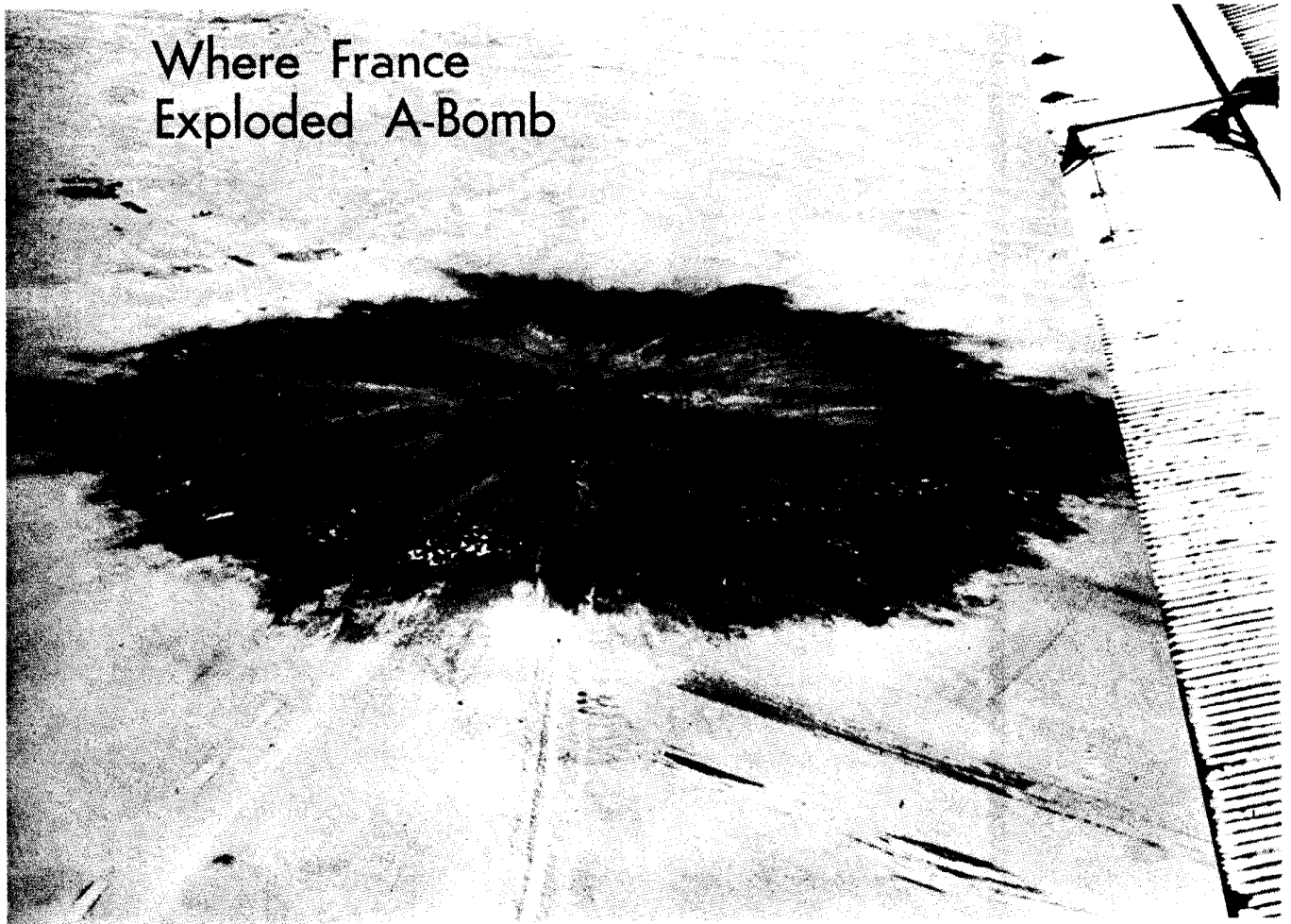


the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1960

Where France
Exploded A-Bomb



—Wide World Photo
WHERE FRENCH A-BOMB EXPLODED. This aerial view shows the patch of black sand marking the spot where the French atom bomb was detonated in the Sahara Desert on February 13. The steel tower which held the bomb has completely disappeared. France, partially assisted by German financial help, now looks upon herself as "great in every respect"!

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VOL. XXV NO. 4

Published monthly at Pasadena, California and London, England, by Ambassador College. Copyright March 1960, by Radio Church of God.

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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

TV Out—Radio IN

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"We had our little radio for 12 years and didn't play it much—only to get the news, because we had TV that kept us entertained. But my husband was out on strike for 8 weeks and our TV went out. Not wanting to get it fixed, we started playing the radio and happened on your program one evening, and have listened ever since. That was last September and the TV is still not fixed. We really don't miss it and now we get to bed earlier."

Couple from Bell, California

Enjoys Correspondence Course

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I am so glad I found your program. I enjoy studying the Bible Course more than any other course I have ever studied. It is so plain and interesting. I am doing all I can to help carry on this work.

I know that this is the only true work of God being done on earth today. And I want to say that these are the best prepared, best written lessons I have ever studied."

Man from Vonore, Tennessee

Wakes Up to "World Tomorrow"

"We just recently bought a new clock radio. We set it each time on a different station, trying to find the best one to wake us up. Finally we set it on WCKY, Cincinnati, Ohio. Now we hear your broadcast each morning."

Hurricane, West Virginia

Living Differently

"Our two sons in the Air Force are very interested in your college and are also doing your Bible Correspondence Course. It was they who brought your program to our attention when they were home on leave. And what a God's blessing it has been. We live an entirely different life since we have heard your programs."

Couple from Seattle, Washington

Dear Mr. Armstrong

"I just heard your broadcast for the first time. You spoke about Genesis 1:1. It does my heart good to hear a person with guts enough to proclaim his faith in God's Word, with sense enough to get the job done, with faith enough to act and with convictions that are based absolutely on the Word of God."

Director of a religious broadcast,
 Washington

Profitable Half-hour

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"While waiting for a prescription to be filled, I turned on the car radio and heard you speaking. I was very moved by your eloquence and your message. I certainly consider the half-hour I spent listening to you to have been very profitable and worth while, and will from this point on be one of your regular listeners and supporters."

Man from New Jersey

From Europe

"I am a regular listener to your broadcast on Radio Luxembourg twice weekly. I am very interested in your talks. I

don't think our church puts things very plainly. I can understand your messages far better."

Lady from Airdrie, Lanarkshire, Eng.

You Make More Sense

"I have decided that I would be a fool to stop studying the Ambassador College Bible Course now. I have studied between 15 and 20 different religions in the past few years and you seem to make more sense than all the rest put together although I must admit I don't personally know anyone who would agree with that. I definitely want to continue with the course."

Man from Minden, Nebraska

Fed Only Milk

"I have been a church member for most of my 60 years of life, and elder for about 15 years. I must say I have been fed only milk, or I have been deceived; but perhaps it is my own fault."

Man from Indiana

Interesting and Instructive

"I enjoy your magazine very much. It is the only one I read from cover to cover. It is very interesting, and so very instructive."

Lady from St. Louis, Missouri

From England

"I am highly interested in your magazine, I read it all. It must have required great patience and study as it scans the whole Bible for us, leaving a compassion for sacred things which should make us

(Please continue on page 23)

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!

Is NAZIISM Dead?

What's behind the anti-Semitic outbursts, the flurry of "documentary" films on Germany, the proposed German bases in Spain, and the Rightist fanaticism in South America? Here's the startling answer!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

YOU ARE living in dangerous times! You live in a world rapidly becoming a nuclear armed camp!

Recently, with the explosion of a test bomb in the Sahara Desert, General Charles de Gaulle, strong man of France, announced France had forged ahead to become a member of the "Atom Club!"

The world *talks* of peace—but *arms for war!*

"Dr. Linus Pauling, Professor of Chemistry at Cal Tech, Nobel Laureate, and one of the world's leading scientists, says revised estimates indicate the United States now has 100,000 atomic weapons to Russia's 50,000. However, Pauling told a Chicago audience, a mere 4,000 of the weapons could destroy the human race" (UPI Release, Feb. 19, 1960).

Think of it! This means there are more than *thirty-seven times* the number of atomic weapons *already stockpiled* than would be necessary to wipe out the human race! Does your mind comprehend it? Perhaps not! But this is one of the astounding **FACTS** of your day!

World scientists and leaders tell us there are more than *three separate* methods by which all mankind could be obliterated!

What About Germany?

Germany has been denied permission to produce nuclear weapons by herself! But—shocking though it seems—West Germany is, at the present time, much more of a nuclear power than France! The U. S. has been forbidden permission to stockpile atomic weapons in France. As a result, *it is in West Germany*, not France, that the U. S. stockpile of nuclear weapons is growing. As a result of United States technical training, the Germans are mastering the trick of fitting atomic warheads on missiles. The French, as yet, have no missiles, either French or U. S., with which to train.

West Germany, however, as a result of close cooperation with the United States, is already a nuclear-armed country—even though the bombs are still under "U. S. control" (*U. S. News*, Feb. 29, 1960).

Remember, regardless of which nation may be producing nuclear weapons and guided missiles, they are producing them with the help of *German scientists!*

Why the concern over Germany? Because the nation of Germany stands identified in your Bible! Biblical prophecy is merely the history of present world conditions—*written in advance!* In the inspired word of God are *many chapters* foretelling the future course of *Germany* in world conditions.

What Germany Will Do

For years, the *World Tomorrow* program and the pages of *The Plain Truth* magazine have been urging "*watch Germany!*" *Here's why.*

Turn to Daniel 11. In this lengthy prophecy, explained in detail by most of the major commentaries—*up to a point*—are some startling pronouncements for this day—**NOW!** All Bible commentators agree in the identities of the "King of the North" and the "King of the South" of Daniel 11. The wars that anciently ravaged the land of Palestine are now recorded history!

But notice! The prophecy continues to the "*time of the end!*" Here, in your Bible, is a prophecy for our day!

What most students of Biblical prophecy seem **NOT** to understand is that prophecy is **DUAL!** Here is the proof!

Notice it! "Then shall stand up in his estate [in his place] a *raiser of taxes* in the glory of the kingdom, but within few days he shall be destroyed, neither in anger, nor in battle . . ." (Dan. 11:20). As a forerunner, this was historically fulfilled in that the tax-gatherer, Heliodorus, who was sent by Seleucus to

Jerusalem to plunder the Temple.

Notice the "tax-gatherer" was to be *succeeded* by a "vile person!"

"And in his estate shall stand up a *vile person*, to whom they shall not give the honor of the kingdom, but he shall come in *peaceably* [in a time of peace] and obtain the kingdom by *flatteries!*" (Dan. 11:20-21.)

Antiochus Epiphanes succeeded Heliodorus, obtained the kingdom through deceit, treachery and wild promises! Antiochus was known as a *madman* for his escapades beneath the dignity of a king! He would carouse with the lowest of people, bathe with them in the public baths, and foolishly jest with them (*Jamieson, Fausset & Brown*, Vol. IV, p. 447).

After Antiochus the "king of the North" became the *Roman Emperors* who swallowed up Antiochus' kingdom. But after ancient Rome fell, *the Germans* continued the empire!

Now notice the striking dual fulfillment of this prophecy!

Kaiser Wilhelm was a member of the Hohenzollern family! **HOHENZOLLERN** in German means "a *raiser of taxes!*" The Kaiser, forced into seclusion, after the defeat of Imperialist Germany at the end of World War I, was finally superseded by a *new strongman* in Germany! Heliodorus was a *type* of the Kaiser!

The histories are filled with the manner in which Hitler rose to power. After the famous "Putsch" in the Munich beer-hall in 1923, Adolf Hitler finally rose to the office of Chancellor, and then, upon the death of von Hindenberg, to the absolute Dictator of Germany!

Hitler came to power *in a time of peace!* He gained the kingdom by "*flatteries!*" By inflammatory speeches, hypocrisy, deceit, subterfuge, and expansive, magnanimous promises to the masses of Germany, Hitler **DID** "enter peaceably even upon the fattest places of the prov-

ince" (Dan. 11:24).

Soon the world witnessed the uniting of the Axis forces and the beginning of a vast, *global* war!

Later, the Axis hordes began advancing through North Africa toward Suez from the West, and the Japanese forces began making huge steps through Burma, Indonesia, Malaya, and were already bombing major cities in India. The focal point of the world battle shifted *toward the Mid-East*.

Why? The answer is in Daniel 11! "He shall enter also into the *glorious land*, and many countries shall be overthrown, but these shall escape out of his hands, even Edom, and Moab, and the chief of the children of Ammon" (Dan. 11:41-43).

The Bible said this *King of the North* (the BEAST of Biblical Prophecy who is to head a revived *Roman Empire*) is to come down into Palestine!

Look back in history for a moment! Here were the mechanized German Panzer units of the Afrika korps hurtling through Libya and far into Egypt! They were driving rapidly toward the great *military goal* of Suez, and toward the great *religious target* of Palestine and Jerusalem! From the other side of the world, looking over the tops of the great mountain barrier protecting India, came the tentacles of the expanding Nippone octopus to conquer India. Once India had been overrun, there stood virtually no armed resistance between Japan and Suez!

But the War Changed!

However, with the last-ditch desperate struggle of the battered British garrison on Malta, the constant attacks on axis shipping crossing the Mediterranean, Hitler's armored columns began to overrun his supplies! Montgomery's eighth army began to drive the German forces back toward the west across North Africa. In rapid succession came reverses of the Japanese in the Pacific, major offensives against the Germans in the Ukraine, and the American landings in North Africa. The tide of battle turned. God intervened so the true gospel of the Kingdom could go to all the world as a witness!

Yet Daniel 11:41-45 remains to be fulfilled in our day. Hitler's Germany

was to arise once more—this time united with ten nations in Europe (Rev. 17:12-14).

Look What's Happened!

Many scoffed, doubted, ridiculed and disbelieved! Some said Germany would NEVER rise again! Others said it would take *at least* 50 years!

BUT LOOK AT GERMANY TODAY! Space does not permit a complete analysis of the tremendous, imagination-defying resurgence of West Germany! Suffice it to say that West Germany LEADS THE WORLD in shipbuilding, and other major industries. Germany, the *strongest nation in Euromart*, has been launched on a world-wide effort to capture world trade for many years! A tremendous trade war is now developing.

Just as my father was preaching even in 1944 and 1945, GERMANY HAS RISEN AGAIN!

New Bases in Spain

"Defense Minister Franz Josef Strauss exchanged sharp words with the U. S. and British Ambassadors today over a bond proposal to set up military supply bases in Spain.

"The Ambassadors . . . told Strauss their governments are distressed over the timing of the German move, authoritative informants reported. Strauss said he was angry that reports of the plan were leaked to the Press. The upshot is that the plan is likely to be kicked under the rug at least until after the May 16th East-West Summit Meeting" (L. A. Times, Feb. 25, 1960). From a United Press release, Feb. 24, 1960, came this startling news: "Reports that West Germany is considering negotiations with Spain for military bases in that nation have touched off angry reaction in Britain and Russia.

"The government of Chancellor Adenauer has denied reports that it is negotiating to set up military weapons sites or weapons training grounds in Spain.

"The West Germans have been in negotiation with France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark for more than a year for establishment of supply depots in those countries. West German officials said that in most cases the talks have ended but there have been no formal agreements signed."

Why do the Germans want bases in Spain? Spain is *not* a member of NATO—but, as it is well known, has worked in close cooperation with Germany through the past decades. The Spanish Civil War became a training ground for Hitler's newest weapons and the rapidly growing *Luftwaffe*. Franco's Spain after the Civil War, while not actively engaged in World War II, was nevertheless sympathetic to the Nazi cause.

Nazi geopolitical cells have been known to operate from major cities in Spain. For example, a captured geopolitical bulletin issued by the Nazi center in Madrid said, "Not merely Germany, but the whole of Europe has been bled white and is not now in a position to act as a decisive factor in world politics. The aim of German policy, and that of Europe as a whole, must be to remain neutral in any world conflict, no matter the circumstances. This is especially important for Germany for she still has a long way to go until she can regain her political freedom and her economic freedom to the fullest extent. Germany has exploited the tension between the East and the West to the utmost and she must continue her efforts in that direction. She must endeavor to influence discreetly the shaping of the future. Not only is it decisive how Germany acts in her own interests, but she in turn is also tremendously affected by the policies of the other European powers. England and France today are perhaps more dependent upon the U.S.A. than the still occupied West German Republic" (From the Madrid Circular Letter, 1950, as quoted on p. 77 of *Germany Plots with the Kremlin*, by T. H. Tetens).

Keep your eyes on *Spain*!

Is Naziism Really DEAD?

To answer this vitally important question, listen to *this* remarkable information: ". . . The German courts out of weariness or satiety have long ceased to pass exemplary sentences . . . some of the cases, all dating from the last five years, are hair-raising.

"At Lübeck assizes one Karsten, head of a subcamp of Sachsenhausen, received a *suspended sentence* of seven months imprisonment for whipping confessions out of Jewish prisoners, a crime he
(Please continue on page 15)

The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

This is installment number 27. The time is now late February, 1933. Back in the ministry, Mr. Armstrong encountered anew the sting of opposition from other ministers, recounts experiences with "pentecostalism."

THE LAST detour from the true life purpose to which I had been called had ended. After 15 months in the newspaper business in Astoria, Oregon, our prayers had been answered, and we were at last brought back to Salem, now to resume full time in the ministry.

Milas Helms was now president of the Oregon Conference of the Church of God. He had appeared suddenly in Astoria, followed by a big truck with one of the church brethren from the valley, to move us back to Salem.

The Plots Begin

Soon we learned there was a reason why Mike had come for us when he did. The former president of the California conference, A. J. Ray, had moved to Oregon, near Jefferson. A very small balance had accumulated in the conference treasury, and small amounts of tithes from members once again were beginning to trickle into it. Mr. Ray learned of Mr. Helms' plans to bring me back into the ministry as soon as funds permitted. He had moved swiftly to forestall that, by sending for a close friend—I believe he was a former Seventh Day Adventist minister—Sven (Sam) Oberg, whom *he* wanted as the Oregon minister.

Apparently Mike had known of Mr. Oberg's imminent arrival, and drove immediately to Astoria to bring me back. We both arrived about the same time.

Now the question of whether to employ Mr. Oberg, or me, had to be settled. A business meeting was called. I believe it was held at the church building in Harrisburg.

Mr. Oberg was a man of 53. He kept himself in vigorous physical condition by strenuous calisthenic exercises every morning, including about 100 "push-ups." If Robert L. Taylor had swept the members off their feet, impressing them

with his "spirituality" and preaching power in 1931, Sam Oberg did much more!

In fact, he appeared to be so *perfect*, so spiritual, my wife and I thought of Hebrews 13:2, stating that a stranger *might* be an angel being entertained unawares! He seemed too perfect to be human. He was strict in punctuality, spiritual in language and phraseology, immaculate in appearance, glib of speech, powerful in preaching delivery.

Yet, in spite of his almost awe-inspiring effect on the members, they had all liked and loved me, and I suppose felt obligated to bring me back into the ministry, since I had been ordained by them and employed by them before. I do not remember the details now, but I was employed instead of Mr. Oberg.

\$3 per Week Salary

The condition of the conference treasury allowed them to pay me only \$3 per week salary. However, most of the members were farmers, and they promised to supply us with vegetables and such foodstuffs as they raised. Also, they paid our house rent—I believe \$5 or \$7 per month, and purchased for us a certain amount of food. This consisted of 100-pound sacks of whole wheat flour, large sacks of beans, large bags of raw sugar—the kind of food that supplied "the mostest for the leastest." I suppose some of them feared we might mispend the money for more desirable and tasty food if they gave it all to us in cash, so they decided for us what we were to eat and purchased it for us.

The \$3 cash salary per week, then, was to cover butter, milk, water and light and clothes—if any. We were moved into a small house on Hall Street, not far from the state Fairgrounds. There were two fireplaces and the kitchen stove to

supply heat. We burned wood altogether.

But I was to be disillusioned, and to learn that a person who first appears to be TOO good to be true *usually isn't!* Both Mr. Ray and Mr. Oberg schemed constantly to discredit me and get that \$3 per week for Mr. Oberg. More of that as we go along.

Starting the Salem Meetings

However, I was still looking on Mr. Oberg with a sort of awe, feeling I had never met a person so perfect and so righteous and so powerful in preaching.

I suggested that we try to hold a big city-wide campaign, with Mr. Oberg doing all the preaching—since I felt I was not worthy to team up with so great a man. My suggestion was that I use my advertising experience to be the public relations man, prepare circulars and newspaper advertising, and draw in the crowds. I had suggested we try to hire the big armory in downtown Salem. I felt that with an evangelist of Mr. Oberg's power, I could really pack in a big crowd.

My suggestions, as became usual with the other ministers, were turned down. I was slightly disillusioned to learn that Mr. Oberg did not think BIG. He wanted to hold a small campaign in a small empty store building out in the "Hollywood" suburb of Salem—just a small local neighborhood campaign. And he wanted to share it with me, speaking on alternate evenings.

There were many vacant store buildings. We were now at the very *bottom* of the great economic depression. We were able to hire a vacant store room for something like \$10 per month.

We worked hard making preparations. Mr. Oberg was not lazy. He was a hard worker. I believe we rented folding chairs. I had handbills printed and dis-

tributed over that general part of Salem.

The opening night arrived. Immediately I was greatly alarmed—as also, I learned, was Mr. Ray. Already I had seen quite a little of that type of religious people who call themselves “pentecostal.” I had learned that they had no UNDERSTANDING of the Bible, although they glibly quoted certain large selections of verses, or partial sentences, usually misapplied and entirely out of context.

Those I had known had never surrendered their rebellious spirit against obedience to God and His written commands. They were always SEEKING—not to serve, share, or obey, but for those emotional and supposedly “spiritual” things that would glorify the self and its vanity and please the senses.

Mr. R. L. Taylor, with whom I held my first evangelistic campaign in Eugene in 1931, had started a series of meetings in this same north end of Salem, following our Eugene campaign. The “pentecostal” people had come, and he had encouraged them. They would keep reasonably quiet until Mr. Taylor, after two or three weeks of preaching, had a few unconverted and non-“pentecostal” people brought close to repentance and conversion—and then they would begin to “take over” with their loud-shouting “halleluja’s” and ridiculous demonstrations. This immediately discouraged those near conversion, chilled them completely, and they dropped out and quit coming. After this, Mr. Taylor went around that end of town, inviting new people to come, and in a few nights had a new small crowd. The experience was repeated—until he finally had to quit with no results whatever for his efforts.

In Portland, at “pentecostal” camp meetings, I had heard women wail and then shriek like a fire siren, audible for three or four blocks.

Our Problem

When we saw about 25 or 30 of these same “pentecostal” people who had ruined Mr. Taylor’s meetings coming into our little hall, Mr. Ray and Mr. Oberg and I went into a quick huddle. I learned then that Mr. Ray was completely opposed to this brand of “pentecostalism”.

“What shall we do about this?” he asked. “We’ve got to get rid of these people, or they will simply take over the

meetings and there will be no results.”

“Just leave the situation to me,” said Mr. Oberg. “I know how to handle these people.”

We were reassured.

But by the second or third night, we began to realize that Mr. Oberg, far from discouraging or “handling” these people, was deliberately catering to them. Gradually we began to realize that Mr. Oberg was “pentecostal” himself—a fact he had carefully concealed. Indeed, he had deliberately led us to believe he was opposed to it. Soon I realized these people were definitely “IN” and firmly established. It was too late to change it.

For the first few nights Mr. Oberg and I alternated, each speaking every second night. But it became apparent that the “pentecostal” people, now more than 90% of the attendance, warmed up much more to Mr. Oberg’s preaching. He encouraged them. He invited their loud amens just as “pentecostal” preachers do constantly, getting them stirred up to an emotional and excitable pitch. So after about a week, I suggested that Mr. Oberg do nearly all the preaching, and I preached to our own members who came up from the valley for the Sabbath services.

About the end of the first week word came from the manager of a lumber yard situated very close to our hall, asking if I would stop in and see him. He had attended the first five or six meetings, then dropped out.

“Mr. Armstrong,” he said, “I just wanted to explain to you why I stopped attending your meetings. I was really quite interested in hearing *your* sermons, but this man Oberg’s constant succession of stories, and whooping up those ‘holy rollers’ into shouting and emotional frenzy and foolishness is more than I can take. I think you were wise in just letting this other man take over the meetings. Not many who are seeking the real truth that *you* preach will be attending from now on, anyway. I would have continued attending, if you had been conducting the services alone—but I can’t tolerate that senseless wildfire.”

My Father’s Death

Along about the 20th or 21st of April in that year of 1933 word came that my father was very ill. I asked Mr. Oberg to

accompany me, and we hastened to his farm, between Oregon City and Molalla. Apparently we asked Mr. Ray to take the service till we returned.

Dad had suffered an acute attack of indigestion. We anointed and prayed for him. He seemed to recover at once. He also had called for us because he wanted to be baptized.

My father, as I may have stated before, had always been a *good* man. He had been jolly, friendly with everybody. He never smoked, drank, swore, or indulged in any such vices. He never opposed or harmed a soul, but always was willing to help. He had, as I recounted earlier, a marvelous deep bass voice. Dad had attended church regularly all his life, and had been active—especially in singing.

But my father was actually *so good*, humanly speaking, and so void of vices and any of the commonly accepted “sins” that he was actually in the same category as Job. Job was so righteous that even Satan could not find anything of which to accuse him. Actually Job’s one great sin was his own righteousness. It blinded him to his HUMANITY, the actual NATURE of sin born in every human. Job was the most difficult man on record for God to convert. Finally, God brought Job to the place where he *did* REPENT, and come to completely ABHOR himself!

My father had come to that same place. He came to realize that mere human goodness and uprightness is not, after all, the true RIGHTEOUSNESS of GOD, which is received only from God’s Holy Spirit after the painful and suffering *experience* of repentance. But now he had repented. And now he had come to recognize his real NEED of Jesus Christ as personal Saviour. He had thrown himself on God’s mercy, in faith believing.

That afternoon, his acute indigestion healed, but still needing rest and sleep to recover strength, we planned to go down to the river at the edge of his farm and baptize him the next day.

Late that afternoon, we all sang “Praise Him! Praise Him!” with my father’s deep melodic bass voice ringing out. It was to be the last time he ever sang.

When we finished, he had tears in his eyes, and his face literally *illuminated* in a happy smile.

“It’s just wonderful!” he exclaimed.

"It's absolutely *WONDERFUL!*"

"What do you mean, Dad?" I asked.

"That God at last has forgiven all my sins!" he exclaimed. "It seems like a load of many tons has been rolled off of my

shoulders—and I don't have to carry that weight of guilt around any longer!"

We left him to rest.

A while later we were called back into the room. He had sunken into a coma,

not from indigestion, but a heart attack. We anointed and prayed for him again. We put him to bed in an adjoining bedroom. We noticed his feet were swelling. He did not come out of the coma. We

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

- WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
- WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—8:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.
- WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—1:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.
- WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 a.m.; 11:15 p.m., Sun., E.S.T. 10:00 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.
- WCKY—Cincinnati, Ohio—1530 on dial 5:30 a.m., Mon. thru Sat., E.S.T.
- WSM—Nashville, Tenn.—650 on dial—12 midnight Mon. thru Fri.; 8:30 p.m. and 1:00 a.m., Sun., C.S.T.
- WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 p.m., daily; 5:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat., C.S.T.—10:30 a.m. Sun.
- WMIE—Miami, Fla.—1140 on dial—8:30 a.m. Sun.; 11:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.
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- CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sundays.
- WJBK—Detroit, Mich.—1500 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun.
- KLZ—Denver, Colo.—560 on dial—10:45 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sat.
- XELO—800 on dial—every night, 8:00 p.m., M.S.T., 9:00 p.m. C.S.T.
- XEG—1050 on dial—every night, 8:30 p.m. C.S.T.
- KTRH—Houston, Tex.—740 on dial 9:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat., 8:00 p.m., Sun.
- WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 p.m. Sundays.
- WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—7:00 a.m. daily.
- KOME—Tulsa, Okla.—1300 on dial—12:15 p.m., Mon. thru Sat. 9:00 p.m., Sun.
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kept up an all-night vigil of prayer. The swelling continued up his legs.

Dawn came. We continued praying. I know that I continued *believing*. By this time we had been granted many miraculous answers to prayer, and I felt I never had had more faith in my life.

Yet, at 9:40 that morning, the day after he entered his 70th year, my father died. I was stunned. This I could *not* believe!

Suddenly I was confused, bewildered. I knew that God had given His written PROMISE to heal. Always before, since learning this truth, God had healed all in our family. I realized that there are two conditions—obedience, and faith. But I had surrendered fully and unconditionally to God's commandments, given my life to Him and His service. And I had believed with positive conviction. There had been no wavering—no doubt—just calm ASSURANCE.

For three days I was in a mental fog. Not that I began to lose faith in God, or the reality of Biblical promises. Not that doubts began to be entertained. I was still quite a "babe in Christ" in the new Christian life, but we had been put through enough experiences—and I had studied and PROVED the Scriptures sufficiently—that I did not allow *doubts* to begin to arise. When one permits DOUBTS to enter his thoughts and reasonings, he is on dangerous ground. He is thinking negatively. Whoever DOUBTS is damned. I want the reader to learn that lesson.

If one is not certain—if one has not PROVED a doctrine or a fact—then the teaching of God is, with open mind free from prejudice, to seek *all* the facts—to PROVE it. This is not negative, but positive thinking and procedure. Doubting is not proving. Doubting is not *intelligent!* It is negative thinking about something one does not know enough about to warrant this form of unfounded disbelief.

Strengthening FAITH

I *knew* that God could not break a promise. I *knew* God has promised to HEAL—that Jesus took the penalty of physical sickness and infirmities and paid it for us by having His perfect physical body broken by being beaten with stripes!

But WHY, then, did my father die? Through James God instructs us that if any lack wisdom, he shall ask of GOD—asking in FAITH, not wavering or doubting—and God promises wisdom shall be given. I prayed earnestly. I asked God for UNDERSTANDING.

And I searched the Scriptures for the explanation. I did not doubt—but I *did* seek an explanation. Faith must be based on UNDERSTANDING, and I knew there was something I had not yet come to understand. Naturally I soon came, in this search, to the "faith chapter"—the 11th of Hebrews. Then the answer became plain.

God gives us many examples of faith in that wonderful chapter. I noticed the example of Abraham—the *father* of the faithful. He, with Isaac and Jacob and Sarah "all died, *not having received the PROMISES.*" My father, like them, died, not having received God's promise of healing—*AS YET!* Did the death of Abraham, *before* he received what God had unconditionally PROMISED, nullify that promise? Did his death mean that God failed—that God's promise was worthless, not to be kept? NOT AT ALL!

No, it simply meant that, for God's own reason and purpose, the fulfilling of the promise is delayed UNTIL THE RESURRECTION!

In like manner, I could now understand that God has PROMISED to heal—but He has *not* promised how immediately, or by what manner, He will do it. I knew, now, that my father's healing is still absolutely SURE. He will be resurrected—HEALED! I saw, now, that our days are indeed numbered. God has not promised that we shall live in this mortal existence eternally. It is appointed to men once to DIE—and after this the resurrection. I read how the TRIAL of our faith is allowed to work PATIENCE.

God, then, does give us tests of faith. Faith is the EVIDENCE of that NOT seen, NOT felt. Once we FEEL and SEE that we are healed, we no longer need the invisible spiritual evidence of faith. Faith, then, is our evidence—our PROOF of the healing—which God gives us to be exercised and utilized BETWEEN the time we ask, and the time the physical evidence is granted.

We should not *go* to God, asking, unless we have FAITH that God *will* do

what He has promised, and what we are ready to ask. Then, after we ask, we should *still* have faith—just as before—that God WILL do as He has promised.

Now I understood!

Some people, in the clutch of fatal DOUBTS in their faulty reasoning, will try to REASON that unless God heals instantaneously, either God has not kept His promise—or that the one who asked is guilty of such sin that God will not hear him. Such people are wresting the plain teaching of God to their own destruction.

The net result of this shocking experience of my father's death was a great strengthening of FAITH. I hope sincerely that the recording of this experience will strengthen the faith of many readers. God's very purpose in giving us this temporary physical existence is to build righteous spiritual character, *through EXPERIENCE*. In the Bible God gives us many EXPERIENCES of those He has dealt with, that we may learn by reading of their experiences. The only reason I am continuing with this autobiography is the hope that many readers may learn lessons God intends them to learn, thru these recorded experiences.

Was It GOD'S Spirit?

As the meetings in Salem continued on, after the first week or so, almost the only people coming were these "pentecostal" people. Their antics drove away most others. Though it is rare among this type of people, many, or most, of them were "Sabbath keepers." But, aside from the one fourth commandment, there did not appear to be any desire to obey God, or to "live by every Word of God." Their whole desire was a "good time" during meeting. They came for the temporary thrill and enjoyment of going on an emotional spree of excitement, shouting, and bragging in "testimony meeting" about how glad they were they "had their baptism," and how much better they were than others, for precisely the same purpose that other people attend a football game to shout and yell, and work up sensations of excitement.

They were definitely *not* SEEKING "the KINGDOM OF GOD AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS," but they were continually SEEKING physical and sensual pleasure and
(Please continue on page 12)

The Third Commandment

How do you know WHO God is? Have you been taking His NAME in vain? Here is the third article of a series explaining the Ten Commandments—the eternal LAW of our Creator.

by Roderick C. Meredith

IS GOD really *first* in your personal life? Results of a recent poll of 1500 college students showed that they had two sets of values toward which they professed allegiance: the first level, towards *self, family and friends*; the second level, to *mankind* (in general) and *God*.

It is notable that God was *least regarded* by these “educated” young people! Yet in this same poll, 90% of those questioned indicated a *belief in God*.

This prevailing spiritual lethargy and passive disrespect toward God—and toward the great MAGNITUDE of His office and power—is indicative of a growing trend even among churchgoers and professing Christians. People like to *talk about* religion and God, but they do not stand in AWE of His *position* and His *name*.

And this spiritual cancer has within it the seeds of the DESTRUCTION of our western civilization!

The Third Commandment

In the first two articles of this series, we discussed the first and second commandments. We found that we must guard against making a “god” out of *anything*—and putting it in place of the true God. And we learned that God commands us to worship Him *directly*—to walk with Him, to talk with Him, to really KNOW and worship Him in spirit and truth—and to avoid using any image, picture or physical object to “remind” us of the great Creator, or as an “aid” to worship.

The *third commandment* deals with God’s *name*, His *office*, His *position* as the great sovereign RULER of the universe: “Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh his name in vain” (Exodus 20:7).

In the Bible, personal names have a *meaning*. The first man was named *Adam* because the word *Adam* means “red earth”—the very “dust of the earth”

from which Adam was created! The original Hebrew name of *Abram* was changed to *Abraham*—for Abraham means “a father of many nations.” And Abraham was destined to become just that—“a father of many nations” (Gen. 17:5).

So it is with *God*.

God’s Name Reveals the Kind of God You Worship

Every name or title of God reveals some attribute of the Divine *character*. In studying God’s Word, we learn new facts about God’s *nature* and *character* with each new name by which He reveals Himself. In other words, God *names* Himself *what He is!*

If men use the *name* of God in a way which denies the true *meaning* and *character* of God, they are BREAKING the third commandment.

God declares through Isaiah: “Hear ye this, O house of Jacob, which are called by the name of Israel, and are come forth out of the waters of Judah, which swear by the name of the Lord, and make mention of the God of Israel, but not in truth, nor in righteousness” (Isaiah 48:1). People to whom this prophecy applies use the *name* of God, but fail to obey the *revelation of God* contained in His name.

And shocking though it may be, many religious people repeat over and over the name of God in sermons or prayers. They are taking God’s name IN VAIN—to no good use or purpose!

The original command says: “The Lord will not hold him *guiltless* that taketh his name in vain.” The Hebrew word here rendered “guiltless” may better be translated “clean”—“the Lord will not hold him to be *clean* that taketh his name in vain.” *The test of spiritual cleanliness is the attitude of a man to the NAME of God!* A man is clean or unclean according as he uses the name of God in *truth*—or for *vanity*.

Do you realize what this means? It

certainly indicates that a man is better off who—because of sincere religious doubts—has dropped the name of God out of his vocabulary, than is a professing Christian who is always *talking about* God continually, but DENYING HIM in his daily life!

The IMPORTANCE of God’s Name

By the Lord’s prayer, we are instructed to “hallow” God’s name. And the *third commandment* with which we are dealing has directly to do with showing the proper *respect* for the *name* of God. One of the *ten great points* of God’s eternal spiritual law is devoted to this very thing!

First of all, however, let us make it clear to those who may have been misinformed on the subject that *reverencing* God’s “name” does NOT mean trying to speak Hebrew or Greek or learning to pronounce God’s name in the original Biblical languages! There are certain sects which make a great matter out of this. Some claim that “Jehovah” is the Father’s name. Others claim that it is “Yahwah,” others “Yahvah,” and others use still different variations. The truth of the matter is that since all admit that the Hebrew vowels have not been preserved, *no one knows* how the Hebrew names of God should be pronounced!

Also, and even more important, God Himself inspired Daniel and Ezra to use the Aramaic word for God in nine chapters of the Bible which they wrote in this language, and the *New Testament* writers all were inspired to use the *Greek* words for deity.

The real *importance* of the matter, of course, lies not in the phonetic *sound* which is used to describe God, but in the *MEANING* which His names convey!

Describing the significance of one’s *name* in Hebrew, *Thayer’s Greek-English Lexicon of the New Testament* states under the word *name*: “By a usage chiefly Hebraistic the *name* is used for everything which the name covers, . . .

[therefore] for one's *rank, authority, interests, pleasure, command, excellencies, deeds, etc.*"

Thus, this respected authority on Biblical linguistics clearly shows that one's *name* signifies one's *office, authority, interests, and therefore one's character*. The names of God show us what God is like—they reveal His CHARACTER!

Do you really KNOW what God is like? Do you RESPECT His various *offices* and His *name* as you should?

Turn to your Bible and *check up!*

God's Nature and Character Revealed

"In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth" (Gen. 1:1). In this very first verse of the Bible, God reveals Himself by the Hebrew name "Elohim."

The word "Elohim" is a uni-plural noun. It is a word like "church" or "family." There is *one* family—but *many* members. There is *one* church—but *many* members. Thus, there is one God—but *more than one* member in the Godhead, or God family!

This same word, "Elohim," is used in Genesis 1:26. "And God (*Elohim*) said, Let US make man in OUR image, after OUR likeness." Here it is clearly seen—in context with the passage itself—that *more than one* person shares the name of God—"Elohim."

From the New Testament, this is made clear by its revelation that God the Father created all things by and *through* Jesus Christ—who was *with* God and *was* God from the beginning (John 1:1-14; Eph. 3:9, etc.).

In this passage, therefore, it is revealed that God is *more than one* person—God the *Father* and the "Word" or *Spokesman*, who later became Jesus Christ when born into the human flesh. This Father-Son relationship shows that God is a FAMILY. And the way the word "Elohim" is used in these early passages in Genesis and elsewhere certainly indicate that God is the *creating kingdom or family!*

God, by virtue of being Creator, is also the RULER over His creation. We find that immediately after creating the first man and woman, God gave them both a *blessing* and a *command*: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth, and subdue it" (Gen. 1:28). Yes,

the true God is RULER—and you should obey Him because He made you and gives you every breath of air you breathe!

In dealing with Abraham, God sometimes calls Himself "El Shaddai," which means "*Almighty* God." So God is the source of *all* power! His name should be revered, because it stands for the One who is the source of all *power, all might, and all AUTHORITY*.

The name most commonly translated "LORD" in the Old Testament is translated from the Hebrew letters YHWH, sometimes rendered Yahweh or Yahveh. The original Hebrew word means the "Eternal" or "Self-Existent One." The word is both used and defined in Genesis 21:33. "And Abraham planted a grove in Beersheba, and called there on the name of the *Lord* (YHWH), the *everlasting* God." This Hebrew word, often translated "Jehovah" in some of the revised versions, shows God's character as the EVER-LIVING God and is used to show His *everlasting office* in a *covenant relation* to those whom He has created.

God has *always* existed and *will always* exist to carry out His blessings, His promises, and His covenant with His people! Our God is the *Eternal*—the Self-Existent One.

God's Name Connected With His Attributes

Throughout His Word, God's *name* is connected with His attributes—His power, His eternal existence, His mercy, His faithfulness, His wisdom, His love. Notice how the prophet David connects God's *name* with His *creative power*: "O Lord our Lord, how excellent is thy *name* in all the earth! who hast set thy

glory above the heavens . . . When I consider thy heavens, the work of thy fingers, the moon and the stars, which thou hast ordained; What is man, that thou art mindful of him? and the son of man, that thou visitest him?" (Psalm 8:1-4).

Here God is pictured as setting His "glory" *above the heavens*. Then David proceeds to show that God has CREATED the heavens, the earth and man. *No wonder* God's *name* and *office* are to be respected!

In Psalm 9:2, David writes: "I will be glad and rejoice in thee: I will sing praise to thy NAME, O thou most High."

Now notice *why* David will sing praises to God's name: "When mine enemies are turned back, they shall fall and perish *at thy presence*. For thou hast maintained my right and my cause; thou satest in the throne judging right" (verses 3-4). David praised God because God was his PROTECTOR and REDEEMER. God was the great omnipotent POWER to which David turned for help in the time of need! He *worshipped* and *praised* God for this: "And they that know thy *name* will put their trust in thee: for thou, Lord, hast not forsaken them that seek thee" (verse 10).

Notice the *titles* or *attributes* David ascribes to God in Psalm 18:2: "The Lord is my *rock*, and my *fortress*, and my deliverer; my God, my *strength*, in whom I will trust; my *buckler*, and the *horn* of my salvation, and my *high tower*." David worshipped the living God who protected, delivered and SAVED him from every trouble and calamity!

The prophet David, whom God loved and used, did NOT think of Him as an "inner-presence" or "idea" or a God who had gone "way off" somewhere and didn't *supernaturally intervene* in the affairs of this earth and His people. Rather, these titles that David under inspiration applies to God, reveal Him as a living, vital, active RULER over His creation and as the *protector* and *sustainer* of those who serve Him!

In the 45th chapter of Isaiah, God describes His omnipotence and how He has created ALL things: "I form the *light*, and create *darkness*: I make *peace*, and create *evil*: I the Lord do all these things" (verse 7). Then God proceeds to show how He has raised up various

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men and nations *to do His will*.

He tells the nations: "Assemble yourselves," and dares them to produce any other God who has the power that He does. Then He declares: "Look unto me, and be ye saved, all the ends of the earth: For I am GOD, and there is none else. I have sworn by myself, the word has gone out of my mouth in righteousness, and shall not return, that unto me *EVERY knee shall bow, every tongue shall swear*" (verses 22-23).

Here the true God shows He is the One men *MUST worship and obey!* No wonder we are to *reverence and hallow His name!*

Abusing God's Name

Perhaps many don't fully realize it, but this earth is literally FILLED with men and women who abuse the name of Almighty GOD in many different and varying ways! It is time to REPENT of taking the very NAME of our Creator and God *in vain!*

Men and women from every facet of our society have begun to think that it is "cute" or the popular thing to do to swear by God's name or invoke His name in some oath of condemnation. In the United States, and elsewhere, actors and actresses have for years parroted oaths of profanity which are inserted by the playwright seemingly only for the purpose of "entertaining" the audience by using God's name in a vain or frivolous manner. Now, even the motion pictures are beginning to insert more and more profanity into their scripts. But the true GOD is not going to stand for this very much longer! This very thing is one of the many reasons why He is soon going to PUNISH our so-called "Christian" nations with the greatest national punishment that has ever been meted out to any peoples in all earth's history!

In our everyday speech, many of us are *damning* the very name of our Creator and our God! We are using our breath to *curse* and *damn* the name of the very One who gives us our life and the very breath with which these individuals curse His name!

An expression used with terrible frequency is asking God to "damn" someone. Poor men and wealthy men alike give ready tongue to this vile oath—and often think they are proving their

"manhood" or getting away with something by doing it! Yet it would be hard to find any normal human being anywhere who would like to see this phrase carried out with respect to his fellow man in all of its terrible meaning. This expression is trifling with the name of our God—asking Him to do something which he has never intended to do.

God NEVER "damned" a man in the way men seem to think! This idea is an awful *heresy!* God's work is the work of *salvation*, and no man is punished or deprived of life except by his *own* volition and will.

The false idea that God arbitrarily "damns" men is being thrust into the minds of men by their own profanity of language. It is a *blasphemous* assertion, and it is a libel upon the very nature and character of God Himself! God's Word thunders His warning against this into our ears today: "Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain!"

A similar form of taking God's name in vain is the habit of so many in some sections of society to tell stories in such a way that the name of God is made use of in a light and frivolous manner. Such stories should be shunned as men should shun the fire of hell! People using the name of their God in such a frivolous manner are robbing themselves of that deep sense of veneration and reverence for God without which there is no real worship in spirit and in truth.

God says: "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). The very *same thing* may be said about the deep *respect* and godly FEAR we should have for God's *name*—which directly *represents* God's *character*, His Word, and His *purposes*.

Should You Swear?

Men today are accustomed not only to profane swearing and invoking God's name to back up their oaths, but also many legal ceremonies in some lands invoke the name of God in a form of swearing or an oath.

Jesus Christ said: "But I say unto you, swear *not at all*; neither by heaven; for it is God's throne: nor by the earth; for it is his footstool: neither by Jerusalem; for it is the city of the great King" (Matt. 5:34-35).

God's *name* is so sacred and HOLY that we are commanded not to invoke it to back up our words or our oath! Fortunately, the American nation was founded by men who read their Bibles and made great allowance for religious liberty and freedom. Therefore, even though many public officials will, on occasion, ask you to raise your hand and "swear," they all realize that provision has been made so that you can employ the word "affirm" instead of swearing.

And actually, as we should all know, the simple affirmation or formal word of a God-fearing Christian is far more to be relied upon than *ten thousand oaths* given by some servant of hell on the witness stand! The travesty of business men, politicians and even college professors taking God's name in vain on the witness stand in this manner bears ample proof of this statement!

Religious Titles to Avoid

Speaking of using certain expressions as a religious title, Christ said: "And call no man your *father* upon the earth: For one is your Father, which is in heaven" (Matt. 23:9). Although there is a flagrant and obvious abuse of this command in some large religious organizations, this statement of God's Word is clear to anyone who wishes to obey it.

Our only spiritual "Father" is GOD! Any application of this word as a religious title to a man is simply a *direct blasphemy* against the Creator who has made all men—even the weak, corruptible human beings who impudently take to themselves and falsely assume that which is a divine title.

Of course, we *should* call our human parent "father" as God Himself does in the Fifth Commandment!

Another common misuse of the divine name is the application of the term "Reverend" to any human being—be he a minister or otherwise. For God applies this title to Himself *alone*: "He sent redemption unto his people: He hath commanded his covenant forever: *Holy* and *reverend* is His *name*" (Psalm 111:9).

"Reverend" means someone to be *revered*—*someone worthy of WORSHIP!* No mortal *man* is worthy of such a title! Even so great a servant of God as the apostle Paul himself was inspired to

write: "For I know that *in me* (that is, in my flesh), dwelleth NO GOOD THING" (Rom. 7:18). *Any* man who thinks he is worthy of worship—or deserves the title "Reverend"—is someday going to have to REPENT of *breaking the third commandment!*

The Most Common Sin of All

In teaching His disciples, and us as Christians, how to pray, Jesus Christ set forth the right manner of approach to Almighty God and the attitude of reverence in which we should hold His office and His name. In the opening phrases of what is commonly called "The Lord's prayer," our authorized translations of the Bible give what is most probably a false punctuation.

After the invocation, "Our Father which art in heaven"—the approach of the man to God—there are three requests linked together, and then a sentence following which conditions all three, and not the last one only. The correct rendering would be as follows: "Our Father which art in heaven, thy name be hallowed, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, as in heaven, so on earth." The phrase, "As in heaven, so on earth," has reference, not merely to "thy will be done," but to "thy kingdom come," and to "hallowed be thy name."

These thoughts contained in what is called the Lord's prayer—the hallowing of God's name, the coming of His kingdom, and the doing of His will—are simply different phases of the *same thing*. For a man hallows God's name by *submission* to His kingdom and government, and by *doing* His will and *obeying* His laws.

Simply holding the phonetic sound of God's name in reverence is only a small part of fulfillment of the third commandment.

Jesus asked: "And why call ye me Lord, Lord, and do NOT the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46). Prayer without *obedience* is a subtle form of BLASPHEMY!

The supposedly religious people who talk about religion and God but REFUSE to obey His Word and His Law are guilty of greater sin than the man who admittedly goes his own way of the flesh and at least refuses to *pretend otherwise!*

The HYPOCRISY of religious denomi-

nations and religious people is infinitely *worse* than the profanity of the street. Praise offered to God which is counteracted by *rebellion* against His ways and His laws is certainly blasphemy—and it is taking the *name* of God in vain!

A man or minister that preaches and prays with eloquent lips and beautiful sentences and devotional attitude, but then goes home to break the least of God's commandments (Matt. 5:19), that man BLASPHEMES when he prays! But even if he deceives the world, *he never deceives God!*

If a man take the name of God for *vanity*, if *truth* and unquestioning *obedience* is not behind his worship, *he had better not worship at all!*

And let us note at this point—as we have already implied—that a man who *frivolously* or *vainly* uses the name of Jesus Christ is also *breaking the third commandment*. For Jesus Christ is GOD. For the apostle Paul was inspired to write in Hebrews: "But unto the Son he saith, Thy throne, O GOD, is forever and ever" (Heb. 1:8). So the *throne* and the *office* and the NAME of Jesus Christ must be respected and revered!

As is the case with the Father, Christ's *name* represents His *character* and His *great office* as our Saviour, our Head and our coming King of kings. For God the Father has given Christ a *name*, "far above all principality, and power, and might, and dominion, and *every* NAME that is named, not only in this world, but also in that which is to come" (Eph. 1:21).

But the man who professes with his lips to honor God the Father and Jesus Christ His Son, and yet denies the will of God in his life, is committing a far greater CRIME against God than the man who openly blasphemes and makes no profession of honoring God! The most subtle and awful form of breaking the third commandment is that of religious HYPOCRISY.

Speaking of the "religionists" of His day who refused *complete obedience* to the will and law of God, Jesus declared: "This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is *far from me*. Howbeit *in VAIN* do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men" (Mark 7:6-7). In like

manner, many today profess God with their lips but their worship is VAIN!

"Not everyone that sayeth unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth the WILL* of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

May God grant you the *willingness* to OBEY the will and *Law* of your Creator! May you learn to worship Him in *Spirit* and in *truth*. May you learn to *honor* and *reverence* His great NAME—for it represents His creative *power*, His *wisdom*, His *faithfulness*, His *love* and *kindness* and *patience* and *infinite mercy*. It represents the *character* and *office* and *dignity* of the great GOD who sits at the controls of this entire universe!

Be sure to read next month's article in this vital series expounding the Ten Commandments. It will explain the *real meaning* of one of the most misunderstood topics in all the Bible—the *fourth commandment*.

Autobiography

(Continued from page 8)

thrills and excitement, under the deceptive illusion that all this was pleasing to God. One of these women, some months later, after the close of the meetings, who had "received her baptism" as they term it, became disgusted with it and told my wife in private that what they all got from it was what she termed "sublimated sex thrills." She said frankly it was plain lust of the flesh. Yet the people in it are deceived into sincerely believing that they are *seeking*, and receiving, the Holy Spirit of God!

One night while Mr. Oberg was preaching, one very fat woman, who must have weighed 250 pounds, arose and with short, jerky, staccato steps, slowly waddled up front to the piano, shaking her fat hips at each jerky step. She sat down on the piano bench and began to hit the keys with the palms of both hands in a discordant jumbled manner about like a one-year-old baby. There was no chord, harmony, tune—no regularity of beat or rhythm—just a spasmodic discordant POUNDING in utter CONFUSION.

As she began, the one other big fat woman in the hall, of equal horizontal

proportions, arose and began a sort of awkward dancing jig, her arms floundering around, uncontrolled, overhead, her very fat hips waddling and shimmying. For some two to five minutes these two women continued their unrefined duet.

Mr. Oberg stopped his preaching, with expressions of "Praise the Lord! Glory Hallelujah! Praise you, Jesus!"—to which the whole "pentecostal" attendance immediately joined in until the place was a bedlam of din and confusion.

As we were walking home that night after the service, our elder daughter, Beverly, then of junior high-school age, asked:

"Daddy, was that the Holy Spirit making those women do those things?"

I was well familiar with Christ's saying that the blasphemy against the Holy Spirit—accusing the work of the Holy Spirit of being the work of the devil—was the unpardonable sin. Although I was by that time quite aware that these practices of "pentecostal" people were *not* in conformity with either the teaching or example found in God's Word, nevertheless I was afraid to take any slight chance of committing the unpardonable sin.

"I just can't answer that, Beverly," I replied. "I suppose those women were sincere in *believing* they were being moved by God's Spirit. Most people are deceived, today. But I don't want to try to judge."

A few paragraphs back, I quoted the lumber yard manager as referring to Mr. Oberg's succession of stories. We soon learned that his preaching consisted more of telling various stories than of expounding the Scriptures. He was one who believed Jesus spoke in parables in order to make his meaning plainer and clear. Actually, Jesus Himself said He used parables for precisely the opposite reason—to HIDE the true meaning, so they could *not* understand. Mr. Oberg had made it a practice to memorize just about every story he ever heard—or could read.

He constantly used stories to illustrate his points. He had stories in his memory by the thousands. As he himself claimed, he had stories to produce laughter, stories of pathos, tear-jerkers to make his

audience weep—and these especially he told with great acting ability. He continually urged me to acquire a large stock of stories. But, as Will Rogers might have said, I just couldn't see it that way. That is not the way the original apostles preached.

NO Fruit Borne!

When the meetings came to the end of the planned duration, and absolutely NO "fruit" had been borne, except for the nightly emotional jamboree, Mr. Oberg was reluctant to stop.

Sam Oberg and his young 25-year-old wife had been living with Mr. and Mrs. O. J. Runcorn. I believe it was Mr. Runcorn who put up the \$10 for one more month's hall rent. The total duration of the meetings ran either three or four months.

But even after the extended month, there were no conversions—no members added to the Church—absolutely no visible results. The "pentecostals" had been enjoying a continuous nightly show. There was nothing else to show for it.

I have stated before, that never once, when I was working *with* any of these other ministers, were any results apparent. Never, in all those years, did I know of a single conversion resulting from the work or preaching of any of those ministers! Yet *never* did God fail to grant good results, with people converted and baptized, when I was working alone. I do not say this with any joy—for while I do rejoice and am grateful for the harvest God has produced through my efforts, I have sorrowed and *not* found any pleasure or rejoicing in the lack of fruit borne by the others. That has truly been one of the disappointments we have had to suffer.

However, God has now changed all that. Today, as I write, more than a quarter of a century later, God is *abundantly* blessing ALL His ministers with whom He now graciously allows me to be associated, with conversions, changed lives, healings, and continuous blessings. God's Church TODAY is going forward in constantly accelerating POWER—the true power of GOD!

The Plots Progress

All through this campaign in Salem, personal relations between Mr. Oberg and Mr. Ray and me were, on the sur-

face, very friendly and co-operative. But, under cover, the plots began to thicken.

After my father had died, at his farm north of Molalla, in April of 1933, my wife had gone to the farm for a visit with my mother. I do not remember the exact month, but I believe it must have been along in late May or early June.

One night she was disturbed and frightened to be awakened from a startling dream, in which it seemed an angel was telling her: "Go to Salem at once! Go to Salem at once! Enemies are plotting against your husband."

She was so alarmed that she was afraid to chance the dream possibly meaning nothing. She came immediately that day to Salem. At the same time, or it might have been the day before her dream, Mike Helms had come to tell me that Mr. Oberg and Mr. Ray had gone around to a number of the brethren in the valley, and set up an accusation against me, in a secret plot to get me out of the ministry. They wanted the \$3 weekly cash salary, and the benefit of the other money being spent for our house rent and beans and flour etc.

They had brought enough pressure to force Milas Helms, as president of the Conference, to call a business meeting for the following Sunday at the church in Harrisburg.

"They plan to discredit you," explained Mr. Helms, by charging that your wife is not a neat housekeeper—and then turning to the Biblical qualifications for an elder, for ruling well his own household. Since they will claim that you are not ruling your wife sternly enough to be a better housekeeper, they will claim that you are not Scripturally fit to be a minister, and must be put out of the ministry."

This came as a shocking surprise! These men had been so very friendly—to my face! I had not realized they were enemies, speaking lies about me and my wife behind my back! Mike saw that I was deeply hurt.

"The only thing I know that I can possibly do to help you," continued Mr. Helms, "is to give you the opportunity to speak first, if that will be any benefit. I will be chairman of the meeting, and I can give you the chance to speak before they do."

I accepted the offer. You may be sure

I prayed a great deal over it. Actually, Mrs. Armstrong has always been a very clean housekeeper, and a very neat one, with the exception that, during the years when we had four growing children in the house—and at this time the youngest was 3, and the eldest 15—children *did* leave a few things misplaced, on occasion, of course. But the charge Mr. Oberg planned to make was simply *an outrageous LIE!*

Defending My Wife!

Sam Oberg made a fetish of stern neatness, punctuality, and certain OUTWARD mannerisms designed to lead others to think him righteous. Actually, although he was unreasonably *stern* with his little 3-year-old daughter, he knew about as *little* of proper child-rearing as anyone I ever knew. He went to the extreme on stern demands for certain mannerisms of decorum, and punished his child with over-severity, while at the same time he completely neglected her in most other ways, failed to properly teach and train her, and allowed her to do other things that should not have been done.

There have been times, since I have been *changed* by God's Spirit, that righteous indignation arose instantly to white-hot heat. This was one of them.

But I prayed, and God helped me to put down anger. Also it came to mind what to do. You may not think God put it there, but I do.

At Harrisburg on Sunday, Mr. Helms, after opening the meeting with prayer, gave me the floor first. I think this was a surprise to Messrs. Oberg and Ray. I told the Board members and other brethren assembled that I understood this meeting had been called as an inquisition, to crucify me by false charges. I told them I did not wish to defend myself. I told them I knew I was full of faults and weaknesses, the same as each of them. I told them I had been striving, and with God's help, overcoming many of these human frailties and weaknesses and habits since my conversion, some six years before—but I had not yet reached perfection. I felt that each of them—and Messrs. Oberg and Ray—lived in glass houses, also, in case any had a hating spirit of wishing to throw stones.

I stood there and confessed many specific faults and weaknesses, and asked them if they would PRAY for me that I might have help in overcoming them. Their eyes began to fill with tears—all but Oberg and Ray.

Then I quickly ended by saying that Mr. Oberg and Mr. Ray might say anything they wished against me—but that I understood they planned to accuse my wife falsely, and I then told them with all the power I had that God made me my wife's defender, and that if either of them dared to utter one word against my wife, I would—if need be—CLOSE their mouths before they could finish the first sentence. I did not specify the means. This was said with blazing eyes, and a sharp voice!

I sat down.

Mr. Helms then called on Oberg and Ray. I do not remember what they said—if anything. I do know that there was NOTHING left for them to say against ME—for I had said it all myself before them. And they somehow must have known that I *MEANT IT* when I said I would defend my wife's honor. They were *silent* about her.

I do know the result. Their plot backfired! I was not discharged. But Mr. Oberg and Mr. Ray were not through gunning for me. There was much more to come later!

Chopping Wood

I began to realize that Messrs. Oberg and Ray were secretly carrying on a propaganda campaign against me. In talking privately to church brethren they would drop little suggestions implying, at least indirectly, anything possible against my character.

One day Milas Helms came to me with the offer to give me a very large tree on his farm if I would chop it down, saw it up and split it for our winter's fuel supply. This tree was six feet in diameter at the trunk—a huge fir.

"Some of the brethren," he said, "are getting the idea that *they* have to do hard physical work on their farms, but that *you* have it pretty soft merely preaching, visiting members and prospective members, holding Bible studies, getting out the news bulletin. If you will spend the next several days splitting up a year's wood supply, I will see that the

word gets around about how energetically you are working. This will counteract this propaganda better than a million words of denial."

Somehow, it never seemed to dawn on the brethren who listened to these subtle innuendoes suggesting I was lazy, that Mr. Oberg devoted his time, also, to the ministry and had no time for hard manual labor.

Gladly I accepted the offer, happy of the opportunity to provide fuel for my family. I counted the rings on the tree. That tree was growing there when George Washington was a boy! I was glad of the chance for the exercise and the fresh country air, as well as the wood.

Again, the plot was foiled.

Cackling Hens

During the course of these Salem meetings Milas Helms brought us a number of eggs one day—perhaps a dozen or so.

"We have decided to start tithing our eggs, as well as money income," he said to us.

It was the off-laying season. This incident has been reported before in The PLAIN TRUTH, but it properly belongs at this point in the Autobiography. Even though it was out of season for Mike's hens, they immediately went on an egg-laying campaign. Never, it seemed, had they laid so many eggs.

After this incident was reported in The PLAIN TRUTH, one reader wrote that she had begun to tithe her eggs, and received the same result. Experience repeatedly proves it *pays* to tithe!

Blessings in Disguise

Very shortly after our return from Astoria—possibly even before the meetings began in Salem, or very soon after they started, the Santiam River—on whose banks bordered the farms of Mike Helms and his brother-in-law, Yancy McGill—went on a rampage, overflowing its banks in a complete flood.

It happened on a Friday or Friday night. Mike told me of it when he came for church on the Sabbath. In fact, we attended a meeting with other brethren at some town west of Salem that day. En route, Mike told me of the calamity. His crops had been all planted. They

were all under the water.

The reader can understand by this time that I felt a very deep affection for Mike Helms. I felt as badly about this as if it had been my own fields. I continued to express my deep concern and regret and sympathy.

"Mr. Armstrong," said Mike in what seemed like a half gentle rebuke, "you seem to be taking this a lot harder than I am. God says *everything* works together for GOOD, to them that love the Lord. I love the Lord, and I try to serve Him and obey Him and I BELIEVE Him. I am faithful in paying tithes. Right now I can't see how a thing like this can work together for my good. But I don't need to see how. I know God means what He says, and, in a way I can't see right now, this is going to work for my GOOD. I'm just praising the Lord for it!"

I hope that God used me in teaching Mike many valuable lessons, but this was a time when God used Mike to teach me a lesson I shall never forget. Perhaps, in this way through The PLAIN TRUTH, Mike can be used to teach many thousands of our readers a valuable lesson today, more than a quarter of a century later.

After the flood subsided a very strange thing became apparent. On adjoining farm-land, without even a fence between, the crops were completely ruined. But the damage *stopped* at the very line of Mike Helms' and Yancy McGill's farms—all except one small patch of Mike's land, which it was not too late to replant. And, because the floodwaters had ruined the crops of so many vegetable gardeners, Mike's and Yancy's crops brought a higher than usual price that year! And *THAT* is *how* this calamity worked for GOOD!

How, after these Salem meetings ended with no results, and Messrs. Oberg and Ray had left Salem, Mrs. Armstrong and I visited a number of those who attended, in their homes, opening the understanding of some of them to some of the unscriptural beliefs and practices of "pentecostalism," baptized some, and organized a church in Salem; and how, after that, this present world wide work was actually begun in a little country schoolhouse near Eugene, Oregon, will be told in the next installment.

Is NAZIISM Dead?

(Continued from page 4)

blithely admitted. At Darmstadt two former Gestapo agents, Eisfeldt and Lorentz, were found *not guilty* on charges of deporting Jews from Thuringia; the court considered that no positive proof had been brought that they appreciated the consequences of their acts. In Giessen, Untersturmführer Kuno Düttler was released on a charge of killing eighty-one female and six male prisoners in the Labor Camp of Hirzenhain; the court accepted medical evidence that he was completely drunk at the time. In Munich SS Oberleutnant Tesch was sentenced to 18 months imprisonment, with 10 months on remand deducted, for shooting in the nape of the neck an American who had bailed out of his aircraft. In Dortmund five former Gestapo agents were acquitted on proven charges of killing 14 prisoners, the court not considering that they were aware of the illegality of their action." (p. 120-121, *A Watcher on the Rhine*, Connell.)

But this is only the beginning! Little does the average person, asleep in the lethargy of his own humdrum daily existence, realize the great, WORLD-WIDE revival of extreme right-wing Fascism which is underway in the world.

Nazis in High Places

In analyzing some of the factors concerning the appointment of various civil service administrators, Mr. Connell states, "Two of Adenauer's most intimate and trusted advisors, Hans Globke, the State Secretary in the Prime Minister's office, and Herbert Blankenhorn, formerly his Foreign Affairs Advisor and now German Ambassador to NATO, have tainted pasts. Blankenhorn became a member of the [Nazi] party in 1938, having made his first application in 1934. Globke [is a], violently controversial figure . . ." (P. 123, *A Watcher on the Rhine*, Connell.)

Recently, this information was made public through top newspapers in the United States, and it was made known Globke had written the Commentary to the infamous Nuremberg race laws—or

the Nazi party's officially adopted policy toward the Jews.

"Nor is Globke guilty of his own reputation. He is, by virtue of his post, the senior member of the Civil Service, and a great number of the appointments of former Nazis in administrative posts in other ministries have needed his recommendation and approval. *It is a disquieting list!* (Emphasis ours.)

"An entirely unhealthy number of men who served under Ribbentrop have found their way back into the Bonn foreign ministry. *The list could cover pages.* The story in many of the other ministries is no better. Everywhere in the Federal and even more in the State administrations, *the names of innumerable former Nazis can be picked out!*" [Emphasis ours] (p. 123-124, *A Watcher on the Rhine*, Connell.)

Had you supposed Germany was completely "denazified"? Bear in mind the fact that the allied administrative officers turned over the problem of denazification *to the Germans* in the spring of 1947! Supposedly, the Nazis have been busily "denazifying" THEMSELVES for the past 13 years!

The flurry of "documentary" films which have been shown in motion picture theaters and over television in the last years have all had a basic hue and cry that is very similar! Perhaps some have been deliberately devised as a propaganda tool, and, perhaps unknowingly, others have merely followed the pattern because it is a common conception in the minds of the average person! They invariably paint Hitler as the *main guilty person*, some of the top generals (all of whom, they carefully point out, have since been executed) and a handful of Nazi administrators as the ones bearing the complete and total guilt for all the atrocities perpetrated upon the helpless peoples in World War II.

Each one of these films inevitably puts across, however subtly, that the *German people* have "totally repented"; that their former Nazi leaders are now dead or have sunken into ignominy; and that Germany is now a strong, democratic,

free nation closely allied with the United States, and willing to take up arms in defense of United States policies.

Such an abysmal miscalculation, as a result of this propaganda, is going to lead this nation to the very brink of disaster, unless there is a great awakening!

Now, notice these astounding facts!

At the present time, General Hans Speidel is Chief of all Central European land forces in NATO! He is holding this post as a result of a recommendation to Adenauer by a General Reinhard Gehlen, one of the most astonishing figures in postwar German history. *Gehlen operates directly under the administrative commands of Hans Globke!* Gehlen was head of the General Staff department entitled "Foreign Armies East" during World War II. In this official position, he built up one of the most strikingly efficient intelligent networks of the war. He hid after Germany's defeat, then gave himself up to General Patton's army. He felt strong enough to form a type of "partnership" with the Allied command, and *demand*ed that his agents remain under his own control and form part of a purely German organization with only an American army liaison group at the top. The Americans agreed! He was allowed to set up his first headquarters in Spessart, and it was then removed to a 25-acre camp which the Americans had taken over from the Nazis. Now that Germany is a Federal Republic, this organization of agents has been taken over by the Federal Government. *It is now the direct administrative responsibility of the State Secretary, Hans Globke!*

"It is said of Gehlen that he has been responsible for keeping in being the skeleton of the German general staff. To some extent the accusation sticks. The senior generals who built up the *Bundeswehr*, Heusinger and Speidel, and most of their subordinates, are all survivors of that ruthlessly efficient group of military planners who have received their full share of blame for German acts of aggression over the last half-century. *Most of the leading members of the new German defense ministry were recommended to Adenauer by Gehlen!*" (p. 221, *A Watcher on the Rhine*, Connell. Emphasis ours.)

Many of the leading Nazi industrialists, politicians and military brains were

living openly in the Argentine, where they plotted Hitler's return and the rebirth of a new and victorious Germany.

(A few years ago, the *Plain Truth* reported the return of Adolf Galland, former Nazi Luftwaffe ace who was credited with well over 100 kills while fighting against Allied air forces in World War II. Galland had been in Argentina, training the Argentine Air Force, but returned to Germany, where it was rumored he was to head the resurrected Luftwaffe!)

In one amazing article, the *Reader's Digest* published information written by a man who claimed he had *personally* talked to Martin Bormann in Sweden!

East-West Deal Coming?

One magazine dared report the horrifying details of a gigantic and calamitous Nazi-Soviet Mutual Assistance Pact, which aimed at the eventual conquest of the globe!

This world domination was to be achieved in four stages:

"1. The Nazis would climb to power within the confines of Western Germany.

"2. Hitler would return in person with Soviet approval and support. He would declare the whole of Germany united once again into a single and powerful Reich under his authority.

"3. The build-up period. Once again butter would be discarded for guns; German heavy industry would work day and night producing arms and machines of war; . . . Germany would become an armed camp.

"4. Acting in concert with Russia, the Nazis and the Communists would launch a war of aggression upon their two major enemies, the United States and England."

The revival of German industry is already complete! The "climbing to power" of many Nazis within the confines of Western Germany is a constant, daily occurrence!

In his book "Germany Plots with the Kremlin," Mr. T. H. Tetens reveals a vast world-wide plot by Pan-Germanism to once again exploit the tension between the East and the West, holding up the blinding fear of Communism before the Western planners in return for certain concessions from the United States.

Much of this *has already been accomplished!* So far as the world knows, at

least *openly*, there has been no German-Soviet Pact yet!

Nevertheless, world planners stand in fear of this very thing!

Fantastic Changes Ahead!

Yes, WHY recent anti-Semitic outbursts? Why extreme, fanatical right-wing nationalism cropping up all over Central and South America? *Why* is Hitler's favorite German marching song being played all over Germany again today? Why have hundreds of former Nazis been exonerated from guilt, released from prison, or had their sentences rescinded? *Why* are all but one of the *top fifteen men in the Ruhr former Nazis*? *Why* are the *two top men under Adenauer former Nazis with tainted pasts*?

Yes, WHY? These are questions you need to face squarely—and come to an honest conclusion! Surprising books have been written by responsible, educated and experienced observers, many of them official correspondents, having lived and worked in Germany for many, many years! These thoroughly documented and responsible works reveal the startling truth—that NAZIISM IS FAR FROM DEAD—and that any sudden shift in the political scene in Western Germany today could lead to a rapid revival of fanatical nationalism which would plunge the world into the most devastating war of all time!

It's time to WAKE UP! It's time you became PERSONALLY concerned about world conditions! Yes, Germany DID rise again—and is going to continue to forge ahead in world affairs until she completely dominates a union of ten nations in Europe, forming the resurrected *Roman Empire!*

A UNITED STATES OF EUROPE IS COMING! It is coming in *your lifetime*—in the near future!

God calls upon you to *repent*, to seek Him, to begin to be obedient to His laws, so that you may be granted PROTECTION from these perilous times which are going to beset this earth!

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

Watch Germany!

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER EIGHTEEN

THE PLAGUES CONTINUE

PHARAOH had promised to let the children of Israel go. But with the plague of frogs over, he changed his mind. So Pharaoh told Moses and Aaron: "I didn't give the matter enough thought at the time, but now that I have done so, it is clear to me that it would be most unwise to free your people. Therefore it is my will that the Israelites remain in Egypt and continue their tasks." (Exodus 8:15.)

Moses could hardly believe what he heard. But he had to face the fact that no man, not even a king, should always be trusted.

"It is you who are most unwise," Aaron spoke out. "Our God is aware of how you have broken your promise. Because of your dishonesty He will bring another terrible thing upon your nation!"

These words worried Pharaoh. The more he heard of the God of Israel, the more he feared the very mention of the name.

"Get these two out of my court," the king commanded. Probably he would have preferred to put them in prison, but he was afraid that their God would somehow punish him for such an act.

Later, when Moses was alone, God told him to tell Aaron to strike the ground with his rod, so that the particles of dust and dirt would be changed into another misery for the Egyptians. (Verse 16.)

Dust Becomes Fleas!

When Aaron obeyed, a huge mass of insects crawled over the ground as far as the two men could see. It was only minutes later that the Egyptians, still busy burying

the dead frogs, found themselves in a sea of billions of biting, blood-sucking insects. They were so thick that it was almost impossible to breathe without inhaling them. Within only a matter of hours, people and animals moaned in agony as their bodies became matted with the stinging bugs. Wherever any Egyptian went, it was impossible to entirely escape this latest horrifying plague from God.

As for Pharaoh, his servants tried in vain to protect him from the swarms of insects that invaded the palace. In spite of his misery, the king made up his mind to wait and see how matters would turn out.

This latest distress caused many unhappy officials—more than ever before—to send messages to the king, begging him to save the nation by yielding to the requests of Moses and Aaron. By now even the common people of Egypt were becoming aware of what was going on, and more and more of them were increasingly fearful of the strange power causing the plagues.

“This is only another trick of those Israelites,” Pharaoh kept telling those about him. “My magicians can also produce swarms of insects. Call them here and they will prove it to you.”

Later, when the magicians came before the king, a very uncomfortable audience squirmed before some very uncomfortable performers. Pharaoh, covered with a fine netting which kept out some of the insects, stared impatiently at the magicians.

“Do something!” he commanded. “Prove again that our gods can produce miracles!”



The Egyptians were still working hard to clean up the heaps of dead frogs when Moses warned of a Third Plague to come.



People and animals moaned in agony as their bodies became matted with the stinging insects.

Perhaps the magicians had performed their former amazing tricks through clever, natural means. Perhaps they had been helped by evil spirits. Or possibly there was a combination of both. Whatever the means, it didn't seem to be with them as they stood in fearful embarrassment before the king. The head magician suddenly bowed low, and it was plain that he was trembling.

"We cannot do what this God of the Israelites can do," he muttered. "At first we believed that those two Israelites were performing feats of magic through their own cleverness and skill. But we have come to see that the terrible things that have happened through them could come only through the hand of a God who is most powerful!" (Verse 19.)

There was silence in the court. Pharaoh got to his feet. Perhaps no one could see, through the netting, the mixture of embarrassment and anger on his face.

"My people are turning into cowards!" he shouted. "Nevertheless, I will not allow the Israelites to go free!"

Meanwhile, God spoke to Moses again and told him what to do next. The following morning, when the king was striding with some of his servants to the river, where he hoped to get some relief from the louse-like insects crawling on him, he saw Moses and Aaron standing in his path.

"Why do you bother me like this?" Pharaoh frowned. "I should have you thrown in the palace dungeon for the things you have done!"

However, he made no move to call his soldiers, because he secretly feared what God might do to him if he harmed the two Israelites.

"We have come again to ask you to let our people go into the desert to worship our God," Aaron spoke out. "He has told us that if you refuse again, He will bring a

fourth plague upon Egypt. This time it will be swarms of flying insects, and to prove His power, He will not let the insects come into the land of Goshen to trouble the Israelites."

"Then perhaps I should move my palace to Goshen!" Pharaoh snapped, and pushing past Moses and Aaron he stamped off to the river.

Next day the suffering Egyptians noted that the louse-like insects were dying. They hopefully brushed the tiny creatures out of their hair and clothes and off their bodies. The horrible plague seemed to have come to a quick end.

When Pharaoh noticed that the insects were dying, he became very jubilant.

"What did I tell you?" he boastfully addressed his advisors. "I knew it had to end. Now you can see how foolish I would have been to take your advice and let the Israelites slip away from us."

"But your royal highness should realize that these things are ruining our nation," the chief advisor spoke up. "Our livestock is dying. Our food supply has been cut down. The Israelites aren't doing very much for us because our people have been too miserable to keep them busy. We can't go on like—"

"We'll make up for all that," Pharaoh broke in, "after these miserable times are at an end. And they must end sometime."

"We heard that the men Moses and Aaron met you this morning and threatened another plague," one of the advisors spoke up.

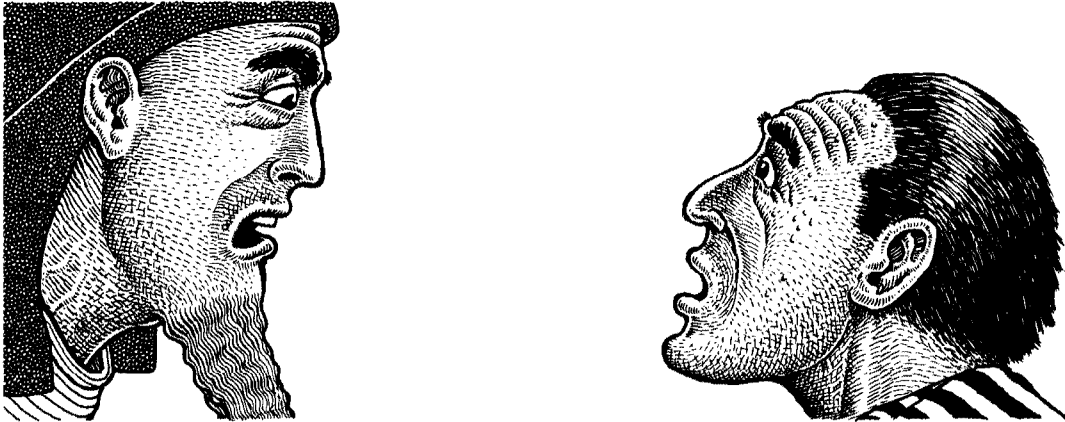
"That is true," Pharaoh said, glaring at the advisor. "Perhaps if there is another one it will be the last one. Or perhaps our patient gods will at last be angered, and will step in to protect us."

Deadly Flies Plague Egypt

There were moments of silence as the king nervously rubbed his beard, hoping to shake out any dead lice from the royal chin growth. The silence was abruptly broken by shouts of servants approaching on the run. The first one to reach the room bowed low to Pharaoh.

"A thousand pardons for breaking in this way, oh king!" the servant panted. "Clouds of flying insects are settling down over the city! We must close all doors and windows!" (Verse 24.)

Even before the excited servants could draw the vast expanses of curtains together, a swarm of winged insects buzzed into the large council room. Pharaoh was still wearing a gauze cape and headpiece, especially made for him as protection against lice. He quickly drew the top part over his head and sat in miserable silence as he watched others batting and swatting at these newest foes. There were shouts of pain



"Clouds of flying insects are swarming over the city!"
the servant gasped.

from some as the vicious insects sank their barbed jaws into human flesh. Servants opened inner doors through which the advisors could hastily retreat, leaving the king to sourly witness the battle between his excited servants and the maddened insects.

As the hours passed, the city became a place of miserable uproar. Caught in the streets or in other open places, many people frantically scrambled for places of safety from the deep-biting flies. But many of the buildings of the Egyptians were made with open windows and doors, and they were poor protection against insects.

Livestock in the fields suffered as much as did the people. Most animals had no way of escaping from the stinging flies. All they could do was race wildly about.

Normal activity came to a stop in all of Egypt. It was a full-time task for all to try to protect themselves from the infectious bites and stings of this latest plague. Even some of the crops and much of the food were set upon by the insects. Illnesses and fever soon overtook people and animals.

Insects swarmed everywhere and over everything and everybody in increasing numbers. Reports of misery, sickness, hardship and even death began pouring into Pharaoh's palace. Advisors pleaded with him to send for Moses and Aaron.

"Perhaps our gods will yet act to take these terrible flies from us," Pharaoh muttered. "Are the priests still offering sacrifices and praying?"

"The flies were too much for them," one of the advisors answered. "They're taking refuge in the wine cellar."

Even through the gauze hood, the frown on the king's face was very plain. Possibly he was thinking that the least the priests could do was stick to their work and go through the required motions of praying to idols—even though it was a waste of time and energy.

Pharaoh's gaze dropped to his gauze-covered hands, and he saw that the deep bites on them were beginning to swell and redden. They were smeared with a heavy ointment brought by the court physician, but nevertheless they were throbbing with increasing pain.

Pharaoh Weakens

"Send for those two Israelites, Moses and Aaron!" the king suddenly blurted.

When the two appeared somewhat later, Pharaoh was fretful and impatient. He noted that the Israelites were not wearing gauze hoods or gloves, and that there were no fly bites on their faces or hands. Their Egyptian escorts, on the other hand, had been painfully bitten in performing their duty.

"Why should your God continue this cruel plague?" Pharaoh asked. "If He is an intelligent God, He should know before now that I am willing to let your people make their sacrifices to Him. Go and tell that to the Israelites!"

"But you said nothing about letting the Israelites leave Egypt," Aaron reminded the king. "If you mean that we are to stay within your land, then we cannot sacrifice to our God. Some of the animals we intend to offer on our altars are sacred to you Egyptians. Therefore your people would be offended. We would risk being killed by mobs of stone-hurling Egyptians. Therefore we must make a three-day trip beyond the border of Egypt, just as our God has commanded us."

"Then go!" Pharaoh snapped, after a few moments of thoughtful silence. "But don't go too far or stay too long, or you may all die in the hot, dry desert. First, however, ask your God to take away these horrible flies."

"We shall go at once to ask our God to stop the plague," Aaron said. "But remember the promise you have just made to let us leave Egypt. Do not deceive us as you did before." (Verse 29.)

Later, Moses asked God to remove the clouds of stinging insects from Egypt. That night a strong wind swept over the land. By morning the suffering Egyptians were relieved to see that the insects had been blown away. But the flies—a different and much more harmful kind than the common housefly—had left the land in a terrible condition. Trees had been stripped of leaves. Food plants were gnawed and withered. Wounded and infected people and animals lay sick by the thousands, and a quick end had come to many who were set upon by dense hordes of flies, inasmuch as the victims were stung or chewed into lifelessness.

But even though Pharaoh realized the condition of his nation following this plague, the sudden disappearance of the stinging flies caused him to regret that he had promised to let the Israelites go into the desert.

Pharaoh Breaks His Promise Again

"Send a message to Moses," he commanded one of his aides. "Tell him that my decision to let the Israelites leave Egypt was made during a time of stress, and that after thinking the matter over with greater wisdom, I now forbid the Israelites to leave this land." (Verse 32.)

It was a deep disappointment to Moses when he received the message. But at once he and Aaron were sent by God to warn the king of Egypt that if he did not immediately let the Israelites go, a terrible disease would come upon the livestock of the nation. (Ex. 9:1-3.)

Pharaoh refused to be frightened by such a warning.

"I will not be bluffed," he told Moses and Aaron. "Why should I, Pharaoh, be moved by mere words?"

This fifth plague struck with such abrupt results that the Egyptians could hardly believe it was happening. Within a few hours the land was strewn with dead horses, cattle, sheep, goats, camels and burros. A horrible and fatal sickness of animals almost wiped out the valuable livestock of Egypt. But not so much as one animal belonging to the Israelites was affected by the death-dealing plague. (Verse 6.)

This was a great blow to the religious thinking of the Egyptians, too. Most animals were sacred to them because of being connected with their gods. It was difficult for them to understand why their many gods would allow the one God of the Israelites to slay the very animals after which some of their idols had been fashioned.

Regardless of what his people thought or how great the livestock loss was, Pharaoh stubbornly stuck to his desire to keep the Israelites as slaves. He reasoned that inasmuch as Egypt had struggled through five plagues, Egypt could struggle through more. Some of them had lasted for only a matter of hours, and others had lasted for several days. But nothing could happen, Pharaoh thought, that would prevent him from building Egypt into a super-glorious nation.

If the king could have foreseen what was to happen to him and to his nation, he surely would have fallen on his knees to beg for mercy.

(To be continued next issue)

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

(Continued from page 2)

all the better personalities."

Lady from Wednesbury, Staffordshire.

The Pieces Fit

"Am writing you in regard to the marvelous sermon I heard you preach over my radio. I enjoyed it immensely.

I just felt like you were sitting in my sitting room, putting a cross-word puzzle together even as you brought out the different scripture verses that bore on your dynamic sermon about the second coming of Christ. All the pieces just fit into the great pattern. You were so dynamic about it all, I felt like shouting when you finished."

Woman in a rest home in Ohio

Eyes Opened to Real Truth

"I look forward to hearing you every week. You see I cannot go to Church as I have an incurable lung trouble, but the more you teach me and open my eyes to the real truth of the Word of God in the Bible, I don't think I miss much not being able to attend Church."

Man from Scalloway, Shetland Islands

Today's Religious Customs... *how did they begin?*

What is the real origin of Easter, Christmas, St. John's Day?
Here is the surprising answer!

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

Part VI

IT WILL come as a shocking surprise. You probably have never noticed it before, but it is true!

Easter was being observed 4000 years ago! It was still being observed when the Christ-child was born—during His ministry—when He built His Church—*yet Christ did not institute it—Christ never observed it—the apostles never observed it—the Church JESUS BUILT never observed it—the Apostle Paul commanded Gentile-born Christians to cease observing it!*

More startling, Christ commands us, today, to cease observing it!

How, then, did Easter—and the host of religious customs now celebrated in this Western World—get into professing Christianity?

And *DOES IT MAKE ANY DIFFERENCE?*

Listen! *Your eternal destiny* depends upon the answer! You are soon—very soon—going to stand before the judgment bar of Christ. Do not say carelessly: "Well, here is the way I look at it;" or, "I do not think it makes much difference." God says it *does* make a difference. God declares there is a way that seems right to a man—to YOU—but the end result are the ways of death (Prov. 14:12).

You will be judged by what God says—not by what you think. Now let us unveil the facts of history.

World Deception Planned from Time of Flood

The vast majority today believe they are on the right road to salvation. They are honest, sincere people. They do what *they think* is right. Never has it entered their minds to question that they might be *wrong*.

This series of articles is a stern warning against the confusion and failure of professing Christianity in our tottering

Western World. This series of articles may be obtained in a forthcoming book entitled *Satan's Great Deception*.

Just after the flood Nimrod founded in *Babylon a civilization which ignored the rule of God* (Gen. 11:1-9). The gospel of the *coming* Christ and *much* of the Bible teachings were counterfeited in such a way as to *appeal* to its followers but lead them to DESTRUCTION INSTEAD OF SALVATION. From Babylon these deceptive teachings spread throughout the whole world—including the Christian-professing nations! Because of their marked similarity to Christ's teachings, the pagan counterfeits became mingled with His, and have *deceived the people to this very day*—just as the devil had planned!

Millions celebrate—unknowingly—the supposed birth of Nimrod on December 25 and call it the birthday of Christ, the Saviour, who was *not* born in the winter season.

At the beginning of spring men face and bow in the presence of the rising sun on Easter morning—in the same act of worship as that of the pagans who bowed in honor of Ishtar, the Queen of Heaven, the supposed mother of the sun god. And Christians have been led to believe that this abominable kind of heathen worship was ordained by Christ and the apostles!

Jesus Christ never commanded us to celebrate His resurrection. He commanded us to commemorate annually His death—on the eve of the very day on which He gave Himself for the world. Strange as it seems, almost no one obeys the very One whom Christianity acknowledges as its Saviour!

Now notice the facts of history. They are startling!

Pagan Worship Continues Today

You will recall that in the time of Nimrod, the sun (which was associated

symbolically with the Serpent, or Satan) was symbolized on earth by *fire*. NIMROD, as the SUN-GOD or fire-god in the *Mysterics*, was worshipped by the sacrifice of HUMAN BEINGS IN FIRE TO HIM. Has this pagan custom persisted even in our "Christian" times? Let us examine.

The Feast of the NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN is set down in the *Papal* calendar for the 24th of June. *The very same period* was equally memorable in the Babylonian calendar for one of its grand original festivals—to commemorate the death and reviving of Tammuz, or Nimrod (Stanley's *Sabeian Philosophy*, p. 1065).

Why is this "coincidence"? The apostate Church followed the now famous advice of Pope Gregory I, that by all means they should *meet the pagans half way* and so bring them into the Church (Bower's *Lives of Popes*, vol. ii, p. 523).

Here is how it happened.

About the sixth century A.D., emissaries were sent over Europe, with an eye to *gathering the pagans into its fold*. Remember, the apostate Church was formed by a union of pagans and professing Christians (Consult Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. i, chap. 15). These emissaries or investigators found that the keeping of the 24th of June in honor of Tammuz (Nimrod) was very popular.

To *gain numbers* to the Church was the thing! This meant *both* professing Christians and pagans must be satisfied. The pagans wanted this festival. The Christians would not *tolerate a name suggestive of its real meaning*. So a *Christian name* was put on this pagan festival. This is exactly the way our pagan Christmas came into Christianity and why there are so many pagan festivals observed in the churches today.

Now what Christian name was at
(Please continue on page 26)

"Choose You This Day..."

YOU are one of millions who have been hearing God's TRUTH over *The World Tomorrow*, reading it in *The Plain Truth*, or studying it in the Correspondence Course. *Here, now, is the challenging choice God places squarely before you!*

by Garner Ted Armstrong

AND THIS gospel of the kingdom shall be preached *in all the world* as a witness unto all nations, and *then* shall the end come!" (Matt. 24:14.) These striking words, pronounced by Jesus Christ over 1900 years ago, *are being fulfilled—NOW!*

Jesus plainly said there will be a WORK OF GOD on this earth, in *your* day. Somehow, Almighty God has led YOU into a direct, *personal contact* with that dynamic, prophesied work of God!

As a reader of *The Plain Truth*, and a listener to *The World Tomorrow* program, you have been constantly encouraged to *PROVE all things!* I have said, and my father has said repeatedly through the years, "Don't believe me, believe your Bible!" We have often urged listeners and readers to *check up*, to *PROVE ALL THINGS!* We have said you ought to listen without prejudice to *any* man, but not believe the *man* until you go to *your Bible* and find out whether or not that human being is telling the real TRUTH!

Luke wrote of the Bereans who were "... more noble than those in Thessalonica, in that they *received the word* with all readiness of mind [without bias, prejudice or preconceived opinions] and *searched the scriptures daily*, whether those things were so" (Acts 17:11).

Luke went on to record, "THEREFORE," *as a direct result of their careful checking of the Bible*, "many of them believed" (v. 12).

You have been constantly encouraged to do this very thing! Have you done it? Have you been carefully *checking up* on these things which you hear, reading the Bible scriptures quoted, proving all things? (I Thes. 5:21).

How to Grow in UNDERSTANDING

God says, "The fear of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom, a GOOD UN-

DERSTANDING have all they that *do* His commandments . . ." (Psalms 111:10). It is through *obedience* to the ten commandments of God, coming to realize His word is Divinely inspired, and beginning to OBEY it, that you can grow in true understanding. Daniel was told, of the prophesies of the Bible, ". . . the *wise* shall understand!" (Dan. 12:10). It is those who are *trembling* before the Word of God (Isa. 66:2), who really stand in AWE of Him, and who are really *studying* His word, who will really begin to *understand* the truth of God!

We have had letters from multiple thousands of you who have been telling us of your new-found *understanding*. Thousands have enrolled in the Correspondence Course, hundreds of thousands of booklets have been sent out, millions around the world have been reading ads in *Reader's Digest*, *Capper's Farmer*, and other sources. Hundreds of thousands have been reading the dynamic, straight-from-the-shoulder *Plain Truth* articles, and multiple MILLIONS have been hearing the truth of God over *The World Tomorrow* program—*around the earth!*

Yes, many have been *bearing the truth!* They have been challenged to *prove* whether it is true!

What YOU Should Be Doing About It!

Whether or not you are aware of it, you are traveling down a one-way street. There is no turning around, no side road, no escape from that one-way journey. It is the journey of your present human, physical life. You, as a living, thinking human being—with your own settled "way," your friends, relatives and associates, your whole routine and way of life, are growing toward an eventful and fateful day.

You are approaching a major *crossroads!* Along that one-way path is a major *intersection*. It is a *branching* of

the road! You must now *choose*—"I have set before you *life and death*, blessing and cursing: therefore **CHOOSE LIFE**" (Deut. 30:19).

God commands: "But be ye **DOERS** of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (Jas. 1:22). Through the apostle Peter, Almighty God issues a stern warning! "For the time is come that *judgment* must begin at the house of God, and if it first begin at us, what shall be the end of them that *obey not* the gospel of God?"

"And if the righteous *scarcely be saved* [if those who are living by every word of God, growing, overcoming, just **BARELY** by the 'skin of their teeth' make it] where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (I Pet. 4:17-18).

Yes—the *unrighteous* just aren't going to make it! That major crossroad YOU, *personally*, are approaching involves how you answer God's question, "*What are you going to do about it?*"

How Will You Answer?

Jesus said plainly, ". . . Except ye **REPENT**, ye shall all likewise perish!" (Luke 13:3). Jesus came into Galilee preaching "**REPENT YE**, and **BELIEVE THE GOSPEL!**" (Mark 1:15).

Later, on the Day of Pentecost the inspired apostle Peter said "*Repent, and be baptized* everyone of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Peter explained further, "Repent ye therefore, and be **CONVERTED** [be *changed*, be *transformed*], that your sins may be blotted out, when the times of refreshing shall come from the presence of the Lord" (Acts 3:19).

Jesus commanded us to *repent!* Repentance means a complete and total **SURRENDER** of the self *will* to God! It means total, unreserved, *unconditional surrender!* It means far more than

"changing of a few habits," or beginning to "live better," or making a "decision for Christ!" It means a complete and total SHAKEUP, an ABHORRING of the self, throwing the self upon God's mercy, crying out for forgiveness of the selfishness, vanity, conceit, lust, and direct REBELLION against God and His law. It means, in short, GIVING YOURSELF COMPLETELY TO GOD!

Repentance—TRUE REPENTANCE—is only the *first step* towards salvation! But, surprisingly enough, it is a step which hundreds of thousands have unknowingly overlooked, deceiving themselves, and are thus headed straight toward a yawning, gaping maw of destruction! There are hundreds of thousands today who, *thinking* they have "repented," are going *their own way*, living in the selfishness and vanity of the human mind, having perhaps "changed a few things," but *not living by every word of God*—and are headed toward destruction!

"*False conversion*"—like a "false sense of security"—is going to lead to sudden death!

Almighty God, *your Creator*, commands you to REPENT! If you have come to see the TRUTH of God, and you have come to realize *you are a sinner* (Rom. 3:23), that sin is the transgression of GOD'S LAW (I John 3:4), and you, therefore, are a LAW-BREAKER worthy of DEATH (Rom. 6:23)—then God calls upon you *to repent!* This is that inescapable intersection you are approaching! It is the place in your life where Almighty God is going to hold you absolutely *accountable* for the precious knowledge you have been receiving—and is going to ask you, "*What have you done about it?*" What will be *your* answer?

From the letters of many hundreds of you, we know there *are* a number who *really do* want to do something about it!

Baptizing Tours Coming!

For those who have come to realize they must have the precious blood of Jesus Christ to blot out their past sins—and desperately want God's forgiveness, and who want to begin to really OBEY God, *unconditionally*—here's GOOD NEWS!

Each summer, God willing, we send out from Ambassador College teams of two ordained ministers, graduates or

senior students, who are thoroughly dedicated, consecrated young men. These men, thoroughly trained under the personal supervision and guidance of Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong, visit many states of our nation, and, in some cases, other nations around the world. They travel many thousands of miles, on a planned and scheduled itinerary, allotting a certain amount of time for each stop, in order to visit with and counsel those who have requested baptism. If you would like one of these "teams" of Mr. Armstrong's personal representatives to call upon you *this summer*, then you should write in NOW informing Mr. Armstrong of this fact, leaving your name and address and any other particulars.

Perhaps there are many of you, who, although baptized at a very early age, did not come into a contact with God's real TRUTH until much later. Perhaps you are wondering about an earlier baptism. Others, having never been baptized, have come to realize the absolute necessity of it as a requirement towards salvation. And so, regardless of the category, if you wish these men to call upon you in your home this coming summer, then you should write in *immediately*.

The tours are being planned now! There will be multiple *hundreds* to be visited—and it may not be possible, in every case, to reach each one *this sum-*

mer! However, we shall strive, with the help of Almighty God, to reach every single individual writing in and requesting baptism. So, IF you have come to feel the way *Jesus said you should*, and truly want to be baptized and become a begotten child of God, then *write in immediately*, and let us know!

"In the Meantime . . ."

Remember, God commands us all to GROW in grace and knowledge! (II Pet. 3:18). The way to *grow* is by a careful, constant STUDY of the inspired word of God! "So then faith cometh by hearing, and hearing *by the word of God!*" (Rom. 10:17). USE your time prior to baptism! Study the Bible! Study the scriptures of down-to-earth, solid, specific points on *Christian living* God demands of every child of His! *Put yourself into the picture*, check up on yourself, and apply these inspired words of God to *your own life!* Grow closer to God, make sure you are really *repentant!*

Have you read the booklet, *All About Water Baptism?* If not, write for it immediately!

Finally—if *you* have decided *you are* not meant or included in this article—and have decided you are "not ready"—BE CAREFUL! Don't "kid" yourself! Be *sure!* IT'S MUCH LATER THAN YOU THINK!

Today's Religious Customs . . . how did they begin?

(Continued from page 24)

tached to June 24—a pagan festival?

As the *pagans* had already established December 25th as Christ's supposed birthday (*actually* it is in the *autumn*), that could not be used. *But* June 24th—six months earlier—*could pass for* John the Baptist's birthday! John was born 6 months before Christ. The Feast could be called the nativity of St. John. But where could a connection be found between John and the name of Tammuz? In the Latin language adopted by the Church, John was called *Joannes*.

One of the many sacred names by which Tammuz or Nimrod was called, when he reappeared in the *Mysteries* after he was slain, was *Oannes* (Bunsen's

Egypt, vol. i, p. 707). How similar is *Oannes* to *Joannes* or John!

But *Oannes* was the ancient Fish-god. How did Nimrod acquire this characteristic and name?

When Nimrod was overcome by Shem, Semiramis concocted a fable. She said that Nimrod took refuge in the sea. When he therefore "reappeared" he did so in the very character of *Oannes*, the Fish-god (*Hislop*, p. 114).

So the PAGAN "NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN" FESTIVAL, which actually commemorates the death and reviving of pagan *Oannes* or Tammuz, BEARS A CHRISTIAN NAME!

How was this Christian-named fes-

tival originally observed? How has it been observed even into *our* times!

"St. John's Day" in Britain

Before Christianity entered the British Isles, the 24th of June was celebrated by the Druids with blazing *midsummer fires* in honor of their great divinity who was Baal (another name for Nimrod or Tammuz). It was thus observed to our times! "I have seen the people running and leaping through the St. John's fires in Ireland . . . proud of passing through unsinged . . . thinking themselves in a special manner blest by the ceremony" (Toland's *Druids*, p. 107). It has been a *widespread* custom. Herodotus, Wilkinson, Layard, and many others record its observance in various countries.

The grand distinguishing solemnities of St. John's Eve are the mid-summer fires. These were lighted in France, Switzerland, Ireland, and Scotland (Hislop, p. 114). "When the FIRE had burned for several hours and got very low, everyone PASSED THROUGH IT . . . here was . . . worship of Baal, if not Molech (II Kings 23:10) too, by millions professing the Christian name" (Bell's *Wayside Pictures*, p. 225).

SO, WE SEE THE WORSHIP OF THE SUN-GOD OR SERPENT AGAIN IN OUR TIMES, UNDER THE CLOAK OF A CHRISTIAN NAME! Our world is not as far removed from paganism as we think!

What does *God* say about this heathen practice? The people of Old Testament times were practicing this identical rite to honor this *same* pagan god. They built the high places of Baal ". . . to cause their sons and their daughters to PASS THROUGH THE FIRE TO MOLECH [Nimrod]: which I commanded them *not!*" (Jer. 32:35). Again *God* says, "When ye make your sons to *pass through the fire*, YE POLLUTE YOURSELVES WITH YOUR IDOLS, even unto this day" (Ezek. 20:31). *God* COMMANDS that this idolatrous festival NOT be kept! He says it is IDOLATRY!—in honor of an idol god! THE PEOPLE TODAY HAVE OTHER GODS BEFORE THE TRUE GOD. The very *first* of the Ten Commandments says, "THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME" (Ex. 20:3).

What About Christmas Observance?

The day set apart by Semiramis in memory of the "*new birth*" of Nimrod,

her husband who had been slain by Shem, is familiar to everyone. What day is this? CHRISTMAS!

Through her *mysterios* her dead husband was said to have been miraculously conceived of Semiramis and to have returned in the form of Horus (Semiramis' illegitimate son). It was the BIRTHDAY OF THE UNCONQUERED SUN! (Giesler's *Ecclesiastical History*, vol. ii, p. 42). She claimed Shem had not vanquished Nimrod even though he had slain him.

In Egypt, the *son* of Isis (Semiramis), the Babylonian queen of heaven, was supposedly born at the approximate time of the winter solstice (Wilkin's *Egyptians*, vol. iv, p. 405). The winter solstice was then December 25, the place marking the beginning of the days becoming longer and longer. TO THE PAGAN SUN-WORSHIPPERS IT MEANT THAT THEIR GOD—THE SUN—WAS NOT GOING TO DIE AFTER ALL, BUT WAS BECOMING STRONGER AND STRONGER. The very name "Yule-day" which is used among us today proves its pagan and Babylonian origin (Mallet's *Northern Antiquities*, vol. 1, p. 130). "Yule" was the

Chaldee name for "infant" or "little child" *long before Christ's* time. It did not appear in Christian worship until around 350 A.D.!

The Sabaeans of Arabia regarded the 24th day of December as the birthday of their pagan "Lord" (Stanley's *History of Philosophy*, p. 1066, col. 1). The Saxons observed December the 25th. Hislop, p. 96 states: "It was an essential principle of the Babylonian system, that the Sun or Baal was the only God. When, therefore, Tammuz was worshipped as *god incarnate*," (after he had supposedly taken the human form, as Christ did centuries later) "that implied that he was an *incarnation of the Sun*."

Here again, then, we see why observing the BIRTHDAY of Tammuz is *Sun-worship!* In observing THIS DAY, PEOPLE OF OUR TIME ACTUALLY PAY HOMAGE TO A MORTAL MAN (now *dead*) AS BEING GOD INCARNATE, WHILE THEY THINK THEY ARE HONORING CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY.

And the Christmas Tree?

What about *today's* Christmas tree? The *Christmas tree* in Egypt was the palm; in Rome it was the fir. The mother (Semiramis) of Adonis the Sun-God (Grecian name of Nimrod) was *mystically* said to have been changed into a tree—the Christmas tree. While in this state she was said to have brought forth her so-called 'divine' son (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, lib. XV 500-513). Hislop, on page 97, indicates that if the mother was the tree, the son must have been the counterfeit "Man of the branch." But Christ is the *true* "Branch" (Jer. 23:5). This is *another* pagan duality.

This, he states, accounts for putting the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas eve and the appearance of the Christmas tree next morning—the tree that supposedly brings all *divine gifts* to men. When people use the Christmas tree in their celebrations, they pay homage to Semiramis, the mother (and giver) of the false "Savior." Who then do they thus acknowledge as their savior? NIMROD—the very man who "saved" mankind from following God at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:6).

What does *God* say about the Christmas tree? "Learn *not* the way of the heathen . . . for one cutteth a tree . . .

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They deck it with silver and gold, and fasten it . . . that it move not . . . they are altogether brutish and foolish" (Jer. 10:1-8). God commands us to commemorate Christ's death (Mark 14:22-24)—not His birth, which occurred before winter (Luke 2:8).

Christ's Conception Counterfeited

Is there a counterfeit for the *miraculous conception* of Christ? Yes! Lady Day, celebrated each March 25—9 months before the supposed "Savior" was born. This day was observed long before Christ's time in honor of the Babylonian "Messiah" (*Ammianus Marcellinus*, book 23, ch. 3, p. 355).

How clear it is becoming that the Devil supervised the fashioning of these counterfeits. They not only could be used in deceiving mankind then, as to the *True* way to salvation, but also could be used in deceiving people today after the *real* Savior came! So we see that **THOSE WHO KEEP CHRISTMAS TODAY MARK THEMSELVES AS WORSHIPPERS OF THE SUN, SATAN, NIMROD, HORUS, AND SEMIRAMIS**—the apostate heroes who founded civilization after the Flood in defiance of the way of God. What a group for a modern "Christian" to be worshipping!

And Semiramis? Does she have a day? Yes, she *has* a day reserved for herself also—Lady Day—and the people here and in other countries are dutifully keeping it! After all, had it not been for her, the MYSTERIES (II Thes. 2:7) which deceive the earth today would never have been formulated and the pagans would never have had a false "savior."

The name of Semiramis found on Assyrian monuments is "Ishtar." This corresponds to one of the titles of the Babylonian Beltes (Semiramis)—called Astarte in the Bible. So, the very word "Easter" shows that this festival originated in Babylon (Layard's *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 629).

What does this day commemorate?

Origin of Easter Observance

To discover the origin of Easter we have to go back to Semiramis and her Mysteries again!

Notice what Hislop admits on page 110: "As everything that was good . . .

to mankind was represented in the Chaldean (Babylonian) mysteries, as in some way connected with the Babylonian goddess (Semiramis), so the greatest blessing to the human race which the ark contained . . . was held to be Astarte . . . the great civilizer and benefactor of the world . . . It was easy for her worshippers to be made to believe that in a previous incarnation she had lived in the Antediluvian world."

The words for "egg" and "house" in the Hebrew and Chaldean are very similar. So the house or ark of Noah floating on the waters, became the "Egg." "An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates . . . out came Venus, who afterward became the Assyrian goddess" (Hyginus' *Fabulae*, pp. 148, 149)—that is, Astarte. The pagan classic poems are full of fables of the Mystic egg of the Babylonians.

The event that the "Ishtar egg" or Easter egg first commemorated was the "arrival" (birth) of the future *mother of the Sun-god* on this earth after the Flood! So we see *Easter commemorates Semiramis' birthday*—not Christ's resurrection!

Easter worship is actually sun-goddess worship!

What does God say about observing Easter? "Trust ye not in lying words, . . . the women . . . make cakes to the queen of heaven [This world today is doing the same thing!] . . . walk ye in the ways I have commanded . . . But they hearkened not . . ."

And what happens to those who continue to disobey?—"The carcasses of this people shall be meat for the fowls of heaven" (Jer. 7:1-33). *This* is the *result* of Easter keeping—of following the Devil's deceptive Mysteries!

Jesus knew that men would attach His

UND JETZT INS DEUTSCHE ÜBERSETZT!

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ABENDMAHL nehmen?“

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name to pagan practices, claiming to worship Him. He shouted the warning: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and *do not* the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

There is not space in this issue of the magazine to reveal the full and astounding history of Easter—and of the origin of the "Good Friday—Easter Sunday" tradition. But you can have the full answers *free* in the three eye-opening booklets: *Easter is Pagan!* and *The Resurrection Was NOT on Sunday!* and *The Crucifixion Was NOT on Good Friday!*

You have never read anything like them. The truth is shocking.

Let us now notice one more of these deceptions that masquerade as Christian—but are actually pagan!

The Counterfeit Cross

Is the cross which took Christ's life a thing to be proud of and adored? Or has the Devil *deceived* us here also? Our sins and the Devil's deception killed Christ. Satan was to *bruise* the heel of the seed of woman (Gen. 3:15)—*Satan* was to kill Christ. How did he do this?

Satan deceived us into sinning and **OUR** sins killed Christ. Should we parade **OUR INSTRUMENT OF DEATH** which took Christ's life before the world and be *proud* of it? But notice even more about the practice of parading the cross.

The true original form of the Chaldean (Babylonian) alphabet letter "T" is made like "†"—like the **CROSS THE CHURCHES USE TODAY**—and **WAS THE INITIAL OF TAMMUZ**, the sun-god. "This was marked on the foreheads of those initiated into the *Mysteries*; the Vestal virgins of *pagan* (not modern) Rome wore it suspended from their necklaces as nuns do now. There is hardly a *pagan* tribe where the cross has not been found . . . the X which in itself was not an unnatural symbol of Christ, and which was once regarded as such, was allowed to go entirely into disuse and the Tau, "†," the sign of Tammuz, the false Messiah, was everywhere substituted in its stead" (Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 119).

People and churches nowadays are even going to great lengths to *identify themselves with* the symbol of the *Sun-god!* The great display of this symbol today is an outward sign of how blinded this *world* is to the truth of God.

(To be continued next issue)

Will the Churches Unite?

Can Protestants and Catholics get together in the coming Vatican Council? What does prophecy say *will happen*? Here's the startling answer in this sequel to last month's article.

by Herman L. Hoeh

ONE stumbling block is keeping Protestants and Catholics from uniting. Protestants usually refuse to face it. It is the very heart and core of Catholic doctrine.

That stumbling block, we learned last month, is *Church Government!*

Why the Controversy over 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.

The Catholic Church contends it has the only form of Government which can bring about unity.

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. How Catholic Church Government became patterned after the pagan civil Roman government was partially revealed IN THE PREVIOUS ISSUE.

Now we shall see how it developed into a great religious hierarchy—the Papacy—ruling over many nations. You will be dumbfounded to observe how local elders—who departed from the true Church of God which Jesus built—became great bishops, how they first organized into local dioceses. Then you will see how they further achieved unity

by copying the Roman provincial government. Notice, too, how the great religious "patriarchs" arose—how the Roman Emperor exercised the office of Head of the Catholic Church—and how the bishop of Rome finally gained absolute power.

And then see what prophecy reveals for our day. You will be shocked to see what the Bible reveals! You will discover the real source of Church unity!

Human Church Government Grows

With the progress of time the development of ecclesiastical jurisdiction increased apace. Not only had a local elder usurped authority over his fellow elders, thus receiving the *exclusive* title of "Bishop," but he had also acquired the dominion over all church congregations pertaining to a city—termed a *diocese*. The next step in the development of human church government was the adoption of the Roman civil division of the "province" in order to *unify* the dioceses and harmonize the conflicting traditions that were developing in church customs.

Observe what Bingham wrote: "A province was the cities of a whole region subjected to the authority of the one chief magistrate, who resided in the metropolis, or chief city of the province. This was commonly a praetor, or a proconsul . . . so likewise in the same metropolis there was a bishop, whose power extended over the whole province, whence he was called the metropolitan, or primate, as being the principal bishop of the province" (page 342).

The human government of the churches, the episcopate, was no longer a local association of bishop and elders, but *monarchical*. "The bishops were now regularly nominated by the clergy, approved by the congregations, and finally inducted into office by the ceremony of ordination." (*A History of Rome to 565 A.D.*, p. 398). Toward the close of

the second century irregular synods in Ephesus, Jerusalem, Pontus and at Rome were held to assist in substituting the heathen Easter for the passover (Milman's footnote to Gibbons *Decline and Fall*). By 250 A.D., these synods were held regularly, especially in Greece and Asia Minor.

From where did *this* practice come? *Not* from the Bible!

Says the historian Gibbon: They "*borrowed the model* of a representative council from the celebrated examples of their own country. . . ."

"It was soon established," he says further, "as a custom *and a law*, that the bishops of the independent churches should meet in the capital for the *province* at stated periods of spring and autumn." The proceedings were moderated "by the presence of a listening multitude. Their decrees, which were styled Canons, regulated every important controversy of faith and discipline. . . ."

The church government was beginning to issue decrees! The "IMAGE" was beginning to SPEAK with the force of law! Faith and discipline ceased to proceed from Scripture. Pagan human traditions and customs became "the law" of the church.

"Suited to Private Ambition"

With uncanny accuracy Gibbon explains that the "institution of synods was so well suited to private ambition, and to public interest, that in the space of a few years it was perceived throughout the whole empire . . . and the catholic church soon assumed the form, and acquired the strength, of a great federative republic."

Synods were universally accepted. Each local diocese, like a republic with its elected representatives and an ecclesiastical governor, joined together to form a province in the "public interest." From provincial councils there poured forth an ever increasing flow of corre-

spondence *federating* all the provinces of the catholic or universal churches.

Exactly as the bishops had so recently grasped authority over every presbyter—who now became a priest—so in these provincial synods the difference in rank of the city from which each came caused the bishop of the metropolis or city of the province to prepare secretly to usurp authority over his fellow bishops and to acquire "the lofty titles of Metropolitans and Primates."

By now the mutual alliance of the bishops enabled them to attack the original "rights of the people" in having their "say-so." The participation of the people gradually ceased amid the *superstitious* reverence for the "divine authority" of the assemblies of the bishops. The bishops owed no allegiance to any higher human authority than their own assemblies in which they *voted* on matters of faith.

After permitting the "Christianity" to become the State religion of the Roman Empire, Constantine found it essential to unify conflicts within its ranks. To this end *he called the first universal or ecumenical council*—which met in Nicaea in A.D. 325. Says Boak: "Procedure in the councils was modelled upon that of the Roman Senate; the meetings were conducted by imperial legates, their decisions were issued in the form of imperial edicts, and it was to the emperor that appeals from these decrees were made" (*A History of Rome to 565 A.D.*, p. 492).

Truth was stamped out, the true Church fled the confines of the Roman Empire and became lost in history!

Emperor Makes Himself Head of Church

There was as yet no Pope, in the half-pagan church organized by Constantine. *The Roman Emperor was head of this Church.* The laws of the councils were laws of the State. The Roman Senate, not a Biblical example, was the model. Church government was gradually being fashioned more and more like the Roman civil government.

It was also during the age of Constantine that the Roman Empire was divided into great dioceses, thirteen in number. These were made up of numerous provinces over which bishops with the titles

of Metropolitan or Primate presided. With the enforced universal councils being the highest assembly ruling the churches, Gibbon says it was not "long before an emulation of pre-eminence and power prevailed among the Metropolitans themselves, each affecting to display . . . the temporal honors and advantages of the city over which he presided. . . ."

Naturally the Metropolitans who resided in the capitals of these great dioceses were to dominate all the other Primates over the provinces in his realm.

Thus was the title of "Exarch" or "Patriarch" acquired by less than a dozen great bishops. There were now four grades of bishops: country bishops who became parish priests, city bishops, Metropolitans, Patriarchs.

Who would eventually be the Universal Bishop? We shall now see.

It is notable that the title *vicarii* (vicars) was given by the Civil Government to the civil administrators of the great dioceses. Although the Patriarchs of the Catholic Church were really

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

How can Revelation 14:9-11 be reconciled with Malachi 4:3, which says "the wicked shall be ASHES under the soles of our feet"?

The Bible does NOT contradict itself! (John 10:35).

Malachi 4:3 proves that the wicked will DIE—they will be *burned up* so that *only* ASHES remain! The soul is *not* immortal and there will be *no eternal tormenting* for the wicked! The soul is MORTAL and *subject to death!* But—what is the meaning of Revelation 14:11, "And the smoke of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever . . ."

There is no contradiction here!

Notice that verse 8 gives the TIME SETTING of this passage. It is speaking about the impending fall of "Babylon"—a great religious-political system which is the RESURRECTED ROMAN EMPIRE led by the symbolic harlot "woman"—the great apostate, paganized *church* falsely calling herself "Christian."

Verses 9 and 10 say: ". . . If any man worship the beast [the coming United States of Europe—the resurrected Roman Empire] and his image [the Papacy], and receive his mark . . . he shall be tormented with *fire and brimstone* . . . in the presence of the Lamb"—that is, at Christ's second coming!

Those who have a part in this church-state system of "Babylon," and who re-

ceive this frightful punishment from Almighty God, have "no rest day or night" as long as they remain in that land falling under God's wrath! They will either have to flee that area and seek God's mercy or be tormented by sulphurous fumes *till they perish.*

Notice that this passage does NOT say these individuals are being tormented forever in an ever-burning hell. Verse 11 says: ". . . The SMOKE of their torment ascendeth up for ever and ever. . . ." It is the smoke that ascends forever. It does not say the fire burns forever, but that the smoke that is already up there continuously ascends! It happens even today whenever fires burn up, but smoke is still in the air!

This fire is on the earth, not in some "hell" away off!

So the Bible plainly teaches that flesh and blood is subject to combustion and death. Malachi 4:3 says the *ashes* of the wicked will finally be under the feet of the righteous. And if the wicked are forever *ashes* after the earth is burned, then their smoke (or *ashes in the air*) will remain in the atmosphere "for ever and ever." So there is no contradiction between these verses! The wicked will be DESTROYED and will die that *death*—the second death—from which there is never to be a resurrection (Rev. 20:6,14).

the *vicars* of the Emperor, who was head of the Catholic State Church, they soon claimed to be the special vicars of Christ, as all bishops had done decades prior in order to gain their eminence.

Great "Patriarchs" Rise to Power

The Roman Empire was also divided into four *Prefectures*. While the Catholics did not institute any ecclesiastical office to compare to the *prefects*, they did soon find that among the *Patriarchs* over the dioceses, there was a rivalry that brought forth four dominant Patriarchs in the East and one in the West. These were of Constantinople, Antioch, Jerusalem and Alexandria in the East and Rome in the West.

Bingham, pages 344, 345, and other authors point out a highly important fact. The dioceses in the West, with the exception of Africa, *lacked* Patriarchs in Spain, Gaul and Britain, or else failed to send them to the councils. ROME WAS THE ONLY WESTERN PATRIARCHATE THAT REPRESENTED THE WEST IN DEALINGS WITH EASTERN BISHOPS, says Boak in the aforementioned book, pages 492, 493. It was easy to foresee that the bishop at Rome would be the dominant Patriarch since the Roman church was the greatest and its bishops claimed the inheritance of the attributes of the office of the apostle Peter by progressive *traditions*.

Roman Bishop Not Always Head of the Church!

That the bishop at Rome was *not*, from the time of Peter, the head of the Church is admitted by the Roman Catholic Du Pin, who states, to the later embarrassment of Catholic doctrine, that Germany, Spain, France, Britain, Africa, Illyrcum and seven of the Italic provinces were NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE BISHOP AT ROME during the early ages (Du Pin de Disciplin. Eccles. Dessert. 1. n. 14. p. 92, quoted in Bingham's *Antiquities*, p. 348).

The bishop of Milan, Italy, was never ordained by the bishop of Rome, as he would have been if he were under his jurisdiction. This is even admitted by Pope Pelagius in one of his epistles (Bingham, p. 348).

The African Church under the Patriarch of Carthage was originally independent as Justinian declares. In the

22nd canon of the Council of Milevis, the African churches prohibited appeals to the bishop at Rome. For centuries, Baluzius declared, the French synods "never allowed any appeals from their own determination to the pope" (Bingham, p. 349). The British or Celtic Church did not come under Roman dominion until the Synod of Whitby (664) brought about British conformity to the Roman Catholic mode of Easter observance. (E. R. Edman, *The Light in Dark Ages*, p. 184.)

The advancing star of the Roman Bishop developed rapidly with the transference in the fourth century of the capital of the Empire to "New Rome"—Constantinople. Up to this time there were no great pontiffs that provoked jealousy, neither were there such factions that split the East. The bishops of Rome were carried upward by the sweep of dominant opinion. Eastern feuds disrupted the patriarchates in that area and left only the most recent, Constantinople, in the leadership. The domination of the Emperor in Constantinople was a disastrous handicap for the Eastern churches. The bishop of Rome was immeasurably freer to expand.

In 343 the Council of Sardica, COMPOSED OF WESTERN LEADERS ONLY, not a universal or ecumenical council, confirmed the Western feeling that the bishop of Rome ought to be the Head of the Church by sanctioning Pope Julius as the final arbiter in disputes resulting from the Arian controversy. Thirty-five years later the bishop at Rome became the "Pontifex Maximus" or *Supreme Pontiff*. This title once belonged to the high priest of the pagan Roman priesthood before Julius Caesar, the first Emperor, was granted it. Thereafter, the office was passed to succeeding Emperors until Gratian refused it in 376. Two years later Damasus, Bishop of Rome, was declared Supreme Pontiff by *imperial edict*. (Bower's *Lives of the Popes*.)

The pagan Roman College of Pontiffs later became the Catholic College of Cardinals. The pagan Roman *Pontifex Maximus* "had charge of the calendar, fixed dates of the public festivals, and announced each month what days were open and what closed to public business," wrote Boak in his previously

mentioned work, page 67. Little wonder that the Catholic Supreme Pontiff should "think to change times and laws" (Daniel 7:25) in opposition to Jesus Christ who is the actual Head of the true Church (Hebrews 7:21; 10:21).

The Papacy Finally Develops

Many early writers and the populace termed the bishops in the Catholic Church "princes" in imitation of Isaiah 60:17 which they misread: "I will make thy princes peace, and thy bishops righteousness." It became the customary view that the Church was the Kingdom and its leaders the rulers (Bingham, p. 22). The gospel of the Kingdom of God which Jesus brought was gradually rejected. Instead of preaching the gospel of the Kingdom or government of God—*divine government* with divine laws—this church established *human church government*. The Church of God is constituted of those saints who are begotten and led by the Holy Spirit. It is *not* a kingdom, for Christ's kingdom is not of this present world or age (John 18:36). But here is a great church that deceived the people into forming a duplicate or "image" of the *civil government* of the Roman Empire.

We shall now see how the Roman bishops sought by their claims, and obtained by *popular approval*, the position of *Ecclesiastical Caesar*. With the rapid decline of the Western Roman Empire, the bishop of Rome rose in respect with the people. He determined to be the King of Kings in the government of the Church.

At the close of the fourth century Augustine wrote the "City of God," a book envisioning a Universal Catholic Empire of which the Roman Empire was the pattern. A few years later Innocent I pushed the claims of the papacy vigorously. Following him came Leo I, styled by many the first Pope. *He was the first Latin preacher*; for prior to him there seem to have been *no public preaching* by Catholics in Rome according to Sozomen (Milman, *Latin Christianity*, p. 56). Leo claimed to be the heir to Peter's primacy, advocated the complete "organization of the Church on the model of the Empire, with the pope as its religious head." He said resistance to his will was worthy of "hell," and advocated

the death penalty for heresy.

Boak wrote in his book: "It was Leo also who induced the western emperor Valentinian III in 455 to order the whole western Church to obey the bishop of Rome as the heir to the primacy of Peter" (p. 493). Despite this decree that made the Bishop of Rome the head of Western Christendom, the Council of Chalcedon, 451, a universal council claiming divine authority, placed the Patriarch of Constantinople "on an equality with the pope, a recognition against which the Pope Leo protested in vain."

Papal Power Increases

Within another fifty years the common term "papa" from which "pope" is derived was applied almost exclusively in the West to the bishop of Rome, although, in prior years, "it was a common title of all bishops."

The Eastern Catholics did not recognize this papal title, for in the time of Pope Gregory I, 590-604, the Patriarch of Constantinople claimed the title of "Universal Bishop." Against this Eastern usurpation of authority, Gregory stormed. He refused to appropriate the title to himself for obvious reasons, yet *he exercised* all the authority of a universal bishop.

After the Council of Constantinople in 869, the Roman and Eastern Churches ceased to meet together in ecumenical councils. In 1123 it was decided that the popes should appoint all bishops. The head of the "image of the beast" now governed with absolute power the entire ecclesiastical government. About 750 years later (1871), the Pope secured the declaration of infallibility when speaking "from the chair."

To assist the Roman Pontiff in governing his Church there have been developed through the centuries certain agencies. The College of Cardinals (Cardinals are bishops of dioceses) collectively advise the Pope. Under them are twelve Congregations, three Tribunals and five Offices of the Roman Curia (bureaus, boards and courts) organized to administer Church affairs.

The "image" or "model"—the Papacy—is called by Catholics *hierarchy of jurisdiction*. It is "the governing body of the Catholic Church—the Pope and the

other bishops throughout the world." They possess according to Catholic sources "the power to make laws, to sit in judgment, and to fix spiritual penalties when necessary."

Its attributes belong ONLY TO GOD. To attribute them to any organization of men is to set that organization in the place of God—to commit idolatry—to worship the image of the beast! Not only does the Roman hierarchy claim such powers, but also millions of PROTESTANTS ARE WORSHIPPING SIMILAR IMAGES OF THEIR OWN MAKING—human church governments which pretend to exercise the powers of God.

Prophesied to Happen

Not only does the devil have his *civil* rulers doing his will, but he also has ecclesiastical rulers—ministers who masquerade as the "ministers of righteousness" (II Cor. 11:13-15). Satan is trying to *unify* his world before Christ intervenes in world affairs. That's why the churches are being stirred up to seek *unity*.

Prophecy reveals it will happen—but not the way people think. Before church unity will be achieved by this world's divided sects and denominations, there will be a demonstration of miraculous, supernatural powers—performed through the "power of Satan" (II Thess. 2:8-10)—by a great religious leader. Millions will be swept off their feet by his mighty signs. He will claim to be the source of *unity* in the Christian world. This "false prophet" will even be worshipped "as God" (II Thess. 2:4) and claim the rule over all political powers.

The stage is being set NOW—by the calling of a new council. People everywhere are curious, even expectant, to *see* what happens.

It is time you were warned about what's soon to happen. Bowing down to human church government is idolatry. Everyone committing such idolatry—soon to be forced on the world—will suffer the wrath of God, the seven last plagues without mercy! *Your only hope* is to COME OUT OF THIS IDOLATROUS SYSTEM THAT IS GRIPPING THE WORLD. "Come out of her, my people," says God (Rev. 18-4). Come under His Government by surrendering your life to Him!

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