

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOLUME XXV, NUMBER 5

MAY, 1960



The delightful AMBASSADOR COLLEGE campus with spectacular stream and gushing spring in foreground and one of the women students' residences in background. Read about the BIG NEWS of our new College in Britain in this issue!

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VOL. XXV NO. 5

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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

Alcoholic Gains All He Lost

"I certainly do want to continue receiving The PLAIN TRUTH. I look forward to every copy. I got so low as to become an alcoholic in the very worst way. For several years I put my family and everything in the background, and having one of the best trades gave it up and everything else that was worthwhile. But, thanks to The WORLD TOMORROW program and The PLAIN TRUTH I have regained all I lost and more.

Reader from Illinois

Breathtaking Experience

"Just finished the second Correspondence lesson; what an experience, so revealing, so breathtaking, as the Bible tells of what will soon take place in the world we now live in."

Student from Illinois

"Wandering in the Desert"

"Thank you so much for your booklets and broadcasts. I feel as if I had been wandering in the desert for a long time and just found a well of water."

Lady from Pennsylvania

No Subscription Price

"I know there is no charge for your magazines, and if there were I don't know how you could decide on the price because they are priceless! All the valuable information that is in them couldn't be paid for."

Man from Cleveland, Ohio

Now Understands Bible

"I have been a professing Christian many years, but just now my eyes are opened to the truth. When I first heard your program, I was afraid to listen to it. I thought I was satisfied the way I was and I didn't want to get my mind stirred up. Then a friend gave me a PLAIN TRUTH and I read every word. I am so glad I did. I can read my Bible now and understand it so much better than I did before."

Man from Kentucky

Prisoner on "Death Row"

"I've never enjoyed anything more than I have your program. I am on 'death row' and your programs mean so much to me; I look forward to it each evening."

Prisoner from Raiford, Florida

"Ashamed of My Crime"

"I am ashamed of my crime, but I am not ashamed of Christ. I was found guilty of murder and was sentenced to 199 years. So you see why I would like to have your books."

Prisoner from Menard, Illinois

Finds Peace of Mind

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"I have just finished the first four lessons of the Ambassador College Correspondence Course. I have never dreamed the Bible could be so wonderful. I was sick in bed with a peptic ulcer but I would get up and start studying my lessons and the pain would leave. For years I was searching for peace of mind and happiness, and now

I am beginning to find both through the Bible. Also I find I am drawing closer to our wonderful Lord. I can hardly wait for the next lesson."

Man from Chicago, Illinois

Starts to Think

"Until about 9 months ago we did not even have a Bible in the house.

After hearing a few of your broadcasts we started to think that we had better get one and start to study God's Word a little to see if we could understand what's going on with the world."

Couple from Washington

Earnings Not Mine

"The enclosed money order is my tithe for March. I will continue to send this as long as I am able to work. I know now that what I earn is not mine to begin with, and ten per cent is a small part to pay for all the blessings we have received from God."

Man from Vancouver, B.C.

Gives—Then Receives More

"I've been sending you tithes every week and I cannot tell you how much I have received in return. This might not be true of everyone, but each time I mail you some money I seem to always receive more back."

Listener from Texas

Husband Won't Eat Until He Reads PLAIN TRUTH

"We like your PLAIN TRUTH so much. When my husband comes home from work and sees we have the new one I can hardly get him to lay it down to eat or to go to bed until he has read it all."

Lady from Colorado

Mail Carrier Interested

"Dear Mr. Armstrong:

"We have a very faithful, good mail carrier, and when he delivered our PLAIN TRUTH he asked us if we would please save them for him because he is very much interested in reading them. I informed him that we give our copies which we have read to my sister. Will you please send this wonderful magazine to him?"

Woman from Florida

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE LEAPS TO ENGLAND

*A third college to be established, later, in Texas. Here is why
Ambassador is utterly different!*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

LONDON, ENGLAND:

LAST NIGHT in a well known restaurant, my host, a London business man, said "I can well understand why students of university age desire to attend Ambassador College, and why, once there, they never want to leave."

"Your college," he continued, "appears to be quite unlike any other in America, or any here in England."

"Yes, indeed," I responded, "and utterly unlike any other in the world, in certain important respects!"

The College in England

This man had been walking, earlier in the day, over our new college grounds and through the college buildings, near London. He had stated that the magnificently landscaped and spacious grounds, the stately buildings and fine appointments, provide a cultural environment he did not believe was equalled in Britain.

"What an opportunity you have, Mr. Armstrong," he exclaimed, "to offer students an inspiring and uplifting environment, and a type of sound, broadening, and balanced education in the true values of life which the other educational institutions of this world have failed to provide."

He seemed really intrigued with the conception of making available to young men and women the knowledge of *HOW to LIVE*, rather than merely training them to earn a living.

Mr. Benjamin L. Rea and I are in England making plans for the opening of the *second* Ambassador College, just outside London.

It seems a thousand and one things need to be done. The founding of a new college is no small task. Mr. Rea will be the Principal of Ambassador College in the United Kingdom. That is the title used in England to correspond to



AMBASSADOR COLLEGE in the United Kingdom! Here is the entrance to stately Memorial Hall, the main college building.

that of head Dean in an American college.

A Herculean Undertaking

Painters, carpenters and other workmen are now busy getting classrooms, library, study rooms, and dormitory rooms in shape. Mr. Rea and I are ordering thousands of carefully selected volumes for the library; long reading tables for the library rooms; desks for professors; equipment for classrooms; oriental rugs for ground-floor rooms; carpeting for halls, grand stair-case, and general lounging rooms; lighting fixtures for classrooms and hallways; wardrobe cabinets, chests of drawers, study tables, chairs, beds, springs and mattresses for men's and girls' dormitory rooms; just to mention a few of the many, many things to be thought of and provided.

It takes months, in England, to get

delivery on some of these things. They must be ordered now. Also I have placed order for three new Steinway pianos for the Department of Music—two of them semi-concert grands.

Our gardeners have been busily at work for about five months getting the finely landscaped grounds restored to their original beauty, and by late spring and summer, when the green leaves are out on deciduous trees and plants, and the flowers are in bloom, it will be beautiful indeed.

Last week I managed to purchase an important adjoining building which the college shall need, but which we were unable to acquire at the time of the purchase of the main property last summer. This is a finely built (in solid oak and brick) and architecturally attractive assembly hall with music studios.

As to faculty for Ambassador College in United Kingdom, Mr. Rea and I



with Mr. Meredith. He has been our Minister in charge of British and European activities for some two years.

Also I expect to be at the college in England personally for the first several weeks.

Girl Students Also

I want to emphasize—especially for our British readers—that Ambassador College is CO-EDUCATIONAL. Girl students, as well as men, are admitted. Three very charming and accomplished young ladies already have been accepted for admission to Ambassador College in England for the fall term, commencing October 17.

The founders of Ambassador College

A striking view of the interior of Memorial Hall. Here you see Grand Hall and upper floor with doors to various classrooms in background.

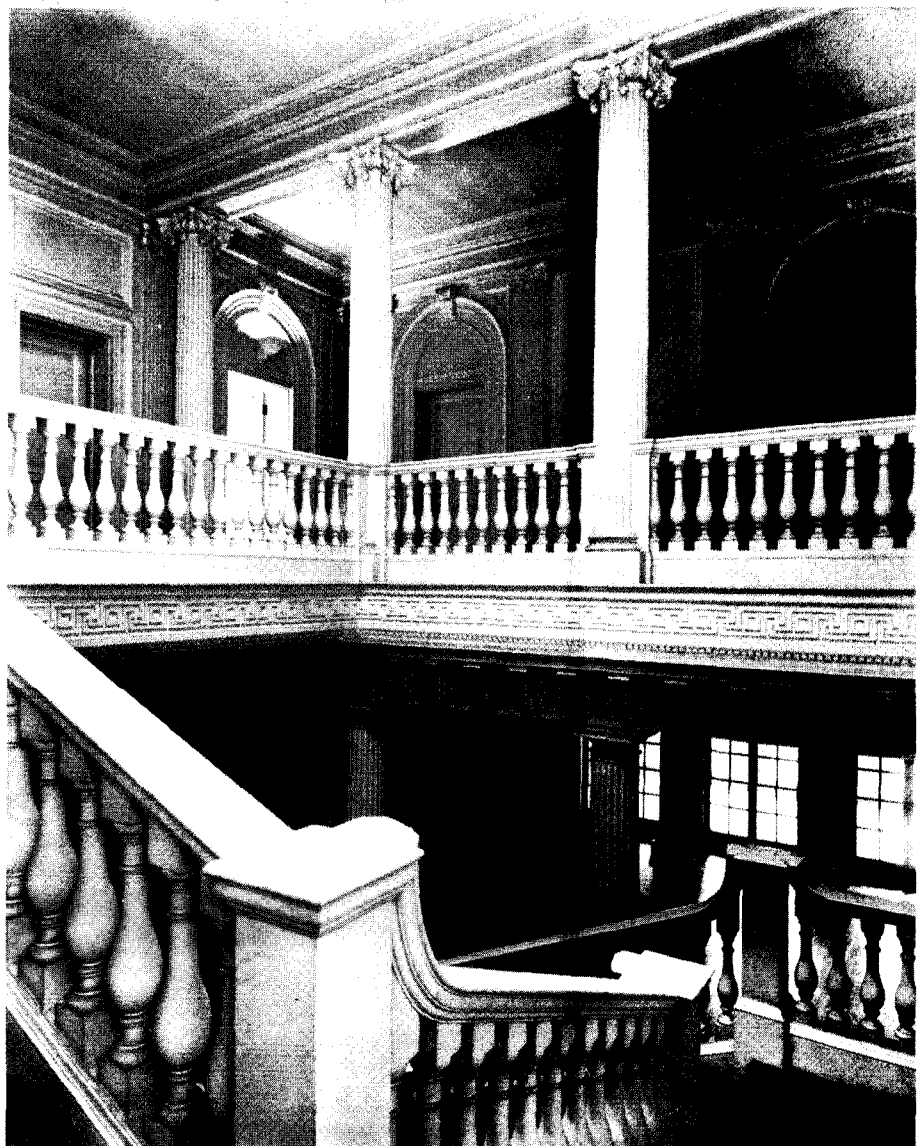
From the South Terrace of Memorial Hall, a beautiful pastoral view of college grounds and English countryside. London rests on the horizon.

have appointed to the post of Head of the Department of Music Dr. Kenneth Abbott, who comes to us with an outstanding record in the music field in England. He has the degree of Doctor of Music from the University of London, and is an Associate of the Royal College of Music and Fellow of the Royal College of Organists.

Instructor in English and French will be Mr. David Priestley Wainright, graduate of Oxford and soon to receive his Master's degree from that university. Mr. Wainright is at present studying at Ambassador College in Pasadena, California, and will do further work at the University of Paris during the summer.

The faculty will be completed with instructors from the Pasadena campus, who will bring to Britain the Ambassador WAY to the recapturing of the true values of life, and the vital things of a broadening and well rounded education.

Mr. Roderick C. Meredith, Professor of Theology at the Pasadena college, will be in England to teach Theology and public speaking the first term; and in this field we also have Mr. Raymond F. McNair, one of our earliest graduates of Ambassador College, an ordained minister of equal rank and experience





Here you see MEMORIAL HALL close-up! Notice how the Georgian architecture blends with the landscape.

in Pasadena, California, believed that most effective development of character, personality, poise and true culture is achieved by social contact of both sexes in college life. This has been borne out by 13 years of experience in the Pasadena institution.

A very practical and important Course in Domestic Science will be offered for girls.

Girl students will be housed for the present in the north wing of the first floor of Memorial Hall, under supervision of a cultured and competent warden, or, as we say in America, house mother, in residence in this same wing.

Men will be housed in separate dormitory buildings on the grounds.

Mr. Rea and I both are overwhelmingly enthusiastic over the marvelous college plant the Eternal God has made available to us here in England. Many here, who know England well, say that there is not another place in all the

United Kingdom so perfectly adapted to this purpose.

The Buildings and Grounds

The main college building is Memorial Hall, so named to honor the memory of Richard David Armstrong. He pioneered the work in Britain and established our offices here. Memorial Hall (formerly the well-known Hainstead House), is a comparatively new (built 1925), stately, spacious and ornate building of 33 rooms. It will provide adequate and large classrooms with exceptionally generous sunlight; the library rooms and reading rooms; the principal's office, and offices of the Registrar and professors; large social and lounging hall; students' dining room and kitchens; girls' dormitory.

This building originally was erected to be the proud mansion of Sir David Yule, one of Europe's richest men, and head of the British East India Co.

Also on the college grounds is the architecturally beautiful Music Hall with spacious auditorium and three music studios for the Department of Music. Then, also, there are many other finely constructed, attractively designed brick buildings to provide administration offices, men's dormitories, and, with slight alterations, future additional classrooms, laboratories and other much needed facilities.

The grounds are simply magnificent, with huge Cedars of Lebanon and great Deodar trees, green the year around, and magnificently landscaped grounds replete with rare shrubs, plants, and flowers, and artistic landscape designing. There is a delightful and artistic little brook flowing over a wooded portion of the grounds, with little waterfalls, and an artistic footbridge. It is doubtful if any college in the United Kingdom is provided with grounds as elaborately beautiful and colorful. To us this is in-



The Ambassador Orchestra under direction of Russell Reiner. College life in Britain will soon provide the same wonderful opportunities for students there as you see here at Ambassador in Pasadena.

deed a gift from God, for which we are most humbly grateful. We feel it will be a source of great inspiration and joy to many fine English students.

In every way, although entirely different, the college and grounds here in England compare favorably with the beautiful and magnificent campus in Pasadena. As some here, who have lived and worked at both colleges, express it, they mutually excell each other in tone and character, and in beauty and facilities.

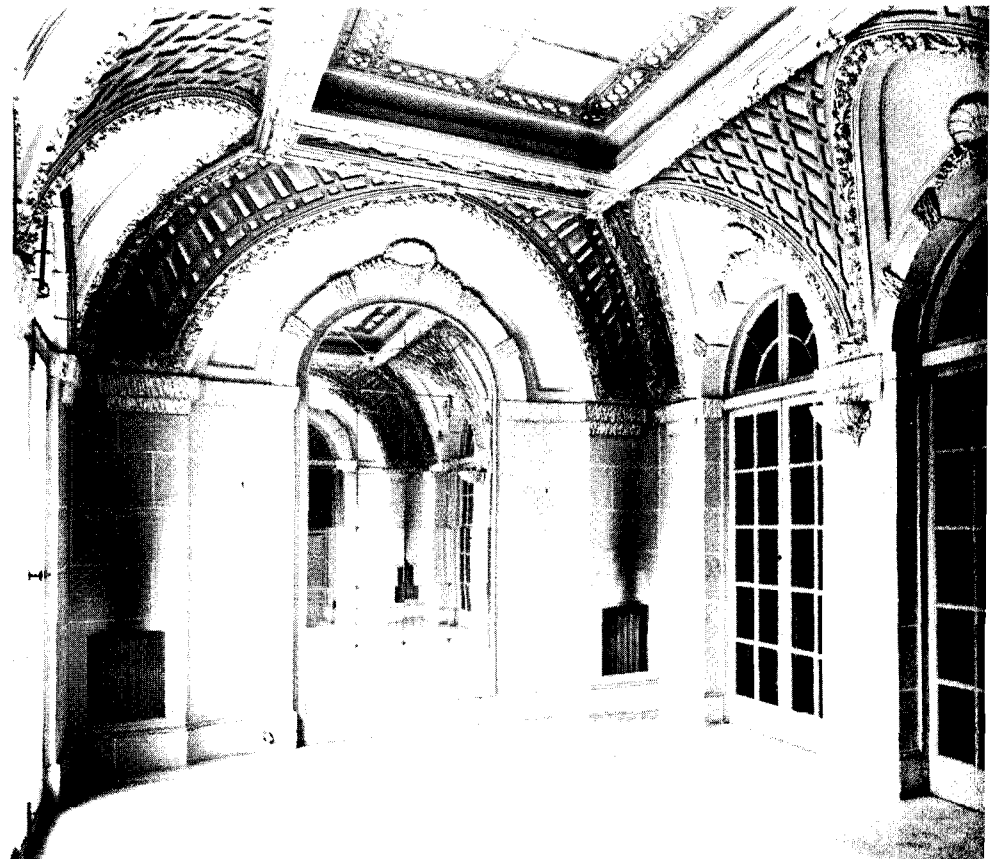
Applications Receivable NOW

Already applications for admission to Ambassador College in the United Kingdom have been received from students in England and North Ireland; from South Africa, Australia, Sweden, Holland and Spain.

Application forms are being printed which will be sent, on request, to other prospective students who wish to enter as pioneer students of Ambassador College in England. The college calendar, or prospectus, for the year 1960-61, will also be sent as soon as printed, containing full information about the college; the courses offered; tuition fees, room and board costs; scholarship offers to help defray expenses for students who will devote a limited number of hours every week assisting in the offices of the Ambassador College Press, doing secretarial work, assisting on the upkeep

of grounds or buildings, or food preparation; and the College loan fund. The prospectus will be well illustrated so that prospective students may see pictured in advance a little of the en-

The ornate Entrance Vestibule leading to the Grand Hall. Every room in the new College building is graciously decorated.



vironment in which they will live, if they are accepted for admission and enroll.

A Third College in Texas

The establishment of a third college, on the junior college level, on our 300-acre project in eastern Texas is also under serious contemplation.

Ambassador College in Pasadena has reached its originally planned ceiling of enrollment. We face, now, the serious problem of whether to limit and stop the growth of the college, or *how* to expand. To deliberately stop the growth of the college at this point is unthinkable. The things of God, when built through human instruments, always start the *smallest*, but, like the proverbial grain of mustard seed, they continue growing until they become the largest. God does not stop growth.

Last year we were forced to reject a large number of applicants who seriously wanted to attend Ambassador. To be informed that we had reached our limit of enrollment and that there was not more room was, we know, a very keen



Above, the Sunken Garden (left foreground), with Music Hall and woods and English countryside.

disappointment to many.

We feel that the opening, a year or two later, of a Junior College on our large Texas grounds, might solve this situation. Our thinking, at the present time, is that approximately half of our new first-year students each year would go to the Texas campus for their first two years, transferring to the Pasadena campus for the junior and senior years. Those who do not go on to Pasadena for the Bachelor of Arts degree would be granted an Associate of Arts degree from the Texas campus at the end of the two years there.

Exchange Between Britain and U.S.A.

Another new policy now under serious contemplation is this: Top ranking students at Ambassador College in England to be awarded some type of scholarship by which they would study their third or fourth year at Ambassador

College in Pasadena, with opportunity to see a good deal of America; and top ranking students of Ambassador College in Pasadena to be awarded a similar scholarship providing opportunity to study their third or fourth year at the college in England, with opportunity to see something of England and Europe.

I have personally had this idea in mind since early 1947, before the college opened in Pasadena. At that time we were contemplating a branch college in Lugano, Switzerland.

The number of such students—whether three or four, or whether eight or ten—from each college each year will have to be determined later by circumstances. I personally feel, at this writing, that such awards will be made, not alone on mental brilliance and sheer academic standing, but also on motivation, attitude, personality development, and general all-around progress. Educa-

tion, at Ambassador, is much more than mere book learning, although we certainly do not neglect or undervalue knowledge from books.

I feel that such scholarships will offer every student an incentive to drive himself or herself to the very highest level of development and accomplishment.

Graduate School at Pasadena

We contemplate only the one Graduate School of Theology. That is the present one on the Pasadena campus. Of course graduates of the college in England who continue for higher degrees in post-graduate work will come to Pasadena. The policy will be such that deserving students accepted for this higher level work will not be prevented by personal financial considerations. I do not know just what arrangement will be provided, but an adequate and proper

plan will be worked out, so that opportunity depends on qualifications, not monetary condition.

The Graduate School of Theology offers courses leading to the advanced

degrees of M.A. in Theology, and Doctor of Theology.

Growth of Pasadena Campus

The original Ambassador College campus at Pasadena continues constantly

to expand. Students there are thrilled to see constant development, improvement, and enlargement every month. Indeed, many have active part in this development by part-time work on-

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.
 WEAW—Chicago—1330 on dial—7:00 p.m., Sundays, 7:00 a.m., Mon. thru Sat.
 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.
 WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 p.m. Sun.; 8:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
 WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—7:00 a.m. daily.
 WMIE—Miami, Fla.—1140 on dial—8:30 a.m. Sun.; 11:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 WGBS—Miami, Fla.—710 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sun.
 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.
 KOME—Tulsa, Okla.—1300 on dial—12:15 p.m., Mon. thru Sat. 9:00 p.m., Sun.
 KBYE—Okla. City, Okla.—890 on dial—10:30 a.m., Sun.; 12:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
 WFAA—Dallas, Tex.—570 on dial—6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat. At 820 on dial—9:30 a.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.
 KGBX—Springfield, Mo.—1260 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sunday; 6:15 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.
 WEW—St. Louis, Mo.—770 on dial—1:00 p.m., Sun.—12:30 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.

WKYB—Paducah, Ky.—570 on dial—12:00 noon, Sun. thru Sat.
 WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 a.m., daily.
 KCPX—Salt Lake City, Utah—1320 on dial—7:00 p.m. nightly.
 KIDO—Boise, Idaho—630 on dial—9:05 p.m., daily.
 KFYR—Bismarck, N. Dak.—550 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.
 WNAX—Yankton, S. Dak.—570 on dial—8:00 p.m. nightly.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST, ALASKA AND HAWAII

KGO—San Francisco—810 on dial—9:00 p.m. Mon. thru Sat.—10:00 p.m. Sun.
 KABC—Los Angeles—790 on dial—9:30 p.m., Sun.; 7:25 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.; 8:00 p.m., Sat.
 KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—6:30 p.m., daily.
 KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 a.m. & 12:30 p.m. daily.
 XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 p.m. every night.
 XEMO—San Diego, Cal.—860 on dial—7:30 a.m. daily.
 KITO—San Bernardino—1290 on dial—7:00 p.m. daily.
 KIRO—Seattle, Wash.—710 on dial—9:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
 KNBX—Seattle—1050 on dial—12:00 noon every day.
 KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—10:00 p.m., Sundays; 9:00 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.
 KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.
 KFQD—Anchorage, Alaska—730 on dial—9:00 p.m., nightly.
 KGMB, Honolulu and KHBC, Hilo—2:30 p.m., Sundays, 7:15 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

TO EUROPE

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

TO AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE 10:00 p.m., Saturdays; 10:30 p.m., Mondays and Tuesdays.
 RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (Belgian Congo)—OQ2AD—7150 kc., 10:00 p.m., Sun. thru Fri.

TO ASIA

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

TO AUSTRALIA

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

TO LATIN AMERICA

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



An interior view of the constantly expanding Ambassador Library in Pasadena. Quiet study rooms are provided. The Library is already being chosen for Ambassador in the United Kingdom.

Right, another view of Ambassador, United Kingdom. The Grand Hall, showing the richly carved staircase leading to classrooms above.

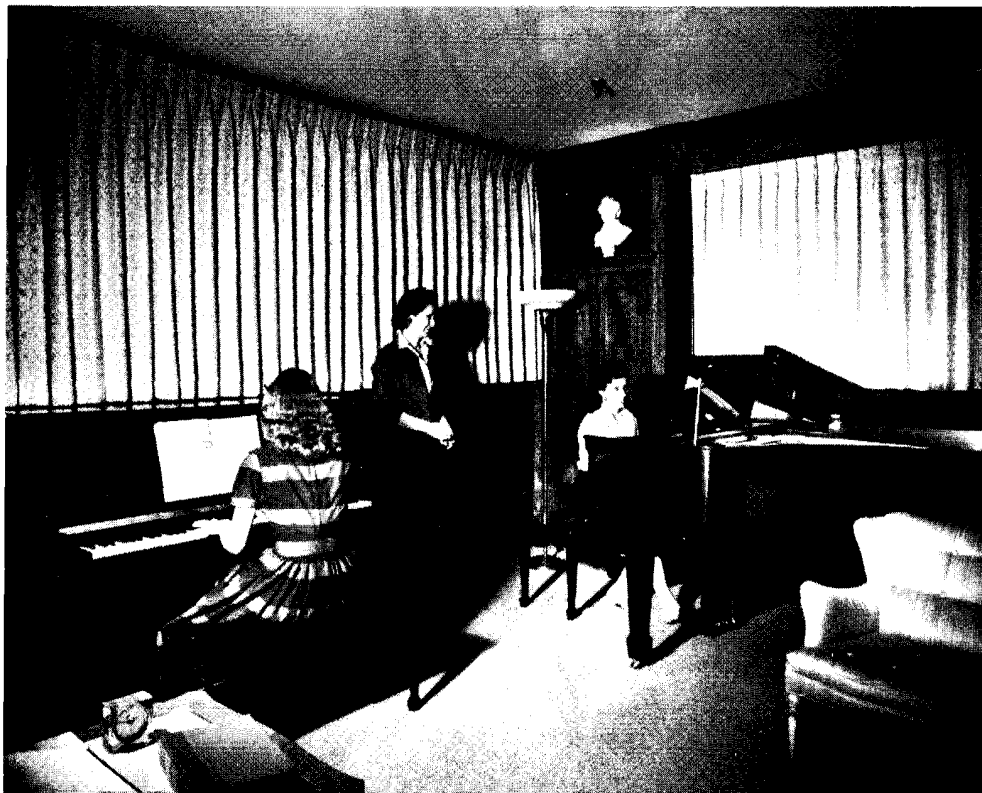
campus so arranged as not to interfere with classes or study.

Just recently completed is the new spectacular stream across the campus. It starts, as from a gushing spring out of the ground, at the top of the expanse of contoured grounds between the two girls' student residences, Mayfair and Terrace Villa.

The stream dashes dramatically down a series of cascades like a swift mountain stream, suddenly widening and quiet-

(Please continue on next page)





A lovely Music Studio on the Pasadena campus. Here is a rehearsal by two students, with Lucy H. Martin, head of the Music Department, listening.

ing down in a miniature lake in which are many trout and beautiful water lilies. At the end of this little lake the

stream suddenly becomes dynamic again, hurling itself down over exciting waterfalls into a pool running under

The Ambassador Chorale, under the direction of Leon Ettinger, grows with the College! Thousands hear them sing every year.

an artistic footbridge below. In this pool are the largest trout—a real temptation to any fisherman. As part of the character-building program, however, all would-be fishermen are required to restrain themselves. No fishing is allowed!

From this pool the water races down rocky rapids into another small lake, also filled with trout. After lazily spreading itself out and taking a brief rest across this small lake, the waters tumble down two or three little dams, rounding under another foot bridge, and then again lazily swelling out into another little lake under massive spreading deodars, between riotously colored banks of beautiful azaleas. Finally, the waters filter through two deep sand-trap pools, and through three wide lips into the large pool at the foot of the Ambassador Hall grounds.

The stream on the college grounds here in England personifies British culture. It is not rapid or dynamic—but it is artistic and cultured and quiet-spoken in the best English tradition of gentlemen and ladies. The stream on the Pasadena campus, on the other hand, is 100% *American*. It is dashing, spectacular, dramatic, full of dash and go and *drive*—and it is correspondingly more noisy. It moves along at a faster

(Please continue on page 18)



The Autobiography of Herbert W. Armstrong

*Now we come, in this 28th installment, to the real beginning
of this present great world-wide work.*

THE MEETINGS held by Elder S. A. Oberg and me in the "Hollywood" district of Salem, Oregon, ended on July 1st, 1933. Just prior to this date I received an invitation that was to result in the start of the great world-wide work of today.

This invitation came from Mr. and Mrs. Elmer E. Fisher. They were the couple who had been brought into the church by our private Bible study in my room, the night the storm prevented the meeting, during the tent campaign in Eugene, in the summer of 1931. The Fishers were successful farmers, living seven miles west of Eugene. Mr. Fisher was a member of the school board of the one-room Firbutte school, eight miles west of Eugene on the old Elmira road. The Fishers asked me to hold meetings in this country school house, inviting me to be their guest in their farm home during the meetings.

Organizing Another Church

But I was not allowed to go to Eugene immediately. I was still in the employ of the Oregon Conference of the Church of God. The salary, as stated in the preceding installment, was \$3 per week. The Conference was to have paid our house rent in Salem, and they supplied us with bulk foods—whole wheat flour, raw sugar, beans. Farmer members supplied us with vegetables and fruits. However, part of the time the Conference was unable to pay our house rent, which was \$7 per month, and my wife had to make up the deficit by doing the washings for our landlady. In addition to this, I raised a vegetable garden on our lot that summer.

Decision about the Firbutte school meetings near Eugene required a special Conference Board meeting. About the same time the Fishers' invitation came, the way opened also for a series of meetings to be held in the little church building we had rented in Harrisburg.

The Board wanted to decide which assignment was to go to me, and which to Elder Oberg.

But since the Harrisburg church seated about 150 people, and was located in a town, while the Firbutte school house seated only 35, and was located 8 miles from town, in a sparsely settled rural district where farm houses were a half-mile apart, the Board readily agreed to assign me to the country school house. I was the "tail end" minister. Elder Oberg was assigned to the church building in Harrisburg.

Meanwhile, the Salem meetings, after three months, ended on July 1st, 1933, with no results. Mr. Oberg left immediately to make preparations for his Harrisburg meetings.

After he left, Mrs. Armstrong and I visited a number of the people who had attended regularly. They had not come into the church because of a few doctrinal differences. Mr. Oberg, as explained earlier, had done nearly all the preaching after the first week. The meetings had become altogether "pentecostal"—or, as some might have stated it, "inspirational." These doctrinal differences had not been explained. I felt that I could explain them. As a result of nearly a week's work with these people in their homes, a number of them did accept the truth. We thereupon accepted them into fellowship as members of the Church.

During these four or five days I rented a church building in the same general part of Salem, at 17th and Chemeketa, for Sabbath services, and Thursday night prayer meetings. After conference with the Board, it was arranged for Mr. A. J. Ray to act as pastor of the new church at Salem. The members from the Jefferson area agreed to attend at Salem, and this formed a church of around 30 or 35 members.

The church there lasted only a few months. The new "pentecostal" members apparently dropped out after a few

months, and the older members around the Jefferson area went back to meeting in a country school house southwest of Jefferson.

The START of the Present Work

As soon as arrangements were completed for starting the new church at Salem, I hurried on down to the Fisher farm to start the new campaign west of Eugene.

Mr. Oberg was starting his new meetings in Harrisburg on Sunday night, July 9. The Fishers and I decided to start the meetings at the Firbutte school the same night. I arrived at the Fisher farm, leaving my wife and children at our home in Salem, about July 5th or 6th.

This was the small—actually infinitesimal—start of what was destined to grow in 27 years to a major world-wide Gospel work reaching millions of people every week.

But if small, it started with a burst of energy and inspiration. First, I borrowed a typewriter. I think the Fishers arranged this for me through one of their relatives. With carbon paper, I typed out some thirty notices, announcing the meetings, and the topics of the sermons for the first week or ten days.

There was no local newspaper in that localized school district. We could not have afforded to purchase advertising space to announce the meetings, had there been one. We could not afford to have handbills printed. But I took these typed notices, and part of the time walking, part of the time with Mr. Fisher driving me, and part of the time driving his car which he let me use, I visited all the homes for some five miles around—farther, toward the west—telling the people about the meetings, inviting them to attend, and leaving the typed announcements.

Then we anxiously awaited Sunday night. Would the people come?

Twenty-seven people filled 27 of the

35 seats that first night. I spoke on prophecy.

The second night attendance dropped to 19. But that night we had a bit of excitement. An event occurred that greatly stimulated interest.

Heckled—Put on the Spot

In this neighborhood, near the school house, lived an elderly "Bible scholar" with quite a reputation in the community. His name was Belshaw. He owned the most extensive theological library in the district—probably the only one. The neighbors regarded him as something of a Bible authority.

Mr. and Mrs. Fisher had warned me of one of his habits which was traditional in that neighborhood. In Eugene, adjoining the University of Oregon campus, is a theological seminary. Frequently advanced students were sent to one of these country school houses to hold a short series of meetings as part of their training. It was Mr. Belshaw's custom to attend one of the first two meetings, and to put the speaker on the spot by heckling him with a trick question.

It was Mr. Belshaw's contention that these young men did not really have a thorough knowledge of the Bible. He was sure that he did. He was adept at asking questions the answer to which he was pretty sure the young preacher, or preacher-to-be, did not know. If he could tangle the speaker up and expose his ignorance, the neighbors would have a good laugh—and then fail to attend any further meetings.

"If Mr. Belshaw can trap you with a trick question, no one will attend your meetings after that," warned Mr. Fisher. "He nearly always has a question these young men can't answer. But if you can answer him, or turn the tables on him, the news will spread all over the neighborhood and the attendance will increase."

Mr. Belshaw had not put in an appearance the first night. Apparently he had decided to first see whether I had a good crowd. But the second night, he was one of the 19 present.

He interrupted my sermon.

"Mr. Armstrong," he called out, "may I ask you a question?"

"Yes Sir, Mr. Belshaw," I replied, "you may."

"Have you been saved yet?"

Instantly I knew what his trap was. He expected me to say that I had been, of course. Then he would have asked me if I did not know what Jesus said in Matthew 24:13. So I immediately quoted this Scripture to him.

"Jesus said, in Matthew 24:13, that he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved. And in the very next verse, Jesus also said that HIS gospel of the KINGDOM—which is the RULE of God—the keeping of His commandments—shall be preached in all the world as a witness. That is what I am doing here tonight. Why do you not OBEY the Commandments, as Jesus said, Mr. Belshaw?"

I knew that Mr. Belshaw argued against the Ten Commandments.

"I would, if I could see any LOVE in them," he replied.

"Then you must be spiritually blind," I said. "The Ten Commandments are merely the ten *points* of the great Law of LOVE. The first four tell you *how* to love God; the last six *how* to love thy neighbor. The Bible says LOVE is the fulfilling of the Law. The Commandments came from God, and God *is* Love. He gave the commandments. Do you think God ever did anything that was not done in LOVE?"

Mr. Belshaw had no answer. He was silenced for the night. But he was not through. He tried to trap me with the Scriptures three more times, in later meetings.

The news did spread.

Tuesday night 36 were in attendance—one having to stand through the service. Thursday night 35 came—every seat filled. Our highest attendance was 64—with 29 standing in the crowded little room. Attendance for the six weeks averaged 36—one more than seating capacity.

Heckled again—and again!

The final Sunday night, beginning the last week of the meetings, a young minister who also fought against God's Law came as a visitor. It was the custom to ask visiting ministers to lead in prayer—a custom from which I have long since learned to depart. I asked him to lead in prayer.

My sermon topic had been announced.

He knew I was going to speak on the subject of God's Sabbath. In his prayer this young preacher did his best to belittle me, discredit everything he thought I could say in my sermon, and give the impression I was not preaching the gospel.

"I thank Thee, O Lord," he prayed in a strong voice, "that we have a CHRIST to worship, and not a *day!* Help us, O Lord, to preach CHRIST, and Him crucified—not about days and laws. Help us to be like the Apostle Paul, who said, 'I am determined to know nothing among you, save Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.'"

As he prayed, I realized he was trying to knock my sermon into some kind of a cocked hat before I could start preaching it—and that unless I had the right answer his prayer would cause many to be prejudiced, and to reject everything I would say. As he prayed, I *prayed desperately*, asking God to put the right answer in my mind. Instantly I knew what to say.

This is another incident that has been mentioned before, on the air and in The PLAIN TRUTH—but it properly belongs at this point in the Autobiography. After his prayer I said to the audience:

"I am glad to know that Mr. . . . (I do not remember his name) says he is determined to know nothing but Jesus Christ, and Him crucified, for I, too, am of the same determination. I am going to PREACH Jesus Christ, and Him crucified tonight! But to do that, one must first know WHY Jesus Christ had to be crucified!

"I have just received a letter from my wife in Salem," I continued. "She wrote me that our elder little son, Richard David, 5 years old, has just preached his first sermon. He, too, preached Christ crucified. He and another little boy were playing by the side of our house. The window was open, and my wife overheard the conversation. The other little boy had been using a lot of slang. Our Dickey was exasperated. He picked up two sticks, crossing the longer with the shorter one.

"Now you look here, Donald," said Dickey with flashing indignation. "Do you know what this is?"

"No," answered Donald.

(Please continue on page 21)

The Fourth Commandment

WHY are the lives of so many empty and meaningless? The surprising ANSWER is discovered in The Fourth Commandment! Here is one of the most VITAL articles in this series expounding the Ten Commandments.

by Roderick C. Meredith

“OUR YOUTH are no longer in rebellion but in a condition of downright and active mutiny.” This is what Dr. Robert Lindner, a prominent psychiatrist, recently told a Los Angeles audience. He continued: “We must re-evaluate the meaning of life.”

WHY You Were Born!

Yes, what IS the “meaning of life”? What is the true GOAL of life—and what are the LAWS of life by which that goal can be attained?

How much TIME do you spend each week in considering these *most important* questions in all of life?

Most people are so busy with the day-to-day cares of making ends meet that they devote *almost no time at all* to the spiritual issues of life. If questioned about Bible study or prayer, most people reply that “there just isn’t enough time” for these religious activities.

Because he is so engrossed with his job during the day, and with television, movies, parties and sports in the evenings and on week-ends, the average American is *totally LACKING* in even a rudimentary knowledge of his own religious beliefs. And he is *childishly IGNORANT* of the fundamental truths of the Bible—so much so that a recent survey showed that the average American is unable even to *name* the four gospels correctly!

God seems “way off” to him. The Bible is “for old folks and preachers” to read and understand. Yet, he proclaims that he “hopes to do better” someday.

The big question is—WHEN? *When* will he take the TIME to really get to *know God*? *When* will he take time to *study* his Bible, to *pray* earnestly to the Creator as his Father, to *meditate* on the laws and purposes of life?

For most people, the true answer will probably be “NEVER”—*unless they learn*

to obey the fourth commandment of Almighty God! Obedience to this little-understood commandment is a POWERFUL factor in bringing the lives of men and women close to the Creator God—and to His blessings and direct guidance.

The Fourth Commandment

In the first three articles of this series, we discussed the prevalent sin of putting another “god” in place of the true God. We learned that God commands us to worship Him *directly*—and to avoid using any image, picture or physical object to “remind” us of the great Creator, or as an “aid” to worship. And we were warned against the *vain use* of the NAME of Almighty God, which stands for His *position*, His *character*, His *power*, His *office* as the great RULER of this entire universe.

The *fourth commandment* completes the first section of the Decalogue which deals with man’s relationship to God. It provides for the perpetual observance of a SIGN of the relationship between God and man.

“Remember the sabbath day, to keep it holy. Six days shalt thou labour and do all thy work: but the seventh day is the sabbath of the Lord thy God: in it thou shalt not do any work, thou, nor thy son, nor thy daughter, thy manservant, nor thy maidservant, nor thy cattle, nor thy stranger that is within thy gates: for in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that in them is, and rested the seventh day: wherefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day, and hallowed it” (from Exodus 20:8-11).

This command is, in its wording, the *longest* of any of the ten. It is placed, protectively as it were, in the very *midst* of the Ten Commandments. Yet, sad to say, it is the one command about which men “reason” and argue most and which they would most quickly

tear asunder and try to separate from the rest of God’s law.

Notice that it starts out with the injunction to “remember.” This very statement proves that the Sabbath command was *already* understood by God’s chosen people and that, in incorporating it as part of His basic spiritual law, God was *reminding* them of a command of which they already had knowledge.

“Remember the sabbath day to KEEP it holy.” You cannot “keep” cold water *hot!* And mortal *man* cannot make anything holy. Therefore, to fully grasp the significance of this Divine command, we need to learn *who* made the Sabbath day holy and *when!*

Jesus said: “The sabbath was made for man, and not man for the sabbath: Therefore the Son of man is Lord also of the sabbath” (Mark 2:27-28). Notice that Jesus said the Sabbath was “*made.*” Whatever was made has a Maker.

Note also that Jesus did NOT say that the Sabbath was made for the Jew, but for MAN—for *all mankind* in other words. Then He stated that He—Christ—is “Lord” of the Sabbath. In this statement, He claims to be—*not the destroyer*—but the *Lord* of the Sabbath.

In His human life, Jesus *kept* the Sabbath, and many verses in the four gospels are devoted to His instruction of the disciples in how it should be kept, and in freeing it from the traditions which the Jews had added.

But, before continuing, let us answer the question: “Who *made* the Sabbath day?”

Who Made the Sabbath?

In understanding the command to “remember” the Sabbath day and “keep” it holy, and who “made” the Sabbath in the first place—we need to turn to an account of the *very beginnings* of God’s creation. The New Testament gives such an account in the first chap-

ter of the gospel according to John.

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. *All things were made by him; and without him was not anything made that was made*" (John 1:1-3). Here we find Jesus Christ described as the "Word" or "Spokesman," as the original Greek may more properly be rendered. This passage reveals that Jesus has been *with* the Father from the beginning, and that ALL things were made by Him—*by Jesus Christ!*

As the second person in the Godhead, the Father used *Him* as the instrument through whom the creation was brought into being. The apostle Paul was inspired to speak of how God "created *all things* by Jesus Christ" (Eph. 3:9).

In Hebrews, we find Christ described as the Son of God, "Whom he hath appointed heir of all things, by whom also he made the worlds" (Heb. 1:2).

These and many other scriptures show that He was the person in the Godhead who later became Jesus Christ, who actually *carried out* the job of creation! He was the One who said: "Let there be light," and there *was* light. He was the One who *created* man—and set him on this earth in the garden of Eden.

So speaking of Him in particular who did the creating, the inspired writer of Genesis states: "And on the *seventh* day God ended his work which he had made; and he rested on the seventh day from all his work which he had made. *And God blessed the seventh day, and sanctified it:* Because that in it he had rested from all his work which God created and made" (Gen. 2:2-3).

Jesus said that the Sabbath was made *for* man. Here we see that the Sabbath was made *when* man was made. And it was made *by* the very Divine person who later became Jesus Christ! It was made as an *intrinsic part* of the environment which surrounded man and which God made in the *seven* days of creation.

Notice that God "blessed" the *seventh* day and "sanctified" it. Such an honor was not conferred on any of the preceding six days. When God *blesses* something, He bestows His Divine favor upon, and His Divine presence in, that thing. The very word "sanctify" means to *set apart* for holy use or purpose.

Thus, we see that in the very act of creation, the Almighty God put His Divine favor upon, and set apart for holy use and purpose, a certain space of *the most enduring thing there is.*

The Sabbath Is a BLESSING

Certainly this insight into the background of the Sabbath gives added meaning to God's command: "*Remember the sabbath day to KEEP it holy.*" Through Jesus Christ, God MADE the *seventh* day of the week holy—and on His authority as our Creator *He commands us to keep it that way!*

The Sabbath, then, is HOLY time. Yet, it was made *for* man—as a great BLESSING to all mankind!

Our Creator knew that we would NEED a period of rest and worship every seventh day, and this is the basic purpose for which the Sabbath was created. Each of us tends to become overly absorbed in our daily cares and work and pleasure during the week. Our Creator foresaw this, and set apart His Sabbath day as a consecrated time when we can completely forget our daily routine and draw closer to the Creator God in *study, meditation and prayer.*

Modern man desperately NEEDS this period of time in which to have real communion with his Maker and God. Taking time to think upon God and to *worship* Him, to *pray*, to *study* and *meditate* upon the purpose for human existence, and upon God's revealed laws of life, all this adds great STRENGTH and meaning to man's life the other six days of the week.

The Sabbath is one of the greatest BLESSINGS that has ever been bestowed upon the human family!

A Special Covenant

The command to keep the Sabbath is the only one in which we are enjoined to "remember." Yet it is the one command which many ministers and religious people seem most anxious to *forget!* Many have reasoned that since the Sabbath was contained in what is called the "Book of the Covenant" in Exodus 20 through 24, therefore it is no longer binding on us today who are under the New Covenant of Christ.

Such people seem to forget that, as we have already shown, God *made* the

Sabbath day holy back at creation—long BEFORE there was any Jew, and *before* the Old Covenant was made with Israel! They also forget that God *doubly* commanded the Sabbath by making a *special* and *separate* covenant with His people to keep it. This special covenant is spoken of in Exodus 31.

God told Moses: "Speak thou also unto the children of Israel, saying, verily my sabbaths ye shall keep: For it is a SIGN between me and you throughout your generations; that ye may know that I am the Lord that doth sanctify you" (Ex. 31:13). Here the Sabbath is spoken of as a "sign" that identified the true God—the God of Israel. But *how* is it a "sign"?

"It is a SIGN between me and the children of Israel *forever:* For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, and on the *seventh* day he rested, and was refreshed" (verse 17). The Sabbath is a "sign" because *it identifies God as the One who CREATED all things!*

God commands: "Wherefore the children of Israel shall *keep the sabbath* to observe the sabbath throughout their generations, for a *perpetual covenant*" (verse 16). Here is an EVERLASTING covenant to identify the true God of Israel—the CREATOR! *God Himself* rested on the *seventh* day, and *made it* HOLY in memory of His work of creation, and as an everlasting "sign" that He is the Creator.

The Sabbath is of VITAL Importance

Throughout the Old Testament, the history of the nations of Israel and Judah show that they were blessed in every way when they worshipped the true God and kept His Sabbath holy. But when they *neglected* this command to "remember" His Sabbath, and began to worship the *created* instead of the Creator, they went off into pagan idolatry, human sacrifice, bloodshed and were PUNISHED by God through the stripes of men.

Approximately 721-718 B.C., the nation of Israel went into the *greatest national captivity* and *punishment* that has ever befallen any nation in all the history of this earth! The REASON for that punishment is described by God Himself in Ezekiel 20.

After describing how He brought

Israel out of Egypt and gave them His statutes and judgments, God states: "Moreover also I gave them *my sabbaths* to be a SIGN between me and them, that they might *know* that I am the Lord that sanctify them. But the house of Israel rebelled against me in the wilderness: They walked not in my statutes, and they despised my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them; and *my sabbaths* they greatly polluted: then I said, I would pour out my FURY upon them in the wilderness, to CONSUME them" (Ezek. 20:12-13).

Over and over throughout this chapter, God indicts the nation of Israel for rebelling against Him—and specifically condemns them for *breaking His Sabbaths*.

And it will be well to notice that God does not call them "*your sabbaths*," or "*Jewish sabbaths*," as so many like to say with contempt today, but the Almighty speaks of: "*MY sabbaths*," and *condemns* Israel for neglecting this command which He obviously regarded as of *extreme importance!*

It is important to reiterate that *God Himself* rested on *the seventh day*—and "sanctified" or *made holy* that day as a time of rest and worship pointing to the true God—the *Creator* of all.

God made the Sabbath command a *special* and *everlasting* covenant between Him and Israel. And the inspired example of Jesus Christ and His apostles certainly indicates that this identifying "sign" of the true God ought to be observed by the true servants of God—the "spiritual Israelites" today (see Rom. 2:28-29 and Gal. 3:28-29; 6:15-16).

It is an undeniable *fact* that every nation and every individual who has failed to "remember" the true Sabbath has been CUT OFF from the true God and turned to some form of pagan idolatry! For the Sabbath-keeper, God is REAL—He is the living, active Creator and Ruler of the universe. He is a God of POWER and *activity*.

But the God of the Sabbath-breaker evolves into a sort of "*essence*" or a harsh, stern unreal being who is "way off" somewhere. And in reality, such a false worship degenerates into carrying on a form of religious observance only because it is "socially acceptable."

The Sabbath guards against *false* re-

ligions and *false* gods!

The Command Expounded

Understanding, then, that the Sabbath command is *just as binding* as the commandments against murder and adultery, let us proceed to analyze and expound this commandment of God and its application to our personal lives today.

Except for the explanatory and expository statements, the fourth commandment consists of two basic injunctions: First, "Remember the sabbath day to keep it holy." Second, "Six days shalt thou labor and do all thy work."

It is by the authority of God that the first six days of the week are appointed for man's business and labor. It is the will of God that man should *work* and earn his daily bread. He who idles away his time in the *six* days is equally guilty in the sight of God as the man who works on the *seventh!* The idle person is ordinarily clothed with rags, and his idle mind and hands lead him into many wretched vices and sins.

This second part of the Sabbath command is just as *binding* as the first! He who never works is totally unfitted for worship! The honest, purposeful work of the six days is in itself an act of worship and obedience to God.

Man is placed in a world that contains all that is necessary for his physical being, *but to obtain it he must work!* It is part of the original intention of God, for man was placed in the garden of Eden "to dress it and to keep it."

However, in like manner, he who never pauses from his daily business and pursuits to worship as God has commanded on *the seventh day* which God has made holy and set apart is—through lack of contact with his Maker—rendered *incapable* of his highest potential achievement in *work*, in *service* and in the *joy* of accomplishment.

Since the very Creator has so commanded, we can keep the Sabbath day of rest and spiritual rejuvenation with complete confidence that God will *bless* and *prosper* us because we have done this!

A Paid Vacation!

Normally speaking, if you would quit working every few days to take a needed rest, you might naturally expect to get

ДА, ТАКЖЕ НА РУССКОМ ЯЗЫКЕ!

Наша первая брошюра
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behind with your work and finances. But God Himself has set in motion a great LAW. God's Ten Commandments are living, *active* laws—just like the law of gravity. They are in operation—*they work automatically*.

The law of the Sabbath—backed up by the very POWER of the Creator—says that if you will pause to *rest* and *worship* Almighty God on *the seventh day* every week, you will be so *blessed* during the work of the six days that this will more than make up for what you might have accomplished by laboring on God's Sabbath! Do you realize what this amounts to?

In one way of looking at it, God is giving us a *paid vacation* every seventh day!

But this vacation is not only for the purpose of physical *rest*, it is also a time for *worship*, for *spiritual rededication*, for the *contemplation* and *exercise* of the spiritual purposes and laws of life which God has set. In the observance of *the seventh day* which God has made holy—and which *alone* points to creation—man is brought into close *communion* with his Maker and his God. For God's very *presence* as well as His divine *blessing* are especially evident in this day which He has set apart and sanctified.

These are the busiest days that humanity has ever seen. These are days in
(Please continue on page 22)



Students enjoy working in the graciously decorated and superbly equipped Home Economics kitchens.

AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Women students, under the supervision of Mrs. Van der Veer, learn how to turn the finest patterns into an inexpensive wardrobe.



The beautifully landscaped College walkways by the n



Learning to l





College campus is ribboned with
by the new stream.

ning to type!



A candid view of one of the girls' rooms in Mayfair,
one of our women students' residences.

IN PASADENA

In the Home Economics kitchen. This spacious de-
partment is fully equipped for every possible project.





At dinner with the Ambassador Club. An after-dinner speech program unites learning with sociability.

Ambassador

(Continued from page 10)
pace! It is like a dashing, cascading mountain stream!

Other Additions

Recently a new, larger assembly hall has been completed for the Pasadena campus. The Library has taken on increased size, with additional book shelves

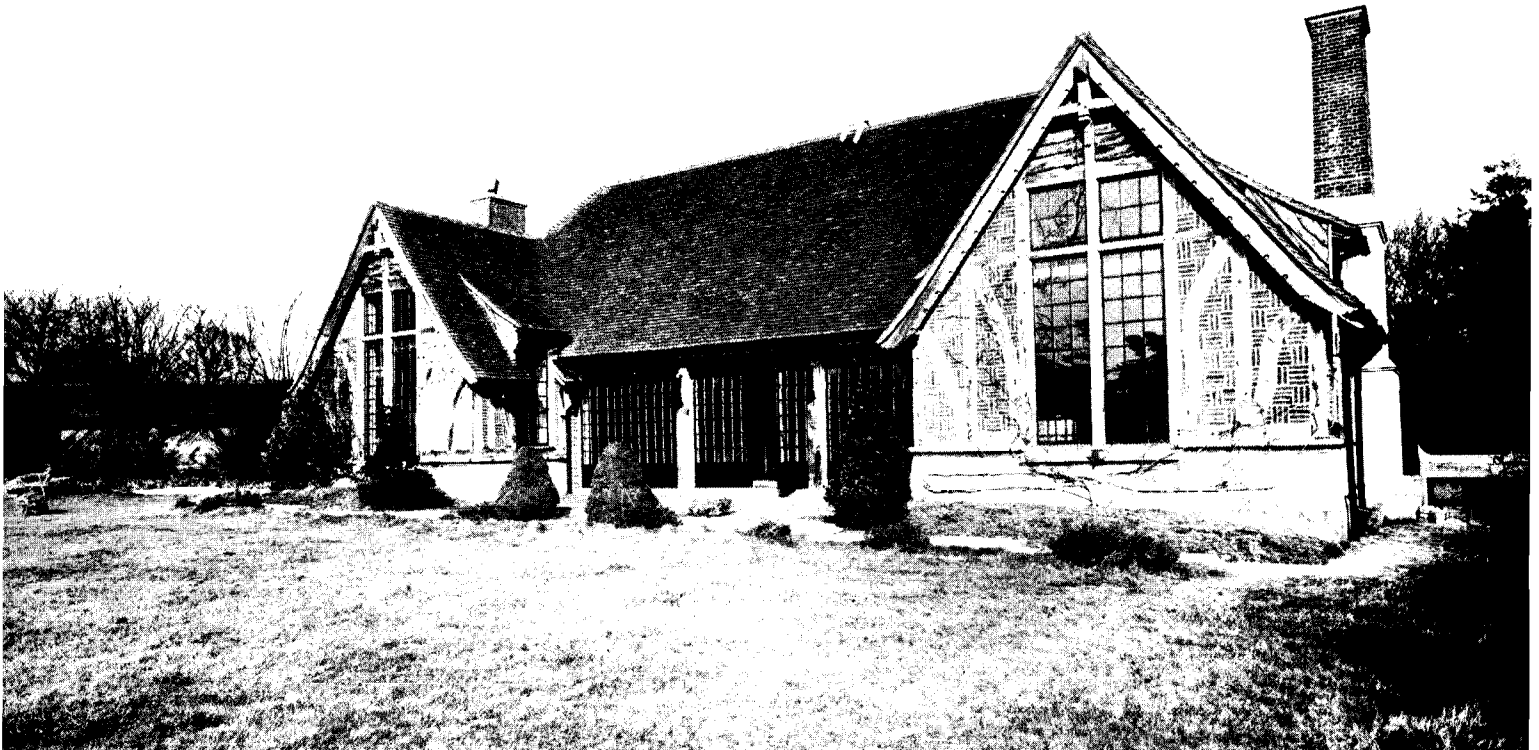
in two of the rooms in the Library building adding a few thousand volumes. The newly designed patio at the rear of Terrace Villa has recently been completed—and it is a beautiful spot. Also several additional properties have been purchased, expanding the campus now to 20 acres or more, in the very heart of Pasadena's finest residence section, only a walk from the city center—yet almost totally secluded from the city.

Already applications are beginning to roll in to the Registrar's office at Pasadena. More are invited.

Certainly there has never been a college like it on earth in our time—although we are now creating one like it, of the same cultural tone and character, in England, and planning another, later, for Texas. Students at Ambassador in Pasadena have opportunities not offered elsewhere in America. They live in a physical atmosphere of beauty, and in a realistic social and spiritual atmosphere that is not to be found elsewhere.

Ambassador students will tell you that their campus is the *happiest*, most
(Please continue on page 32)

The beautiful Music Hall in the United Kingdom, with spacious auditorium and music studios.



Is Today's Week God's Week?

Why does a Christian-professing civilization use a week named after pagan deities? What is its origin? When did the Church adopt it?

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

SYNOPSIS: We take "time" for granted—yet we measure it with days named after pagan deities.

Why?

Our civilization is filled with pagan customs and superstitions which we never question. The preceding articles in this series have revealed many startling facts which should make us question the basis of our "Christian" civilization!

Shortly after the flood Satan used the king and queen of the first organized civilization—Babylon—to establish a diabolical *counterfeit* of the PLAN of God. Through Nimrod, the king (Genesis 10:10; 11:1-5), and his wife Semiramis, known as the "Queen of Heaven" (Jer. 7:18) and Ashtaroth (Judges 2:13), the arch-deceiver Satan was able to counterfeit the teachings of Christ, the apostles and the Church over 2000 years in advance.

Was *God's week* also counterfeited—for a purpose?

Part VII Origin of God's Week

When did God's week originate? What was this week like, which He has given to this world to *use forever*? Notice!

When God re-made our earth, he said of the first evening and morning, "The evening and morning were the **FIRST** day" (Gen. 1:5). Then followed the **SECOND** day (verse 8), the **THIRD** day (verse 13), the **FOURTH** day (verse 19), and so on *until* the day *following* the sixth. He *not* only gave that day a number—He gave it a *name*—the Sabbath!

This, then, is when God's week originated. Note that it was *composed* of seven days, **SIX OF THEM BEARING NUMBERS**, and **ONE OF THEM**—the last, **THE SEVENTH, BEARING A NAME**.

GOD'S Week Corrupted Early

In the library of Asshur-bani-pal of Assyria (a country which lay just north

of ancient Babylonia), many clay tablets have been found relating the *epic* of creation. One of these tablets reads:

"On the seventh day *He appointed a holy day*, and to cease from all business *He commanded*" (Henry H. Halley, *Pocket Bible Handbook*, p. 64).

Here is *absolute* PROOF from the ancient records collected by this Assyrian King that long before the time of Moses Babylonia knew of God's 7-day week.

But recall that *Babylon* was the place which Nimrod and his Assyrian wife Semiramis—called the "queen of heaven" in the Bible—ruled. *It* was the country in which Satan started his perversions.

Would Satan leave *God's* simple calendar intact? Or would he pervert it and thus try to "change times and laws"? (Daniel 7:25.)

Here is what happened. In ancient Babylon "*evil days*," which were observed on the 7th, 14th, 21st and 28th days of the month, were gradually set apart (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 230). The seventh day of each Babylonian week was called a SHABBATTUM—the pagan corruption of the *SABBATH*. Thus the sabbaths of God—times when man might enjoy spiritual pursuits—were soon changed into periods of "ill omens" or "Evil Days" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 232).

On these "Evil Days" the pagans had to afflict themselves—they had to do penance. They could not eat flesh cooked upon coals, nor change garments, nor could the physician lay hand upon the patient. At night, the king was to bring his gift before the images Marduk (Nimrod) and Ishtar (the "Queen of Heaven, Semiramis) and offer sacrifice (*Rest Days*, page 232).

The point is that even then, Satan was having *other gods*—Nimrod and his wife—*worshipped* on this crude imitation of God's Sabbath day. **SATAN HAD CORRUPTED THE SABBATH AND THEREBY THE TRUE WEEK OF GOD.** Did

he establish a **COUNTERFEIT WEEK OF HIS OWN?** Yes!

Satan Produces His Own Week— Today's Week

How did the pagans, under Satan's influence, formulate the week—the *planetary or astrological week* WHICH THE WORLD STILL RETAINS TODAY?

Here is the answer: "The planetary week presents itself as a curious amalgam [or mixture] of ideas derived from different sources. **BABYLONIA, THE MOTHERLAND OF DIVINATION, PROVIDED THE DOCTRINE** of the influence of the stars upon human destinies: Greece furnished the mathematical astronomy which grouped the planets according to their distance from the earth . . . upon these foundations astrologers of the Hellenistic (Greek) era, familiar with the cult of seven and with the division of days into twenty-four hours, built up what was, at the outset, an entirely **PAGAN INSTITUTION.**"

Notice the origin of our week—a pagan institution!

Continuing, "This seven day week, in its astrological form . . . probably first appeared . . . [in] Syria, certainly not before the *2nd century B.C.* had passed . . . thence to Alexandria (Egypt) . . . and about the age of Augustus (31 B.C.—14 A.D.) . . . into the Occidental (Roman) lands" (Webster's *Rest Days*, pp. 218, 219). *Today's week was born from mother Babylon!*

Names of the Days

How did the pagans, under the guidance of Satan, *name the days* of this week—today's week? As we have seen, old Babylonia provided the doctrine of the influence of the stars on human destinies. Remember the "Queen of Heaven," Semiramis, had identified herself with the planet Venus. Also, we have seen, she identified her dead husband, Nimrod, with Saturn, and then with the SUN, ultimately making him

the SUN-god.

Guided by these old Babylonian influences, the pagans of a later time named the days of this new planetary week for these ancient heroes who became honored as gods: *Sunday* was at first set apart for the "god of this world"—Satan, the Sun-god—but was later associated with Nimrod after his supposed "Sunday" resurrection. *Monday* was set apart for the *moon* (Cush, the first husband of Semiramis, the "Queen of Heaven"); *Friday* for Venus or Frigg (Semiramis); and *Saturday* for *Saturn* (Nimrod, when he was associated with the planet Saturn as the *hidden* god—the pagan "Savior" who was *hid* in the grave on Saturday after being killed on Friday). Nimrod's fabled "Sunday" resurrection led the pagans into honoring *him* on Sunday as the Sun-god.

The other days of the week received their names in similar fashion. Each received its name from a heavenly body which had been associated with some old Babylonian god or goddess which the "Queen of Heaven"—Semiramis—had named in honor of herself and her husband, and of Ham, Cush, Horus and Asshur—the first apostates!

Is this the week that God gave us—a week with its seventh day, only, bearing a name—the Sabbath, and its other days bearing only numbers? No!

HERE IS A STRANGE WEEK. *Here is a week whose days bear the NAMES of pagan gods.* The Sabbath day nowhere appears in this week. But *Sunday*, the Day of the Sun—the SUN AROUND WHICH THE PAGANS SYMBOLICALLY ENTWINED THE SERPENT—the DEVIL—does appear! It is *the one day which is most observed by all the earth TODAY!*

This new planetary week which the world uses today is a part of our present Roman calendar.

God's weekly cycle with its Sabbath on the *seventh* day has, of course, never been altered. (Write for our free booklet "Has Time Been Lost?") But *Sunday* was made to come on the first day of God's true week. *Sunday* WAS PLACED NEXT TO GOD'S SABBATH! This proximity causes confusion!

Why Was Sunday Created?

The world after the flood knew and

understood that a Savior was to come (Gen. 3:15). So did Satan! What did he do about it?

Satan, as we have seen, inspired Nimrod to become the *priest of the SUN*, whose worship he initiated and furthered after the Flood. At Nimrod's death, his wife Semiramis, for purposes of prestige, contrived to convince the people that one of her illegitimate sons was miraculously conceived of her by the SUN—her god-husband up in the sky. She claimed this son was the son of the SUN-god. Notice that this event was actually patterned after the *future* birth of Christ.

What connection have these events which occurred 4000 years ago to do with the day of the SUN—*Sunday* of our time? A great deal! Let us examine!

In Egypt shortly before 2000 B.C. (the very time when the "Queen of Heaven"—Semiramis—was most active in having her dead husband Nimrod worshipped as the SUN-god) worship of the *sun* became completely dominant. Sun worship became associated with almost every god which had not received a clear cosmic function at an earlier time (Gray's *Mythology of All Races*, vol. XII, p. 28).

Now it can be understood why the PAGANS, about three hundred years before Christ's coming, came forward with the week that is used by the world today—a week which CONTAINS THE DAY OF THE SUN—*Sunday*—A DAY ON WHICH THEY WORSHIPPED THEIR GOD THE SUN!

Satan was again inspiring his agents. Satan was influencing them to set apart a day—*Sunday*—on which *he*, through the dead Nimrod, the SUN-god, could be worshipped instead of God. The serpent, Satan, was (symbolically) entwined around the SUN!

Sunday—The "Lord's Day"— Enters Early Church

When did the churches adopt the practice of keeping *Sunday*, which the pagans who joined their congregations brought with them?

When was the planetary week—the week the world uses today—adopted by the early church in place of the week which God commanded at creation?

Here is the answer!

"The early Christians had at first adopted the seven-day week [God's] with its *numbered* weekdays, but by the close of the 3rd century A.D. this began to give way to the *planetary* week [Satan's]. The use of planetary names [Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, etc.] attests the GROWING influence of astrological speculations introduced by the converts from paganism" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 252).

THE USE OF THE PLANETARY WEEK BY THE EARLY CHRISTIANS WAS A YARDSTICK WHICH MEASURED HOW MUCH THEY WERE BEING AFFECTED BY PAGANISM.

But what about the "LORD'S DAY" which we hear so much of today? By many it is said to be Sunday. And right they are!

St. Augustine, one of the early "church fathers" (the "fathers" being a group of men who formulated the teachings of the churches after the days of the apostles), said that the "Lord's Day" was DECLARED NOT TO THE JEWS—which it should have been if it had been declared to Christ or the apostles, as they were Jews—but to the "Christians" (the newly "converted" PAGANS) by the resurrection of "the Lord" (from the *Dictionary of Christian Antiquities*, vol. 2, under "Lord's Day").

St. Augustine here declares the "Lord's Day" is the day of the week on which the "Lord" was resurrected. Could this "Lord" be Christ?

No!

Christ was cut off "in the midst of the week" (Dan. 9:24-27)—Wednesday—and, after being three days and three nights in the tomb (Mat. 12:38-40), WAS RESURRECTED—ON SATURDAY! (For this amazing fact send for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet "The Resurrection was NOT on Sunday." You will be astounded!)

THE "LORD" REFERRED TO BY AUGUSTINE WAS NOT CHRIST! *Sunday* CANNOT BE OBSERVED AS THE DAY OF HIS RESURRECTION!

Then whose day was it?

"Lord's Day" Among Pagans

The "LORD'S DAY" EXISTED BEFORE CHRIST CAME!

Who then is "The Lord" that the people worship *today* when they observe

Sunday—the "Lord's day"? The whole world today has been deceived by this surprising counterfeit!

THE PAGANS WHO FLOCKED INTO CHRISTIANITY WERE CARRYING IN MIND THEIR "LORD" NIMROD, THE FIRST GREAT LORD OR BAAL OF THIS EARTH. *The word "baal" means a LORD or master.* You probably never understood this before!

It was Nimrod's wife, Semiramis (counterfeit of Mary), who, after her husband's death, misled the ancient pagans to believe that THE "LORD" NIMROD HAD BEEN RESURRECTED! It was *he* who was supposedly "resurrected" on Sunday!

Nimrod, according to this, was the first of Satan's (the Sun's) created beings, just as Christ is the first-fruits of God's spirit-created beings. What does this mean? *It means that if we observe Sunday, we serve Satan instead of God, as the Creator and Giver of Eternal Life, and show our obedience to Satan and not to God!*

Why Sunday Worship Is Widespread Today

But what was responsible for the later *widespread rise* of SUNDAY or "Day of the Lord" worship which prevails today?

Constantine, a *civil*—not *ecclesiastical*—ruler of the Roman Empire, had the most to do with the ascendancy of Sunday as the day of worship. "Constantine's famous edict (321 A.D.) definitely enrolled Sunday among the holidays of the Roman state religion. The *change from Saturn's day to Sunday* must have further commended the *planetary week* in Christian circles, where the Lord's Day . . . beginning the week, had long been observed as the day on which Christ, the *Sun of Righteousness*, rose from the dead. *Thus a pagan institution was grafted on Christianity*" (Webster's *Rest Days*, p. 222).

Do you grasp this? A human *civil* ruler—not *God*, established the custom of observing Sunday as a time of "Christian" worship.

What was Constantine's own religion? Gibbon, the authoritative historian, in his *Decline and Fall of The Roman Empire*, vol. 1, pp. 636-638, tells us: "Constantine . . . persevered till he was near forty years of age in the practice of

the established religion (paganism) . . . But the devotion of Constantine was more peculiarly directed to the genius of the Sun . . . *The Sun was universally celebrated as the invincible guide and protector of Constantine.*"

Notice that Constantine became a "Christian" after he was about forty years of age. *But* it was also after he was about forty that he, by his legislation, brought his Sun-god—the "lord"—and *Sun-day* into the "Christian" Church *to stay*. Today, the vast majority of "Christians" are still following in his footsteps.

What were the words of Constantine's famous edict of 321 A.D.? "On the venerable *day of the sun* let all magistrates and people . . . rest." (*Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, article "Sunday Legislation".)

Satan wants, as always, to be God! He has *substituted* his week and his day—*Sunday*. He, Satan, wants to be known as the Creator of all things—including time—and Giver of Eternal life. Yes, Satan has been successful in this deception. *The earth today* has adopted his pagan week and *Sunday worship!*

(*To be continued*)

Autobiography

(*Continued from page 12*)

"Well, this here is a cross. And they had to put Jesus Christ up on a cross, and drive nails through his hands and his feet, and nail him to that cross so he would die, just because you have been saying gosh and darn and gee-whizz! Don't you say those words any more!"

"And I wonder," I continued, "if people realize that SIN is the transgression of God's LAW—and that Jesus Christ was CRUCIFIED *because you people have been transgressing His holy Sabbath!* DON'T YOU PROFANE WHAT IS HOLY TO GOD ANY MORE! And now I propose to preach to you Christ CRUCIFIED tonight—and WHY He was crucified!"

My young preacher guest, in white-hot anger, stomped out of the school house, to the accompaniment of the laughter of the audience, all of whom apparently delighted to see the tables turned on one who took a hostile advantage of a friendly invitation to lead in prayer.

He had merely provided me with the most effective possible introduction for my sermon.

Belshaw's Last Stand

The elderly Mr. Belshaw tried twice more, during those meetings, to entrap me with the Scriptures. But each time, God through His Spirit put the correct answer in my mind, and the right Scriptures with which to reply.

Much later, after the meetings had closed, and we were holding meetings three times a week at the next school-house, 4 miles farther west—the Jeans school—he made one final attempt. He staked everything on this, his last stand.

He waited until after the close of my sermon. He accosted me in the rear of the school-room just as people were starting to leave.

"Mr. Armstrong," he said in a loud voice, "May I ask you a question?"

This acted like an electric shock on everyone present. Mr. Belshaw's questions had stirred much excitement. The two or three who already had gone out the door rushed back in. All circled around Mr. Belshaw and me.

"Yes sir, Mr. Belshaw—you most certainly may try once again," I responded, and by this time with a confident smile.

"Well, Mr. Armstrong, have I not heard you mention the Scriptures that the Apostle Paul told the Gentile converts that he had not shunned to declare unto them the *whole gospel*—and that he had not held anything back that was profitable to them?"

"That is correct," I smiled.

"And have you not also said that *no nation* ever kept the Sabbath, except the Israelites—that is, that these Gentiles had not been Sabbath keepers *before* Paul taught them?"

"That is also correct!"

"All right," pursued Mr. Belshaw confidently. He was sure he had the best of me this time. "IF the Sabbath law is binding on us today, then it was binding on those Gentiles as soon as they became Christians. They were never Sabbath keepers *prior* to conversion. IF it is binding on us, then it was necessary for Paul to teach them to keep it. Now can you show me any Scripture where the Apostle Paul ever taught or commanded the Gentiles to keep the Sabbath?" He

felt he had delivered a telling blow—unanswerable, that would finally discredit me and what I preached once and for all! He was shocked at my answer.

"Yes Sir, Mr. Belshaw!" I answered without any hesitation. "I certainly can! But before I do, I will now ask *you* a question: If I do show you where the Apostle Paul commanded the Gentile converts to keep the Sabbath, then that is irrefutable proof that YOU are commanded to keep it today. Now before I show you this command, I demand to know this: IF I show where Paul commanded the Gentiles to keep the Sabbath, WILL YOU NOW GIVE UP YOUR REBELLION, AND SURRENDER TO KEEP IT ALSO?"

He looked at me completely dumbfounded. He had been sure there was no command in the New Testament from Paul to Gentiles to keep the Sabbath. My answer caused him to back up, so startled, he almost fell over backward. It literally staggered him. Now he was not so sure of himself. I appeared very confident. He wasn't sure whether I was bluffing. But he was afraid to take the chance.

"No, I WON'T!" he snapped, and angrily stomped out of the schoolhouse.

I do hasten to add, however, that aside from these four skirmishes where Mr. Belshaw, as was his custom with all preachers coming to the neighborhood, tried to trap me, he was most friendly toward me. He respected me. He refused to agree, but he did respect me. We had many friendly visits together. Mr. Fisher and I called on him three or four times, but, much as he liked to argue Scripture, he usually avoided the subject when we came around.

Space cuts me short on this installment at this point, but in the next number I will continue with the results of the meetings at the Firbutte school and at Harrisburg, the very first radio broadcast of my life, the raising up of the Church at Eugene, the planning and start of the World Tomorrow program on the air, and the first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. Opposition and persecution increased. But the work that was to develop into the powerful world-wide operation of today had been firmly started at that little one-room Firbutte school house—long since torn down—and all the opposition failed to stop it. In fact, this work of God has seemed literally to *thrive* on opposition and persecution!

(To be continued)

rather of *gladness* and *joy*. The Sabbath was a day of *delight*, a day in which man found—in cessation from toil and labor—the full understanding of his purposes and spiritual capacity.

God speaks through Isaiah: "If thou turn away thy foot from the sabbath, from doing thy pleasure on MY *holy day*; and call the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honorable; and shalt honor him, not doing thine own ways, nor finding thine own pleasure, nor speaking thine own words: Then shalt thou delight thyself in the Lord; and I will cause thee to ride upon the high places of the earth, and feed thee with the heritage of Jacob thy father: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it" (Isa. 58:13-14).

Notice that God says we are to DELIGHT in His Sabbath day. Yet we are not to seek own own *human* pleasure, but rather to increase our spiritual joy through *honoring* and *worshipping* our heavenly Father and God.

We are not even to speak our *own* words. Rather, we should spend the time during this holy day in *prayer* to God, and in *studying*, *discussing*, and *meditating* upon God's Word—literally *saturating* our minds and hearts with the thoughts and character of our Holy Father in heaven. Such observance of the true Sabbath brings deep *happiness* and *JOY*, because we are able to completely *rest* from worldly work and care, to *worship* our Maker with peace of mind and unhurried freedom, and because we have the *TIME* to think on and exercise our spiritual capacities and thus strengthen ourselves for the days and weeks ahead.

Although Christians are to live by the "spirit" of the law, we will certainly do well to follow the principle God gave to the Israelites in regard to *preparing ahead* for the Sabbath and thus enable ourselves to have that day completely free from worldly cares. In Exodus 16:22-23, God told the Israelites to do any heavy cooking or baking the day *before* the Sabbath. Since, as any real Bible student knows, God's days begin and end at sunset (Gen. 1:5; Lev. 23:32), a real Christian should plan to have his work *completed* before sunset on the evening of the sixth day. A Christian woman should have her house

The FOURTH Commandment

(Continued from page 15)

which most men seem to have little or no time for the contemplation of the spiritual purposes and goals of life—the *most* IMPORTANT questions which man ought to be considering.

The tremendous *blessing* of God's true Sabbath is that it enables man to take *TIME* to fully consider and weigh these most important of all questions in life—and to commune with his God and Creator in a way in which few men in this age have ever experienced. The true observance of the Sabbath would keep man in CONTACT with God! Without that contact, he is *cut off* from the very *purpose* of his existence, from the *laws* that govern his success or failure in life, from an *understanding* of what he is, where he is going and how to get there.

Without this contact with the Creator God, the life of man is *emptiness*,

frustration and a thing of VANITY. In this age above all others, man *needs* the contact with God, the spiritual strength and understanding, and the Divine *blessing* and *guidance* which proper observance of God's true Sabbath provides.

How to Keep the Sabbath

Through a complete misapplication of the teachings of Jesus and His apostles, some men have tried to make the Sabbath command appear as a "yoke of bondage." They often call it "Jewish" with a sneer and a smirk. They talk as if the Sabbath were *very hard* and *difficult* to keep—as though it were a great *curse* to mankind.

Actually, however, as many Protestant religious writers have themselves admitted, the essential Hebrew idea of the Sabbath was not that of gloom, but

cleaned up, her dishes washed, and any heavy cooking or baking done before sunset on this day so that she and her husband may begin the Sabbath in an atmosphere of *rest* and *worship*—and that it may be a day which is truly kept HOLY to God.

Jesus' Example

In many places, by teaching and example, Christ taught us how to observe the Sabbath. In Mark 2:23-28, Christ showed that it is all right to procure food on the Sabbath *if one is hungry and* it is really necessary. He told the Pharisees that He was *Lord* of the Sabbath—it is *His* day, the true *Lord's* day.

Then on another sabbath Jesus showed them that it was lawful to *do good* on the Sabbath day—and healed a crippled man to back up His point (Mark 3:1-5).

Further instruction on how to keep the Sabbath is found in Matthew 12:9-13. Here Jesus taught that it is certainly all right to relieve a human or an animal of *physical suffering* on the Sabbath day—and to pull an ox out of the ditch. Jesus also taught, in principle, that you should feed and water your stock on the Sabbath day (Luke 13:15).

So the Sabbath is a day in which you should concentrate on the spiritual *worship* of God, but in which you can *do good* to others in spiritual matters of relieving suffering, and in which you may take care of any necessary "chores" such as feeding livestock so as to prevent their suffering on that day.

Jesus Christ—the inspired EXAMPLE of how every true Christian ought to live—taught by His own life and actions that the Sabbath is a *holy convocation* or *commanded assembly* for God's people as is taught in Leviticus 23:3. Jesus' example and customary practice is recorded in Luke 4:16 where we read that Jesus, "as his custom was, . . . went into the synagogue on the *sabbath day*, and stood up for to read."

Certainly the true Sabbath is a day for the united *worship* and *adoration* of God by His called servants. And it is a time for the preaching and expounding of God's Word and His living laws. It is the duty of every true Christian, then, to find out *where* is that church in which he can really worship God "in

spirit and in *truth*," a church which properly observes the true Sabbath of the Creator God, and a church in which man is taught to "live by EVERY word of God."

There are *several* churches which believe in keeping the *fourth commandment*. But most of these churches—in their teaching and practice—directly BREAK one or more of the *other* commandments. Jesus founded only ONE church (Mat. 16:18), and it *alone* keeps ALL of God's commandments.

You need to find out about this church and its history. Write immediately for the informative *free* booklet, "*A TRUE History of the TRUE CHURCH.*"

So learn to keep the Sabbath in a *positive* way! Use the *seventh day* that God has *sanctified* and *made holy* as He has intended—to rest from worldly labor, to *pray*, to *study* and to *meditate* on God's Word and the purposes of human existence. Take time to *do good* to others, to care for the sick, to visit the afflicted. Assemble with other *true Christians* on the Sabbath if this is possible.

REJOICE in God's Sabbath

Be *thankful* and *grateful* that God has set aside twenty-four hours of precious TIME every single week in which you can *worship* Him and meditate on the really IMPORTANT lessons of life! This physical rest and spiritual rejuvenation will give your life new *purpose* and MEANING. Because you have plenty of TIME to do so, you can establish a personal, vital *contact* with Almighty God the Creator by observing the very day which points to Him as the great Author of all creation, and the One in whom "we live, and move, and have our being" (Acts 17:28).

The beginning of all truth is to FEAR God (Pro. 1:7). You who understand should *fear* to break the fourth commandment and thus violate God's Sabbath day!

God calls the Sabbath: "MY holy day" (Isa. 58:13). The Creator Himself has sanctified and set apart this period of time in which to *rest* and *worship* Him. If you appropriate this day for your own business or pleasure, you are STEALING from God—and you are guilty as a thief and a violator of

the eighth commandment! You are also "coveting" time that *does not belong to you*, but to God, and are therefore *breaking* the tenth commandment also! You are certainly putting something ahead of the true God, and are therefore reckoned as GUILTY of breaking the first commandment! You are breaking the fifth commandment as well, for you are *dishonoring* and *disobeying* your spiritual Father in heaven!

And regardless of the silly and often contradictory arguments of carnal minded men, you are BREAKING the fourth commandment—the "test" commandment—which God has set as an identifying SIGN between Him and His people forever—which points to Him as the Creator and Ruler of all, and which keeps those who obey this God-given "sign" in a right relationship with the *true* GOD!

In this materialistic age of "modernism" and *religious confusion*, of increasing *crime* and *violence*, and of constant threat of *war* and *human annihilation*, we need more than any other time in human history to OBEY the *fourth commandment* of Almighty God! We need to *keep holy* and *sacred* the seventh day that God *made* holy. More than people of any other age, we desperately need this sanctified TIME in which to, as was suggested, "*re-evaluate the meaning of life.*"

The seventh day and that day *alone* which God made holy is the commanded and God-blessed *time* for *rest*, for *worship* and for *contemplation* of the vital keys to the MEANING of life.

Properly understood and properly observed, the *fourth commandment*—*God's Holy Sabbath*—is one of the greatest BLESSINGS that the Creator has ever bestowed upon the children of men! It is an identifying SIGN between man and the *true* God. *Remember it—keep it holy!*

Next month, we will discuss *the fifth commandment*—and we will learn what is the *basis* of the increasing *crime* and *universal rotteness* in our Western civilization today. Also, we will learn *how* to apply the vital lesson of this commandment in our own family lives—and to *reap* the *blessings* therefrom. Be sure to read next month's installment in this important series.

The Bible Story

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER NINETEEN

THE WORST WEATHER EVER!

ONLY a few hours after Moses and Aaron were told that the Israelites could not have their freedom, the two servants of God returned to the royal court. Flanked by his guards and aides, Pharaoh was just starting out on a short tour outside the city to view the livestock damage.

"Perhaps it would not be best for you to make this tour at this time," one of the aides told Pharaoh. "A strong wind is coming up, and is whipping dust and sand in from the desert."

Moses and Aaron Reappear

The king was about to make some kind of reply when he saw Moses and Aaron standing on the palace steps only a short distance away. Between them they carried a large leather bag.

"You! Moses and Aaron!" Pharaoh called in a vexed tone. "What evil thing have you come to pronounce upon the land now? What do you have in that bag?"

The two Israelites came closer, put the bag down on one of the stone steps, and pulled the leather top folds open so that Pharaoh could see inside.

"Ashes!" the king snorted.

"Yes, very fine ashes from one of your brick-drying furnaces where many of our people have slaved for so long," Aaron explained. "Our God has instructed us to bring them here before you and toss them into the air."

Without more explanation, Moses and Aaron dipped their hands into the bag

and brought out fists full of the fine ashes, scattering them into the rising wind. The millions of tiny ash particles were swiftly whisked away into the sky.

"If this is one of your religious rites," Pharaoh muttered, shaking his head in mock concern, "then you're sure to run short of ashes if your people ever get out into the desert!"

"You had better pray that not one particle of those ashes touches your skin," was Aaron's only answer.

Moses and Aaron took their empty bag and walked away, leaving Pharaoh worriedly wondering what Aaron meant by his last remark.

Boils!

Almost at once people living in Memphis, Egypt complained of suddenly breaking out in painful boil-like blisters and sores. Then people living in other parts of Egypt quickly were overtaken with the same thing. Within a few hours Egyptians



The Egyptians broke out in painful, fast-growing boils wherever the ashes touched their skins.

in every part of the land were victims of the painful sores. The only section of Egypt not affected was Goshen. (Ex. 9:11.)

What caused the boils was a mystery to the Egyptians. But when their king broke out in the bulging sores, he remembered what Aaron had said. Then he knew that the ashes tossed away by the two Israelites had caused the sores on every Egyptian touched by them!

Perhaps one might think that a plague of boils wouldn't be very serious. But even one boil can be so painful that the victim is unable to move about. During this plague, many of the Egyptians had several or even many boils—depending on how many ash particles touched their bodies. This meant that most of the people were plunged into

a terrible state of misery. They were unable to take care of the sick livestock affected by the previous plague, or to bury the thousands of dead animals littering the farms and fields.

Even the king's magicians, those men who had tried to imitate some of God's miracles, became victims of the sixth plague. What happened to them after that isn't known. They aren't mentioned again in the Bible as trying to prove that sorcerers could do the same things that God could do.

As for Pharaoh, he was utterly wretched. There was no one who could do much to help relieve him of his pain. Physicians and servants were busy nursing their own burning sores.

Pharaoh's pride and dignity were wounded as much as was his skin, and the more he thought about his condition the more indignant he became. He knew that Moses and Aaron were waiting for him to give in and promise that the Israelites could leave Egypt. For at least two days he fumed and groaned. It was a case of his pride, vanity and ambition striving to win out over serious pain.

At last he demanded that a messenger—one who at least didn't have boils on his feet—come to take a report to Moses and Aaron.

"Tell those Israelites," Pharaoh shouted, wincing with every jarring syllable, "that I am the king of Egypt! Remind them that mere boils and sores can't force the king to free the multitudes of slaves necessary for molding this land into the greatest nation ever to exist or that ever will exist!"

Moses and Aaron received the message. As usual, they were disappointed. But the very next day, following instructions from God, they showed up at the royal palace. Because of his condition and his bitter feeling toward the two Israelites, Pharaoh didn't want to see any more of them. However, he allowed them to come before him because of his great curiosity to learn what they might predict would happen next.

"We are here again to tell you that our God demands that you let our people go," Aaron spoke out, and Moses nodded in agreement. "Our God has spared your life till now only because He wants you alive to view the more terrible plagues He is about to pour out upon Egypt. If you will not let the Israelites depart at once, a heavy hail will fall upon the land. It will be so terrible that any man or beast caught out in it will die!" (Ex. 9:19.)

Uncomfortable in his well-cushioned chair because of his painful sores, Pharaoh nervously shifted his weight and impatiently stared down at the two Israelites.

"Hailstorms in this part of Egypt are quite uncommon," he told them in a wearied tone. "However, I have seen a few in my lifetime. I remember tiny ice particles falling, but they harmed nothing. If a mere hailstorm is your God's next plague,

then I do not fear it. I will not let you Israelites go out of my land.”

Having heard the king's answer, Moses and Aaron felt that their warning was completely in vain. But there was a growing number in Pharaoh's court who had come to respect the power of the God of Israel. They sent word to their friends to warn them what was about to happen. The message spread among the Egyptians, many of whom brought their livestock in from the fields and quartered them in barns, houses or other shelters where the expected hailstorm couldn't harm them.

Hailstorm and Lightning

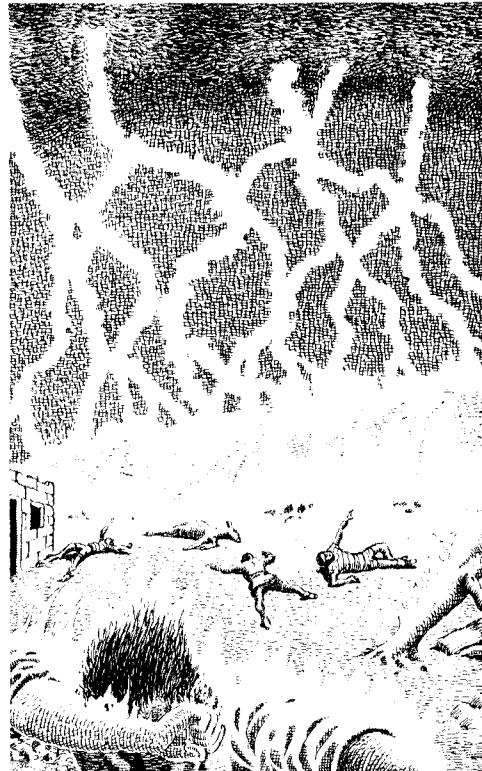
Acting later on God's orders, Moses pointed his shepherd's rod toward the sky, already darkened over Egypt with an ominous blanket of low clouds. The mere presence of heavy clouds over all of sunny Egypt was most unusual. But now the clouds began to boil and roll as though pierced by mighty shafts of swift wind. Flashes of light shimmered through them. To people below staring upward, it seemed that millions of giant, flickering torches were flaring high in the sky above the weaving layer of heavy vapors.

Then came the frightening booming of thunder from high in the heavens. It was no longer a secret to the Egyptians that something most unusual was happening up beyond that leaden cloak of clouds, and that something frightful was about to take place.

Suddenly fearful, those in the open—in the fields, on the river and on the roads—began to be concerned with gaining immediate shelter.

When the first dazzling bolts of chain lightning shot out of the low-dipping clouds, the pain-racked Egyptians were gripped with fear. Many of these idol-worshipping people were swiftly losing faith in their little gods, and were becoming more and more fearful of the God of Israel.

From the shelter of his palace, Pharaoh watched the display of power from the God he had kept on defying. The bolts of lightning hissed and cracked with increasing



Bolts of flame hissed and cracked from the low clouds, then shot along the ground to sear everything they touched.

intensity. Whenever their fire reached the ground, it shot along in sizzling tongues in all directions, searing everything it touched.

People were swallowed up in it, emerging in screaming agony, their bodies smoking. Livestock, trees, shrubs, crops, buildings and even the stones of the ground became blackened victims of the singeing electrical fire from the skies.

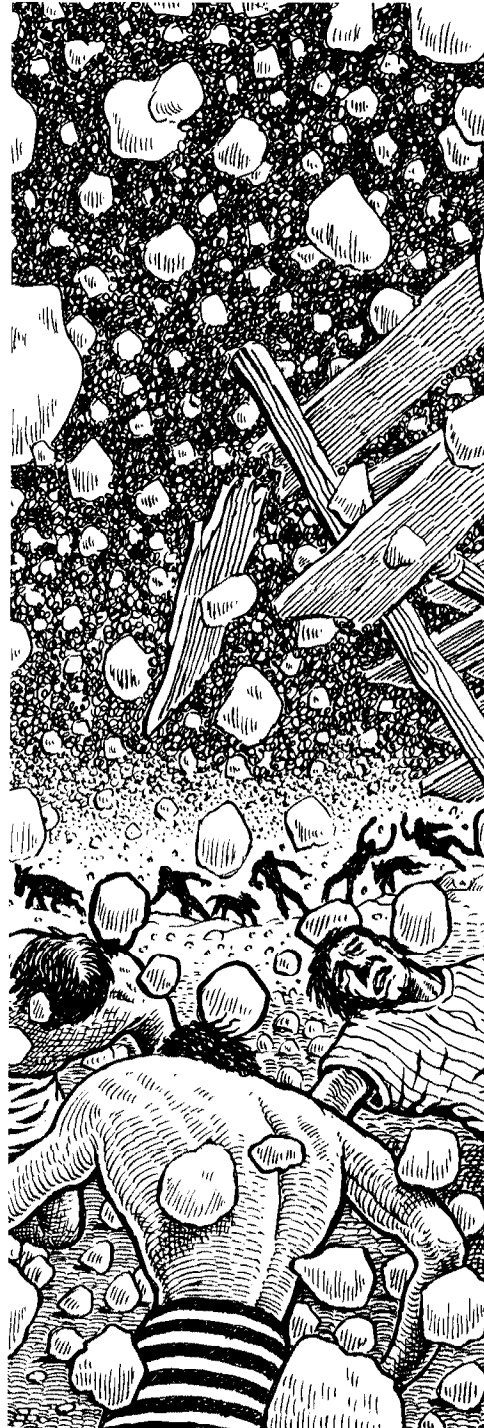
At the same time, large hailstones plunged out of the clouds. Any person or animal caught without a sturdy shelter was pounded mercilessly by the heavy hunks of ice.

Even many of the Egyptian buildings staggered under the growing weight of the hailstones, and collapsed on people and animals seeking shelter within.

But in the land of Goshen, where the Israelites lived, there was no lightning and no hail.

After hours of nerve-shattering watching and waiting, Pharaoh shakily turned from his window to confront the small group of Egyptian officials whose faces were as pale as his. They stared silently at the king, as though blaming him for what was going on. The accusing stares, the constant roar of great hailstones crashing on the roof, the vivid flashes of lightning, the violent hissing of the ground-charring fire, the hideous rumble of thunder and the cries of people in pain—all these were more than a match for Pharaoh's stubborn desire to hold the Israelites as captives.

"Send for Moses and Aaron!" he shouted. "Give the messenger who goes after



Giant hailstones plunged from the sky, viciously hammering people and livestock caught without shelter in the strange and dreadful storm.

them some kind of shield to protect him. But send him at once!"

God must have protected the messenger, and He must have protected Moses and Aaron on their way to the king's palace. Later, when Pharaoh saw the two Israelites being escorted into his court, he stepped forward to meet them.

Pharaoh Weakens

"I admit that I have done wrong!" he called out. "I couldn't believe until now that your God is the one and only God. I realize now that He has brought these terrible plagues upon my land because I and my people are wicked in His sight. We have had enough punishment. Ask your God to stop this awful lightning and hail. I promise to let your people go. They don't need to stay in Egypt any longer!"

It was difficult to believe these words from one who had so haughtily defied God just a few hours earlier. But it was encouraging to Moses and Aaron that this self-exalted man would admit these things before them and before the few worried-looking Egyptians who were present.

"We shall leave at once," Aaron told Pharaoh, "and ask God to stop the lightning and hail. When you see the storm letting up, give thanks to God that He has spared you. If you fail to do so, it isn't very likely that you will keep on having the respect for our God that you seem to have now."

Moses and Aaron left the palace and fearlessly moved through the downpour of hail and fire to a spot outside the city. There Moses lifted his hands toward the sky and asked God to stop the destructive seventh plague.

Gradually the hail ceased to fall. The bolts of lightning became fewer. Soon the skies grew silent, and the heavy blanket of clouds moved away.

Throughout the land the Egyptians ventured from their shelters to witness the great damage that had resulted from this latest plague. Wounded people and animals were cared for. The dead were prepared for burial. There wasn't much to be done about the ruined fruit trees and vegetable crops. About the only thing that had come through the plague without extreme damage were the fields sown to wheat and rye, where plants were not yet developed from the soil at that season. (Verse 32.)

Even while the nation was licking its wounds, the king began to regret that he had promised freedom to the Israelites. He had never completely lost his desire to build his cities into a cluster of wondrous, glittering areas—each as great or greater than the city of ancient Babylon. Pharaoh knew that without the tremendous aid of the Israelite labor gangs his ambition was nothing more than a dream.

For hours the king thought matters over. The more his mind dwelled on these things, the stronger he felt that his ambitions were more important than the best in-

terests of millions of people, including Egyptians as well as Israelites.

Pharaoh Changes His Mind

At last Pharaoh summoned a messenger, and not long afterward Moses received this message:

"As the one of highest rank in the great nation of Egypt, I again reserve the right and privilege of breaking an agreement made at a time of most unusual mental and physical distress. With that distress removed, and my judgment again clear and sound, I herewith cancel my bargain to allow freedom to the Israelites."

Moses wasn't very surprised to receive that message. He had learned that Pharaoh couldn't be trusted. But he was very disappointed, because he had prayed that the seventh plague would truly be the one by which God would break Pharaoh's stubborn will.

Again God spoke to Moses, telling him that He, God, had purposely caused the Egyptian king to be stubborn.

"I have done this," God said, "because I wish to show more of my power through further signs and plagues. Then you will tell the things I have done to the generations of Israel to come, and they will have a clearer understanding of my power, and realize that I am the one Creator and Ruler."

God gave Moses instructions in what to say and do. Moses had learned to obey without excuse or argument. Within a short time he and Aaron were again before Pharaoh in the royal court.

"If you have come to argue with me because I refuse to free your people," the king said, "then you are wasting your time. I do not intend to change my mind."

"Our God will not beg you to do anything," Aaron told Pharaoh. "He is a God of action, and if you refuse to change your mind now, He won't fail to deal harshly with you by this time tomorrow."

"Just what can I look forward to?" Pharaoh asked in a bored tone. He tried to appear unconcerned, although he was quite anxious to know what would happen next.

"Millions upon millions of locusts will come upon Egypt!" Aaron answered. "There will be so many that the ground will be lost from sight. They will eat up all shrubs and plants that have come through the last plague. They will stream into the Egyptian homes and buildings. It will be the greatest plague of locusts ever to come on the Earth!"

Without waiting for what the king would say or do, Moses and Aaron turned and walked out of the palace. At once there was a loud outcry from Pharaoh's advisors and officers.

"How much longer must we suffer these awful conditions?" one of the advisors demanded as he stepped quickly before the king.

"My vast farmlands have become worthless!" another complained in a bitter tone.

"Don't you realize, O Pharaoh, that our nation is all but ruined already?" someone asked.

"We can't afford another plague!" another shouted. "Let the Israelites go worship their God. We would be much better off without them!"

"Silence!" Pharaoh snapped, holding up his arms and gazing haughtily down on the group before him. Every one quieted down and stepped respectfully back to listen to what the king had to say.

"You are too impatient and hasty in your decisions," Pharaoh frowned. "Let us first find out just which ones of the Israelites are required to go worship their God. Perhaps it wouldn't include all the men. If so, I might let the women, children and old men go, and keep the youngest and strongest men to stay here and continue working."

A mutter of approval went up from the men in the court.

"Bring the two Israelites back here!" Pharaoh commanded. Two guards left hastily, and within a few minutes escorted Moses and Aaron back before the Egyptian king.

"You left too soon," Pharaoh told them. "I didn't tell you that I wouldn't let the Israelites go. It could depend on how many are to go."

"All of us must go," Aaron spoke out. "No one is to be left behind. All our flocks and herds must go, too."

This answer from Aaron angered Pharaoh. He stood up and glared down on the two Israelites.

"Then go!" he shouted, waving his hands toward them. "Leave, and you'll find yourselves in such trouble out in the desert that you'll wish you had stayed in Egypt!"

The king signalled to his guards, who stepped swiftly forward, seized Moses and Aaron, and hustled them out of the building.

After the two were out of the city, Moses held his rod up toward the sky, and asked God to bring the locusts upon Egypt. Thereupon an east wind began to blow. It grew steadily stronger, and continued all the rest of the day and into the night with such gale force that the people of Egypt were increasingly alarmed. By dawn of the next day it was still howling across the land, sweeping up huge clouds of dust and sand from the desert areas.

At his palace, Pharaoh tossed restlessly on his bed. The shrieking wind kept him awake with its dismal howl, as though foretelling of a doom to shortly come.

(To be continued)

Ambassador

(Continued from page 18)

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Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

The persecution in my home is so severe that it is difficult to live a Christian life. I do not try to cram my religion down anybody's throat. Am I bringing this persecution on through some hidden sin?

God has not promised us an easy life—or a life that is free from troubles.

Christ Himself predicted that His followers would be persecuted (John 15:20), even by their own families (Luke 21:16). But God has promised to *deliver us out of* all troubles (II Pet. 2:9 and Psa. 34:17). We must continuously look to God for help from every difficulty.

God allows us to have trials for our own good, to strengthen us and to build up our faith. Through them we often learn to LOVE friends and relatives *as never before*—even though they ridicule and persecute. It is their feeling of *guilt and self-condemnation* that makes them persecute, they NEED *your prayers!*

When we *do* begin obeying God, we find that we are suddenly tried almost to the breaking point in our faith. The Apostle Peter, however, gives us encouragement on this point.

"Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: but *rejoice* inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when His glory *shall be revealed*, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Pet. 4:12-13).

When you look at your own problems, it is natural to believe that no one else has problems like yours. We, however, find something different in the Bible. The Apostle Paul assured us that all Christians have similar difficulties when he said, in I Corinthians 10:13, "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to *bear* it." God did *not* say He would *remove* the temptations, but that He would help us to *bear* them.

Remember, it is your duty to LOVE your family. It is God's responsibility to deliver you from family antagonism and persecution.

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