DISASTER for the United States and Britain in the '60s.

This is the story of *your life!* IT IS GOING TO HAPPEN!

No amount of reasoning, "spiritualizing away," arguing, doubting, scoffing, or disbelieving is going to *change it!*

Almighty God, in His inviolate Word, thunders from His great throne in the universe that these very prophecies *are going to come to pass!*

There is a way of escape for YOU! You, your family, your home do not need to be taken unawares!

It's about time you took a good long look at the world in which you live, and became *aware* of the frightening conditions around. It's about time you came to a *decision* whether or not you want the things the WORLD can offer—and ultimate DESTRUCTION—or whether or not you want the things Almighty God offers, and lasting peace, happiness, prosperity, *and above all, eternal life!*

This rapidly moving, dizzying decade in which you live, *right now*—is going to be the most important of all your life! May Almighty God help you to CHOOSE—and to choose life!

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

This is the 26th installment. The time, 1931. An intended one month newspaper engagement proved a web of circumstance in which Mr. Armstrong was entrapped for 15 months.

I HAD GONE to Astoria, Oregon, for a temporary newspaper assignment. My former newspaper associate, Samuel T. Hopkins, had pleaded for me to help extricate him and his new *Morning Messenger* from impossible circumstances.

He had started a new daily newspaper without capital. Every store that advertised, except one, had been tied up by the evening newspaper on 5-year contracts binding them *not* to advertise in any other English-language daily paper. We were approaching the bottom of America's worst depression.

Stuck in Astoria

This frustrating and unprecedented situation had called for an unprecedented solution. I had to develop the very few non-advertising stores into big-space advertisers. A program was launched of selling unlimited space on the basis of a percentage of gross sales. I became virtual advertising manager for each of these stores, writing all their advertising, advising them on merchandising policies. But these problems and their solutions entrapped me in Astoria. When the month ended, the last day of December, 1931, this program was merely getting started. Besides, there was still no money in the Oregon Conference treasury of the church. I was stuck in Astoria for 15 months—until the end of February, 1933.

After the Krohn & Carson experience forced their main clothing-store competitor to break its 5-year contract, other stores gradually began cautiously to put a limited amount of advertising in the *Messenger*. This drove our opposition publisher to adopt a new type of competition. Now the going became rougher than before.

Both the evening paper, and ours, maintained job-printing departments. There was, besides, one independent job-

printing establishment. But the evening newspaper job department did more than half of all the printing. With this and the newspaper combined, the opposition newspaper employed more than half the employes in all three unions involved—the typographical, the pressmen's and the stereotypers unions.

Competition Gets Rough

The depression, by spring of 1932, had descended to such depths that if a man lost his job he had small chance of finding another. At union meetings, the evening paper employes had a majority vote.

So we had the unheard-of spectacle of our competitor's employes voting *our* employes out of their jobs on strike, while all our employes voted desperately against the strike. It meant the loss of their jobs. They knew they would be unable to obtain employment elsewhere.

Actually, our competitor's employes did have a technical violation to charge us with. Our employes were not receiving their full wages *in cash*. Our paper simply did not have the money. One reason I had felt obligated to remain on in Astoria after December, 1931, was the responsibility of keeping our 23 employes from starving. I had traded advertising space for meal tickets in local restaurants. I had traded advertising space for rooms in hotels and small apartments in large apartment houses. I had taken most of the Krohn & Carson 3% compensation in clothes for our men. Thus we had managed to keep them clothed, fed, and sheltered. We had paid them small amounts of cash for other expenses, but the balance of their wages was being paid them in stock in the paper. Thus they were part owners. If and when the paper got on a paying basis, they would then receive their wages with interest.

When the strike was first voted against

us, Mr. Hopkins and, I believe, our city editor, took a quick trip to Seattle to appeal to the district union chief, a Mr. Pelkey. We awaited their return anxiously. Their smiling faces told us, on their return, they had succeeded. Mr. Pelkey had called off the strike. He realized the desperate competitive situation. But this was only a reprieve—not the end of the matter.

A month or two later, our opposition employes again voted our employes out on strike. Again Mr. Hopkins raced to Seattle. Again Mr. Pelkey rescinded the strike vote. During the summer our competitor's employes did it again. A third time Mr. Pelkey vetoed the strike.

But our opposition simply wore down Mr. Pelkey. A fourth time the opposition men voted ours out on strike. This time Mr. Pelkey said he was getting "fed up" with this Astoria quarrel, and he let the strike become official.

The Strike STRUCK!

The date was Labor Day, 1932. Our employes had to face the problem of whether to defy the strike vote, stay on the job, and thus be put out of the unions—in which case their entire future in the printing business was ruined—or lose their jobs with no prospect of finding others. The men, however, decided that their futures, after the depression had subsided, meant more to them than the immediate job.

Mr. Hopkins immediately brought a few non-union printers from Portland to Astoria. But they were unskilled, and totally unsatisfactory as workmen—and they were too few. I had never operated a linotype machine, although I had been around composing rooms for 20 years. Now I had to work all night long with a "hunt and peck" effort to set the type.

Also I set ads in display type. After 36 hours without sleep, we finally got out

the paper, in the evening of Labor Day.

Our *morning* paper came out *after* the *evening* paper of the same day. But we got it out! Otherwise we should have been put out of business altogether!

For three days and three nights Mr. Hopkins and I and a few of the newsmen worked straight through without sleep. We literally lived that 72 hours on coffee. There was an all-night cafe across the street. We kept them constantly making coffee!

The day following Labor Day we got the paper "to bed" in mid-afternoon. The next day by about noon. Gradually we gained an hour or two each day, and within a week we were getting the papers on the street by early morning. But it was indeed a sorry-looking newspaper! It came out full of typographical errors, bad type-setting. But we were fighting to keep it alive.

Even before this 72-hour stretch without *any* sleep, I had been consistently losing sleep in Astoria. For the entire 15 months on this newspaper job I *averaged* about 5½ hours sleep per night. I *need* a minimum of seven. This continuous loss of sleep proved a real handicap after I did finally get back into the ministry in 1933.

Two Awe-Inspiring Miracles

During the 15 months of this stay in Astoria, God blessed us with two amazing miracles. For the first seven months, still hoping from week to week to be able to wind up this newspaper detour and get back on the main road of God's ministry, Mrs. Armstrong and our children remained in the house on East State Street in Salem. During that time I managed to take frequent week-end trips home to be with my family.

Finally, by early July 1932, we decided to move the family to Astoria. This resulted from my wife calling long distance late one afternoon asking me to rush home. Little Garner Ted was stricken with pneumonia! I drove the *Messenger* coupe down to Salem, arriving late that night. The children were asleep. Mrs. Armstrong was still up, beside little Teddy's sofa, on which he was lying. Immediately, we both knelt beside our sick baby. Little Garner Ted was then two years and five months.

And I must explain here that he had

been, to that time, dumb—unable to talk. While somewhere between six months and a year old, he had fallen out of his crib-bed head-first onto the hard wood floor. We attributed his inability to talk to this fall, landing on his head. He would point to whatever he wanted to tell us about, making motions, and grunting "Ugh! Ugh!" But he was unable to speak a single word. We were becoming much concerned.

I anointed Teddy and began to claim God's promises to rebuke the fever and heal him. As I was praying, Mrs. Armstrong silently prayed, asking God that, if it was His will to heal our baby of this dumbness at that time, to put it in my mind to ask for this, as well as healing from the pneumonia.

WHY You Hear Garner Ted Today

I did also have this in mind—or God put it in my mind—for the very instant she had asked for this, I began asking God to restore Ted's power of speech.

His fever left quickly. The very next day he was able to say a number of single words. In about three days he was talking in whole sentences.

After this experience, my wife and I decided to move the family immediately to Astoria. I remained a few days to help pack our goods.

After everything was packed, I crowded our two daughters and Dickey (we called our boys "Dickey" and "Teddy" until the day they entered Junior High school) into the coupe and drove to Astoria. Mrs. Armstrong followed with Teddy on the train. Little Teddy was so frightened by the train that my wife had some difficulty in getting him aboard. But once on, and relaxed and reassured, he began talking.

"Here we go," said Teddy cheerfully, "to see Daddy, see Ba-wee (Beverly), see Dorsee (Dorothy), see Dickey!" That was a 12-word sentence, gushing out only about three days after I had prayed for his healing! Words have been pouring like a torrent out of his mouth ever since, as millions of radio listeners on every continent around the world well know! God *gave* him his voice by an unusual divine miracle. And I am *well pleased*, as God was with *His* Son Jesus, that he is now an instrument in God's hands.

I had arranged for one of the members of the Church, who lived near Jefferson, to haul our furniture and things to Astoria. We went first to the hotel in Astoria. Mr. Hopkins and I had lived there, trading advertising for rooms.

Soon we rented a house, high up on an embankment above a street overlooking the mile-wide Columbia river. We were only ten miles from the ocean at that point, and the mighty Columbia widens to a very great river at its mouth. From our house there was an unobstructed view straight out the river to the ocean.

About that time I managed to obtain a portable radio by trading advertising space, and taking it as part of my salary. This small portable radio would receive stations from great distances—much farther than even large and expensive modern sets today. After our strike finally did *strike*, by early winter of 1932, I was kept at the newspaper office until midnight or later about six nights every week.

Arriving home at midnight or 1:00 a.m., I often turned on the radio in order to "unwind" my nerves a bit from the tense business day before retiring. Any night at that hour, which was around 6:00 p.m. in Japan, I was able to get Radio Tokyo *on standard wave* direct. There was no obstruction between the aerial atop our house and Japan—just the mile-wide mouth of the Columbia, and straight across the ocean.

Also, at the time, I was able to "bring in" clearly such stations as WLS, Chicago, WLW, Cincinnati, WSM, Nashville, WHO, Des Moines—all of which I was later to have the privilege of broadcasting over.

Hunting for Bear

My son Garner Ted, who now shares the microphone with me on the worldwide *World Tomorrow* program, loves to hunt and fish. He may not remember when the excitement of hunting was first implanted within him, and he may read this now, along with all our readers.

As soon as God gave us our first son, for whom my wife and I had waited eleven years, I wanted to be a pal to him. I had begun calling little Dickey, as soon as he could talk, my "pal." But now,

(Please continue on page 23)

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER SEVENTEEN

THE PLAGUES OF EGYPT

GOD AGAIN spoke to Moses after Moses and Aaron had to leave Pharaoh's court. "In the morning," He said, "Pharaoh will go out to bathe at the edge of the river. He won't want to receive you in court so soon again, so go along the river bank till you reach his bathing pool. Tell him that your God has sent you again to tell him to let My people go into the desert to worship Me. Tell him that because he has refused to let the Israelites leave, I will turn the water of the Nile into blood. Remind him that the fish in it will die, and that the Egyptians will not be able to drink it because of the terrible taste and odor."

Nile River Turned to Blood

Hours later, when the king of Egypt was slipping into his beautifully tiled pool built into the bank of the Nile, he was startled to hear a somewhat familiar voice calling to him from the heavy, green foliage just outside the borders of the pool. He looked up over the wall to see Moses and Aaron looking down on him. Guards moved swiftly toward the two Israelites.

"Let them speak!" Pharaoh commanded, waving his hand for the guards not to interfere. "I should like to know what kind of show these two will put on this time."

When the guards saw that their king was wearing a smile, they felt free to smile. But when Aaron stepped forward with the rod, faces grew serious. No one had forgotten about the unpleasant episode of the snakes, and no one could even guess what God might next bring from that rod.

Aaron repeated all that God had spoken to Moses. When he spoke of the threat to

turn the water of the Nile into blood, Pharaoh held up a hand for silence. (Exodus 7:14-18.)

"The Nile is a very big river," Pharaoh spoke up, calmly splashing water over his head. "I just don't know what we would do with that much blood!"

There was a roar of laughter from the Egyptian guards and servants. Before the last giggle had died down, Aaron lifted his rod out before him, then brought it down with a splash into the water that flowed through the pool's filtering screens. The Egyptians stared at Aaron, wondering what this gesture of his could mean.

The first sign that anything unusual was happening was a yell from the servant who held Pharaoh's robe.

"Look!" he shouted. "The water is turning red!"

Pharaoh looked down to see that the water was much darker than it had been. Even as he stared at it, the water lost all clarity and grew increasingly red. The king's first sudden, wild desire was to get out of the pool, and this he did in a very hasty and undignified manner. His servant threw his robe about him to hide the crimson streaks that coursed down his body. But all the Egyptians, including Pharaoh, uneasily eyed the puddle in which the king stood. It was thick and red, just like blood! (Ex. 7:19-21.)

It was difficult for Pharaoh to regain his dignity and calmness. But he knew he must do so before his servants. Furthermore, he felt that he had to prove that the two Israelites



The King stared down at the water; it was turning red!

were simply trying to frighten him into freeing their people.

"Call my wise men," Pharaoh commanded a servant, "and tell them what has happened. Get them here at once, so that these Israelites will soon know that their magic is no better than that of my magicians."

Again there was a wait for the magicians to show up. Meanwhile, the king went back to his palace to dress. But before he left, he gazed in concern across the broad expanse of blood-red liquid of the Nile flowing slowly to the north. The result of God's power was before his eyes, but he didn't choose to believe it. He was hoping that it was just a trick of some kind, and that his wise men could prove that it was.

At last Pharaoh returned, flanked by guards and servants. Behind him walked his magicians, and behind the magicians came more servants bearing huge casks of clear water. Then, with Moses and Aaron looking on, the magicians waved their hands over the casks, and uttered strange words. Servants stepped forward to dump the contents of the casks on the ground.

The liquid that gushed forth was as red as blood!

Pharaoh smiled when he saw what his wise men had done. He turned to triumphantly regard Moses and Aaron.

"As you see again," he said to them, "there is no miracle you can perform that my magicians can't perform. Of course you had the advantage. You could hardly expect my wise men to turn the river into blood while it is already that way."

Thereupon Pharaoh and his servants walked back to the palace, leaving Moses and Aaron standing by the red Nile. (Verses 22-23.)

Seven Days Without Water

A week passed, during which the Egyptians went through much misery. Nile water was the very life of the land. Having become as blood and filled with dead fish, it couldn't be used for anything except irrigation.

Long before a week passed, the Egyptians were frantically seeking water to keep themselves and their livestock alive. Even the ponds and pools of the country had turned to blood—except possibly those in the land of Goshen where most of the Israelites lived. Either the Egyptians had to bring water in from outside their borders or get it by digging for springs away from the banks of the Nile. Wells were very few, but it might have been from a well or springs that the magicians obtained the water that was brought before Pharaoh in casks, and which was turned red by their deceptive powers.

Even many of the Israelite slaves must have suffered along with the Egyptians, inasmuch as many of them were captive in the areas where construction was going on. But

because of the shortage of water, possibly the Israelites weren't required to work for a few days.

In spite of all the misery in the land, Pharaoh stubbornly refused to change his mind about the Israelites. However, as the week went on, he began to wonder if the discomfort of his people was too high a price to pay to keep the Israelites as slaves. At the same time Pharaoh and those about him were not as miserable as most other people, because every effort was made to supply clear water to the royal family. But Pharaoh knew that the nation couldn't last long under those conditions. He realized that sooner or later he would have to give in and call for Moses and Aaron.



The Egyptians feverishly dug into the river banks in search of springs of clear water.

On the eighth day after the Nile had been turned to blood, Pharaoh was awakened by excited servants. "Why do you disturb me?" the king demanded. "Guards! Put these bumbling serfs in prison for breaking into my bedroom!"

"But we came to report to your highness that the Nile is again flowing clear and clean!" one of the servants blurted.

"Is this true?" Pharaoh demanded of the guards who were approaching.

When the guards nodded in happy agreement, Pharaoh sank back on his pillow and smiled with relief. To the Egyptian king's way of thinking, he had won out in a battle of patience with the God of the Israelites.

"You servants will be rewarded for bringing good news," Pharaoh murmured, waving every one away.

From that hour on there was great rejoicing in Egypt. Within a few days things were back to normal. But if the king thought that this was the end of his being bothered by Moses and Aaron and their God, he had some unpleasant surprises coming.

Later, God commanded the two Israelites to go again to Pharaoh with a warning. Moses and Aaron knew that they wouldn't be welcome, but they also knew that they

must trust God and obey Him. When Pharaoh heard that they had arrived to speak to him, he was angry. But the more he thought about them, the more curious he became. He soon calmed down.

Moses and Aaron's Return

"Perhaps they have come to tell me that they have given up the futile idea of leaving Egypt," the king told his advisors. "Send word to my guards to let them in."

After the two Israelites were brought into the court, Aaron stepped up to speak. But Pharaoh held up his hand for silence.

"Spare me that worn-out speech about your people wanting to go into the desert to worship your God," the king said in a weary tone. "Make your talk short simply by telling me, if you have a reason, why you're here."

"We have come again to ask you to let our people go," Aaron said. "If you refuse to let them go, our God will bring up millions of frogs from the Nile. They will spread out over your country in such great swarms that they will be in your beds, your kitchens and wherever you sit or stand or lie down!" (Ex. 8:1-4.)

Pharaoh frowned down on Aaron and Moses for a few seconds. This announcement of a plague of frogs was startling to him, but he wanted others to believe that he was nothing more than slightly annoyed.

"Perhaps by your magic you can do such a thing," the king finally spoke. "But my magicians have already proved that they can do anything you can do. If your God is no more powerful than my wise men and their gods, what have I to fear? Leave now and tell your God that I will not free the Israelites!"

"You will learn very soon what our God can do," Aaron told the king, and he and Moses left the court.

Pharaoh was worried. He knew that his wise men had really failed miserably in trying to outperform Moses and Aaron. He would have been even more concerned if later he could have seen two men standing by the Nile—one holding a shepherd's rod out before him as a kind of signal for God to bring a second grievous woe upon Egypt.

Very early next morning the king of Egypt was awakened by screams from somewhere in the palace. He was about to call for servants to find out what was going on when he felt something move under his hand. In the dim light of dawn he could see several small creatures crawling and hopping about on his bed cover. He jerked to a sitting position and blinked in alarm at the crawling things. They were tiny frogs. (Verses 5-6.)

Angered that his servants would allow such a thing, he leaped out of bed, only to plant his bare feet on more frogs on the floor. He roared out his displeasure, but his

words were drowned in loud sounds of scuffling and banging in the hall outside his bedroom. He moved toward the door to find out what the commotion was about, but with each step there was a cold, slippery feeling beneath his feet.

The light of dawn was increasing now, and the king could more clearly see little greenish-gray frogs hopping and crawling through the windows, across the floor, over his bed and even up the walls. It was too fantastic to be real, he thought. Surely it had to be only a bad dream!

Just as he reached his door, it flew open and servants tumbled in, swatting and pounding at hordes of frogs swarming on the hall floor.

When the servants saw Pharaoh standing sternly over them, they ceased their swatting and bowed low to him.

"Forgive us, your highness!" one of them chattered. "The whole palace is being overtaken by frogs, and we were trying to keep them from entering your rooms!"

"The frogs are coming out of the river and swarming over everything!" another servant blurted out.

It wasn't until that moment that the king recalled, with a shudder, what the Israelite Aaron had spoken just the day before. In that same moment Pharaoh's anger turned to alarm. He realized then that this was no mere nightmare. The plague of frogs was actually at hand!



The frogs crawled out of the Nile by the millions, and swiftly spread over the land.

"Close all doors!" Pharaoh commanded. "Cover every window in the palace! Then call all servants to help clear those frogs from inside this building!"

Within a few minutes scores of servants were feverishly working to rid the palace of frogs. Even the guards joined in the task of making the building almost airtight. Servants were stationed at every entrance to sweep the tiny reptiles back whenever doors were opened.

"Call my robe bearer," the king commanded. "I wish to go now to bathe in my pool."

One of the guards stepped forward a little nervously, holding up a hand as though to restrain Pharaoh from going outside.

"My master would find it impossible to go into the pool this morning," the guard said. "It is filled with frogs and tadpoles. Besides, the path to the pool is almost solidly covered with a creeping blanket of frogs."

The king frowned at the guard, and was about to say something when a servant approached, bowing as he came.

"Your majesty's advisors are here to see you," the servant panted. "They would like to have a meeting with you at once."

"Go tell them I never discuss affairs of state before breakfast!" Pharaoh snapped, and strode back to his private quarters.

Pharaoh's Breakfast

Later, waiters brought in trays of food to spread out on the king's large, private dining table. Pharaoh uncovered one of the steaming dishes, and his grim expression almost disappeared at sight of the savory contents.

"These frogs are a serious problem," Pharaoh thought, "but I'm not going to let them spoil my appetite."

He seized a pitcher of cream and poured it lavishly over the contents of the bowl in front of him. Using a spoon-like utensil, he began to eat with obvious enjoyment. His curled, carefully squared beard bobbed swiftly up and down with each movement of his jaws.

Suddenly he stopped eating. His mouth hung open, and he stared down into his bowl like one hypnotized and unable to act. Something was moving in the cream in his dish! The movement increased, and abruptly two small frogs burst out of his food, crawled up the inside of the bowl, leaped off the rim and went sprawling on the table in thick drops of cream. His spoon clanked to the floor while his gaze shifted to the equally upsetting sight of a frog floating lifelessly in a silver cup of his favorite beverage. The nearest waiter, having just noticed the situation, was horrified. It took all the courage he could muster to step up and snatch the offending articles from the table.

"Take this food back to the kitchen and tell the cooks to eat it!" Pharaoh growled. "Then bring me food without frogs in it or all you waiters and cooks will be dragged away by my guards!"

The Bible doesn't tell us just how the frogs affected Pharaoh and his household at first, and therefore the foregoing description must be made with the help of some

imagination. Probably the actual situations were in some ways much funnier and in other ways much more tragic. We do know that the Egyptians suffered a great deal during the next several days, what with the frogs continuing to emerge from the Nile and move in distressing hordes across the country.

As usual, in a weak attempt to prove to the Egyptians that his wise men could also work such great "magic," Pharaoh called in the magicians.

"Show me, before the witnesses gathered here in my court, that you can also produce frogs," the king commanded.

"We shall indeed do that, O Pharaoh," spoke up one of the chief magicians, whose name was Jannes. (II Tim. 3:8.)

"This Moses and Aaron," spoke up another named Jambres, "are not truly skilled

in the art of sorcery. They were simply clever enough to know that the marshlands of the Nile have been teeming with millions upon millions of tadpoles, and they guessed the day and almost the hour when those tadpoles would turn to frogs and crawl out of the river. In other words, O king, they have tried to deceive you into thinking that their God has given them the power to produce the frogs. But now, through the powers of sorcery, we shall produce frogs from nowhere!"

Several magicians took their places before the king. There was a mysterious waving of arms and hands along with some strange words from Jambres and Jannes, and little green frogs appeared as from nothing and started hopping about in all directions. (Ex. 8:7.)

This feat of magic pleased the king, but it was plain that he had already seen enough frogs for one day. He waved for the performance to cease.

"But our display of sorcery is not yet complete, O king," Jannes spoke up. "Look at the floor again!"

Pharaoh's gaze dropped to the floor. He leaned forward and blinked. The frogs the magicians had brought on had disappeared!



Another frog was floating lifelessly on its back in a silver cup of Pharaoh's favorite beverage.

"The gods who give you power for your magic are indeed mighty," Pharaoh nodded. "Let us beseech them to stop this plague of frogs. Surely it can't last another day."

But the king was wrong. Frogs continued to pour from the river day after day, and to spread out over Egypt—except possibly the land of Goshen, where most of the Israelites lived. Many of the frogs soon died for lack of shade and moisture. Many were killed by the constant efforts of the Egyptians. Soon there were great heaps of the tiny reptiles piled up everywhere. To bury them was too much of a task. For every frog that died, there was another to take its place, and the misery of the Egyptians increased each day by the frogs crawling into their food, their beds and everywhere they sat or walked.

Pharaoh Meets with His Advisors

Meanwhile, the king's troubles swiftly increased. His advisors and officers pressed him to do something about the plague. They pointed out to him that if it didn't end soon, the Egyptians would flee from their own country, and that the nation would be too weakened to live. This worried Pharaoh, who knew that he couldn't rule people if they weren't there to rule.

Another thing that worried the king was the way in which Moses and Aaron had outperformed his magicians. Although he had several times called in his wise men to try to prove to his people that the Egyptian gods were always ready to act through the magicians, Pharaoh knew that the power shown through Moses and Aaron was much greater, and he was afraid of it.

One thing that made matters difficult for the Egyptians was that their pagan religion required them to worship certain reptiles, including the frog. One of their idols even had the head of a frog. Therefore many of the people of Egypt had a superstitious fear of killing the frogs, or even to step on them by accident.

Still the frogs kept pouring out of the Nile and over the land, and their dead grew into ever-growing piles of sickening, decaying flesh.

"Something must be done at once or you will no longer have a nation to rule," Pharaoh's chief advisor told him. "Our people cannot bear up under this thing much longer. Many of them have already fled to foreign lands."

"You mean you want me to give in to those two self-styled Israelites and their silly demands?" Pharaoh asked.

"That is the only thing to do," the chief advisor replied, "unless you think your magicians have the power to stop this plague."

Pharaoh did not answer. He would not ask the magicians to try to rid the nation of frogs. He knew that their source of power was not as great as that of Moses and

Aaron. Deep in thought, the king sauntered to the window, then realized that it was tightly boarded up to keep out the tiny invaders. If only he could know just how long the plague would last, he could act accordingly. But he didn't know. If he gave in and let the Israelites go, his plans would be shattered. He wanted to keep on using the Israelites to build cities with more grandeur and splendor than man had ever known. Perhaps just a few more years, and his ambition would be fulfilled. But if the plague of frogs continued, he might lose everything.

"Send for Moses and Aaron!" Pharaoh suddenly blurted out.

Relief swept over the chief advisor's face as he heard those words. He turned to a servant to order him to send a message by the swiftest rider in the king's service.

Pharaoh was waiting in his court when Moses and Aaron arrived later. Moses felt that there could be only one reason to be summoned so hastily, and he was right.

"Ask your God to stop sending these terrible frogs!" Pharaoh commanded, staring sternly at the two Israelites.

"We would be most happy to do so," Aaron spoke out, "if you will promise to free our people."

Pharaoh hesitated. He leaned back in his chair, and blankly regarded one of his clenched fists.

"I will let your people go," he said with a sigh. "They will be free to go into the desert to worship your God." (Ex. 8:8.)

This, at last, was what Moses had worked for! He breathed a prayer of thankfulness that the king of Egypt had finally given in to their requests. But Moses knew that it wouldn't be wise to ask God to stop the oncoming frogs at just any time. He knew that if Pharaoh would choose a certain time, then the power of God would be better shown to the king.

"When do you want our God to stop the frogs from overrunning your land?" Moses asked Pharaoh.

"Tomorrow," the king replied.

"Then it shall be done tomorrow," Moses said. "Tomorrow the frogs will cease to hop through your cities and fields and buildings. The only live frogs to be found will be in the river. This will be a miracle from our God. It will be something that no other gods can do."

As soon as Moses could get to a place where he could privately pray, he asked God to stop the plague of frogs on the following day. (Verses 9-12.)

Next morning, the weary people of Egypt were relieved and happy to find that there were no more live frogs anywhere except in the Nile river. There was great rejoicing and celebrating. But there was still the huge task of raking the dead reptiles

into heaps, and after that the horrible odor of decaying frogs was very unpleasant. (Verse 13.)

Meanwhile, Moses was anxiously expecting some kind of decree from the king, stating that the Israelites would be freed. Nothing happened. Angered at the delay by Pharaoh to declare the Israelites free, Moses went with Aaron back to the royal palace.

"I know why you are here," Pharaoh greeted them in wearied tones, "so there's no point in reminding me about my promise to let your people leave Egypt.

(To be continued next issue)

Autobiography

(Continued from page 12)

as soon as little Teddy began to talk, on hearing me call his elder brother "pal," he exclaimed, "Well, I'm your *pal*, too, Daddy."

From that moment Teddy became "Pal Two," and Dickey "Pal One."

One of the very first things I did, after we moved into the house in Astoria, was to take my two "pals" "bear hunting." I have explained that our house sat on an embankment high above the side-walk below. This hill ran up steeply from the great river below, and continued on up-hill behind our house, thickly wooded. I took my two sons, armed with wooden sticks for guns, on frequent "hunting trips" up this steep heavily wooded slope, "hunting for bear." The boys would growl like a bear, and confidently expected to get a shot at one any second.

The basement of our Astoria house was on the ground level in front, but basement level at the rear. In Astoria, as well as when we lived in Salem and Eugene, we burned wood for fuel. My sons helped me carry chopped wood up the basement stairs into the kitchen. Although Teddy was speaking whole sentences three days after his speech was restored, he did not pronounce all his words like an adult immediately.

I shall never forget his rapping on the basement door, three or four sticks of wood across his outstretched arms, yelling:

"Open d' doagm—open d' doagm—here tums dreat bid mans!"

Our younger daughter Dorothy got in Teddy's hair on occasion. On one of these occasions, in the kitchen, little Teddy became exasperated and started for his tormenting sister with clenched fists.

In fear Dorothy ran through the hall-way, and up the stairs to the second floor like a frightened deer, with little Teddy scampering after her in red-hot anger, shouting,

"Boy, oh boy! I'll hap your hace!"

Apparently Dorothy found refuge in a bed-room and locked the door.

I suppose we have had quite the same experience rearing children that most parents have. Most of the time our two daughters, only two years and two months apart, have been the best of chums and buddies, but they had their share of quarreling over the things most sisters quarrel over—whose turn it was to do the dishes—or when one girl had put on the other girl's clothes. But our two sons seldom quarreled, and surely no two brothers could have gotten along better together, or been closer to each other. Their fights were usually with older sisters!

Another typical experience many fathers should understand. Early in the Christmas shopping season, 1932, I managed to obtain for my boys an electric

train, with quite a lot of track and accessories—by trading advertising space for it. The price of the train was charged at the newspaper, of course, as part of my salary since only a small part of salaries could be paid in cash. Mrs. Armstrong said smilingly that I got the electric train for the boys, so I could play with it! I wonder how many fathers have done the same thing!

The Second Miraculous Healing

It was during the midst of the winter, December, 1932 or January 1933, that Milas Helms appeared in Astoria one night. He finally located me at one of the "movie" offices, where I was picking up an "ad" at around 10:00 p.m. His little son, James, was stricken with a most serious case of pneumonia, and was in extremely critical condition. Mike had driven his pick-up truck all the way from his farm, south-west of Jefferson. He asked me if I would not drop everything and go with him to anoint and pray for his boy's healing.

We drove through the night around the icy sharp mountain curves of the only highway in those days, through a driving snow-storm blizzard, on to Portland, and then some 75 miles more to his farm.

We arrived there around 5:00 a.m. The oil lamps were still burning, and Mike's wife, Pearl, was still up. Little James was gasping for breath, with an extremely high temperature, but still alive. Immediately we knelt beside his bed, and I anointed him and claimed God's promises to heal him. Almost immedi-

ately the boy sank into a sleep, and then all of us laid down to get some over-due rest and sleep.

We awakened at 10:00 a.m. Little James awakened, too, at about the same time, and immediately scampered out of bed and began playing around the room. His temperature was completely gone. He had been completely healed. I returned to Astoria.

An END of Going Hungry

I have mentioned repeatedly how God had brought me down, reduced us to poverty and want, and how much we had suffered hunger through those years. Much of the time in Astoria, up until about the time of this emergency trip to the Helms farm, we had not had enough to eat.

I have explained in past installments how, after conversion, I had to come to learn and understand one doctrine at a time. The truth was not acquired all at once. I had known that the Bible had quite a little to say about tithing one's income, and probably had by this time come to understand that it was still in force during the New Testament. Yet somehow it had never become completely clear, and we had never made tithing a regular and strict practice.

At about this time, in the little time I had from my work at the newspaper for Bible study and prayer, I had made a special and thorough study of this matter of tithing. We saw the mistake we had been making, and started a definite practice of strict tithing. We had only a very little on hand, but we sent a tenth of it, plus an offering, to the Oregon Conference treasurer.

That very day, the way opened for us to be able to stock up at home with a reasonable abundance of food. For one thing, we had a large thick steak. My wife cooked it at low heat with the utensils we had acquired when I had devoted a year to selling them. I shall never forget that steak! It was 'way and by far the best steak I have ever tasted!

Although we still were required to live another 14 years in the barest and most modest financial circumstances, we have never from that day had to be actually hungry, and miss meals, because of financial poverty! We have since heard of scores and scores of case-his-

stories of the experiences of others who were immediately prospered, once they began tithing. But we, ourselves, lived through this same experience. I am very grateful to have been privileged to have been instrumental in bringing countless others into this same divine *blessing!* My wife and I had to learn it the HARD WAY!

"Dickey" Becomes Lost

One day in August or September, 1932, shortly before Dickey was four years old, he became "lost," and his mother became frantic. I was not home at the time.

When Mrs. Armstrong discovered he was missing, and was nowhere to be found around the house or yard, she started an immediate worried search. Neighbor children had seen him going east. A little farther along the street two little children said he had asked them to go with him to a children's play-ground in Rose City Park, to play on the swings and slides.

Rose City Park was in Portland, more than a hundred miles away! After running, out of breath, some distance past the end of our street, and onto the highway to Portland, not finding him, she turned back. He had not been gone long enough to have gotten farther on the highway. Now the terrifying thought gripped my wife:

"What if little Dickey had wandered down to the river bank, and had fallen in the river!"

She retraced her steps back, and, half running, half walking breathlessly, began following the river bank westward. Finally she found him, trying to walk back home along the river bank. When the two children had refused to go to Rose City Park with him, he had decided he didn't want to go alone, and had started back home—by way of the river bank! He had supposed he could soon walk to Rose City Park!

I have often wondered how any of the millions of us men on earth ever survived the dangers of growing boyhood, and lived to be men—unless indeed God *has* assigned an angel to watch invisibly over every boy, and keep him from physical harm and tragedy!

While we were in Astoria, I received a letter from Elder Taylor. Just one

letter, in that year and a quarter. It told me "we have lost the little church" in Eugene. The brethren, he said, had been unable to keep up payments. When I finally got back to the Valley I learned how WE really had lost it. Mr. Taylor had traded it for a more saleable house and lot next door. Then he had traded that, with another place he had acquired, for an island farm. But more of that at the proper time, later.

Our Prayers Finally Answered

One day, late in February, 1933, Mike Helms drove his pick-up truck up to our house. He had come to take us back to the Valley. The church Conference had now accumulated a small balance. Mike was now president of the conference. He said they would be able to pay us only \$3 per week, but farmer brethren would supply us with vegetables, and the members would buy other food for us.

Behind him, he said, was coming one of the men from the Valley with a large truck to haul our small amount of furniture and furnishings back to the Valley.

At last God had answered our prayers to allow me to be put back into His ministry! Mrs. Armstrong got into the truck with Mr. Helms, and they drove down town in search of me. I was overjoyed at the news.

We were nearly all night getting packed and ready for the tedious trip back to the Valley. The next day we left.

All of the newspaper employes I had felt a responsibility for keeping alive, except Mr. Hopkins and two or three newsmen, had long since left, anyway. I felt no obligation to remain another day.

A couple months or less after our departure I heard that *The Morning Messenger*, which had come to be dubbed the "*Morning Mess*," had gone out of business. I had kept it alive for 15 months. I had learned a valuable lesson, and collected some valuable experience.

Next month you will read of our evangelistic campaign in Salem, my experiences with "Pentecostalism," and the renewal of opposition, political intrigue, and persecution from other ministers—and the call to start the work in Eugene, Oregon, that has grown into the present large-scale world-wide activity.

The Second Commandment

Modern IDOLATRY is more widespread than you have realized! YOU may be guilty of some form of idolatry! Here is the second of a vital series of articles explaining the Ten Commandments—the active, living LAW of Almighty God.

by Roderick C. Meredith

THIS generation is destined to live in two worlds! For although—*true to human nature*—most people refuse to face this fact, man has about reached the END of his rope in this scheme of things.

In his recent inaugural address, President Eisenhower stated: "With both sides of this divided world in possession of unbelievably destructive weapons, mankind approaches a state where *mutual annihilation* becomes a possibility. No other fact of today's world equals this in importance—it *colors everything we say, plan and do . . .*"

Yet, in the end, even this perilous situation is a blessing in disguise. For it is destined to bring man *face to face with the true GOD!*

Man has been worshipping *false gods* long enough. That is WHY God has permitted mankind to come to the very brink of *human annihilation*. That is WHY the Almighty will permit man—*within the next fifteen years*—to go through the most HORRIFYING time of *drought, famine, starvation, disease epidemics and mass destruction* by war that this world has ever seen!

But now—for those who are willing to heed—it is time to WAKE UP! It is high time to become *acquainted* with the true God! It is time to *forsake our IDOLS!*

Every Idol Condemned

Last month, we discussed the *first* commandment—the GREAT commandment. We found that Jesus Christ based His entire teaching on the Old Testament—and on the Ten Commandments. He said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*" (Luke 4:4). The *only* written word of God at that time was the *Old Testament!*

In His teaching on the Mount, Jesus stated: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these *least* commandments,

and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: But whosoever shall *do and teach* them [even the *least* commandments] the same shall be called great in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19). Throughout the entire message called the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus was explaining and expounding and *magnifying* the Ten Commandments. He was showing that this spiritual law was a LIVING law—like the law of gravity or inertia. When you break it—it *breaks you!*

We have seen, therefore, that when men or nations break the first commandment—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me"—they *automatically* bring an inevitable PENALTY of suffering and wretchedness upon themselves and their posterity. When men cut themselves off from the true God, they cut themselves off from the *source* of their being, from the purpose of life, from the *laws* that would give them happiness, peace and joy. Men cut off from the true God are empty, frustrated and miserable. And whether by the awfulness of war, personal violence, sickness or simply the rotting of corruptible human flesh, the ultimate fate of all men cut off from God is an ignominious DEATH—*with no hope or promise of eternal life thereafter.*

Man is incomplete, then, having cut himself off from the true worship of the true God. Yet he is to worship *that* GOD alone—"Thou shalt have no other gods before me."

The *second* commandment tells us about HOW to worship the true God, what *pitfalls* to avoid in our worship, and of the *continuing blessing or penalty* that comes to our progeny as a result of the WAY in which we worship Almighty God.

"Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image, or any likeness of anything that is in heaven above, or that is in the earth beneath, or that is in the

water under the earth: Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them nor serve them: For I the Eternal Thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments" (Exodus 20:4-6).

The natural mind of physical man cries out for something to help him in his worship of God. He wants some physical object to "remind" him of the invisible God—some "aid" to worship. *Yet, that is EXACTLY what is forbidden in this commandment!*

Jesus said: "But the hour cometh, and NOW IS, when the true worshippers shall worship the Father in *spirit* and in *truth*: for the Father seeketh such to worship him" (John 4:23). Notice that it is only the "true" worshippers who are able to worship the Father in Spirit and in truth. Many others attempt some form of worship, but because they *limit* their worship by a false concept of God it is largely *in vain*. "God is SPIRIT: and they that worship him *must* worship him in spirit and in truth" (verse 24).

The instant a man sets up any representation of God, he *denies* that which is essential in God. God is the essence of all POWER—all WISDOM—all LOVE. God is LIMITLESS. When man erects a mental or physical image of God, he automatically *limits* in his own thought and worship the God who will NOT be limited!

The Basis of Idolatry

Many times after reiterating the Ten Commandments, God again warned Israel against any form of idolatry. "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image, neither rear you up a standing image, neither shall ye set up any image of stone in your land, to bow down unto it: For I am the Lord your God" (Leviti-

cus 26:1). God was continually against EVERY form of idol or image used in worship.

However, lest some misunderstand, let us pause at this point to note the fact that God does *not* condemn art or sculpture, but rather the setting up of any picture or image or representation "to bow down unto it." In the original command in Exodus 20:4-6, God is *not* condemning every picture and image, but the command continues, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them, nor serve them."

So it is the use of art or sculpture as a *form of worship* or "aid" to worship that God condemns!

The real *basis* of all idolatry is that self-willed, rebellious man refuses to SURRENDER himself to worship the true God *in the way that He commands!* Not really KNOWING the true God, then, nor having His Spirit, man thinks he needs some "aid" or "representation" to help him worship his humanly devised concept of God. Notice that this second commandment is not speaking of the *worship* of an idol—that's forbidden in the first commandment. This second commandment forbids the use of *physical* "aids" or "helps" in worshipping the *invisible* God.

No man who really knows God as his *Father*—no man who is living in daily communion with Him—needs a picture or image to help him to pray. *If* a man thinks he needs this kind of help, it is simply because he has not come to *know* God—and undoubtedly is not filled with and led by the Holy Spirit of God. In order to worship God *in Spirit*, you must *have* the Holy Spirit. "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, *he is none of his*" (Romans 8:9).

But God gives His Holy Spirit only after *repentance* and *baptism*—and only to those who "OBEY Him" (Acts 2:38; 5:32). Very few men in this day and age have truly SURRENDERED themselves to *obey* God, to *walk* with Him, to let Him *RULE* their every *thought* and *word* and *action*. Therefore, they are not actually *acquainted* with God. He seems far off—unreal—nebulous. They need a physical "reminder" in front of them to help them realize that He exists and is there to hear their prayers!

This very practice *proves* the lack of

real spiritual worship—and it comes directly from PAGANISM!

Pictures of Jesus

Thousands of professing Christians employ representations in pictures of a so-called Jesus Christ in their worship—and even display them in their homes. What does your Bible say about such pictures?

First of all, the second commandment itself obviously prohibits the use of anything which represents God or could easily become an object of worship. Certainly, since Jesus Christ IS God (Heb. 1:8), this would *directly prohibit* any picture or likeness of His person!

In addition, for those who might wish to "reason" or argue about this point, these so-called pictures of Christ have *no similarity whatever* to the way Jesus Christ really looked! Jesus—when in the human flesh—was a Jew (Heb. 7:14). The features in His supposed pictures are obviously NOT Jewish!

As the Word of God, Christ inspired the apostle Paul to write: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a SHAME unto him?" (I Cor. 11:14). Yet, these pictures invariably show a man with long hair, soft feminine features and a sentimental, sanctimonious look in His eyes.

This is NOT the Christ of your Bible!

Actually, Jesus was undoubtedly very *masculine* in appearance. As a young man, He was a carpenter—working out-of-doors. And He continued spending most of His time out-of-doors even during His ministry.

Jesus' face must have had a rugged, sunburned appearance. He was not womanish in appearance, but rather had SHORT HAIR like a man. He did not have beautiful, aristocratic features, but as He inspired Isaiah to describe His human appearance: "He hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is *no beauty* that we should desire him" (Isa. 53:2).

As a human being, Jesus was a normal, healthy, perhaps somewhat rugged looking young Jew in His early thirties, who with earnestness and conviction preached the message of God's soon-coming kingdom or *RULE* over this earth.

However, if we think of Jesus' ap-

pearance at all, we should think, in general terms at least, of the way He looks today. He has described this for us in Rev. 1:13-16. "His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame of fire . . . and his countenance was as the sun shineth in his strength."

As very God, Jesus' face now shines with radiance and with POWER. As a human being, *you would not dare to look directly into it!*

So these crucifixes, pictures and images of Jesus are in TOTAL OPPOSITION to every description given of Him in the sacred Word of God! They give a FALSE impression of the true Jesus Christ in every respect.

Many will claim they do not worship these pictures or images. Perhaps so. But this *false picture* and *false concept* of Christ undoubtedly comes into their minds quite often when they think of Christ or pray. These false pictures and statues actually come between them and Christ. They separate the worshipper from Christ!

If you use such images or pictures of Christ, you are BREAKING the second Commandment! And you are greatly limiting your concept of the living Christ—who now sits glorified at the right hand of God in heaven with His face shining like the sun in full strength!

It is time to WAKE UP!

Idolatrous Church Festivals

The human individuals and denominations of this world have devised many *wrong methods* of worshipping Almighty God. Jesus warned the people of His day against their human religious traditions: "Howbeit in VAIN do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men. For laying aside the commandment of God, ye hold the tradition of men . . ." (Mark 7:7-8).

Many of our "traditional" religious holidays in this Western world are directly CONDEMNED by the Bible! They are condemned not only because they were directly borrowed from paganism, but because they involve IDOLATROUS practices and concepts. Just as an idol does, they give a FALSE concept of God and of His plan.

For instance, the name "Easter" is borrowed directly from PAGANISM! It

is a name of an idolatrous pagan goddess. It is nowhere commanded in the Bible, and the early New Testament Church never observed it!

But the practices and ideas associated with Easter observance—the Easter bunny rabbits, the eggs, the hot cross buns—all these come from *paganism* and are symbols of idolatrous sex worship condemned by your Bible. For full proof of this, write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, "Easter is Pagan!"

In the same manner, the observance of Christmas, as the birthday of the Son of God, is also a pagan, idolatrous festival borrowed directly from heathenism! As with Easter, God nowhere commanded the observance of Christmas and it was never observed by the original apostles or their immediate followers in the true Church of God.

Any encyclopedia or Bible Dictionary will verify the fact that Christ was not born anywhere near the time of December 25th. And even if He were, we are nowhere commanded to observe the date of His birth—but rather the time of His death commemorated by the Passover celebration. The December 25th date is taken from an idolatrous pagan festival of sun-worship. The traditional Christmas tree, the Yule log, the holly wreaths, and kissing under the mistletoe—all were borrowed from heathenism and used in a pagan religious orgy dedicated to the sun-god. And the idea of Santa Claus—originally a vile and sinful man—is a *direct* LIE that parents tell their children every year. It is *not* a "white lie"—all lies are BLACK in the sight of Almighty God! Write for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet on "Christmas" for a full explanation of these pagan symbols.

Both Christmas and Easter—and other traditional religious holidays in our Western world—give a FALSE picture of Almighty God and His plan. Space only permits a brief summary of these concepts.

For instance, Christmas pictures a "little Lord Jesus" held in His mother's arms away in a manger somewhere. The emphasis is on a purely sentimental attachment to the helpless person of a baby boy, the trading of presents back and forth between friends and relatives,

the deceitful symbol of "Santa Claus" for the unsuspecting children, and a time of human joy and revelry. The true MESSAGE of Christ—of His *laws*, His *ways*, His soon-coming *government* on this earth—all are forgotten in this time of human merriment. Rather than the true picture of Christ sitting at the right hand of God—His face shining like the sun in great POWER, waiting to return and RULE this earth with a rod of iron—the participants in the Christmas celebration are left with a picture and concept of a helpless little baby in its mother's arms.

Therefore, such humanly devised religious festivals give a *false picture of Almighty God*—and this is IDOLATRY!

Worshipping Systems and Institutions

One of the most common forms of modern idolatry is the making of an idol out of one's church or society. For many people, this world's *society*—its dictates, customs and traditions—becomes a literal "god." Many people are desperately afraid of doing anything that might be regarded as different or "odd." They feel they *must* CONFORM to this world and its ways.

But God commands: "Be NOT *conformed* to this world: But be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind" (Rom. 12:2). This command must seem very hard to obey for people who get to thinking that other *people* must be right in what they think, and do and practice.

The Bible shows that many people in Jesus' day FAILED in their worship, "For they love the praise of men more than the praise of God" (John 12:43). If you blindly *obey* the dictates of your family, your church or society instead of the direct commands of God, you are guilty of IDOLATRY. That group or institution becomes an IDOL to you *in place of* the true God!

Even *ritualism* in a church service is a dangerous thing, for however refined the ritualism of some institutions may be, it begins and ends in the *physical senses of human man*—and is NOT a valid substitute for the true worship of God "in Spirit."

The Bible directly warns that people of our day would be, "Having a *form* of godliness, but denying the POWER

thereof" (II Tim. 3:5).

The true God is the invisible, eternal Creator and Ruler of the universe. How should you worship Him? He answers: "To this man will I look, *even to him that is poor and of a contrite spirit and TREMBLETH at my word*" (Isa. 66:2).

You must worship God DIRECTLY—and with a *humble* and *willing* heart. You must *study* God's Word—willingly be *corrected* by it—and TREMBLE before its authority over your very life! With a heart proven to be submissive through *repentance* and *obedience* you must pray to God in heaven many hours each week on your knees and in silent prayer as you go about your daily tasks. You must come to know and love Him as your "Father."

As Enoch and Noah and Abraham did, you must learn to "walk with God"—and be in constant and increasing communion and yieldedness to Him throughout every day of your life. Then—*guided by His Spirit*—you will never even begin to consider using an image or idol or picture as an "aid" to prayer and worship of the great sovereign RULER of this universe, and your *personal Father* in heaven.

A Solemn Warning and Promise

We have seen that God forbids the making of any image or idol to represent Him: "For I the Lord thy God am a jealous God, visiting the iniquity of the fathers upon the children unto the third and fourth generation of them that hate me; and showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me and keep my commandments" (Exo. 20:5-6).

Because God is our Father, and is lovingly zealous for our eternal welfare, He is JEALOUS over us in that He will not countenance the worshipping of false gods by His children. This, of course, is *for our own good!*

If we persist in an idolatrous and vain form of worship, God says He will visit our iniquity upon our children and grandchildren and great-grandchildren. There are, perhaps, many ramifications to this statement and principle.

But there is one obvious direct meaning in this context. If, in worship, men put an idol, image or something else

in place of God and come under the influence of that false worship, then they are not only harming themselves—but *their children and grandchildren!* The principle is that their FALSE idea of worship will be transmitted to their children—damaging and wrecking their lives and happiness!

It is a solemn and terrible thing thus to pass on to your children a FALSE CONCEPTION of God. It is one of the most AWFUL things a man can do!

But together with this warning, God gives a merciful promise to those who are willing to worship God AS HE COMMANDS. In their case, He is a loving and merciful God, "Showing mercy unto thousands of them that love me, and keep my commandments."

Here is a remarkable contrast. God only visits the iniquity to the third and fourth generations before intervening with merciful punishment and awakening to truth. But He shows mercy unto the *thousandth* generation!

God calls men into His own immediate spiritual presence—to worship their Creator *directly*. Men can come to really *know* the great God of the universe as their personal Father. They can daily *walk* with Him, *talk* with Him.

Whenever a man stops short of that face-to-face worship of the Eternal God, he is working ruin in his own character—he is *breaking the Commandment of God*.

This is the *meaning* and *force* of THE SECOND COMMANDMENT. Be sure to read next month's article on the *third* Commandment—a surprising revelation of the *name* of God!

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

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

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

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

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

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

Why did The PLAIN TRUTH state that *The Book of Jasher* is a deliberate fraud when a book by that name is mentioned in two places in the Bible?

Some people have *assumed* that one or another of the books that today fraudulently bear the title "The Book of Jasher" might be the same book called by that name in Joshua 10:13 and II Samuel 1:18. This is not true!

The spurious books that today exist under the false title "The Book of Jasher" can be historically traced to recent fraudulent origins.

Here is the proof that these are recent frauds. In the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopaedia of Religious Knowledge*, volume II, in the article "Jasher," we read: "The [original] volume itself has perished. . . . There have also been several books written which pretended to be the *Book of Jasher*, or, at all events, bore this title. Three of these are of Jewish origin. One is a moral treatise, written in A.D. 1394 by Rabbi Shabbatai Carmuz Levita, and exists in manuscript in the Vatican Library. Another, by Rabbi Tham (died 1171), is a treatise on the Jewish ritual. It was published in Hebrew in Italy (1544). . . . The third, which is a fabulous history of the events of the Hexateuch, was probably written by a Spanish Jew of the thirteenth century, and has been published at Venice (1625). . . . A fourth *Book of Jasher* was a palpable and malicious fraud, perpetrated by Jacob Ilive, an infidel printer and type-founder of Bristol, and published at London, in 1751, [as] *The Book of Jasher, translated into English from the Hebrew by Alcuin of Britain, who went on a Pilgrimage into the Holy Land.*" (Italics are the publisher's.)

Notice that all these volumes are recent and spurious!

Now let us examine another work which speaks authoritatively on this same subject. In the *Davis Dictionary of the*

Bible, in the article, "Jasher, in A. V. Jasher," we read: "In 1751 there appeared a volume which professed to be an English translation of *The Book of Jasher* (Jasher), alleged to have been found, but the production was an *impudent forgery*" (italics ours).

Other authorities have equally proved the fraudulent qualities of these books. In the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*, volume II, in the article, "Jasher," we also read: "In later Christian times 'the Book of Jasher' is the title of a ritualistic treatise by Jacob B. Meir (died 1171), and of one or two forgeries which are only remarkable for the undeserved success they obtained. . . ."

The fraudulent volumes deceptively labeled "The Book of Jasher" contain error and contradict Scripture. They were written *one to two thousand years after the authentic "Book of Jasher" had become lost*. In order to cloak their fraudulent works with respectability and make them look innocent—so that readers would trust the lies and hypocrisy contained in those books—the authors of these forgeries gave them a respected Biblical name.

No one need be concerned about any fraudulent book that claims to be a part of the Bible. God has not left us in doubt. There are ample records, both in the Bible and in secular sources, to show us which books are Scripture and which are not. God wisely allowed the original *Book of Jasher* to disappear because it, like many other contemporary works of the judges, was not needed for our instruction today. If God had wanted us to have *The Book of Jasher* as a part of the Bible, we would have it in the Bible today. God, however, purposed that only a few brief excerpts from it be quoted in His inspired revelation, the Bible.

The Book of Jasher referred to in the Bible was never destined to be Scripture. Any book claiming that title today is a *deliberate fraud!*

Counterfeit BAPTISM Today?

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

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

Part V

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

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

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

Now let us notice the counterfeits of true doctrines of salvation.

WHY Pagans Had Counterfeit Baptism

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

Some churches consider water baptism so important that unless an infant is baptized, it cannot "go to heaven" (Bishop Hay's *Sincere Christian*, vol. i, p. 363). Says Hislop in *The Two Babylons*: "The doctrine of Rome is that ALL

WHO ARE CANONICALLY BAPTIZED, HOWEVER IGNORANT, HOWEVER IMMORAL, if they only give implicit faith to the church, and surrender their consciences to the *priests*, ARE AS MUCH REGENERATED AS EVER THEY CAN BE . . . This doctrine of Baptismal Regeneration also *is* essentially *Babylonian*. . . . Hindus who have never opened their ears to Christian instruction are as familiar with the term and idea as ourselves" (p. 132).

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

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

Semiramis saw it was necessary to identify her dead husband Nimrod with

the great patriarch Noah who was Father of all. In this way he would thus become the Supreme One, the Father of all the deified "mighty ones." He would obtain the authority and respect essential to constitute him the head of the great system of idolatry that the apostates inaugurated.

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

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

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

Here again we see the Devil deceiving mankind. He says to man in effect: "Follow your own idea and ways, not God's, and you can have your past sins forgiven." God says, "*Repent*, and be baptized" (Acts 2:38). *Turn* to the ways

God commands! "In vain do they worship Me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mat. 15:9).

What does this mean?

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

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

Pagan Doctrine of Penance

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

THE BIBLE TEACHES THAT WE, THROUGH FAITH IN CHRIST'S SHED BLOOD TO CANCEL OUR PAST SINS, MAY USE THIS TO COVER THEM (Rom. 3:25, 28, 31). Now let us note the BONDAGE of the *pagan counterfeit* of forgiveness which many churches practice today.

"In regard to justification, the Chaldean doctrine was that it was by *works* and merits of men themselves that they must be justified . . . perfection depended on the exertions of the individual" (Hislop, pp. 144, 145). The doctrine of many churches today is the same. From the days of Cain downward, the doctrine of *human* merit and *self-justification* has everywhere been indigenous to the heart of *depraved* humanity.

In the Middle Ages, according to legend, Michael the archangel had committed to him the *balance* of God's justice and that in the opposite pans of the balance the merits and demerits of the deceased are placed (*Review of Epistle of Dr. Gentianus Harvet*, Book ii, chap. xiv).

This same system of human merits for justification is found in paganism

over the world. Wilkinson's *Egyptians*, vol. v, p. 447, shows that in Egypt, the land of Ham, it was to Anubis that the SCALES OF JUSTICE were committed. If a person is found wanting, he is rejected and Osiris (Nimrod) pronounces judgment. The same system is found in Grecian and Chinese mythology. In China, lists and comparative tables of good and bad actions are recorded (Davis's *China*, vol. ii, chap. "Religion—Buddhism").

"In spiritual despotism in every age, both pagan and Papal . . . ITS GRAND OBJECT HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO KEEP THE SOULS OF ITS VOTARIES AWAY FROM DIRECT AND IMMEDIATE INTERCOURSE WITH A . . . MERCIFUL SAVIOR" (Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, pp. 148-150). Continuing, Hislop quotes from a decree of the Council of Trent: "No man can know with infallible assurance . . . that he HAS OBTAINED the grace of God." It seeks "to keep its devotees in continual doubt." "In the *confessional* there was from time to time . . . a mimic rehearsal of the dread weighing . . . when they have a man of influence . . . or wealth . . . they will not give him the slightest hope till round sums of money . . . be cast on the scale."

Notice how the pagans acquired merits for justification. Hislop continues, "Nimrod was the *first* after the flood that violated the patriarchal system, and set up (himself) as 'king' over his fellows . . . In almost every land bloody worship prevailed . . . human victims . . . were his most acceptable offerings. In *pagan* Rome the worshippers of Isis (Semiramis) observed the same practice in honor of Osiris (Nimrod). When it is remembered that Saturn (Nimrod)

was cut in pieces, it is easy to see how the idea would arise of offering a welcome sacrifice by setting men to cut one another to pieces (in war) . . . TO LAY UP A STOCK OF MERIT . . . in their behalf."

In these "latter days"—TODAY—a turning away from true doctrines was foretold (I Tim. 4:1, Heb. 13:8-9). GOD HAS GIVEN MEN A SIMPLE WAY TO HAVE THEIR PAST SINS FORGIVEN, BUT THE COUNTERFEIT SYSTEM ENSLAVES ITS FOLLOWERS IN BONDAGE! MANKIND TODAY STILL FOLLOWS THE OLD BABYLONIAN SYSTEM IN SEEKING TO HAVE THEIR SINS FORGIVEN! IF THEY DO NOT PAY FOR FORGIVENESS, THEY abstain from some things which THEY HAVE DECIDED ARE EVIL: going to shows, dancing, card playing, to mention a few. They hope to BALANCE any evil they might do by abstinence from these.

BUT these same people go on divorcing and remarrying, and observing other practices which the BIBLE clearly condemns. THEY WILL NOT TURN FROM THEIR WAY (REPENT) SO THEY CAN HAVE Christ's BLOOD FORGIVE THEIR SINS—the ONLY WAY by which sins may be forgiven (Acts 2:38)! Romans 5:9 says we are "JUSTIFIED by His BLOOD!" MANKIND CONTINUES TO DESIRE TO LIVE BY PRACTICES WHICH YIELD ONLY UNHAPPINESS, BONDAGE, AND DEATH. "There is a way which seemeth right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Proverbs 14:12).

Forgiveness by Blood Unnecessary?

No!

God says that without the shedding of BLOOD there is NO remission of sin (Heb. 9:22). Modernism stands condemned!

Where then does today's idea of an UNBLOODY sacrifice originate? Evidence shows that this is of BABYLONIAN origin.

NO *blood* was allowed to be offered on the altars of the Paphian Venus (a Grecian form of Semiramis). These rites came from Cilicia in Asia Minor. (Tacitus' *Historia*, vol. ii, p. 106). Cilicia, in turn, had acquired the rites from Babylon when Sennacherib, the Assyrian, built Cilicia in express IMITATION OF BABYLON. For this reason the *bloodless*

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altars of the Paphian Venus are the same as the *bloodless* altars of the Babylonian goddess Semiramis from which she was derived. (Bunsen, vol. i, p. 718). This false worship of Semiramis differed from the worship of her son and husband Tammuz whom she carried in her arms.

He, as we have seen, was represented as delighting in *blood*. She was the mother of grace and mercy, the celestial "Dove"—the hope of the whole world (Bryant, vol. iii, p. 226). Whereas *he* desired bloody sacrifices, she desired only an "unbloody sacrifice"—*cakes*. When her followers were initiated into the higher mysteries, they could eat of these cakes or wafers.

"All this was done," says Hislop, p. 159, "to EXALT THE MOTHER, AS MORE GRACIOUS AND MORE COMPASSIONATE THAN HER GLORIOUS SON." THEREFORE WE FIND THE WOMEN OF JUDAH "OFFERING CAKES TO THE QUEEN OF HEAVEN" (Jeremiah 44:19). *Today*, many professing Christians, thinking they worship Christ, actually worship Semiramis through the eating of the cakes or wafers at communion.

Semiramis also bore the name of "Myllitta"—that is Mediatrix. But Scripture says THERE IS ONLY ONE MEDIATOR BETWEEN GOD AND MAN—CHRIST (I Timothy 2:5). The idea of a Mediatrix as held in some churches today has its origin in paganism, not the Bible! It is CHRIST WHO IS MEDIATOR FOR US—He paid the penalty for our sins through the offering of his blood.

Communion with the Sun-God

Christ said, "I am the bread of life." This statement by Jesus has been *twisted* to confuse the world for centuries.

Some religions TODAY are *very* insistent on the *roundness* of their unbloody sacrifice—a round cake like that formerly used in the rites of Semiramis, queen of heaven. Why is this roundness so important? Hislop says that the ROUND DISK, so frequent in the sacred emblems of Egypt, SYMBOLIZED THE SUN. Osiris (Nimrod) the sun-divinity became incarnate and was reborn (p. 160). Recall that Semiramis in her mysteries represented Nimrod after his death as being reborn—corresponding to the birth of Christ, as a human being,

and the resurrection. The round wafer used in communion does not really represent Christ at all. It came from pagan sun-worship.

"When OSIRIS, THE SUN-DIVINITY . . . was born," declared Hislop, pp. 160-163, "it was not merely that he should give his life as a *sacrifice* for men . . . but also be the LIFE AND NOURISHMENT OF THE SOULS OF MEN . . . It is universally admitted that Isis (the Egyptian goddess representing Semiramis) was the original of the Greek and Roman Ceres . . . ; she was worshipped as the "mother of corn." The child she brought forth was symbolized by "the corn." Those who were *uninitiated* into the *Mysteries* worshipped "Ceres for the gift of material corn to nourish their bodies, *but* the *initiated* adored her for a higher gift—FOR FOOD TO NOURISH THEIR SOULS."

Here then, *long before* the apostles' time, was the counterfeit of Christ as the bread. He said, "My Father giveth you the true bread from heaven" (John 6:32). CHRIST SAID, "I AM THAT BREAD OF LIFE" (verse 48).

"That the *initiated* pagans actually believed that the 'corn' . . . was *not* the 'corn' of this earth, but the 'Divine Son' through whom alone . . . eternal life could be enjoyed, we have decisive proof. . . . The Druids were devoted worshippers of Ceres . . . ; the grain of corn is expressly identified with 'the lovely babe.'"

"THIS SON WHO WAS SYMBOLIZED AS 'CORN' WAS THE SUN-DIVINITY incarnate according to the sacred oracle of the great *goddess* of Egypt. . . 'The fruit which I have brought forth is the Sun.' What is more natural then, if this incarnate divinity is symbolized as the 'bread of God,' than that he should be represented as a 'round wafer' to identify him with the Sun?"

"In Egypt, the disk of the Sun was represented in the temples. . . . In Babylon, the golden image of the Sun was exhibited . . . ; in Peru, the *disk* of the sun was . . . upon the wall. . . . The Paeonians of Thrace were sun-worshippers. In the worship of Baal, as practiced by the idolatrous Israelites, the worship of the sun's image was equally observed . . . the image of the sun was erected *above the altar*. . . . Even in comparative *modern times* . . . among the Cushites

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of the East, . . . we find the image of the sun. . . . If the *sun-divinity* were worshipped in Egypt as 'the seed,' or in Babylon as the 'Corn' precisely so is the *wafer adored in Rome*. 'Bread-corn of the elect, have mercy upon us,' is one of the appointed prayers of the Roman Litany, addressed to the wafer." THE SON BECAME THE SUN! Here we see churches of today paying homage to the *sun!*

Now, I ask, is it possible that a worldwide *worship of the sun* as had persisted from the time of the Flood right up to the time of the Protestant "Reformation" should suddenly stop with this Reformation?

WHY DO CHURCHES TODAY HAVE EASTER SUN-RISE SERVICES? It is the SAME service the pagan Assyrians used to honor their goddess *Ishtar!* The pagans' celebration commemorated the birthday of Semiramis who was the *mother of the Sun-god* Tammuz. They faced the rising sun just as many sincere people do today. Why do *today's churches* speak of having *pagan* LENTEN SERVICES? Why do they OBSERVE THE

BIRTH OF THE SUN-GOD NIMROD ON DECEMBER 25TH (CHRISTMAS) just when the *sun* is starting to wax strong again in the sky? And why do they have communion on SUN-DAY (day of the sun)? If they are not still worshipping the *Sun-god*, then why do they still observe the same customs the pagans used to honor him? THEY ARE WORSHIPPING THE SUN-GOD! PEOPLE TODAY, IN KEEPING THESE CUSTOMS, ARE STILL IN BABYLON AS MUCH AS OUR ANCESTORS. In ignorance people HONOR THE SUN AS THE ONE WHO WILL SPIRITUALLY NOURISH THEM!

BUT REMEMBER THE SUN AND SERPENT (THE DEVIL) WERE IDENTIFIED TOGETHER! Sun-worship, then, is devil-worship!

GOD SHOWS WHO THE REAL SUN IS THAT WE SHOULD WORSHIP: "UNTO YOU THAT FEAR MY NAME SHALL THE SUN OF RIGHTEOUSNESS ARISE" (Mal. 4:2). Who is this? God said, "I will raise . . . a King . . . and this is His name . . . He shall be called The *Eternal* OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS," says God!—But He is not to be worshipped by symbols of the sun—that is IDOLATRY! Satan has a false *sun*—the sun in the sky! When the pagans accepted Christianity they mingled their pagan sun-worshipping practices with the teaching of Christ. They believed they thus honored the True God. But what does God say about doing this? God said, "How do these (pagan) nations serve their gods? . . . Thou shalt NOT do so unto the Lord thy God" (Deut. 12:30-31). YOU CANNOT WORSHIP THE TRUE GOD BY CELEBRATING PAGAN CUSTOMS AND HOLIDAYS!

The CHURCHES OF TODAY ARE DECEIVED BY THE DEVIL JUST AS THE PEOPLE WERE IN THAT DAY WHEN, AFTER THE MYSTERIES HAD BEEN ESTABLISHED, THE MEANING OF THE DIABOLICAL SYMBOLS WAS NO LONGER EXPLAINED TO THE PEOPLE! PEOPLE TODAY are DECEIVED BY OUTWARD APPEARANCE. They will continue to be unless they use what the BIBLE says as their standard with which to judge.

Yes, SATAN HAS SUBSTITUTED A FALSE CHRIST AND DIABOLICAL CUSTOMS. THOSE WHO OBSERVE THESE PAGAN CUSTOMS AND REJECT THE TEACHING OF CHRIST SHOW BY THEIR ACTION THAT THEY DO NOT KNOW WHAT SAL-

VATION REALLY IS! Satan has substituted a false baptism—a *mechanical* act which does *not* signify the burying of the old self. He has perverted the teaching of God that man must *repent*. HE HAS THUS BLOCKED THE VAST MAJORITY WHO FOLLOW HIS TEACHINGS FROM BECOMING SONS OF GOD NOW UNLESS THEY CHANGE THEIR WAYS!

Read in the next installment about more of these *seemingly* innocent practices which confuse the world today and have so great an effect on *your* life!

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

in prophecy, have mentioned your broadcast to the membership of our church. We covet your prayers and assure you of our interest."

Minister in Mississippi

Now Going God's Way

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I thank you from the depth of my heart for all the booklets you sent me. I don't put them in the wastebasket. I read them over and over again. I'm getting something out of them. I'm growing as never before. And best of all, since I learned to study my Bible and listen to you and your son, I have changed all the ways I was taught from a child up. I am now going God's way and not man's."

Woman, Mississippi

Editor's Note: Thousands of lives are being changed by this world-wide ministry of God.

Recognizes Truth

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"There was a time when my belief bordered on agnosticism, after reading Ingersoll and Tom Paine and some of the higher criticism and the various modernist and so-called fundamentalist writers, but somehow I was not satisfied with any of them. After reading everything in search of the truth, it was not difficult to recognize the truth after reading a few articles and pamphlets by you and others in The PLAIN TRUTH magazine."

Man from Fairmont, Nebraska

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