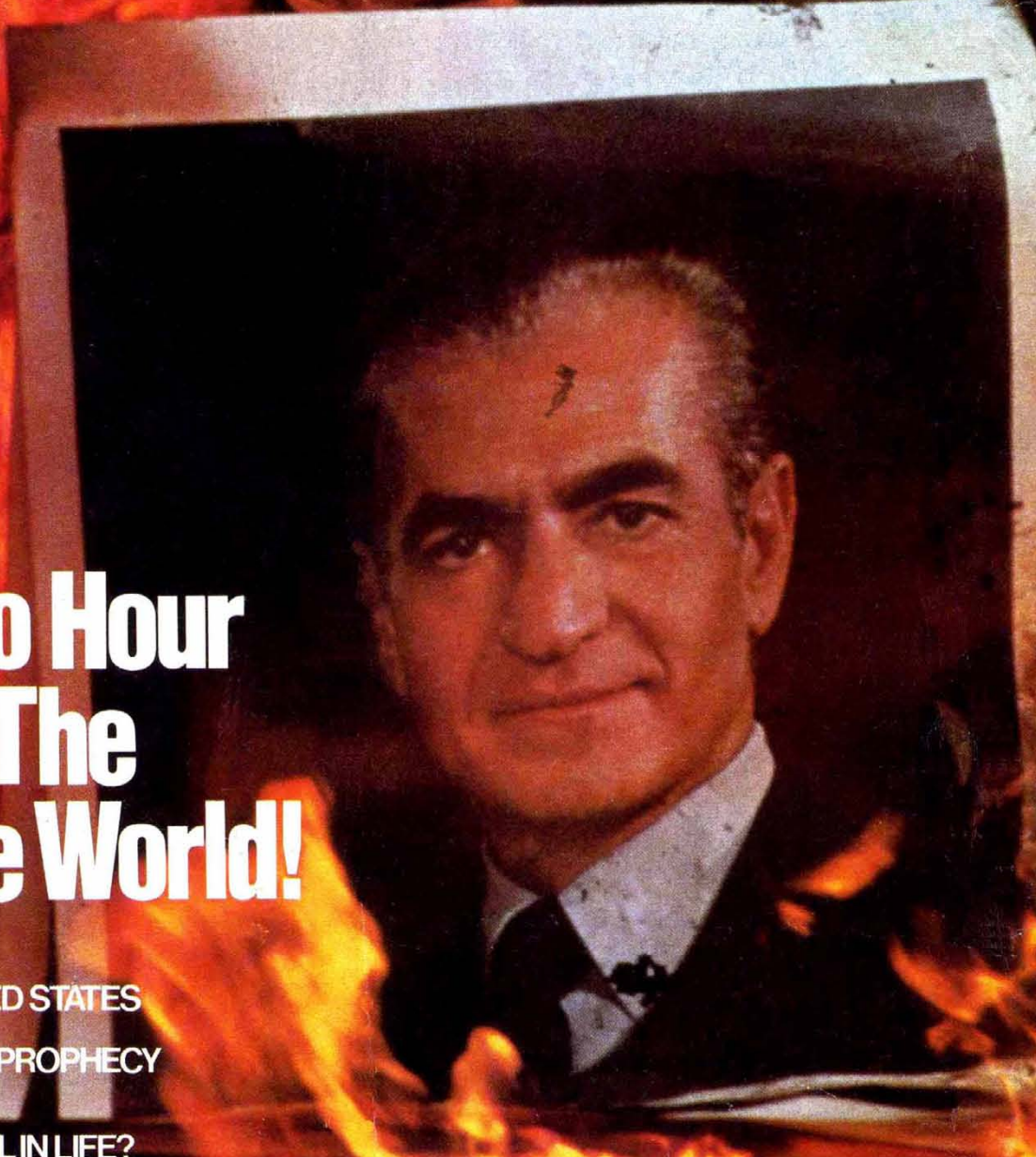


THE

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



Zero Hour For The Free World!

THE UNITED STATES
AND
BRITAIN IN PROPHECY

WHAT IS
YOUR GOAL IN LIFE?

A SPECIAL WAY TO
PEACE AND JOY

SEVEN PROOFS OF
GOD'S
TRUE CHURCH

THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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ABOUT OUR COVER

The focal point of the escalating crisis in the strategic Persian Gulf-Indian Ocean region is strife-torn Iran, whose beleaguered leader, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, has been forced into virtual exile as contending political and religious forces vie for his power. Threats of continued violence in Iran and neighboring countries are fraught with grave implications for the Western world (see article beginning on page 4).

Cover photo by Abbas-Gamma/Liaison

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Personal from...

They Didn't Believe What He Said

The more I travel around the earth, the more I see the sickening conditions in the world today, and the more I glean from history, the more convinced I become that the real root cause of all of humanity's troubles and evils may be summed up in six words: "They didn't believe what He said." And they still don't believe what He says today!

Suppose you had suddenly come into consciousness—just now having been suddenly created the first human being. Your Maker is sitting beside you, revealing to you *vital knowledge* so direly necessary for you.

He tells you that He has made you and the wife He has created beside you so that you can reproduce your kind. In due time you will populate the earth with millions of your offspring.

He reveals to you that He has provided for you a WAY OF LIFE that will CAUSE and produce PEACE between individuals, groups, and nations that shall arise. This way of life is the result of following an inexorable spiritual law as automatic and relentless in continual action as the law of gravity, which He demonstrates to you. It is the basic law of His government by which He rules the vast universe He has created. It is the law of love. It will produce peace, happiness, joy, abundance, universal prosperity, and if you and your children choose it as your way of life, He will give you also the gift of eternal life, which you do not yet possess.

This way of life is symbolized by a tree, called the "tree of life," in the midst of the beautiful garden where He has placed you. But also, in case you decide to reason out your own way of life—taking to yourself the decision and knowledge of what is good and what is evil—then there is a second very special symbolic tree which also produces fruit. That tree is the tree of the knowledge of good and evil. But your Maker FORBIDS you to take of this tree, which means disobedience to His law, and if you choose to disobey and take of that tree, you shall die, since the penalty of SIN (the transgression of His LAW) is DEATH.

Would you BELIEVE what your Maker said? Would you?

Adam and Eve didn't.

God their Creator had given them His way of life. If they rejected it, turning to their own way, it would bring sorrow, curses, unhappiness, suffering—and death!

But Satan, in the symbolic form of a serpent, came along and said God lied. They would not surely die. They were immortal souls. He reminded them of the superior human minds they had. They could work out their own way of life—and after all, could they believe God? They only had His word for it.

They must have said, "Yes, that's right! After all, how can we be sure? All we have is God's word for it. We'd better *do an experiment*, and be sure! Let's put it to the test. Let's *take to ourselves* the decision—the knowledge of what is good and what is evil."

They made the first scientific experiment. Even today, the scientific method rejects revelation as a source of knowledge and understanding, and utilizes observation, experimentation, and human reason.

Adam and Eve rejected divine revelation as the foundational basis of knowledge, as does modern science today. They didn't believe what their Creator said! And it was "when the woman saw [observation] that the tree [of the forbidden fruit] was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree to be desired to make one wise [human reason], she took of the fruit thereof [she did the experiment], and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat" (Gen. 3:6).

Some 4,000 years later, God sent Jesus Christ, His Son, into the world with a message from heaven. This message was essentially the same as He had instructed the first two humans. It had to do with God's government and rule over them, of His way of life that would cause every good, and with the gift of eternal life.

But again, humans (with few exceptions—120 in all) did *not believe* what He said! They called Him a liar!

Let me quote: "As he [Jesus] spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word [His MESSAGE], then are ye my (Continued on page 44)

Part Two:

7 PROOFS OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

Where is the one and only true Church today—the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The first proof of the true Church—the understanding of the identity of God; who and what God really is—appeared in the February Plain Truth. This installment continues with proofs two and three.

Proof Two:

THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD AND CREATION OF HOLY, RIGHTEOUS CHARACTER

The most important feat of creation is holy, righteous CHARACTER.

That is so stupendous an accomplishment that even the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD, in all His matchless supernatural power, cannot create such character instantaneously or automati-

cally by fiat. That ought to take the reader's breath! Is there actually something that even GOD cannot do—by Himself alone?

Such character is the ability of a separate conscious, thinking entity with free moral agency—capacity for free choice—to come to KNOW the right from wrong, good from evil, to make the decision, and then with God's help exercise the WILL to DO the right or good, even contrary to self-desire.

Angels Created First

Now for the moment go back to John 1:1: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."

That is the very earliest prehistoric record. It could have been millions or thousands of millions of years ago. The two eternally living Spirit Personages, who together constituted the ONE God, were ALONE in empty space. There was no physical universe—YET!

But, even as man thinks, and designs and plans before making—so

did God, who much later made MAN in His own image.

God—with the Word—first conceived the plan and design to create angels, also immortal spirit beings, composed wholly of spirit.

So God created angels before creating the material universe, as revealed elsewhere in the Bible.

The Duality in Creation

There is the DUALITY principle in God's creative process. Angels were the first thinking, reasoning, separate entities created by God.

Angels were created with minds—ability to know, reason, make choices. But their creation could not be a *finished* creation until CHARACTER—either good or evil—was developed in them. And this is a PROCESS, to be EXPERIENCED. That character development was the second part of the DUAL stage of their creation.

God initially INSTRUCTED them in HIS WAY—that of righteous character. It was THE WAY of God's spiritual law—the basis of God's GOVERNMENT.

Then came the time of the creation of the PHYSICAL UNIVERSE. There was a vital connection between the creation of angels and the creation of the material universe. For that, too, was created on the DUALITY principle.

To illustrate, I compare this physical creation to the manufacture of unfinished furniture—sold in stores of most cities. Such furniture may be of fine quality, but lacks the finishing polish, paint or whatever.

So God created the heavens and the earth—the universe with its countless planets in innumerable solar systems and galaxies, including planets such as our Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, etc.

Genesis 1:1, where “heavens” is in the plural in original Hebrew and modern translations, together with Genesis 2:4, which speaks of “. . . the heavens and the earth when they were created, in the day that the Eternal God made the earth and the heavens,” indicates the earth was created as part of the material universe—all simultaneously created. Other scriptures imply this.

But, like the unfinished furniture, the universe, including the earth, was not at that time completed. Angels had been created prior to the universe, because they sang together and shouted for joy at earth’s creation (Job 38:4-7).

A Double Duality

Now we come to the fact of a double DUALITY in the creation of angels and of the earth. For the earth was inhabited by angels prior to the creation of man. Apparently God placed a third of the created angels on earth. They were given opportunity to share in God’s creating activities by FINISHING the earth—working in and with its many elements, improving, beautifying, completing it.

This required harmonious teamwork—all working together toward the common God-ordained goal. The earth was the *proving ground* to QUALIFY them, by righteous CHARACTER development and finishing earth’s creation, to share with God the same creative participation in completion of the myriads of planets of the vast universe.

To regulate this effort of the angels, God placed on earth’s THRONE the archangel, the cherub Lucifer, to administer the GOVERNMENT OF GOD over the angels.

I repeat: That GOVERNMENT is based on God’s spiritual laws—as *all* governments are based on a constitution of foundational law.

God’s spiritual law is *the way* of God’s holy, righteous CHARACTER.

Angels Led into Rebellion

The third of the angels (Revelation 12:4) on earth *completed* their creation by developing *evil* character—sinning (II Peter 2:4). The super-archangel Lucifer (Isaiah 14:12-14) had been perfect in all his ways from the day of his initial creation, till iniquity—lawlessness—was found in him. “Thus saith the Lord God; Thou sealest up the sum, full of wisdom, and perfect in beauty. Thou hast been in Eden the garden of God; every precious stone was thy covering . . . in the day that thou wast created. Thou art the anointed cherub that covereth; and I have set thee so: thou wast upon the holy mountain of God; thou hast walked up and down in the midst of the stones of fire. Thou wast perfect in thy ways from the day that thou wast created, till iniquity was found in thee” (Ezekiel 28:12-15).

Lucifer was not satisfied with rule over only the one planet—as the testing ground to prepare him for *all* planets. He wanted to rule all at once. He said, “. . . I will exalt my throne above the stars of God . . .” (Isaiah 14:13). He had been created with exceeding beauty, which “lifted up his heart” in vanity (Ezekiel 28:17). He became lustful, jealous and envious of God, decided on a WAR of invasion, attempting to overthrow God on the heavenly throne of the universe. He led his angels into rebellion. These angels “kept not their first estate, but left their own habitations”—meaning this earth! (Jude 6.)

But Lucifer and his angels were cast back down to earth (Revelation 12:4).

The creation of this third of all angels was *finished*—creation of evil character within them completed.

Once their creation was completed, being spirit, *they could never change!* And they are immortal!

The GOVERNMENT OF GOD no longer was operative on earth! Lucifer’s name was changed to Satan the devil. His angels became demons. Their minds had become perverted for eternity.

Proof Three:

WHAT AND WHY IS MAN?

It must be as shocking to the reader as it was to me to learn that NONE of the religions or churches but the Worldwide Church of God understands both WHAT man *is* and WHY humanity was put on the earth!

Science cannot give you the answer. Modern higher education does not know or teach the answer. And, along with these basic and important questions, WHY all the evils in this chaotic and sick world, now facing the number-one problem of whether human life can survive through the remainder of this 20th century?

I ask, HOW can even the most highly educated be SO IGNORANT of SO IMPORTANT a TRUTH?

Earth’s Face in Devastation

Instead of improving, beautifying, completing earth’s creation, the sinning angels brought it to desolation and ruin.

Come now again to Genesis 1:1-2: “In the beginning God created the heaven and the earth. And the earth was without form and void; and darkness was upon the face of the deep. . . .”

The original Hebrew for “without form and void” is *tohu* and *bohu*—meaning “waste, desolate, deteriorated.” The word “was” may also be translated “became.” All was oceanic surface—and light had been by angel lawlessness turned into darkness.

Let me here interject a biblical principle. The entirety of a subject is often not stated within the context of

(Continued on page 39)



Abbas-Gamma / Liaison

ZERO HOUR FOR THE FREE WORLD!

A mushrooming crisis is developing in the Persian Gulf-Indian Ocean region that threatens the very existence of the United States, Western Europe, Japan and the rest of the free world. Its implications are so awesome that we may be on the very brink of the prophesied "Great Tribulation."

by Gene H. Hogberg and Keith W. Stump

Never in recent times has such a vast—and highly strategic—area of the world been threatened with widespread political instability.

The fulcrum is strife-torn Iran, but this "arc of crisis"—to use the words of President Carter's National Security Adviser Zbigniew Brzezinski—extends all the way from Bangladesh, on India's right flank, to the tip of southern Africa. Explains Brzezinski: "An arc of crisis stretches along the shores of the Indian Ocean, with fragile social and political structures in a region of vital importance to us threatened with fragmentation. The resulting political chaos could well be filled by elements hostile to our values and sympathetic to our adversaries."

The chief adversary who stands to gain the most from the rising crescendo of chaos is the Soviet Union, the superpower which is positioned geographically just beyond key elements of the arc of crisis. The work of Soviet agents, coupled with a relentless chorus of propaganda from Radio Moscow, is stimulating and exploiting instability in this vast area.

The Kremlin, moreover, knows what it is after.

"At stake," reported the January 15, 1979 issue of the *U.S. News & World Report*, "are enormous Persian Gulf oil supplies and control of strategic choke points ["sea gates" in the parlance of Bible prophecy] that are of life-and-death importance to the West."

Without oil from the Persian Gulf, wheels and factories of the vast industrial free world—from Japan through Europe to the United States—soon would grind to a halt. Moreover, nearly half of the non-Communist world's total supply of oil moves through the world's most critical "choke point"—the narrow Strait of Hormuz, separating Iran from the Arabian peninsula.

U.S. Energy Secretary James R. Schlesinger underscored the West's vulnerability to political chaos in the Middle East by stating that "there must be clear and unequivocal evidence to other nations in the Gulf area of the firmness and steadfastness of American support, American presence."

By "other nations" the U.S. ener-

DEMONSTRATORS IN TEHERAN
march through streets in a show of support for exiled Moslem leader Ayatollah Khomeini, the main influence behind Iran's mass anti-Shah movement.

gy chief meant Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, and the oil-producing sheikhdoms grouped in the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

America Vacillates

So far, however, the United States has not displayed the "firmness and steadfastness" necessary to thwart Soviet inroads into the area. Just the opposite prevails. It is precisely U. S. indecision, vacillation and outright weakness which is compounding the gravity of the situation.

Washington wavered back and forth on how long to give public support to the Shah of Iran. Part of this was due to the fact that American intelligence had fallen flat in giving President Carter an accurate portrayal of how badly the Shah's fortunes had been slipping. The President subsequently criticized the ineffectiveness of the Central Intelligence Agency—without mentioning that his and previous Administrations were largely responsible for crippling the agency's intelligence-gathering apparatus.

The worst example of U.S. vacillation, however, came shortly before the Shah was forced into exile in mid-January.

As a last-ditch show of support for the beleaguered monarch, Mr. Carter ordered a U.S. carrier task force to steam from the Philippines to the Persian Gulf. Three days later, however, on the advice of his foreign policy aides and State Department officials (not the military), the President changed his mind and ordered the ships to remain on station in the South China Sea.

Is America Blind?

"Seldom have the limits of American power or the lack of a strong policy been so obvious," reported *Time* magazine in its January 15, 1979 edition. Political columnist William Safire was not so gracious about the unprecedented start-stop action. The whole exercise, he said, represented

"the first example of no-gunboat gunboat diplomacy; we showed a naked flagpole."

America's allies are mystified as to U. S. indecisiveness with regard to Iran and the entire crisis arc. Saudi Arabia's Ambassador to the U.S., Ali Abdallah Alireza, says this: "Our friends [the Americans] do not seem to realize that a crisis of historic magnitude is close at hand for the Western world and for those who share its values in our entire area." His somber warning was echoed by Pakistan's ambassador to the U.S.: "I fear that historians will look back at 1978 as a watershed year when the balance of power shifted against the Western world."

“

It is precisely the crumbling image of the United States in this strategic region (as well as in Africa) that has emboldened the Soviet Union to take advantage of one crisis after another.

”

The Saudi envoy further laments the fact, reported in *Newsweek* (January 1, 1979), that "no one in the Carter Administration seems to be listening to his government's warnings about the Russians." This should really come as no surprise. Over a year ago, President Carter, in a commencement address at Notre Dame University, said that a maturing America had finally shed its "inordinate fear of Communism."

Shed along with that fear apparently was an awareness of Soviet aims and strategies. "Pro-Western nations," reported *Newsweek*, "see an American Administration seemingly less concerned about Soviet expansionism than any Administration since World War II."

It is precisely the crumbling image of the United States in this strategic region (as well as in Africa) that has emboldened the Soviet Union to take advantage of one crisis after another.

Hedging Bets With Moscow

Former U. S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger made this all-important factor on the world scene—U.S. weakness—clear in an interview in the January 15, 1979 *Newsweek*. In it he stated: "During the postwar period, the countries bordering the Indian Ocean believed the United States was strategically predominant in that area and that, therefore, friendship with the United States assured their security. . . . The Soviet march through Africa, with Cuban troops, from Angola to Ethiopia, and the Soviet moves through Afghanistan and South Yemen. . . . altered that perception; that inevitably decreased the importance of friendship with the United States."

Now reports are circulating that even staunchly anti-Communist Saudi Arabia is considering diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union in order to "hedge its bets" with the U.S.

Asked what more we could expect in the way of Soviet inroads in the arc region, Kissinger again replied it was all up to the actions taken by Washington: "The more that the United States looks out of control of events, the more it appears as if our friends are going down without effective American support or even effective American understanding of what is occurring, the more this process will accelerate. . . . A problem avoided turns into a crisis and the crisis not mastered turns into a cataclysm further down the road."

The former Secretary of State then reserved special condemnation for America's failure to thwart the Soviet Union's use of Cuban proxy forces in Africa. "I simply cannot believe that it can be beyond the capacity of the United States to stop Cuban expeditionary forces thousands of miles from home. It just cannot be. To claim that it is, is in itself a symptom of such weakness that it will accelerate the geopolitical decline of which we have been speaking."

With the foregoing as a background, the following is a brief country-by-country rundown of the deteriorating situation, highlighting the perilous drift toward anti-Western, pro-Soviet sentiment among nations in the Indian Ocean and Persian Gulf regions.

Catalog of Crises

In *Iran*, the violent street demonstrations which have wracked that nation since early last year have finally forced its embattled leader, Shah Mohammed Reza Pahlavi, into virtual exile, leaving the nation's future in the hands of competing political forces. For the moment, a civilian government under Premier Shahpour Bakhtiar holds power. But it has yet to survive the uncertain weeks and months which will inevitably follow the Shah's departure.

The ultimate arbiter of power in Iran is still the armed forces. Despite denials by top generals, rumors persist that the military might yet seize control in a coup.

The Bakhtiar government could also be swept aside by religious opposition. From his headquarters outside Paris, exiled Moslem leader Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini—the main influence behind the mass anti-Shah movement and rallying center for the cause—has appointed an “Islamic revolutionary council” to prepare the way for a new constitution declaring predominately Moslem Iran an “Islamic republic,” to be headed by himself upon return from exile. Observers see such a regime as being radically reactionary and xenophobic in character.

Khomeini has branded the Shah's departure as a trick and the Bakhtiar government as illegal. Should Khomeini succeed in his bid for power, many analysts fear serious consequences for the United States. Khomeini is known to harbor strong anti-American sentiments because of Washington's support for the Shah.

What happens in Iran is of critical importance to the West for a variety of reasons. As the world's second largest exporter of oil after Saudi Arabia, Iran has supplied some eight percent of U. S. import needs and a far greater percentage to the economies of Japan, Western

Europe, Israel and South Africa.

Equally important is Iran's geographical position. To the north it shares a 1,500-mile border with the Soviet Union. To the south Iran acts as a “policeman” of the vital searoutes over which most Iranian, Persian Gulf and Saudi Arabian oil flows to the West. After Great Britain withdrew her military forces east of Suez in the late 1960s, the Shah stepped into the vacuum to become the “gendarme” of the Persian Gulf on behalf of the West. Both the Bakhtiar government and the Khomeini faction stress that Iran will not continue playing this role, but will pursue an independent course in foreign policy.

“

Whichever faction wins in the end in Iran, it is strictly a no-win situation for the Western world. And for that very reason the U.S.S.R. stands to gain a victory.

”

In view of these obvious strategic considerations, many analysts detect a Soviet hand, to one degree or another, behind Iran's recent turmoil. The well-organized strikes by oilfield workers, it is felt, could not have been carried off without Communist direction, or at least heavy involvement. Whichever faction wins in the end in Iran, it is strictly a no-win situation for the Western world. And for that very reason the U.S.S.R. stands to gain a victory.

In *Afghanistan*, despite denials by that country's leaders, the leftist military government which seized power last April in a bloody revolution has turned the country into a virtual Soviet satellite. Currently calling the shots in that remote but strategically important Moslem nation of 14 million is President Nur Mohammed Taraki, secretary general of the rul-

ing People's Democratic Party. In an attempt to assuage conservative Moslems, Taraki refuses to call his government Marxist (though few doubt that is its true orientation) and officially claims to be nonaligned.

The facts, however, speak for themselves. Last December Afghanistan and Moscow signed a 20-year “peace and friendship” pact, with military aspects, further tightening links between the two countries which share a 1,000-mile border. The current number of Soviet advisers in the country—nearly 5,000—is more than double what it was before the coup. Moreover, since last April the Kremlin has supplied 60 T-62 tanks and 20 MiG fighters to the Afghan government in Kabul.

Some analysts believe Afghanistan is now being used by the Soviets as a base to promote trouble among ethnic minorities in neighboring Iran and Pakistan, including stirring up the long-simmering independence movement among the Baluchi tribesmen of western Pakistan. Should Russian- and Afghan-backed Baluchis succeed in carving an independent “Baluchistan” out of Pakistan, Russia could acquire the warm-water port on the Arabian Sea which it has sought since the days of the czars.

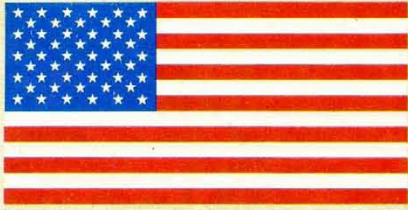
Pakistan on Edge of Violence

In *Pakistan*, a military government is in power, but shakily. At the moment, everything seems to revolve around the person of deposed Prime Minister Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, who has spent much of the past year battling illness behind bars and fighting for his life in court. Pakistan's rulers have threatened to execute Bhutto, who still enjoys wide support. A ruling from the Supreme Court of Pakistan is expected in the near future on his appeal against a death sentence for charges including murder. In the event the Supreme Court confirms Bhutto's death sentence, tensions could explode into massive violence, with unpredictable consequences.

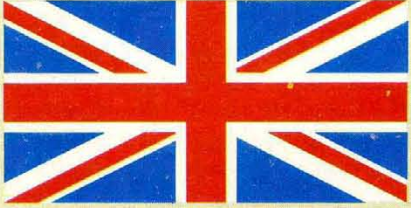
In the meantime, the current government is worried over the shift of neighboring Afghanistan into the Soviet camp and Washington's apathetic, ho-hum reaction to it. America's

(Continued on page 42)

PART FIVE:



THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



God promised that throughout every generation David would have someone to sit on his throne over Israel. But has God kept that promise? And if so, just where is that throne today?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The strange truth of the PLANTING and the REBUILDING of David's throne is revealed in "a riddle and a parable" couched in symbolic language never understood until this latter day. Yet it stands today so clearly explained a little child could understand!

It fills the 17th chapter of Ezekiel's prophecy. The whole chapter should be carefully read. Notice, first, this prophetic message is addressed, NOT to Judah, the Jews, but to the house of Israel. It is a message to give light to the lost ten-tribed house of ISRAEL in these latter days!

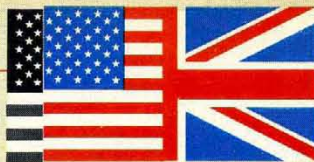
First, Ezekiel is told to speak a riddle, and then a parable. The riddle is found in verses 3 to 10. Then, beginning in verse 11, the Eternal explains its meaning. "Say now to the rebellious house [God says, the "rebellious house," being ten-tribed ISRAEL (Ezek. 12:9), to whom Ezekiel is set a prophet (Ezek. 2:3; 3:1, etc.)], Know ye not what these things mean? tell them . . ." and then the riddle is clearly explained.

A great eagle came to Lebanon and took the highest branch of the cedar. This is explained to represent King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon who came to Jerusalem and took captive the king of Judah. The cropping off of the cedar's young twigs and carrying them to a land of traffic is explained to picture the captivity of the king's sons. "He took also of the seed of the land" means Nebuchadnezzar

took also of the people, and the mighty of the land of Judah. He "set it as a willow tree. And it grew, and became a spreading vine of low stature" means the Jews were given a covenant whereby, although they were ruled over by the Chaldeans, they might live in peace and grow. The other "great eagle" is explained to represent Pharaoh of Egypt.

Thus the riddle covers the *first* half of Jeremiah's commission. Now notice what is revealed concerning the *second* part—the PLANTING of David's throne! It comes in the parable, verses 22-24: "Thus saith the Lord God; I will also take of the highest branch of the high cedar." From God's own explanation we have learned that the cedar tree represents the nation of Judah; its highest branch is Judah's king. The riddle told us Nebuchadnezzar took the highest branch—the king. The parable now tells us *God*—not Nebuchadnezzar, but *God*—will take *of* the highest branch. Not the branch, but *OF* the branch—of Zedekiah's children. But Nebuchadnezzar took, and killed, all his *SONS*.

God, through his prophet Jeremiah, is now going to take *OF* this highest branch and "SET IT" (verse 22). "I will crop off from the top of his young twigs a *tender one*, and will plant it upon an high mountain and eminent," continues the Almighty! Ah! "A tender young twig"! The twigs



of this highest branch represent the children of King Zedekiah! Certainly a tender young twig, then, represents a DAUGHTER! "... and will PLANT it." Could symbolic language say plainer this young Jewish princess is to become the royal seed for PLANTING again of David's throne? Where? "... upon an high mountain and eminent," says the Eternal! A "mountain" in symbol always represents a NATION.

But Which Nation?

"In the mountain of the height of ISRAEL will I plant it," answers the Eternal! David's throne now is to be planted in ISRAEL, after being thrown down from JUDAH! Could language be plainer? "... and it [the tender young twig—the king's daughter] shall bring forth boughs, and bear fruit, and be a goodly cedar."

Did David's throne cease with Zedekiah of Judah? Did God forget His covenant? No! Compare this language with the passage in Isaiah 37:31-32: "The remnant that is escaped of the house of Judah shall again take root downward [be planted], and BEAR FRUIT UPWARD." It was PLANTED in ISRAEL, who removed from Judah! After this Hebrew princess is "planted" on the throne, now in ISRAEL, lost from view—that throne is to BEAR FRUIT. She is to marry, have children, and her sons are to continue David's dynasty!

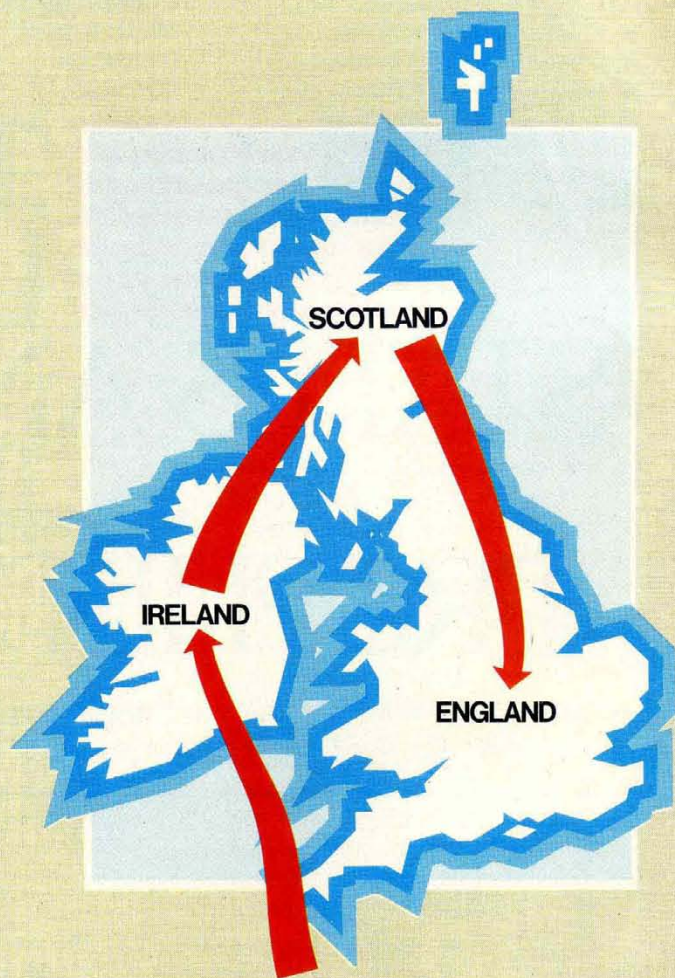
"... and under it shall dwell all fowl of every wing; in the shadow of the branches thereof shall they dwell" (Ezek. 17:23). "Lost" Israel, now having acquired the throne and become again a self-ruling nation, shall, in time, spread around the earth gaining dominance and power. They shall inherit the unconditional promises of the BIRTHRIGHT, according to God's covenant with Abraham!

"And all the trees of the field..." (verse 24). A "tree" in this riddle and parable is likened to a nation. In other words, "all the nations of the earth." "... shall know that I the Lord have brought down the high tree." Judah, the high tree, having the throne 130 years after Israel had been taken captive, now is brought down to the low stature of slavery. "... have exalted the low tree." For 130 years Israel had been a "low tree." Now Israel is exalted, becomes again a thriving nation with a Davidic king. "... have dried up the green tree [Judah] and have made the dry tree [Israel] to flourish."

Compare that language with Ezekiel 21:26: "Remove the diadem, and take off the crown... exalt him that is low, and abase him that is high. I will overturn..." etc. It is speaking of transferring the throne from Judah to Israel.

Israel had already been independent in Ireland for four centuries. Israel in Ireland already had a kingly line onto which Zedekiah's daughter was grafted. The Irish Israelites were an ancient colony and had not gone into Assyrian captivity.

ISRAEL, headed by the tribes of Ephraim and Manas-



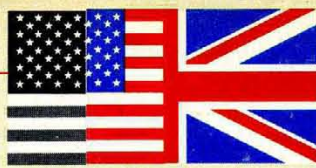
MAP ABOVE ILLUSTRATES THE ROUTE of Jeremiah's trip to Ireland. According to tradition, he set up the royal dynasty in Ireland, which was overturned and planted in Scotland and later moved to England.

seh, who possessed the birthright, now would flourish, become prosperous in due time. "I the Lord have spoken and have done it" (Ezek. 17:24).

Yes, that BIRTHRIGHT is in ISRAEL. Though *lost*, though supposed to be a Gentile nation, they are the people who were to grow into the promised multitude—the great nation and the company of nations, possessing the gates of their enemy nations, becoming a colonizing people spreading around the world, being blessed with national resources and wealth. And, when they become thus powerful and nationally dominant, remember, David's throne will be found transplanted among them!

But where did Jeremiah, with his royal seed for the transplanting, go to find the lost house of Israel? Where are they today? How was the "breach" healed, and how did a son of Zarah ascend the throne? Can we tell?

We CAN! The exact, precise location is revealed in Bible



prophecy! We can pick up Jeremiah's trail in actual history besides!

Israel's New Land

We are ready now to search out the actual location of the lost tribes of the outcast house of Israel. We know they exist today as a nation, and a company of nations, powerful, looked upon as Gentiles. And when we find them, we shall find the throne of David!

Many passages of prophecy tell of these people in these latter days. Prophecies not to be understood until this "time of the end." Prophecies containing a message to be carried to these people by those to whom God reveals it!

First, fix in mind these facts:

The prophet Amos wrote, in the days of the 13th of the 19 kings of the house of Israel (Amos 1:1): "Behold, the eyes of the Lord God are upon the sinful kingdom [house of Israel—Judah had not yet sinned], and I will destroy it [the kingdom, or government, not the people] from off the face of the earth. . . . For lo, I will command, and I will sift the house of Israel among all nations, like as corn is sifted in a sieve, yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth" (Amos 9:8-9).

This prophecy usually is applied to the scattered condition of the Jews. But it has nothing to do with the Jews, or house of Judah, but refers to the ten-tribed house of ISRAEL—driven to Assyrian captivity, then migrating from there and scattering among other nations *before* the Jews were taken to Babylon. This prophecy says that ISRAEL (not Judah) was to be sifted among other nations—these Israelites losing their identity—yet God has protected and kept them: "yet shall not the least grain fall upon the earth."

A New Homeland

It was during this time that the children of the house of Israel were to "abide many days without a king" (Hosea 3:4). That these people did sift through all nations is clear. Many New Testament passages indicate this. Although many of them still were scattered among various nations in the first century A.D., a portion of them had become established in a definite location of their own by Jeremiah's time—140 years after their original captivity.

But these Israelites who possessed the birthright eventually were to come to a new land of their own. The Eternal says, in II Samuel 7:10 and I Chronicles 17:9: "Moreover I will appoint a place for my people Israel, and will PLANT THEM [Jeremiah was commissioned to do the PLANTING of the throne among them], that they may dwell in a place of their own, and *move no more*." The context of the whole passage shows this refers, not to Palestine, but a different land where these scattered Israelites were to gather after being removed from the promised land of Palestine, while that land was lying idle and in possession of the Gentiles.

Notice carefully! After being removed from Palestine,

being sifted among all nations, abiding many days without a king, losing their identity, they are to be "planted" in a faraway strange land now to become their own. And, note it, after reaching this place *they are to move no more!* That is, of course, during this present world.

While other prophecies indicate these birthright holders were to become a colonizing people, spreading around the world, it is plain that the spreading out must be from this appointed place, which must remain the "home" seat of government for David's throne.

Mark this clearly! Once this "place of their own" was reached, and the throne of David planted there, *THEY WERE TO MOVE NO MORE*. Therefore, the location of this people today is the place where Jeremiah planted David's throne more than 2500 years ago!

Therefore prophecies pertaining to *this* day, or to the location of this people just prior to Christ's return, will tell us the location of Jeremiah's planting. The house of Israel is *yet* to return, at Christ's coming, to Palestine—yet to plant grapes in Samaria, their original country. Prophecies telling where they shall, in that future day, migrate FROM will reveal the location of "lost" ten-tribed ISRAEL! The two succeeding "overturns" of the throne, too, must be located in this same general locale.

Lost Israel Located

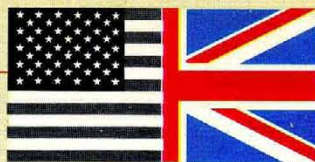
Without further suspense, let us see where prophecy locates these birthright holders, now possessing the throne of David and having received earth's richest national blessings. Remember they are distinguished from Judah—the Jews—by various names: "Ephraim," "Joseph," "Jacob," "Rachel" (the mother of Joseph), "Samaria" (their former home), "Israel."

According to Hosea 12:1: "Ephraim . . . followeth after the east wind." An "east wind" travels west. Ephraim must have gone *west* from Assyria. When the Eternal swore to David that He would perpetuate his throne, He said: "I will *set* his hand [sceptre] also *in the sea*" (Ps. 89:25). The throne is to be "set," planted, "in the sea."

Through Jeremiah the Eternal said: "Backsliding Israel hath justified herself more than treacherous Judah. Go and proclaim these words *toward the NORTH*, and say, Return, thou backsliding Israel, saith the Lord" (Jer. 3:11-12). Israel is clearly distinguished from Judah. Of course Israel was north of Judah while still in Palestine—but when these words were written by Jeremiah, Israel had been removed from Palestine more than 130 years and had long since migrated, *with* the Assyrians, north (and west) of Assyria's original location.

And in these last days messengers are to go "toward the NORTH" (of Jerusalem) in order to locate lost Israel and proclaim this warning. So the location, we now find, is toward the north, also west, and in the sea.

The 18th verse, same chapter, says: "In those days the house of Judah shall walk with the house of Israel [margin, *to* the house of Israel], and they shall come together



out of the land of the north to the land that I have given for an inheritance unto your fathers." At the future exodus, at Christ's coming, they are to return to Palestine out of the land of the NORTH!

After saying, "How shall I give thee up, Ephraim?" the Eternal, speaking through Hosea, says: "Then the children shall tremble from the west" (Hosea 11:8, 10).

Again: "Behold, I will bring them from the north country, and gather them from the coasts of the earth" (Jer. 31:8). This prophecy is for consideration in the "latter days" (Jer. 30:24; 31:1), and is addressed to "Israel" (verses 2, 4, 9), to "Ephraim" (verses 6, 9), and "Samar-ia" (verse 5). Here is added another hint—"the coasts of the earth" (verse 8)—evidencing they are dominant at sea and indicating they have spread abroad widely by colonization.

Referring to the house of ISRAEL, not Judah (Isaiah 49:3,6), God says: "Behold, these shall come from far: and, lo, these from the NORTH and from the WEST; and these from the land of Sinim" (Isa. 49:12). In the Hebrew, the language in which this was originally inspired, there is no word for "northwest," but this term is designated by the phrase, "the north and the west." It means, literally, the northwest! The Vulgate renders "Sinim" as "Australi," or "Australia." So we now have the location northwest of Jerusalem and even spreading around the world.

Hence, Israel of TODAY—Israel of the day of Jeremiah's "planting" of David's throne—is located specifi-

Though lost, though supposed to be a Gentile nation, Israel's people were to grow into the promised multitude.

cally as northwest of Jerusalem and in the sea! Let us locate this land more specifically!

The same 49th chapter of Isaiah begins with this: "Listen, O isles, unto me." The people addressed, Israel, are called "O isles" in the first verse and "O Israel" in the third verse. This term "isles" or "islands" is sometimes translated "coastlands."

The 31st chapter of Jeremiah, locating Israel in the "north country," says: "I am a father to Israel, and Ephraim is my firstborn. Hear the word of the Lord, O ye nations [Ephraim, Manasseh], and declare it in the isles afar off . . ." (Jer. 31:9-10).

Again: "Keep silence before me, O islands. . . thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob whom I have chosen" (Isa. 41:1, 8).

In Jeremiah 31:10, the message is to be declared "in the isles afar off" and is to be shouted in "the CHIEF OF THE

NATIONS" (verse 7). So, finally, today, as in Jeremiah's day, the house of Israel is in the isles, which are "in the sea," the chief of the nations, northwest of Jerusalem. A coast-dwelling, and therefore sea-dominant, people. Certainly there can be no mistaking that identity!

Take a map of Europe. Lay a line due NORTHWEST of Jerusalem across the continent of Europe, until you come to the sea, and then to the islands in the sea! This line takes you directly to the British Isles!

Of proof that our white, English-speaking peoples today—Britain and America—are actually and truly the birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh of the "lost" house of Israel there is so much we shall have space for but a small portion in this series.

Britain's Hebrew Names

A most interesting fact is the Hebrew meaning of the names of the British people. The house of Israel is the covenant people. The Hebrew word for "covenant" is *beriyth*, or *berith*. After Gideon's death, Israel followed the false pagan god Baal. In Judges 8:33 and 9:4, the word "covenant" is used as a proper name coupled with the name "Baal." This is quoted in the English text, Authorized Version, without being translated, as "Baalberith," meaning (margin) "idol of the covenant."

The Hebrew for "man" is *iysh*, or *ish*. In English, the ending "-ish" means "of or belonging to (a specified nation or person)." In the original Hebrew language vowels were never given in the spelling. So, omitting the vowel "e" from *berith*, but retaining the "i" in its anglicized form to preserve the "y" sound, we have the anglicized Hebrew word for covenant, *brith*.

The Hebrews, however, never pronounced their "h's." Many a Jew, even today, in pronouncing the name "Shem," will call it "Sem." Incidentally, this ancient Hebrew trait is also a modern British trait. So the Hebrew word for "covenant" would be pronounced, in its anglicized form, as *brit*.

And the word for "covenant man," or "covenant people," would therefore be simply "BRIT-ISH." And so, is it mere coincidence that the true covenant people today are called the "BRITISH"? And they reside in the "BRITISH ISLES"!

The house of Israel not only was to lose its identity, but its name. It was to be called by a new name, since they no longer were to know their identity as Israel, as God said plainly in Isaiah 62:2, referring to these latter days, and to the millennium.

To Abraham God said, "In ISAAC shall thy seed be called," and this name is repeated in Romans 9:7 and Hebrews 11:18. In Amos 7:16 the Israelites are called "the house of ISAAC." They were descended from Isaac, and therefore are Isaac's sons. Drop the "I" from "Isaac" (vowels are not used in Hebrew spelling), and we have the modern name "SAAC'S SONS," or, as we spell it in shorter manner, "SAXONS"!



Keystone



Keystone

THE OLD CORONATION CHAIR in Westminster Abbey, London. Under it lies a stone, said to have been brought to Ireland by Jeremiah the prophet and upon which many kings of Scotland and England have been coronated.

Dr. W. Holt Yates says, "The word 'Saxons' is derived from the 'sons of Isaac,' by dropping the prefix 'I.'"

Many confuse the Anglo-Saxons with the German or Old Saxons who still live in Germany. The German Saxons derive their name from an Old High German word, *Sahs*, meaning "sword" or "knife." These sword-carrying Germans are an entirely different people from the Anglo-Saxons who migrated to Britain.

Dan a Serpent's Trail

As the Eternal intended that "lost" Israel was to be located and found in these last days, we should expect some kinds of signs or waymarks to have been left along the trail by which ancient Israel journeyed from Assyria, the land of their original captivity.

Speaking to Ephraim (verse 20), the Eternal says in Jeremiah 31:21: "Set thee up waymarks, make thee high heaps: set thine heart toward the highway, even the way which thou wentest." In Scripture we find the "waymarks," or highway signs, which they set up along the road they traveled.

In Genesis 49:17, Jacob, foretelling what should befall each of the tribes, says: "Dan shall be a serpent by the way." Another translation of the original Hebrew is: "Dan shall be a serpent's trail." It is a significant fact that the tribe of Dan, one of the Ten Tribes, named every place they went after their father Dan.

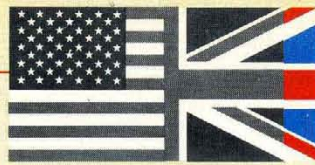
The tribe of Dan originally occupied a strip of coast country on the Mediterranean, west of Jerusalem. "And the coast of the children of Dan," we read in Joshua 19:47, "went out too little for them: therefore the children of Dan went up to fight against Leshem, and took it . . . and called Leshem, DAN, after the name of Dan their father."

In Judges 18:11-12, it is recorded that Danites took Kirjath-jearim, and "called that place Mahaneh-dan unto this day." A little later the same company of 600 armed

Danites came to Laish, captured it, and "they called the name of the city DAN, after the name of Dan their father" (verse 29). So notice how these Danites left their "serpent's trail" by the way—set up waymarks by which they may be traced today.

Remember, in the Hebrew, vowels were not written. The sound of the vowels had to be supplied in speaking. Thus, the word "Dan" in its English equivalent could be spelled, simply, "Dn." It might be pronounced as "Dan," or "Den," or "Din," or "Don," or "Dun"—and still could be the same original Hebrew name.

The tribe of Dan occupied two different districts, or provinces, in the Holy Land before the Assyrian captivity. One colony lived on the seacoast of Palestine. They were



principally seamen, and it is recorded Dan abode in ships (Judges 5:17).

When Assyria captured Israel, these Danites struck out in their ships and sailed west through the Mediterranean and north to Ireland. Just before his death, Moses prophesied of Dan: "Dan is a lion's whelp: he shall leap from Bashan" (Deut. 33:22). Along the shores of the Mediterranean they left their trail in "Den," "Don," and "Din."

Irish annals and history show that the new settlers of Ireland, at just this time, were the "Tuatha de Danaans," which means, translated, "Tribe of Dan." Sometimes the same appears simply as "Tuathe De," meaning the "people of God." And in Ireland we find they left these "waymarks": *Dans-Laugh*, *Dan-Sower*, *Dun-dalk*, *Dun-drum*, *Don-egal Bay*, *Don-egal City*, *Dun-gloe*, *Lon-donderry*, *Din-gle*, *Dunsmor* (meaning "more Dans"). Moreover, the name *Dunn* in the Irish language means the same as *Dan* in the Hebrew: judge.

But the northern colony of Danites was taken to Assyria in the captivity, and thence with the rest of the Ten Tribes they traveled from Assyria by the overland route.

After leaving Assyrian captivity, they inhabited for some time the land just west of the Black Sea. There we find the rivers *Dnieper*, *Dniester*, and the *Don*.

Then, in either ancient or later geography, we find these waymarks: *Dan-au*, the *Dan-inn*, the *Dan-aster*, the *Dan-dari*, the *Dan-ez*, the *Don*, the *Dan*, and the *U-don*; the *Eri-don*, down to the *Danes*. *Denmark* means "Dan's mark."

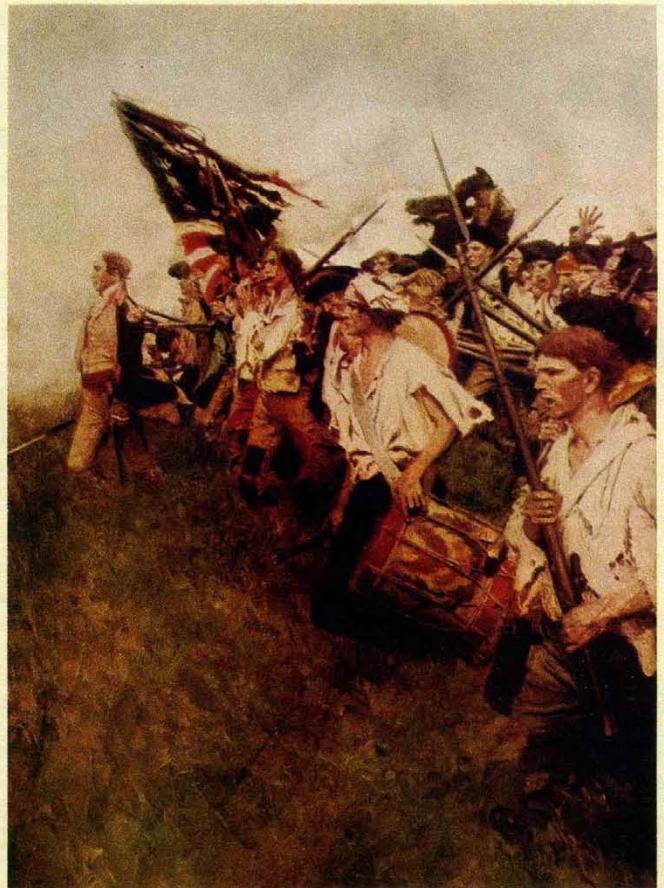
When they came to the British Isles, they set up the "waymark" names of *Dun-dee*, *Dun-raven*; in Scotland the "Dans," "Dons" and "Duns" are as prolific as in Ireland. And so the "serpent's trail" of Dan sets up waymarks that lead directly to the British Isles!

Ancient Annals of Ireland

Now briefly let us consider what is found in the ancient annals, legends, and history of Ireland, and we shall have the scene of Jeremiah's "planting" and the present location of "lost" Israel.

The real ancient history of Ireland is very extensive, though colored with some legend. But with the facts of biblical history and prophecy in mind, one can easily sift out the legend from the true history in studying ancient Irish annals. Throwing out that which is obviously legendary, we glean from various histories of Ireland the following: Long prior to 700 B.C. a strong colony called "Tuatha de Danaan" (tribe of Dan) arrived in ships, drove out other tribes, and settled there. Later, in the days of David, a colony of the line of Zarah arrived in Ireland from the Near East.

Then, in 569 B.C. (date of Jeremiah's transplanting), an elderly, white-haired patriarch, sometimes referred to as a "saint," came to Ireland. With him was the princess daughter of an eastern king and a companion called "Simon Brach," spelled in different histories as Breck, Ber-



Courtesy of Delaware Art Museum, Wilmington, Delaware

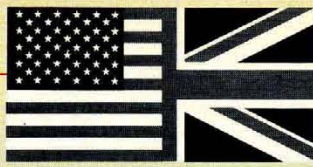
THE THIRTEEN AMERICAN COLONIES rebelled against British rule in 1776. Biblical prophecy stated that the Israelite tribe of Manasseh was to become a great nation, while Ephraim would become a union of "many nations."

ech, Brach, or Berach. The princess had a Hebrew name Tephî—a pet name—her full name being Tea-Tephî.

Modern literature of those who recognize our national identity has confused this Tea-Tephî, a daughter of Zedekiah, with an earlier Tea, a daughter of Ith, who lived in the days of David.

This royal party included the son of the king of Ireland who had been in Jerusalem at the time of the siege. There he had become acquainted with Tea-Tephî. He married her shortly after 585—when the city fell. Their young son, now about 12 years of age, accompanied them to Ireland. Besides the royal family, Jeremiah brought with them some remarkable things, including a harp, an ark, and a wonderful stone called "lia-fail," or "stone of destiny." A peculiar coincidence (?) is that Hebrew reads from right to left, while English reads from left to right. Read this name either way—and it still is "lia-fail."

Another strange coincidence—or is it just coincidence?—is that many kings in the history of Ireland, Scotland, and England have been coronated sitting over



this stone—including the present queen. The stone rests today in Westminster Abbey in London, and the coronation chair is built over and around it. A sign beside it labels it “Jacob’s pillar-stone” (Gen. 28:18).

The royal husband of the Hebrew princess Tea was given the title Herremon upon ascending the throne of his father. This Herremon has usually been confused with a much earlier Gede the Herremon in David’s day—who married his uncle Ith’s daughter Tea. The son of this later king Herremon and Hebrew princess continued on the throne of Ireland and *this same dynasty continued unbroken* through all the kings of Ireland; was *overturned* and transplanted again in Scotland; again *overturned* and moved to London, England, where *this same dynasty continues today* in the reign of Queen Elizabeth II.

Another interesting fact is that the crown worn by the kings of the line of Herremon and the other sovereigns of ancient Ireland had *twelve points!*

Queen Elizabeth on David’s Throne

In view of the linking together of biblical history, prophecy, and Irish history, can anyone deny that this Hebrew princess was the daughter of King Zedekiah of Judah and therefore heir to the throne of David? That the aged patriarch was in fact Jeremiah, and his companion was Jeremiah’s scribe, or secretary, Baruch? That King Herremon was a descendant of Zarah, here married to the daughter of Pharez, healing the ancient breach? That when the throne of David was first overturned by Jeremiah, it was REPLANTED in Ireland, later overturned a second time and replanted in Scotland, overturned a third time and planted in London? When Christ returns to earth to sit on that throne, He shall take over a LIVE, *existing* throne, not a nonexistent one (Luke 1:32).

And the British Commonwealth of Nations is the *only* COMPANY OF NATIONS in all earth’s history. Could we so *exactly* fulfill the specifications of the birthright, and not be the birthright people?

The United States expanded rapidly in national resources and wealth after 1800, but reached world dominance among nations later than the British Commonwealth. It became a giant world power by the end of World War I.

The United States Is Manasseh

From the prophetic blessings passed on by the dying Jacob, it is apparent that Ephraim and Manasseh were in a large measure to inherit the birthright jointly; to remain together for a long time, finally separating.

In Genesis 48 Jacob first passed the birthright on to the two sons of Joseph jointly, speaking of them both together. Then, finally, he spoke of them separately—Manasseh was to become the single GREAT nation; Ephraim, the COMPANY of nations.

And in his prophecy for these latter days Jacob said, “Joseph is a fruitful bough, even a fruitful bough by a

well; whose *branches run over the wall!*” (Gen. 49:22). In other words, Joseph—Ephraim and Manasseh jointly and together—was to be a *colonizing* people in this latter day, their colonies branching out from the British Isles around the earth.

Together Ephraim and Manasseh grew into a multitude, then separated, according to Jacob’s prophetic blessing of Genesis 48. Our people have fulfilled this prophecy.

But how can we be Manasseh when a large part of our people have come from many nations besides England? The answer is this: A large part of Manasseh remained with Ephraim until the separation of NEW England. But our forefathers were to be sifted through many nations, as corn through a sieve, yet not a grain to fall to the earth or be lost (Amos 9:9). Our people did filter through many nations. Ephraim and much of Manasseh finally immigrated to England together, but many others of Manasseh who had filtered into and through other nations did not leave them until they came, as immigrants, to the United States AFTER the New England colony had become the separate nation. This does not mean that *all* foreigners who have immigrated into this country are of the stock of Manasseh, but undoubtedly many are. Israel, however, always did absorb Gentiles, who became Israelites through living in Israel’s land and intermarrying.

Thus we have become known as the “melting pot” of the world. Instead of refuting our Manasseh ancestry, this fact actually confirms it. The proof that we are Manasseh is overwhelming. Manasseh was to separate from Ephraim and become the greatest, wealthiest single nation of earth’s history. We alone have fulfilled this prophecy. Manasseh was in fact a *thirteenth* tribe. There were twelve original tribes. Joseph was one of these twelve. But when Joseph divided into two tribes and Manasseh separated into an independent nation, it became a *thirteenth* tribe.

Could it be mere coincidence that it *started*, as a nation, with *thirteen* colonies?

But what about the *other* tribes of the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes”? While the *birthright* was *Joseph’s*, and its blessings have come to the British Commonwealth of Nations and the United States of America, yet the other eight tribes of Israel were also God’s chosen people. They, too, have been blessed with a good measure of material prosperity—but *not* the dominance of the birthright.

We lack space for a detailed explanation of the specific identity of all of these other tribes in the nations of our twentieth century. Suffice it to say here that there is ample evidence that these other eight tribes have descended into such northwestern European nations as Holland, Belgium, Denmark, northern France, Luxembourg, Switzerland, Sweden, Norway. The people of Iceland are also of Viking stock. The political boundaries of Europe, as they exist today, do not necessarily show lines of division between descendants of these original tribes of Israel. □

(To Be Continued)

A Special Way to PEACE and JOY

There is a way to personal success and happiness. It is not mystical. It is not complicated. And it really works!

by Roderick C. Meredith

As a teenager who usually tried to act tough and unemotional, I was brought to tears one night in an unusual way. I shall never forget it.

It was a gorgeous summer evening in the American Midwest. I walked thoughtfully through the warm darkness, hearing the crickets chirp, looking at an almost full moon which illuminated with its gentle light the open spaces between the trees.

Harry's folks were gone, so I just came on around to the sliding glass door which opened out onto the patio. Suddenly, my musings were halted as I realized that the beautiful music I had been hearing so faintly before was coming from the piano just inside the sliding door, which was open.

There, his upturned face partially bathed by the moonlight which fil-

tered through the trees and into the room, sat Harry at the piano bench. He was playing beautifully and most fittingly, in that quiet, luminescent scene, Beethoven's *Moonlight Sonata*. It was the most memorable rendition of that piece that I had ever heard. For Harry was completely blind.

Mistakes Exact Penalties

I watched for a moment and my eyes welled up with tears as Harry's unseeing eyes stared toward the very moon to whose beauty this piece had been dedicated. And I was forced to realize that blind Harry—the fellow we helped here and there around school, the boy whose alert and inquiring mind literally hungered for the chance I had to read, to see, to learn—was born blind for a reason. And common knowledge in the town had it that the reason was a “mistake” one of his parents made before his conception.

Whether we realize it or not, most

such mistakes involve taking “liberties” with some kind of law. And so Harry was born blind. He was paying a penalty because someone else felt “free” to break a law—or, more likely, probably denied that such a law even existed.

But that law existed all right, and still does.

And the hundreds of times that Harry was “down” emotionally, the countless hours he brooded and suffered, the times he poured out his heart to me and others, the many, many times he got drunk to “forget”—all these bear ample testimony to those who are willing to understand that a law was broken and a terrible penalty was incurred.

Harry knows. He paid much of that penalty—along with millions of others of whom we shall later learn.

The Whole World Suffers

Not only are the individual sufferings of those like Harry increasing, but intelligent men everywhere know that

they are living under the giant shadow of the H-bomb. Destruction could come any day, any time, any hour. And you and I would be no more.

Yes, we have more education and knowledge today. But that merely increases our capacity to kill and destroy one another.

Noted American columnist Sidney J. Harris summed it up in these words: "The problem is this: that intellectual knowledge is additive, while moral knowledge is not. What this means is that each generation knows more than the last, *but acts no better*. . . .

"Moral knowledge does not seem to increase from generation to generation. All we learn from the past is to commit the same mistakes in greater volume and with more consequences."

With the advent of modern super-weapons, this scandalous lack of moral and spiritual values in modern knowledge assumes truly frightening proportions. At this point in human history, we cannot afford to keep making the same mistakes over and over. The result—as world leaders admit—may well be world suicide!

Yet in spite of having to live with the ever-growing threat of cosmocide for almost a generation, modern education, science, and philosophy have come up with virtually nothing to alleviate this dangerous situation. That is truly catastrophic.

Find the Cause

Is there a way that can bring an end to all war—an end to mounting crime, violence, broken homes, teenage pregnancies, babies born blind because of venereal diseases, mounting drug abuse and deep personal frustrations nearly everywhere?

It sounds like quite an order. But the genuine solution to these problems is as absolute as it is practical.

Many international, national, civic and private "do-good" organizations are busily trying to find solutions to the above problems. They are composed of sincere men and women. Often they do a certain amount of good—in a very limited way and for a limited time—within an overall framework which never changes. For they are only treating a few of the

symptoms: war, crime, violence, broken homes, etc. They are not getting at the real cause of these tragic ills.

There is a cause for every effect. So to truly solve the above problems, we need to find their causes.

Far beneath the immediate provocations, there is a single basic cause or underlying reason for mankind's basic ills, as listed above. One way of putting it would be to say that "human nature" is the culprit. And that is true. But let's get specific. In what way does "human nature" cause war, crime and other problems? And is there an opposite way that would genuinely ensure peace and happiness?

A "Law of Liberty"?

To most people, certainly including many in the field of religion, "law" has a foreboding, depressing connotation. Most businesses and organizations publish guidelines or some type of suggested behavioral code. And the government only uses the term "law" when a serious rule involving a penalty for disobedience is involved.

So, as a society, we tend to have this negative feeling about law. It should not be so. For the great Creator, the God of your Bible, has revealed a way of life based on law. It is a way that most professing Christians have heard practically nothing about.

Yet it is, in fact, the way that is going to solve the world's major problems within the normal life span of most of you reading this article!

The Son of God, Jesus Christ, was asked, "Master, which is the great commandment in the law?"

He answered: "Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself. On these two commandments hang all the law and the prophets" (Matt. 22:36-40).

Notice! All other laws of God hang on or are outgrowths and magnifications of these two great spiritual principles. There are ten commandments in God's great spiritual law. The first four tell us how to love and honor

God; the last six tell us how to love our neighbor.

Man needs these laws today more than ever before. Mankind is literally sick from its ignorance and neglect and consequent disobedience of these rules from our Creator.

Again, Jesus was asked: "Good Master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life?"

He answered: "Why callest thou me good? There is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, keep the commandments. He saith unto him, Which? Jesus said, Thou shalt do no murder, Thou shalt not commit adultery, Thou shalt not steal, Thou shalt not bear false witness, Honour thy father and thy mother: and, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself" (Matt. 19:16-19).

Notice that Jesus, in answering, named some of the Ten Commandments—particularly, in this case, those telling man how to love his neighbor. For the religious leaders of that day had become overly strict with respect to the first four commandments. But they were weak and lax in regard to the last six.

Whenever Jesus spoke of the law of God—or "the commandments"—He was always referring to that great spiritual law, the Decalogue, or Ten Commandments. He came to "magnify" and expound this law to its full spiritual intent (Isa. 42:21).

The living Christ inspired James to write: "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law. So speak ye, and so do, as they that shall be judged by the law of liberty" (James 2:10-12). There are points to the Ten Commandments. If you break even one, you have broken the whole law.

Note also that it is called the *law of liberty*. How can a law bring liberty? Let's understand.

How It Actually Works

For simplicity's sake, let's examine a few of the last six of the Ten Commandments. These tell us how to love

our neighbor. How could they bring liberty? We shall see.

Open your own Bible to Exodus 20, verse 12. "Honour thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee." Magnifying this commandment, Jesus Christ inspired the apostle Paul to write: "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right" (Eph. 6:1).

"Wow!" some parents might exclaim. "If our children really honored and obeyed us, what a more relaxed, peaceful, safe and happy life we could have as a family! Why, we could take them places without fighting and frustration; we could have pleasant family gatherings and meals at home. The kids would gladly help with the dishes, housework and chores. And, so very importantly, they would respect us and respond to our wishes concerning the kind of friends they run around with, the places they go, the things they do—even the way they dress, fix their hair and so on. Think of all the hours of worry and frustration we would be spared if our kids really honored and obeyed us."

Parents, does it sound too good to be true?

Don't kid yourself! Don't say it is "impossible" or "out of date." To some extent that commandment was obeyed in millions of homes in past generations all over the world. Even today, though they may break many other spiritual principles, millions still follow that principle to a great extent in homes in the Orient, Western Europe and other parts of the world. Not in all homes. Not perfectly either, of course.

But to the extent that this law is obeyed, parents have "rest," confidence and a fair amount of joy in their home and family, even though their standard of living may be low. And this in spite of the fact that most of those same parents have not taught and trained their children in the knowledge of God's law to anywhere near the extent they could and should have! Many of them, in fact, are simply following this principle of God's Word without fully realizing where it came from.

But just like the law of gravity,

this law works. You can't "reason" around it, act like it does not exist or avoid it.

"Liberation" for Both Parents and Children

Obviously, if parents everywhere would teach their children to respect these principles, there would truly be a "Parents' Liberation" movement of unparalleled proportions!

Parents could then concentrate on teaching, training, loving and having delightful family activities with their children. They could quit worrying about teenage delinquency, juvenile dropouts, dope addiction, drunkenness, premarital sex and pregnancy and a veritable host of other youthful maladies. Millions of heartaches and billions of tears would be spared mothers and fathers everywhere.

But what about the young people? How would this law work for them? Would they feel oppressed and thwarted? Would their darling little personalities fail to blossom if not given complete and unlimited expression?

Absolutely not!

Remember the promise: "... that thy days may be long upon the land." How many millions of young people today are dying before their time, either figuratively or literally, because they have not been taught to honor their parents?

How many are taking drugs and are damaging or wrecking the highest physical creation here on earth, the human mind? How many are "serving" their lusts—whether in illicit sex, gambling, crime or a host of other related activities which, for the vast majority, will lead to unnecessary suffering and premature death?

Within a well-regulated, loving but disciplined family, these young people, too, could have the true "freedom" they yearn for and talk about, but which somehow always eludes their grasp. The "law of liberty" alone can guarantee all the blessings mankind yearns for!

An End to War?

In Exodus 20:13, the Creator who gives us life commands: "Thou shalt not kill." This is the second com-

mand which shows us how to love our neighbor.

Again, Jesus Christ magnified the law and revealed its spiritual intent. He said: "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbour, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you" (Matt. 5:43-44).

First, then, the New Testament magnification of this command shows that we are not to kill anybody, any time, for any purpose. God gives life, and it is sacred.

God will fight our battles when we learn to believe in Him, obey Him and trust Him to be our shield and protector. But as humans, we are not to take human life under any circumstances.

Can you begin to imagine the liberty this suffering world would have if—suddenly and unexpectedly—everyone started obeying this law and you could count on it? Consider the fantastic liberty and blessings which would be automatically enjoyed by millions of young men—and all peoples—in every generation if there were no war. They would not have to interrupt their education and family life to go off and be taught to hate, fight and kill. Hundreds of thousands of them would live—instead of die—and be able to have normal families and children. Additional millions would not have to be deformed and crippled for the rest of their natural lives as a result of war-related injuries.

Also, these young men, their wives and sweethearts, and in many cases their future children, would not be deeply hurt by the ugly stain of war, which separates man from wife, child from father—sometimes for years at a time, sometimes permanently. And there are a host of other direct and indirect sufferings which have brought untold anguish to war-torn families from the beginning of time.

Thinking men deeply and fervently realize the whole war syndrome is almost like a civilized form of insanity. Yet all the reasonings, all the philosophies, all the leagues of nations and treaties of men have been unable to stop war. Only when mankind comes to know and deeply fear—rev-

erently respect—the God of the Bible and His command against war will this continuing tragedy come to a final end.

Liberty? If the world could merely be “liberated” from this one tragedy—war—what an outflowing of blessings and what peace of mind there would be!

The Positive Side

Remember that Jesus’ statement did not merely tell us to quit killing one another. He said: “Love your enemies . . . do good to them that hate you.” Often we forget to emphasize this aspect of God’s perfect “law of liberty.” Instead of merely thinking “Don’t kill,” let’s begin to think “How can I help my neighbor live?”—that is, live a truly full, abundant and meaningful life.

What about your neighbor whose lawn mower won’t work properly? If you have the ability to repair it, why not volunteer your services instead of smiling to yourself as you watch him fussing and fuming in despair?

What about the grumpy waitress who won’t bring your water because she is frustrated and overworked? Could you be understanding and perhaps try to cheer her up? Do you realize that in our mixed-up society she may very well be a woman who has been deserted by her husband, is having to support two or three little children and is now halfway through her second job during a 16-hour workday in order to keep her fragmented family together?

Jesus said: “It is more blessed to give than to receive” (Acts 20:35). In following the positive expression of the sixth commandment, do you try to give life, love and happiness as you are able? If all of us did, think of the peace, the joy, the deep and lasting friendships and the fantastic liberty of freedom from frustration, fear, loneliness and apathy that we would all enjoy.

This is the ultimate liberty of which God speaks!

World Government Based on True Liberty

If you are willing to recognize the Ten Commandments for what they are—a fantastic expression of love

and concern from the Creator of your mind and human emotions—you will achieve many of the liberties of which we write by simply obeying God’s law. You will, of course, have to surrender your life to the true Jesus Christ of the Bible, who magnified these laws so wonderfully. You will be able to obey the intent and purpose of God’s law only if Jesus Christ, through His Spirit, is living within you (John 15:5).

But in any case, it will not be too many years before a government will be established on this earth based upon these very laws. “But in the last days it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the house of the Lord shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills; and people shall flow unto it. And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and he will teach us of his ways, and we will walk in his paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the word of the Lord from Jerusalem” (Micah 4:1-2).

Yes, this “law of liberty” will be the foundation for the rule of Jesus Christ in the soon-coming world tomorrow. Men will learn to serve, to help, and to give to one another as God’s law instructs.

What a day it will be!

Among other things, men shall not “learn war any more” (Micah 4:3). The Creator will even remove the wild and vicious nature from all creatures at that time (Isaiah 11:6-9).

One striking prophecy of this soon-coming time is found in Isaiah 32:1-2: “Behold, a king shall reign in righteousness, and princes shall rule in judgment. And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of water in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land.” Jesus Christ the Messiah will rule all nations in righteousness and equity—and soon there will be world peace!

How Man Should Live With His Neighbors

Again notice verse 2: “And a man shall be as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tem-

pest. . . .” This expresses very poetically—if we make allowances for the English translation of 1611—the love, the protectiveness and the kindness we can expect from fellow human beings in the world tomorrow.

In a big city, when my daughters walk down the street alone and hear footsteps behind them, they are often afraid. If they aren’t, in many cases they should be. And so are millions of others in many of the cities of this world.

In the coming world tomorrow—guided by the “law of liberty”—when my little ten-year-old daughter meets a man on a lonely street or out in the woods, he will be to her as a “hiding place” or a “covert” from the tempest. If she has fallen down or is lost, he will help her and, if need be, bring her home again.

In that day, our wives and daughters—and we ourselves—will have a feeling of safety, security and outgoing warmth toward our fellowman, a feeling that is rare indeed in the society in which we live today. The leading nation in the world will be a “land of unwalled villages . . . having neither bars nor gates” (Ezekiel 38:11).

Just think, no more robbery, no more rape and, consequently, no more locks, bars, gates, security guards, policemen or defense establishments. Neighbors, as in Isaiah 32, will be willing to help and serve and protect others from accidents. What a different world that will be!

Then, and only then, will the whole world be truly liberated. It will be liberated not by screaming fanatics, but when all nations and all men learn there is a living God and start fashioning their lives according to the law of liberty revealed in His Word.

Meanwhile, you have your chance to obey God’s law now and become—through Christ in you—a leader in that soon-coming world.

Write for your free copy of our vital booklet *The Ten Commandments*. (See inside front cover for the address of our office nearest you.) Learn more about how to live the way all the world will be living soon. □

God's Annual HOLY DAYS: Sneak Preview of Your Future!

In the movie world, a preview is a high-spot, action summary of a coming feature film. It is but a brief look at some of its contents. It only gives you a slight foretaste—just enough footage to whet your appetite. The biblical feast days are no different. They are but a type of good things to come.

by John R. Schroeder

Many people have the so-called movie habit. Teenagers go because John Travolta is starring in a mod dance film. Their parents may attend the latest John Wayne epic. Or somebody just wants to get away from it all for a couple of hours. Whatever the reasons, moviegoing is a worldwide phenomenon. Even dyed-in-the-wool TV watchers go in for an occasional night at the cinema.

Sandwiched somewhere in between the cartoon and the main film will be "Previews of Coming Attractions." Some feature films are cranked into definite dates. Others'

running dates are more indefinite. They are sometimes introduced as "Coming Soon to This Theater."

The events portrayed by the biblical holy days are in the latter category. We don't know when, but we do know whether. God's annual holy days are foretastes of major times and events *yet to come* to the theater of this earth!

Notice what the apostle Paul told the Colossian church: "Let no man therefore judge you in meat, or in drink, or in respect of *an holyday*, or of the new moon, or of *the sabbath days*: which *are a shadow of things to come . . .*" (Col. 2:16-17). A shadow is a representation or reflection made by a solid substance interposing between the sun and another body. The New Testament usage of this term usually reflects Greek rather than Hebrew thought. Colossians

2 uses the typically Hellenistic concept of a *shadowy likeness* which is but the counterpart of true reality yet to come.

In a previous article ("These Are the Appointed Feasts . . .," *The Plain Truth*, December 1978), we covered the first two annual holy days and festivals in God's plan. We explained the vital significance of the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. But five annual festivals remain to be expounded.

Pentecost—The Coming of the Holy Spirit

The term Pentecost means "fiftieth" in the Greek language. This is the only annual sabbath whose exact calendar date is determined by counting. The first New Testament Pentecost (see Acts 2) occurred on the *fiftieth* day after Christ's resurrection.

However, the vital meaning is more important than the exact date. The very first Pentecost after Christ's death and resurrection marked the beginning of the New Testament Church of God. The Holy Spirit was then poured out on all repentant believers.

In the Old Testament, this festival was termed the "Feast of Firstfruits." The Israelites observed it for some 1500 years *before* the name of the day was actually fulfilled. But with the outpouring of the Holy Spirit, the harvest of the *first* of the firstfruits began. Whereas God had only called a *very few* in Old Testament times, thousands received the Holy Spirit (the mark of conversion) in the first few weeks of the New Testament Church.

Pentecost teaches us that this is *not* the only day of salvation. Many think it is. They believe that "probation shall be closed" at the second coming of Christ. Presumably this means that God will "burn up" the billions in Asia and elsewhere who have never even heard the name of Jesus Christ.

The true meaning of the day of Pentecost runs counter to this false, paganized teaching. As Herbert W. Armstrong has written: "God gave this festival to His people in order to reveal, and to keep them continually informed, that the present dispensation is only the first, preliminary 'harvest of souls'" (*Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?*).

All who have been called from the days of Jesus Christ until now represent the *firstfruits* of God's salvation. But they only constitute a minute portion of all who have lived from then until now.

Pentecost is a festival of transition. It is in the midst of the three main festival seasons. Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread largely symbolize events now already past. All of the fall festivals represent *things to come*. Pentecost symbolizes that part of the process of fulfillment of God's plan which is underway right now—in this "Church age"—but also that function of the Holy Spirit which is both past and future. This day not only marks the coming

of the Holy Spirit in A.D. 31, it also shows that there is a great fall harvest of salvation yet to come.

Indeed, one of the present functions of the Holy Spirit itself is to reveal "things to come." Jesus Christ said to His disciples: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: *and he will shew you things to come*" (John 16:13).

This same Holy Spirit has revealed the full meaning of God's annual holy days for, so far as we know, the first time in the history of the Church. Previous Church ages have not understood the fullness of their importance. But let's understand the vital significance of the first fall festival, the first annual autumn holy day.

The Feast of Trumpets

The Day of Trumpets pictures perhaps the greatest event in the history of this world: the second coming of Jesus Christ. A trumpet is a symbol of war (Joel 2:1). It is also a symbol of victory—in this case the victory of Christ at His second coming.

The first day in the seventh month (Jewish calendar) points forward to the day when the last trumpet will sound (Rev. 11:15-19) and the dead in Christ will rise to meet Him (I Thes. 4:16-17; I Cor. 15:52). Christ will then conquer the angry nations who would presume to fight against Him.

But remember, the title of this festival is the Feast of *Trumpets* (plural). When ancient Israel was wandering around in the wilderness, they became accustomed to the blowing of trumpets (plural) for many purposes: the calling of assemblies, the signal to march or halt, or *as a warning*. Those in Israel's army came to recognize various trumpet sounds as having specific meanings, just as various bugle calls do in the modern military.

There is a parallel between the blowing of trumpets in ancient Israel and the Work of God today. There is a relationship between the angelic trumpet blast signaling the imminent return of Jesus Christ and the continual witness conducted by God's true

Work today. We are *preparing the way* for the return of Christ.

The successive angelic trumpet blasts and accompanying cataclysmic events on a worldwide scale will serve as God's *final warnings* to a sin-ravaged world! Then will come the great trumpet blast that will usher in the rule of the Kingdom of God on this earth. But *first* Christ must reconcile the world to Himself and exile the source of all sin. That is shown in the very next festival.

The Day of Atonement

The last war between Israel and Egypt is known as the Yom Kippur War. This is because it occurred on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, 1973. Yom Kippur is perhaps the principal festival of modern-day Judaism. The Egyptians and Syrians attacked at a time when the Jewish nation was least prepared to fight. It was a masterstroke which almost worked. The surprise attack occurred not on a national day of feasting but on a national day of fasting.

The Worldwide Church of God also keeps the Day of Atonement. Of course the meaning of this observance is somewhat different from that of the Jews: It looks forward to some very important events to come.

This world can never have peace as long as Satan is still about. Not even the universal conversion of all peoples to true Christianity could bring about a real, lasting peace as long as the Adversary is allowed to pump his thoughts and attitudes into people's minds. The Day of Atonement pictures the chaining of Satan for a thousand years (Rev. 20:1-3). No longer will he be allowed to work his will in the "children of disobedience."

In symbolism, the sixteenth chapter of Leviticus describes this crucial event of future world history in great detail. Suffice it to say here that the live goat, upon whom all the sins of Israel were to be confessed, and which was led into the desolate wilderness, represents Satan the devil being kept in restraint for a period of a thousand years. It is he who is *ultimately* responsible for all angelic and human sin. There could be no millen-

nium without his banishment. It is only after the devil is chained that a thousand years of peace and prosperity can commence.

The Festival of Tabernacles— Utopia at Last!

Turn to the twentieth chapter of Revelation. The beginning few verses document the thousand-year earthly reign of Christ. This period of idyllic peace and prosperity is pictured by the seven-day observance of the Feast of Tabernacles. It symbolizes the arrival of the Kingdom of God on earth—ushering in a period of peace and plenty such as this world has never seen.

A new age will have begun! At last man will be ruled directly by immortal spirit beings. No longer will humankind be plagued by the Hitlers and Caesars of this world.

Three of Christ's disciples were actually allowed to witness a preview in "Panavision" of this wonderful time to come—a vision of God's Kingdom shown two thousand years in advance. The account is known as the transfiguration. Notice it in the book of Matthew: "Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, *till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom*" (Matt. 16:28). Here Jesus Christ guaranteed that some of His disciples would see a *preview* of the Kingdom of God *before* they died.

Now continue in the next chapter: "And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into a high mountain apart, and *was transfigured before them*: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light. And, behold, there appeared unto them Moses and Elias [Elijah] talking with him. Then answered Peter, and said unto Jesus, Lord, it is good for us to be here: if thou wilt, let us make here *three tabernacles*; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias" (Matt. 17:1-4). A tabernacle is only a temporary dwelling place. But the Feast of Tabernacles pictures a time when the God family will dwell with men forever.

At that time both Moses and Elijah will have been resurrected to rule

with Christ. Luke's account of the transfiguration explains that both Moses and Elijah "*appeared in glory*" (Luke 9:30-31). That is, they are to become glorified spirit beings—no longer flesh and blood. They, along with all the other prophets of old and all true Christians, will constitute the firstfruits of the family of God headed by God the Father with Jesus Christ as second in command. This resurrected family of God will then rule the earth under Jesus Christ for one thousand years (Rev. 20:4-6).

The Feast of Tabernacles is also called the "Feast of Ingathering" because of its fall harvest time setting, symbolic of the great harvest of souls at the time when the whole world will become full of the knowledge of God (Isa. 11:9). All will have their opportunity for salvation in the millennium. This is the time when God will finally set His hand to save the whole world.

But what of those who have previously lived and died with *no opportunity* for salvation—most never even having heard of the name of Jesus Christ? A final one-day festival answers this question.

The Last Great Day

Right in the midst of the verses in Revelation 20 describing the thousand-year reign is a key statement depicting what is to happen *immediately after* the millennium. Notice it in verse 5: "The rest of the dead did not come to life until the thousand years were ended" (RSV). So here is a statement that actually tells us *when* "the rest of the dead" (those not raised in the first resurrection as spirit beings) will live. It is *immediately after* the millennium.

Verses 11 through 13 give more detail: "Then I saw a great white throne and him [God] who sat upon it. . . . And I saw the dead, great and small, standing before the throne, and books were opened. . . . And the dead were judged by what was written in the books, by *what they had done*. And the sea gave up the dead in it, Death and Hades gave up the dead in them, and all were judged by what they had done [or rather, as the Greek has it, according to their works (KJV)]."

Here John describes a prophetic vision of a great resurrection and a "great white throne judgment" involving most of humanity who have ever lived on this earth.

What is the true meaning of John's vision? Is this a resurrection to eternal life in hellfire? To eternal death? What is meant by the term "great white throne judgment"? What is the relationship between this general resurrection and the Last Great Day?

Jesus stated: ". . . It shall be more tolerable [bearable, Moffatt version] for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah in the day of judgment, than for that city" (Matt. 10:15).

This is the first veiled reference to the Last Great Day in the book of Matthew. Later verses will shed much more light on the meaning.

In Matthew 11 Jesus returned to the same theme. Here Christ indicts three Galilean towns for their unresponsiveness to His marvelous miracles. "Then began he to upbraid the cities wherein most of his mighty works were done, because they repented not: Woe unto thee, Chorazin! Woe unto thee, Bethsaida! For if the mighty works, which were done in you, had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago in sackcloth and ashes. But I say unto you, It shall be more tolerable [bearable, Moffatt version] for Tyre and Sidon *at the day of judgment*, than for you. And thou, Capernaum, which art exalted unto heaven, shalt be brought down to hell [Greek, the grave]: for if the mighty works, which have been done in thee, had been done in Sodom, it would have remained until this day. But I say unto you, That it shall be more tolerable [or bearable] for the land of Sodom *in the day of judgment*, than for thee" (verses 20-24).

Since the two ancient cities of Tyre and Sidon would have repented had Jesus performed the same mighty miracles in their heyday, it logically follows that this *period of judgment* will afford their peoples an opportunity to repent of their evil deeds and enter God's Kingdom. Otherwise God becomes a respecter of persons.

Matthew's account then jumps

back in time from Tyre and Sidon to Sodom and Gomorrah. It was during the days of Abraham that these two cities reached the depths of homosexual degradation. God destroyed them by raining fire and brimstone upon them and their environs. Destruction was widespread and complete! That area became a desolate wilderness, and it remains so to this day.

The spiritual point is this: If Jesus had come to even those two sin-filled cities as the humble carpenter of Nazareth, but performing mighty works and miracles, the ancient inhabitants would have repented of their hurtful and unlawful perversions, and those cities would have been extant 2,000 years later.

Again, it logically follows that God will give even those ancient sinners an opportunity to enter His Kingdom.

Nineveh To Be Reeducated

For the third time in Matthew's Gospel, Jesus returns to the same theme of "the day of judgment" (Matt. 12:36) in relation to the nonrepentance of His generation. "The men of Nineveh [an ancient Gentile city—the capital of Assyria] shall rise in judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: because they repented at the preaching of Jonas [Jonah]; and, behold, a greater than Jonas is here" (verse 41).

This scripture is highly significant and tells us much more than is readily apparent on the surface. Jonah's ministry occurred in the reign of Jeroboam the II—793-753 B.C. (II Kings 14:23). His warning to that ancient Assyrian city must have been sometime in the eighth century B.C. (*The New Bible Commentary Revised*, p. 747). At that time more than 120,000 people resided in the city of Nineveh (Jonah 4:11).

Now let's ask a question: How much did these ancient Assyrians who heard Jonah know about Jesus' generation prior to their death? The answer is *absolutely nothing*. They lived hundreds of years *prior* to Christ's first coming! How much do they now know? Still absolutely nothing! "The dead know not anything" (Eccl. 9:5). How much will they know when they are resurrected

after the millennial period? At that moment, nothing!

Obviously they won't be able to condemn Jesus' generation immediately. It will require a substantial period of time for those resurrected Ninevites to learn the history of Jesus' generation. And soaking up that history will *not*, logically, be the first order of business after this great resurrection. Reorientation to the different conditions of life itself will take some little time.

The Queen of Sheba

But the story does not end with the Ninevites. Jesus caps off the subject with a final spiritual comparison. "The queen of the south [or, Sheba] shall rise up in the judgment with this generation, and shall condemn it: for she came from the uttermost parts of the earth to hear the wisdom of Solomon; and, behold, a greater than Solomon is here" (Matt. 12:42).

Prior to this one, all the other examples in antiquity which Jesus gave were individually anonymous. Christ had reference to large groups of people—citizens of Sidon, Tyre, Sodom, Gomorrah, Nineveh—cities whose ancient inhabitants' personal names have long since been forgotten (except, of course, by God Himself).

The Queen of Sheba was a Sabaean monarch who journeyed to Jerusalem in the tenth century B.C. to test King Solomon's wisdom. She went away very impressed (*The New Bible Dictionary*, p. 1172). But at the time of her resurrection, the Queen of the South will *not* know a thing about the history of Jesus' generation. That she will learn over a period of time.

All of these examples from the book of Matthew (people who lived in different generations) are compared to the citizens living in the cities and towns of Jesus' generation. Jesus tells us they are all to be *resurrected with* the generation that lived in Jesus' time.

He gave enough word previews of generations of people living at widespread and different times in human history to substantiate the fact that most of humanity will be *alive together* at the same time on this earth.

There will be pre-Flood men and women, all the Israelites (all twelve tribes, including the Jewish people; see Romans 9-11), those who lived during the Middle or Dark Ages, and everyone living *even now* who for whatever reason has not had an opportunity to accept Christ and grow toward salvation.

These Festivals and You

If you are a true Christian and you remain faithful unto death, you will be privileged to partake of a better resurrection (Heb. 11:35) at Christ's second coming. But what about your friends and relatives (living and dead) who have known little of Christ, His gospel, and the Kingdom of God?

Here is *your future legacy!* After reigning and ruling with Christ for a thousand years (Rev. 20:3-6) in a world of generation after generation of new people who have never lived before, you will *then* be privileged to see the resurrection of your ancestors, kinfolk and acquaintances. You will help teach them God's way of salvation.

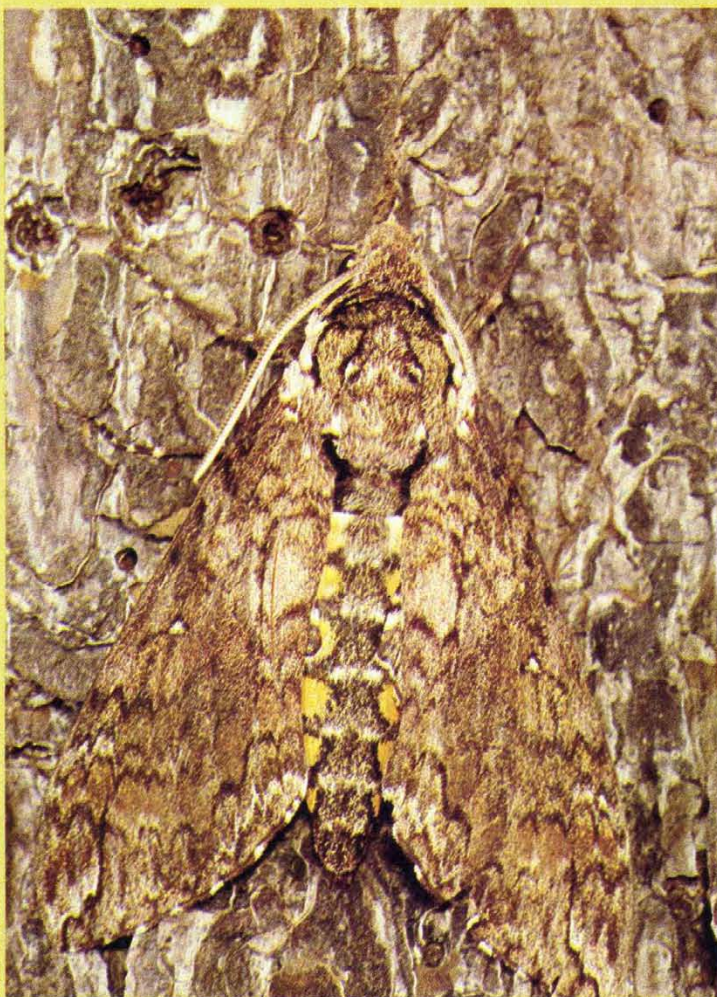
These then are the vital meanings of the annual festivals kept around the globe by the Worldwide Church of God. Can you begin to see why its members observe these annual sabbath days year after year? When one observes these annual festivals, he or she is tasting the good powers of the age to come! He or she is actually acting out a preview of the wonderful world tomorrow! □

RECOMMENDED READING

The above article itself is but a short preview of a full-sized booklet explaining the whys and wherefores of these annual holy days and festivals. To the new reader, many questions probably remain unanswered: When do Christians observe these holy days? What are the exact calendar dates? How may I get in touch with others who observe these holy days? All of these questions—and many others—are answered in the attractively printed booklet entitled *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* It's free of charge!

Why not write to the address of our office nearest you? Or better still, if you live in the continental United States, simply dial this toll-free number: 1-800-423-4444. (Residents of California, Hawaii, and Alaska may call 213-577-5225 collect.)

PROTECTIVE CAMOUFLAGE is dramatically illustrated by caterpillar (right) which looks remarkably like a budding twig. Sphinx moth (below) is barely detectable against the bark background. Spider (lower left) is poised unnoticeably on hobblebush plant, while geometrid larva (lower right) masquerades as a flower.



Sturgis McKeever — Photo Researchers

George K. Bryce — Animals Animals



Ken Brate — Photo Researchers



J. Anna Cikel — Photo Researchers



THE MIRACLE OF MIMICRY

Wherever we look throughout the myriad forms of life on earth, we see evidence of the awesome genius of the Great Creator. Perhaps nowhere is stunning beauty and intricate design so apparent as in the thousands of living creatures that exhibit camouflage, mimicry, and other forms of protective coloration.

An excellent example of camouflage can be seen in the walking stick insect, a creature shaped so much like an ordinary stick that it is difficult to see on the trees where it feeds; or the walking leaf insect, which looks remarkably like a green leaf; or the dead leaf butterfly (see photos). Did such creatures have the ability to plan and produce such perfectly executed camouflage? Or was a Supreme Mastermind at work here?

Mimicry, the impersonation of other creatures, represents an even

subtler form of masquerade. Some moths and flies, for example, have the coloration of wasps or bumblebees, thus bluffing would-be predators which don't wish to risk getting stung. Similarly, the (good-tasting) viceroy butterfly mimics the (bad-tasting) monarch butterfly, thus escaping from birds and other predators that don't like the taste of monarchs.

Did blind chance and random mutations produce the "evolution" of such amazing patterns of imitation, countershading, and disruptive visual patterns so necessary for concealment? Or was it a Higher Intelligence?

The fact is, modern evolutionary theory faces a most difficult—if not impossible—task in trying to rationalize how processes of "evolution" could have conjured up the exquisitely designed protective markings that many plants and animals display. The overwhelming evidence is that such precise patterns of protective coloration simply cannot be due to mere accident.

Little wonder, then, that the psalmist was inspired to write: "In wisdom hast thou made them all; the earth is full of thy creatures" (Ps. 104:24). □





Karland Stephen Maslowski — Photo Researchers



Raymond A. Mendez — Animals Animals



Alan Blank — Bruce Coleman Inc.



N. Smythe — Photo Researchers

INDIAN LEAF INSECTS (a male and two females) have an uncanny resemblance to foliage (above), while leaf katydid (upper right) appears to be a dead leaf. Walking stick (upper left) and dead leaf butterfly (left) are further examples of the miracle of mimicry and protective coloration.

Why Does God HIDE Himself?

Generations of agnostics and religionists alike have been baffled. Hot debate has raged for centuries. Philosophers have long inquired about God's whereabouts. Theologians have long made excuses for His absence. But must we make excuses for God? Why has God hidden Himself? It's time to get a straight answer.

by Jon Hill

Agnostic Arnold finally got Religious Ralph. After years of late hours and vigorous discussions, Religious Ralph was backed into a corner. He couldn't refute Agnostic Arnold's argument.

Could you? Try.

Here's Arnie's argument:

"Your God claims to be the all-powerful Creator of the entire universe. But man doubts His very existence! And supposedly man is your God's greatest creation. That doesn't make sense.

"If your God really exists, why doesn't He show Himself? If He openly made Himself known to all mankind, nobody could question whether or not He exists. Nations would be at peace, our problems would be solved, man would be happy. But your God has conveniently chosen to hide! Come on now, tell me why!"

Religious Ralph was stunned. All those years of Sunday school went down the drain. He fidgeted and mumbled, "God is trying to save the world. Look at all His churches."

Instantly a confident smile erupted on Agnostic Arnold's flushed face. Poor Ralph was stuck. Sensing a kill, Aggressive Arnie pressed his attack.

"All right, Ralphy boy, I'll look at all His churches. What a bickering mishmash of contradictory concepts, superstitious incantations, hypocritical ministers and unconcerned members. Open your eyes, Ralph. You look at all His churches—closeted in steepled sanctuaries and fighting among themselves about every absurd interpretation of every irrelevant doctrine. And all the while society tumbles from very bad to even worse. Ralphy boy, mankind is going to exterminate itself—and your God is just going to watch!

"You admit that your hypothetical God could appear to the whole world if He wished to. He could clear up His mess if He wanted to. So I guess He just doesn't care. Because He's staying safely hidden. Maybe He likes the world the way it is!

"Your God must have made a very willful decision to obscure His presence. Therefore, Ralphy boy, we can only conclude that what your God does want is for man to doubt His existence. Obviously He enjoys gazing upon little men running around blindfolded in the dark—forever

questioning but never knowing, forever searching but never finding.

"Your God professes to be merciful—yet He creates man with a burning desire to comprehend eternal truth and at the same time makes it impossible for him to ever attain it. Like a child holding a beetle on its back, watching it thrash its way to death, your God has conjured up man merely to be the butt of a colossal cosmic joke."

Religious Ralph helplessly answered, "I know God exists by faith!" With that he pretended to dismiss Agnostic Arnold's argument. But they both knew that Offensive Arnie's reasoning prevailed. So with a condescending slap on the back and with a brisk walk to the door, Triumphant Arnie departed. And a whipped Religious Ralph stumbled back to his chair and slumped into it.

Why does God hide Himself? A dejected Reluctant Ralph had to confess that he just didn't know!

What About You?

Could you have answered Obnoxious Arnie's arguments? God tells us not to debate—but we should be able to convict (not necessarily convince) the gainsayers. We should be ready with an answer to any who ask a reason

for the hope that is within us (I Peter 3:15). Don't be satisfied with being "just simple folk" who aimlessly idle about under the protective shelter of blind faith like Religious Ralph.

You can have that answer. This article will give it to you. This article is written for you—to back up and prove your faith!

You don't need to fear the lofty proclamations of educated skeptics and lettered philosophers. You won't have to make feeble excuses for God's absence. You can know—and know that you know—exactly why God hides Himself.

We are not going to feed you some wishy-washy, pseudo-spiritual, half-hearted possibility. We are going to answer the question once and for all. And it's going to be easy. Let's get that straight! You won't have to learn Hebrew, Aramaic, Greek or Latin. You won't have to take courses in symbolic logic. You won't have to struggle through verbose "statements and propositions." You won't even need an unabridged dictionary by your side.

We are going to discover the remarkably straightforward answer to the basic agnostic question "Why does God hide Himself?" through the common facts of history and science—facts which you already know!

God's Creation

We start with what we can sense—the physical universe—and we find blunt proof that only a Supreme Creator could have fashioned it all together into such a wondrously unified whole. From the forces which bind atomic nuclei to the principles which run giant galaxies; from the fullness of earth to the emptiness of space; from the existence of law to the law of existence; from the beauty of creation to a mind which can comprehend it—all testify to the power of our God, all blazon forth the conclusive evidence of His existence (Rom. 1:20).

The ancient philosophers knew God existed. How? By asking the right questions! They examined their world—and found order and harmony; they wondered about life—and found system and design. And when

they did, God began to be revealed to them. Why? Because order, harmony, system and design demanded a Creator God.

Then they searched within themselves ("know thyself")—and they found their own self-conscious human mind. How could this mind have come into existence? Only by the creative act of a Supreme Self-Consciousness—the same Creator God. The ancient philosophers were forced to realize this plain fact. "It is not that they [the philosophers] do not know the truth about God; indeed he has made it quite plain to them" (Rom. 1:19, Phillips translation).

But philosophers didn't expect—and certainly didn't like—this kind of revelation. The absolute existence of a Supreme Being just didn't go over too well. Why? Because these conceited "intellects" only desired "esoteric metaphysical truths." Why? So that they alone could understand. Why? Because they wanted to be their own god and amass their own worshipful following.

So they held back God's truth in unrighteousness (Rom. 1:18)—and consequently they lost it. "Because that, when they knew God, they glorified him not as God, neither were thankful; but became vain in their imagination, and their foolish heart was darkened. Professing themselves to be wise, they became fools" (Rom. 1:21-22).

What about our modern "philosophers"—scientists, politicians, businessmen? They're no different!

It seems silly, but rather than becoming more humble as life's unbelievable organization and design are unveiled, detail-oriented scientists have become more deeply imbued with a grandiose sense of personal power in their own human reason. Scientists often give the impression (and may actually begin to believe) that they are inventing and sustaining the basic laws of life and brain—when, in reality, they have just uncovered and described some superficial events. Like a bunch of roosters fighting for supremacy of "the known world" in the barnyard, our modern "philosophers" have completely ignored reality.

True, some few moderns do agree with Dr. Warren Weaver's statement that "every new discovery of science is a further 'revelation' of the order which God has built into this universe." But even here "God" is often only a term borrowed from religion—it is just a name used to symbolize some unconscious "first cause," and is condescendingly employed solely to pacify those people whom scientists secretly call "the ignorant, superstitious masses." And that probably includes all of us. Which doesn't hurt our feelings one bit—because God has opened our minds to His truth.

God has indeed revealed Himself through the intricate tapestry of His physical creation. We can see it. The world can't. The world doesn't want to. God is "plainly discernible through things which he has made and which are commonly seen and known, thus leaving these men without a rag of excuse" (Rom. 1:20, Phillips translation).

Get the Perspective of History

Human beings are historically narrow-minded. We look at our world fresh from the exhilaration of casually witnessing televised close-ups of two men jaunting on the moon and a man-made spacecraft landing on Mars. We don't realize that man's very first flight took place just 75 years ago. The average person emotionally considers his adult life to be the totality of human history—even though he intellectually recognizes that man has been around for thousands of years. When we ponder our wretched God-forsaken world tottering on the brink of global suicide, we become sickened by the poisoned cloud of permanent personal agony mushrooming on our horizon. Is it surprising, then, that human beings see the absolute necessity for supernatural help (if such help exists)—and we legitimately ask, "Why is God hiding Himself?"

Let's take the blinders off our eyes. Let's visualize the full scope of 6000 years of human history—multiple dozens of generations strung end to end. Let's understand the true his-

tory of the relationship between man and his God.

Start at the Beginning

Adam was the first human being (“enlightened” anthropology notwithstanding). And God dealt very intimately with Adam: forming him (Gen. 2:7), moving him (2:15), bringing animals to him (2:19), teaching him (2:19, 20), giving him a wife (2:22), etc. Adam knew God as we know our parents—God literally walked in the garden of Eden (3:8).

But Adam, rather than following his Creator’s orders, obeyed his own human reasoning—Adam sinned. And immediately thereafter, “Adam and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the Lord God” (Gen. 3:8).

That’s the crucial point! Man hid from God—God didn’t hide from man.

This is the crux of the whole question “Why does God hide Himself?” Because God did reveal Himself. It was man who hid. Man was the first to play “hide-and-go-seek,” and man was the first to run and hide. As a matter of fact, man has always hidden from God. Throughout history—in every time and generation, no matter what the circumstance and situation—whenever God has revealed Himself to help men or nations, most men and nations have crudely told God: “Keep your (unprintable) nose out of our (unprintable) business”—and more often than not have backed up that blasphemous insult by murdering God’s contemporary human representative (Matt. 23:37).

This then is the purpose of our article: to irrefutably demonstrate that man has always hidden from God—and that God has not, does not, and will not hide from man.

From Adam down through all history to the present day and even on into the future, man has and will resist God’s every revelation of Himself. Don’t just believe us now. Make us prove that God is always ready to reveal Himself to man. And make us prove that man has consciously and continuously hidden himself from God.

Adam—The Prototype

God created Adam as His test case or prototype for all mankind (the He-

brew word for “man” is *adam*!). How did the Creator make Adam His prototype? By putting the same kind of human brain, spirit, and nature in Adam as He would subsequently put in all other human beings. Therefore, God knew that Adam would react to a given situation in the same general manner as every other human being in generations to come. As Adam went so all mankind would go.

Now let’s widen our field of view. Let’s look down the corridors of time and generations of societies—and observe man’s consistent repudiation of God. God hiding Himself from man? Hardly! It’s been just the reverse!

Pre- and Post-Flood Worlds

The pre-Flood world teemed with wickedness and overflowed with violence—Genesis 6:5 is unique in its poetic portrayal of the prodigious depravity of man. Yet the world knew God!

It was only ten generations from Adam to Noah—and human beings had a nine-generation life span! Furthermore, Noah was a preacher of righteousness (II Pet. 2:5). For the 120 years during which his servants built the Ark, Noah himself proclaimed God’s warning witness. The world heard Noah and the world knew God—but the world despised Noah and the world rejected God. The entire human race at that time “had [knowingly] corrupted his way upon the earth” (Gen. 6:12).

Little more than 100 years later, man once more renounced God’s revelation and leadership. Man didn’t want to be distributed around the world as God directed Noah (Gen. 11:4), so man built for himself a huge tower as a rallying point to thwart God. There was no excuse—all had heard the heinous firsthand accounts of the monstrous pre-Flood world and all could see the still fresh evidence of God’s wrath. All knew God’s servant Noah—and all flouted him.

Israel Habitually Rejected God

We think of ancient Israel as God’s “chosen people.” Yet God’s revelation of Himself to Israel (and to no other nation) many a time was met with rebuff and rebellion.

Israel cursed Moses for trying to

free them (Ex. 5:21). They told Moses to “let us alone, that we may serve the Egyptians” (Ex. 14:12). Israel didn’t want to leave Egypt and serve God—they loved the idols and abominations of Egypt too much (Ezek. 20:8)—so God had to pry Israel loose by pouring out His devastating plagues. Even after witnessing the supernatural ferocity of these plagues, God’s “chosen people” wanted to return to Egypt (Ex. 14:10-12).

With the victory celebration of God’s spectacular destruction of Pharaoh’s army still ringing in their ears, “the people murmured against Moses” because the waters of Marah were bitter (Ex. 15:23-24). Even after God had made these waters sweet, Israel again murmured, incredibly preferring to have died in Egypt with bellies full of meat and bread than to have obeyed God (Ex. 16:3). After receiving all the meat they could eat, Israel broke the Sabbath in an effort to get more (Ex. 16:27-28). Once more Israel got thirsty and this time they were ready to stone Moses (Ex. 17:4).

And, as unbelievable as it sounds, after all they had seen with their own eyes, they asked, “Is the Lord among us, or not?” (Ex. 17:7)—or, in other words, “Why is God hiding?”

God answered that question in His glory on Mt. Sinai. “And all the people saw the thunderings, and the lightnings, and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking” (Ex. 20:18). Here was God “coming out of hiding”—here was God “finally” revealing Himself.

But what happened? “And when the people saw it, they removed, and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses, Speak thou with us, and we will hear: but let not God speak with us, lest we die” (Ex. 20:18, 19).

A short time later Israel reasoned that “Moses, the man” (Ex. 32:1) had brought them out of Egypt—and since he was missing, the Egyptian gods had better be reactivated to supervise their orgy (Ex. 32:1-6). After once more receiving God’s stern correction, and with the knowledge of God’s continuous revelation and awesome power filling their minds, ancient Israel mutinied on the threshold

of the Promised Land: "And they said one to another, Let us make a captain, and let us return into Egypt" (Num. 14:4).

Why does God hide Himself? What can we say? Ancient Israel has said it all!

In the Promised Land

When Israel was finally allowed to enter the land promised to Abraham's seed, they continually rebelled. (That's not particularly surprising.) The cycle went round and round: Israel forsook God and was conquered (Judges 2:11-15), then she cried out to God and was delivered (Judges 2:16)—but a very short time later she forsook God again (Judges 2:17-19). The entire book of Judges tells this amazing story.

Soon thereafter, Israel completely rejected God's reign over them—demanding a human king "like all the [other] nations" (I Sam. 8:5-7).

Some 120 years later, Israel's northern ten tribes rebelled against the house of David. Jeroboam, their servant-king, resurrected again the old Egyptian gods, instituted a new priesthood, and changed God's annual festivals—all to protect his own reign, willfully ignoring the true God (I Kings 12:26-33).

Likewise the house of Judah rejected the men of God (and she became even more corrupt than her sister Israel—Ezek. 23:11). Isaiah was a man of God. He told Hezekiah that God would stop the besieging armies of Assyria from even touching Jerusalem (II Kings 19)—and that night God killed 185,000 armed men (verse 35). Later, after Isaiah prayed to God, the sun went backward ten degrees (II Kings 20:11). There was no doubt who Isaiah's boss was! Yet some years later, tradition tells us that Isaiah was sawed in two by his own people (Heb. 11:37).

Jeremiah was ordained a prophet from his mother's womb (Jer. 1:5). He was always in the public eye—revealing God's will, way and prophecies. Jeremiah was God's representative—yet he was held in derision daily, everyone mocked him (Jer. 20:7), and the priests, prophets and people conspired to kill him (Jer. 26:8).

The house of Israel was taken captive 721 to 718 B.C. by Assyria. Israel had long since forgotten God's Sabbath—and so even their identity was lost. The house of Judah was taken captive by Babylonia in 585 B.C. They retained the Sabbath and kept their identity. But they mongrelized God's truth so badly by adding many pagan ideas (for example, the immortality of the soul) that a newfound religion was born.

The facts speak plainly—at every step in their history Israel and Judah hid from and rejected their God.

The Full Revelation

Whereas in the past God spoke through many forms, fashions and figures, and communicated by vari-

“
*God has revealed
Himself—by His
creation, by His
patriarchs and prophets,
and by the ministry of
Christ. God will reveal
Himself—to you
personally by His Spirit
now.*
”

ous means, methods and manners, He was now ready to pour out the whole story through a Son (Heb. 1:1-2, Phillips translation). It was exactly 483 years after Artaxerxes' decree allowing the repatriated Jews to rebuild Jerusalem—just as Daniel had prophesied (Dan. 9:25)—when Jesus Christ of Nazareth began His ministry in A.D. 27. It was God Almighty's time to completely reveal Himself. He had become a human being!

As strange as it sounds, Jesus Christ was the very God of the Old Testament—the Ever-living One called YHWH, the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. He was the One who had created the universe (John 1:3; Eph. 3:9). He had walked with Adam, dined with Abraham, wres-

ttled with Jacob, spoken with Moses, and watched over Israel (I Cor. 10:4). (Request our free article "Is Jesus God?" for further proof.)

But this was vastly different—He now became human flesh, subject to death (Phil. 2:7-8). For what reason? To help His beloved creation—to pave the way for His brothers to become joint-heirs with Him in God's family (Rom. 8:17). God no longer held anything back—here was His full revelation to man.

But He was despised and rejected of men (Isa. 53:3)! He was beaten so badly that His face emerged more disfigured and His body more mutilated than any man in all history (Isa. 52:14). That's what happened when God "came out of hiding."

Who called for Christ's blood? Some of the same multitudes whom He had taught and fed for weeks and months and years. They knew He was from God (John 3:2)—they saw the miracles He performed. At one time they even tried to make Him king by force (John 6:15). But at that time they were under the heel of Roman military occupation. The people wanted Christ to throw out the Romans and establish a powerful independent kingdom.

The multitudes were stunned when Christ was captured. He was supposed to expel the Romans! The people didn't know what to think. They were bewildered and in a state of confusion.

The religious leaders took advantage of this situation. They hated Jesus. They feared His growing popularity with the common people. They were afraid He would take away their following (John 11:47-48). To prevent this these men sent a mob to take Jesus secretly by night (Mark 14:1, 43-46). Then the chief priests delivered Christ to the Roman governor for execution out of envy (Mark 15:10).

At this point the priests and scribes went about stirring up the crowds against Christ. It wasn't hard to do. They said He was an impostor. They said no true Messiah could be captured and put in the hands of the Romans. Soon a viciously rabid mob was screaming for Christ's blood.

Faces flushed with waves of frenzy

when Pilate stated: "He has done nothing, you see, that calls for death. . . ." But they all yelled as one man: "Away with him!" . . . Again Pilate addressed them, for he wanted to release Jesus; but they roared, "To the cross, to the cross with him!" [Pilate] spoke to them the third time. . . . But they shouted him down, yelling their demand that he should be crucified, and their shouts carried the day" (Luke 23:15-23, Moffatt and Phillips translations).

The God of Israel (YHVH) did much more than manifest Himself when He became Jesus Christ—He unveiled God the Father, His own Master (Ps. 110:1), the most high God (Gen. 14:18). Everyone who knew Christ knew the Father (John 14:9).

Something else was also revealed. Something pretty important for us. Under the Old Covenant, YHVH promised the obedient an abundant physical life. And that's all. But now, in the "uncomely" form of Jesus Christ, YHVH disclosed the mystery of God (I Cor. 2:7). Christ revealed that human beings can inherit eternal life (I John 1:2; Matt. 25:46). And a quality of eternal life beyond the wildest dreams of any human mind.

Jesus Christ revealed that we are literally to become God ourselves (John 10:34-35). That's right—read it again—God ourselves! The Eternal Creator of the universe—that's Jesus of Nazareth, our elder brother—has proclaimed that we are now joint-heirs with Him as begotten sons in God's family (Rom. 8:17; I John 3:1-2). What will we inherit with Christ? Christ has all things (Eph. 1:22). And so will we (Heb. 2:8)! All things!

But the people didn't get it. They didn't understand. They were too steeped in their ways and traditions to even recognize their own God when He came to them in the flesh.

In fact they killed Him. Here was God-hating human nature in the raw. The human race as a whole murdered the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, who had sacrificed so much to share His eternal life with all men. The mangled mass of flesh and muscle which hung there limply on the stake was all that remained after

God had "finally" given mankind the full revelation of Himself.

Here was the complete presentation of YHVH—the God of the patriarchs and prophets; here was the first manifestation of YHVH's Almighty Father—the most high God; here was the overwhelming disclosure of man's individual purpose in life—to become God himself. Yet men mutilated Jesus Christ their Savior, killed YHVH their Creator, rejected God their Father.

And, incredibly, man continued to ask, "Why does God hide Himself?"

Christ Through the Centuries

Peter, John and the other apostles were set apart as God's true representatives by the enormous power which passed through them to perform miraculous healings (Acts 3:1-9; 5:12-16). The religious establishment never doubted the authenticity of these signs and wonders. But did they accept the presence of God? No sir! They feared for their own position—they didn't want to lose their own followers, their own adulators, and of course their own tithe-payers (Acts 4:16-18; 5:17-18).

God was now working through the New Testament Church. But the religious leaders, true to form, cared more for letters and learning (Acts 4:13) than for the overt revelations of God.

God is revealed in the Bible. (The Bible is the Word of God—and so is Christ—John 1:14.) But what has man done with it?

He has "interpreted" it—in a myriad of councils, conclaves, conferences and consistories. How? For his own convenience! No more laws, sabbaths, holy days, tithing, prophecy, correction. Now even morality is "out of date." What's the purpose of these "Bible interpretations"? Very simple—to muzzle the Bible and hide its God!

For 18½ centuries, the true Church of God was a small, persecuted group of outcasts who met in private houses and hired halls (Rom. 16:5; Col. 4:15; Acts 28:30). It was not a respected religio-political system.

If Jesus Christ began His physical

ministry today, He would be accused of being "the greatest threat to God, Christianity and patriotism"! He would be charged with treason and sedition by every country on earth—and His trial and execution would be festively celebrated around the world.

The Coming Revelation of God

"Ridiculous," Mr. Christian would say. "If God really appeared mankind would rejoice—not reject Him." This namby-pamby hypothesis will be exposed as a myth. Christ is soon going to return—and the world won't like it one bit. Because Christ will not return as a pleading preacher boy. He will not make speeches at the United Nations, He will not appear on televised press conferences, and He will surely not lead protest marches. He won't prove Himself to scientists. He won't explain His behavior to psychologists. And He surely won't quibble and quarrel with theologians. No, Christ is going to rule this world with a rod of iron! (Rev. 2:27.)

The book of Revelation tells the story. Curiously enough, the world looks on this book as a deliberate effort by God to hide His mysteries. Nothing could be further from the truth. Read the name—Revelation! These 22 chapters spell out, in excruciating detail, the history of the world—before it happens. Here God reveals all—yet man claims it is "hidden in symbol." (Write for our free booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled at Last!*)

Agnostic Arnold's wish (remember him?) will soon be granted—God will soon open Himself for all to see (Matt. 24:27). But humanity will respond just as it has always responded. Man will once again hide from his Creator. "And the kings of the earth, and the great men, and the rich men, and the chief captains, and the mighty men, and every bondman, and every free man, *hid themselves* in the dens and in the rocks of the mountains; and said to the mountains and rocks, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of him that sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb" (Rev. 6:15-16). Man will yet *hide* from God.

But don't we read that all mankind will rejoice, make merry and even send gifts to one another at this time? Sure—that'll be when God's two witnesses are murdered! (Rev. 11:3, 7-10.) And soon thereafter, when Christ takes over "the kingdoms of this world" (Rev. 11:15), the nations will be angry (verse 18) and men will blaspheme God (16:21).

Do you catch the ironic drama of the situation? The same men who had pompously proclaimed that they would "surely obey God if only He would stop hiding and appear 'like a man'" will themselves hide under rocks and blaspheme Him when He actually does appear like an omnipotent God!

Why Does God Hide Himself?

He hasn't.

He isn't.

He won't.

It's man who hides from God.

God has revealed Himself—by His creation, by His patriarchs and prophets, and by the ministry of Jesus Christ. God is revealing Himself—to scientists by their discoveries, and to the world by this Work. God will reveal Himself—to you personally by His Spirit now, and to all mankind by His soon-coming conquering return.

But let's not forget poor old Agnostic Arnold—really a nice guy beneath his obnoxiously self-confident exterior. He has a rendezvous with the shock of his academically sheltered life. He will soon shed that pretense of erudite sophistication. Arnie is going to repent. Hard to believe? Naturally—but nonetheless true.

He can't even imagine the awesomely terrifying sequence of cataclysmic eruptions by which the Almighty Jesus Christ will conquer this world. Arnie's calloused, self-protecting emotions will be taxed beyond their limits—he will be shaken and whirled like a dried leaf in a tornado. Of course that'll be the best thing for him. Because at last he's going to become teachable—like a wide-eyed child hungry for basic knowledge.

Don't worry—God hasn't been indignantly hurt or His pride wounded by Arnie's present buffoonery. He is

just deceived—like the rest of the world (Rev. 12:9). God knows that. He loves Arnie even now (Rom. 5:8). So it's going to give God great pleasure to mercifully grant Arnold repentance (II Tim. 2:25). God can hardly wait to see the new, humbly repentant Arnie, sitting quietly and listening attentively as one of Jesus Christ's ministers begins to teach him the way of truth.

There are thousands of millions of "Arnies" in today's world—everyone deceived in his own particular way. These helpless specks of frustrated life aren't lost. God is getting ready to give each and every person his or her chance for eternal salvation.

What a fantastic time this is in

“

The ancient philosophers knew God existed. They examined their world—and found order and harmony; they wondered about life—and found system and design.

”

which to live! We are going to see the very unfolding and fulfillment of God's plan!

The Ultimate Revelation

We have thrown at you a mass of historic and prophetic information. No doubt you believe our general thesis—that God has continuously revealed Himself to man but man in general has always hidden himself from God. But your belief is founded on secondhand data. It's right, it's good—but there's better! How would you like some firsthand evidence?

Your Creator has provided a way—He can reveal Himself through you! He can literally dwell in you (I John 4:12)—Jesus Christ, the Creator of this universe, can come into your mind! (Phil. 2:5.) How? By the implantation of His Holy Spirit

(John 14:17)—which is God's power to express Himself through you.

God is offering a majesty which transcends even the most fertile imagination. And you can have it!

How do we know that God can reveal Himself through individual men? What's our evidence?

We have an absolute twofold proof: First, the person can keep God's law for the first time. Of course God's law will be kept! If God is going to manifest Himself through men, He is obviously going to obey His own law. Second, the person can develop progressively more Godlike character.

The phenomenally incomprehensible result of this development occurs at the resurrection—when, in truth and in fact, the person himself is changed into Eternal God. As wildly incredible as it surely sounds to our brainwashed ears, God Almighty is reproducing Himself—He is making man eligible for full-fledged sonship in His God-plane family. That seems like sacrilegious blasphemy to most worldly religions—but it happens to be the reason why God created the entire universe.

Many religionists teach that man can't keep God's Ten Commandments. True. Man alone can't. But, when God impregnates and augments man's spirit by His Holy Spirit (Rom. 8:16), then man can obey God's law, because Christ Himself will help. The world hates obeying God, and the world ridicules the idea of God reproducing Himself. As a result, the world rejects God's revelation through man.

And by rejecting God's revelation, the world blasphemes God's Holy Spirit. Religionists tell you "just believe on the name of the Lord Jesus and you shall be saved." They also make the equally ludicrous claim that the Holy Spirit is a distinct person. This is a flagrant attempt to both close off the Godhead in an unexpandable "Trinity" and deny God's power to keep His own law through human beings.

How do you know that God can reveal Himself through men? You can't stake your belief on these words stuck end to end. So prove it! Prove it

(Continued on page 38)

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' RADIO AND TV LOGS

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of 'The World Tomorrow'

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' RADIO LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location and frequency and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WYDE, Birmingham — 850, 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KFMM-FM, Tucson — 99.5, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

KIKX, Tucson — 580, 9:35 a.m., Sun.

KTUC, Tucson — 1400, 1 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

CALIFORNIA

KINS, Eureka — 980, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

KFRE, Fresno — 940, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

KIEV, Glendale — 870, 11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

KCMS-FM, Indio — 103.1, 8:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

KLAC, Los Angeles — 570, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

KGAB-FM, Oxnard-Ventura — 95.5, 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

KGUY, Palm Desert — 1270, 6:15 a.m., Sun.

KFBK, Sacramento — 1530, 11:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.

KTOM, Salinas — 1380, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

KDIG, San Bernardino — 1240, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

KCKC, San Bernardino — 1350, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

KNBR, San Francisco — 630, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 p.m., Sun.

KUNA-FM, San Luis Obispo — 96.1, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

CONNECTICUT

WRCQ, Hartford — 910, 5:25 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WRC, Washington — 980, 9 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WAPE, Jacksonville — 690, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WQIK, Jacksonville — 1090, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

WINZ, Miami — 940, 12:05 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WIOD, Miami — 610, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WKIS, Orlando — 740, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

GEORGIA

WPLO, Atlanta — 590, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

HAWAII

KKON, Kealakekua — 790, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

ILLINOIS

WMAQ, Chicago — 670, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6 a.m., 10 p.m., Sun.

WMBD, Peoria — 1470, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WNTS, Indianapolis — 1590, 10 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.

WSBT, South Bend — 960, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 4:30 p.m., Sun.

IOWA

KIOA, Des Moines — 940, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

KXEL, Waterloo — 1540, 11:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

WIBW, Topeka — 580, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

KENTUCKY

WHAS, Louisville — 840, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WKLO, Louisville — 1080, 9 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WGSO, New Orleans — 1280, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

WPOC-FM, Baltimore — 93.1, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

WITS, Boston — 1510, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

WSPR, Springfield — 1270, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WDEE, Detroit — 1500, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

WTRX, Flint — 1330, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

KTCR-FM, Minneapolis — 97.1, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

MISSOURI

KMBZ, Kansas City — 980, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 p.m., Sun.

KGBX, Springfield — 1260, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m., Sun.

KIRL, St. Louis — 1460, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KRNY, Kearney — 1460, 10 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KOB, Albuquerque — 770, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

KBCQ, Roswell — 1020, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WBEN, Buffalo — 930, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

WOR, New York — 710, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., 11:30 p.m., Sun.

WHAM, Rochester — 1180, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

WSOQ, Syracuse — 1220, 9 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11:15 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WWNC, Asheville — 570, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WBT, Charlotte — 1110, 9 a.m., Sun.

WSOC, Charlotte — 930, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WNCT, Greenville — 1070, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WSLR, Akron — 1350, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.

WCKY, Cincinnati — 1530, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:15 p.m., Sun.

WBBG, Cleveland — 1260, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WMNI, Columbus — 920, 5:15 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

WONE, Dayton — 980, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WCWA, Toledo — 1230, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m., Sun.

OKLAHOMA

KVOO, Tulsa — 1170, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

KXXO, Tulsa — 1300, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

KLIQ, Portland — 1290, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

KWJJ, Portland — 1080, 9 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.

PENNSYLVANIA

WHP, Harrisburg — 580, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

WSBA, Harrisburg — 910, 9 a.m., Sun.

WRCP, Philadelphia — 1540, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11 a.m., Sun.
KQV, Pittsburgh — 1410, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.
WQSU-FM, Selinsgrove — 88.9, 7 p.m., Sun.
WARM, Wilkes Barre — 590, 7 a.m., Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WEAN, Providence — 790, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WGNG, Providence — 550, 9 a.m., Sun.
WJAR, Providence — 920, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WKSC, Kershaw — 1300, 1:15 p.m., Sun.
WSPA, Spartanburg — 950, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WDEF, Chattanooga — 1370, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 p.m., Sun.
WMP5, Memphis — 680, 6 p.m., Sun.
WREC, Memphis — 600, 11:06 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WSIX, Nashville — 980, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

TEXAS

KRLD, Dallas — 1080, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sun.
KPRC, Houston — 950, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
KTLU, Rusk — 1580, 10 a.m., Sun.
WOAI, San Antonio — 1200, 10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m., 7:30 p.m., Sun.

UTAH

KSL, Salt Lake City — 1160, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5:30 a.m., Sun.

VIRGINIA

WCPK, Chesapeake — 1600, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
WHNE, Norfolk — 1300, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WZAM, Norfolk — 1110, 8 a.m., Sun.
WRVA, Richmond — 1140, 11:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 p.m., Sat., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KGRG-FM, Auburn — 89.9, 12 noon, Sun.
KAYO, Seattle — 1150, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA

WCAW, Charleston — 680, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m., Sun.
WKEE, Huntington — 800, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WKEE-FM, Huntington — 100.5, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WWVA, Wheeling — 1170, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WYOMING

KTWO, Casper — 1030, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 p.m., Sun.
KYCN, Wheatland — 1340, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' TELEVISION LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location and channel number and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WAPI, Birmingham — 13, 7 a.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KGUN, Tucson — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

ARKANSAS

KARK, Little Rock — 4, 10 a.m., Sun.

CALIFORNIA

KMJ, Fresno — 24, 7 a.m., Sun.
KTTV, Los Angeles — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVU, Oakland — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sat.

COLORADO

KKTV, Colorado Springs — 11, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

CONNECTICUT

WATR, Hartford — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WTTG, Washington — 5, 7 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WKID, Ft. Lauderdale — 51, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WCIX, Miami — 6, 7 a.m., Sun.

ILLINOIS

WCIU, Chicago — 26, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WFLD, Chicago — 32, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
WRAU, Peoria — 19, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WKJG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WISH, Indianapolis — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10 p.m., Sun.

IOWA

KWWL, Waterloo — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

KGLD, Garden City — 11, 4:30 p.m., Sun.
KARD, Wichita — 3, 4:30 p.m., Sun.

KENTUCKY

WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WHAS, Louisville — 11, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WLKY, Louisville — 32, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7 a.m., Sun.

MAINE

WGAN, Portland — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 12 noon, Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

WHYN, Springfield — 40, 9 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WUHQ, Battle Creek — 41, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WXON, Detroit — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8 a.m., Sun.
WILX, Lansing — 10, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

WTCN, Minneapolis — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MISSOURI

WDAF, Kansas City — 4, 12 noon, Sat.
KMTC, Springfield — 27, 1 p.m., Sun.
KNDL, St. Louis — 30, 9 a.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KCNA, Albion — 8, 8 a.m., Sun.
KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 8 a.m., Sun.
KHGI, Kearney — 13, 8 a.m., Sun.
KSNB, Superior — 4, 8 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KGGM, Albuquerque — 13, 7 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WTEN, Albany — 10, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WUTV, Buffalo — 29, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WOR, New York — 9, 10 p.m., Sun.
WROC, Rochester — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WRET, Charlotte — 36, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WNCT, Greenville — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WAKR, Akron — 23, 11 p.m., Sun.
WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WSPD, Toledo — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

KPTV, Portland — 12, 11 a.m., Sat.

PENNSYLVANIA

WSBA, Harrisburg — 43, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WPRI, Providence — 12, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WRCB, Chattanooga — 3, 12:30 p.m., Sun.
WKPT, Kingsport — 19, 12 noon, Sun.

TEXAS

KTVV, Austin — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KXLY, Spokane — 2, 11 a.m., Sun.

WISCONSIN

WVTV, Milwaukee — 18, 10 p.m., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA

WOWK, Huntington — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

What Is Your GOAL in Life?

Desiring to make it into God's Kingdom is an admirable goal—but it is not enough. There is a still higher goal than this!

by Raymond F. McNair

What should the real Christian goal be? Most long-time readers of *The Plain Truth* will answer, "Why, my goal is to enter the Kingdom of God!"

Isn't this what Christ said the Christian goal should be? He admonished, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [material necessities] shall be added unto you" (Matt. 6:33).

Content to Be a Doorkeeper?

But is this goal sufficient? Should zealous Christians have an even higher goal, within the overall goal of entering God's Kingdom?

Should the Christian seek more than just entering the Kingdom of God—just making it into God's Kingdom?

Or should a Christian be quite content to seek no higher goal in the Kingdom of God than merely to be a "doorkeeper"? Didn't King David say, "I had rather be a doorkeeper in the house of my God, than to dwell in the

tents of wickedness"? (Ps. 84:10.)

Did David mean that he was content to seek the lowest place or position in God's Kingdom? No, this is not what David said or meant! He merely showed it would be far more desirable to be a mere doorkeeper in the Kingdom of God than to have what some might think to be a more honored position in this world.

God's Word clearly reveals that He is not pleased to see us seeking merely to enter His Kingdom. He wants to see us enter with flying colors! He hopes we will lawfully strive for more than just making it into His Kingdom!

The apostle Peter made this point very clear.

"Wherefore the rather, brethren, give diligence to make your calling and election sure: for if ye do these things, ye shall never fall: For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 1:10-11).

The apostle Paul clearly showed that at the judgment God will reward every man "according to his deeds" (Rom. 2:5-6).

Seek for Glory?

But should a Christian seek more than eternal life? More than a place

in God's Kingdom? Notice the apostle Paul's answer: "To them who by patient continuance in well doing seek for glory and honor and immortality, eternal life" (Rom. 2:7).

God Almighty promises He will give us much more than immortality—more than eternal life in His Kingdom! In addition to eternal life He will give us "glory, honor, and peace, to every man that worketh good, to the Jew first, and also to the Gentile" (verse 10).

Yes, God's Word clearly reveals that we should seek for more than eternal life.

Some will make it into God's Kingdom, but will not receive a very great reward—because they have not diligently served God to the utmost of their ability! They have not served Him with all their might—have not sought, lawfully, for a greater reward in God's Kingdom!

God wants us to receive a full reward. "Look to yourselves, that we lose not those things which we have wrought, but that we receive a full reward" (II John 8).

Yes, God Almighty will reward us according to the actual fruits which we have produced—according to our works! At the second coming of Jesus Christ every Christian is going to stand before Him to personally re-

ceive this reward. "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad" (II Cor. 5:10).

Produce a Hundredfold

Jesus Christ, in the parable of the sower, revealed that some will produce no fruit whatsoever; others will bear only thirtyfold or sixtyfold. But some will produce one hundredfold.

Should we be content merely to produce thirtyfold? Or sixtyfold? Or ninetyfold? Or should we strive to produce one hundredfold—thereby making God supremely happy?

Remember, Christ revealed that it is God's will that we bear—not thirtyfold, or sixtyfold—but one hundredfold! "Herein is my Father glorified, that ye bear much fruit; so shall ye be my disciples" (John 15:8).

But how will Christ judge us? How will He determine whether we have borne much fruit? Whether we have borne thirtyfold, or sixtyfold or one hundredfold?

It is vitally important that each Christian know how God Almighty, in the person of Jesus Christ, will judge him at Christ's second coming. Be absolutely certain of this: Christ's judgment will be completely honest, fair and true.

Talents According to Ability

God Almighty clearly reveals to us, especially through Christ's parables, how we will be judged.

The parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30) reveals part of the answer as to how Christ will judge us.

This parable clearly shows that we are not all born equal! We are not all born with the same innate talents and abilities! "And unto one he gave five talents, to another two, and to another one; to every man according to his several [individual] ability" (verse 15).

Certainly, some people are born with far greater talents and abilities—greater mental and/or physical dexterity—than others. God expects each one to make the most of whatever He has given him.

This parable of the talents reveals that God expects each one of us to

employ our talents in some gainful way so that we can gain other talents in addition to what we have been given by God at birth!

Finally, the Lord reckons with the ones to whom He has given the talents (verse 19). The one who had been given five talents doubled his and now had ten. Christ said to him, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant: thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (verse 21).

Likewise, the one who had received only two talents had doubled his, and in like manner the Lord said to him: "Well done, good and faithful servant; thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things: enter thou into the joy of thy lord" (verse 23).



The parable of the talents shows that we are not born equal. At birth each person receives different talents.



Did you notice that Jesus Christ said "Well done" to each of these diligent servants? Each had doubled the talents given to him, and each was highly commended by the Lord for so doing.

But the one who had received only one talent looked upon God as "an hard man"—thought He was dishonest—and didn't do anything with his talent (verses 24-25). Christ commanded, "And cast ye the unprofitable servant into outer darkness" (verse 30).

Reward According to Effort

The parable of the pounds (Luke 19:12-27) shows a different aspect of how God will judge His people.

In this parable Christ called His ten servants and delivered unto each a pound. He told them, "Occupy till I come" (verse 13). This word "occu-

py" means to gainfully use or profitably employ by trading.

Verse 15 reveals that when Jesus Christ returns, after having received the Kingdom, He will call His servants to an accounting to see "how much every man [has] gained by trading" (verse 15).

The most diligent of the ten servants will come, saying, "Lord, thy pound hath gained ten pounds. And he said unto him, Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities" (verses 16-17).

Yes, this diligent servant was given a great deal of responsibility—because he had already proved he was able to wisely use the responsibility placed upon him.

The second servant came to reckon with his Lord. He hadn't been quite so diligent. He said, "Lord, thy pound hath gained five pounds. And he said likewise to him, Be thou also over five cities" (verses 18-19).

Notice that Christ doesn't call him "thou good servant"!

But what will Christ think of the slothful servant—the one who looked upon God as "an austere man"? The one who thought God was unrighteous (verse 21)?

Christ will severely rebuke this indolent servant, saying that he should have gainfully employed the pound which he had been given, so God could have received His original investment plus interest (usury). "Take from him the pound, and give it to him that hath ten pounds" (verse 24).

The servants who were standing by thought this seemed unwise, if not unjust. They said, "Lord, he hath ten pounds" (verse 25).

But Jesus will plainly reveal that those who have already proved they can exercise greater authority—greater responsibility, greater rulership—are more deserving and capable. They are to be given added responsibility.

This same lesson is also pointed out by Christ in the parable of the talents (Matt. 25:14-30). The one who had only one talent (and who didn't do anything with it) had his talent taken from him and given

to the one who had ten talents.

It is certainly right that God should do this! The one who had only proved capable of handling five talents (or five pounds) would surely find it more difficult to manage an additional talent (or pound) than would the most diligent servant—who had already proved he could manage ten talents (or ten pounds).

This parable of the pounds reveals that, of those who have equal talents and abilities, God will give the greater reward to those who develop their talents and abilities to a greater extent. This parable was not intended to show that everybody is born with the same innate talent and ability. It merely points out that those of approximately equal ability will be judged according to what they do with their pound.

All-Important Time Factor

The parable of the laborers in the vineyard (Matt. 20:1-16) plainly reveals that God Almighty will take another very important factor—the time element—into account when judging and rewarding His people.

In this parable all Christians are likened unto laborers in a vineyard. The householder hired some laborers “early in the morning.” He agreed with them to pay each a penny a day. Later others were hired “at the third hour” (9:00 a.m.), and still others were hired at “the sixth” (12:00 noon) and “ninth” (3:00 p.m.) hours of the day. The householder promised to give “whatsoever is right” to those hired at the third, sixth and ninth hours.

But some were still standing idle near the end of the day. They hadn’t been hired at all. So the householder went out late in the afternoon and hired them at “about the eleventh hour.”

But when the time came to settle up, the ones who had only worked an hour or so received a penny—a full day’s wage!

Those who had worked most or all of the day saw this. They were very happy. They thought, “We’ll receive much more because we’ve worked all day.”

But when the householder came to settle up with them, he gave them

just a penny—exactly what he had agreed to pay them.

But those servants who had been hired earlier in the day murmured and complained “against the good-man of the house” (verse 11).

They said, “These last have wrought but one hour, and thou hast made them equal unto us, which have borne the burden and heat of the day. But he answered one of them, and said, Friend, I do thee no wrong: didst not thou agree with me for a penny? Take that thine is, and go thy way: I will give unto this last, even as unto thee. Is it not lawful for me to do what I will with mine own? Is thine eye evil, because I am good?” (Verses 12-15.)

Now, what vital lesson are we to learn from this parable?

The day mentioned in this parable

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If we produce much fruit, then God will bless us correspondingly with a greater reward of service in His Kingdom.

”

represents the life span of each Christian. Some are called into God’s Church (into His vineyard) early in life—early in the morning. Others are called at noon—in middle age. Some are not called until they approach the sunset of life—old age!

When Jesus Christ literally returns to this earth to judge every Christian according to his works, He will take this important time factor into account. Any who were called into God’s Church early in life will be expected by Christ to have accomplished more in God’s service than those who were called later in life.

Unequal Opportunities

Let us see how this actually will work. God Almighty calls some to repentance in their teens. Such people have been blessed with the wonderful opportunity of knowing God’s truth

and applying it in their lives in their youth. Such individuals are better equipped to properly develop both their minds and their bodies. As a result, they will be able to accomplish more than they would had they never known God’s precious truth.

This gives such individuals a great advantage over other people who grow up in spiritual blindness—in utter darkness. These spiritually ignorant usually continue to indulge in many habits and do other things which tear them down—destroying their health, their minds and their personalities! Such people, when called later in life, will not have as alert minds or as active and healthy bodies as they could have had, had they known and practiced God’s truth from their youth (see Eccl. 12:1-7).

God’s Perfect Judgments

When we put together the parables of the pounds, the talents and the laborers in the vineyard, we are then able to see exactly how God will judge us when giving us our reward.

The parable of the talents shows that we are not born equal. At birth each person receives different talents and abilities from those of every other individual. Then, at conversion, God adds spiritual talents and gifts according to each man’s natural abilities.

The parable of the pounds shows that, of those who are of equal talents and abilities (as represented by pounds), some will use their God-given talents more diligently than others. As a result, they will receive greater responsibility in God’s Kingdom. The one who multiplies his pound over ten times will be given authority over ten cities. The one who multiplies his pound over five times will be given authority over five cities.

But, the parable of the laborers reveals that God will take other things into account—other than innate ability—when judging us. An important factor which He will consider will be the amount of time which we were given, after our conversion, to really apply these things. Those who are given more time will be held accountable for having overcome and grown

more—and for having produced more in God's service.

God's judgments are altogether just! The apostle Paul explained this very well: "O the depth of the riches both of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable are his judgments, and his ways past finding out!" (Rom. 11:33.)

God Almighty has not only promised immortality or eternal life in His Kingdom, but He has also promised us glory and honor in the position of service, or responsibility, which He will grant us in His Kingdom—according to our diligence here and now!

It is still true that the human eye has not seen, the human ear has not heard, nor has the human mind yet fully grasped the tremendous, transcendent, eternal blessings which God has prepared for us (I Cor. 2:9). We are just barely getting a dim glimpse of those blessings—through having our minds illuminated by God's Spirit (I Cor. 13:12).

"In thy presence is fulness of joy; at thy right hand there are pleasures for evermore" (Ps. 16:11). Revelation 21 and 22 also further reveal the glory which the saints—then made immortal—will receive in God's everlasting Kingdom.

Thus it is clear from God's Word that a Christian should desire more than eternal life. He should strive to so please his Creator that He may grant him, because of his diligent service, a place of honor in His Kingdom. This is what God Almighty desires. He wants us to bear much fruit. If we do produce much fruit, then He will bless us correspondingly with a greater reward of service in His Kingdom.

Even Moses understood this! He chose "rather to suffer affliction with the people of God, than to enjoy the pleasures of sin for a season; esteeming the reproach of Christ greater riches than the treasures in Egypt: for he had respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:25-26).

Yes, Moses was willing to suffer reproach, affliction, privation, and humiliation in order to receive "the recompense of the reward" in the Kingdom of God! He, and the other

Old Testament patriarchs, "all died in faith," fully persuaded they would receive the fulfillment of the promise after their resurrection (Heb. 11:13, 39).

Never Aim for Mediocrity

God compares the Christian life to a race. Many may run in the race, but only one receives the top prize—though numerous lesser prizes may be given. Certainly no one worth his salt should ever seek to take second, third or fourth place—if he is able to do better. Likewise, God Almighty does not want us to be satisfied with second best—if we can do better. He does not want us to aim for mediocrity!

Since we are going to be judged by God Almighty according to what we do in the flesh, we need to realize

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*God compares the
Christian life to a race.
Many may run in the
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receives the top prize.*

”

that we should look to Him at all times—not to man.

"And whatsoever ye do, do it heartily, as to the Lord, and not unto men; knowing that of the Lord ye shall receive the reward of the inheritance: for ye serve the Lord Christ" (Col. 3:23-24).

If we can remember that all true blessings—both in this life and in the life to come—flow from Almighty God, then we will keep our eyes fastened on him (James 1:17). We will then seek to please Him, rather than trying to be men-pleasers.

It isn't wrong for you to seek honor and favor in God's sight! Neither is it wrong to seek promotion from God—if you are really willing to work for it—if you are willing to pay the price!

We must always keep in mind this basic truth: "For promotion cometh

neither from the east, nor from the west, nor from the south. But God is the judge: he putteth down one, and setteth up another" (Ps. 75:6-7).

Jesus Christ said, "How can ye believe, which receive honour one of another, and seek not the honour that cometh from God only?" (John 5:44.)

But a word of caution is necessary! Though it is right and good to seek honor from God—right and good to seek promotion—yet we must always remember that we should seek it in the right way—and not for vanity's sake!

Wrong Ambition

Seek for glory and honor from God, but don't become filled with vain ambition or with self-exaltation.

Remember, it was the wrong type of ambition or self-exaltation that turned Lucifer into Satan (an adversary).

Lucifer wanted to exalt himself. He was not content to merely remain in the high office in which God had put him. He wanted to be equal to God.

"For thou hast said in thine heart, I will ascend into heaven, I will exalt my throne above the stars of God: I will sit also upon the mount of the congregation, in the sides of the north: I will ascend above the heights of the clouds; I will be like the most High" (Isa. 14:13-14).

Yes, Lucifer wanted to be equal to God. He was not content to serve as an exalted archangel.

One of David's own sons, Absalom, let the same wrong kind of ambition fill his heart. He sought to flatter the people of Israel so he could turn them away from his father David to himself. Eventually, he got the popular support of the people behind him, and he almost succeeded in overthrowing the kingdom of his father. David had to flee for his life and would have been defeated but for the grace of God. Finally, however, Absalom's insolence, his rebellion, his ambitious self-exaltation caught up with him (II Sam. 15-18). A dart thrust through his heart ended his wretched revolt against his own father (II Sam. 18:9, 14).

Are Christians altogether free from this temptation of self-exalta-

tion or wrong ambition? Are even mothers sometimes tempted with a wrong kind of ambition? The mother of James and John, two of Christ's disciples, was filled with this kind of vanity.

"Then came to him the mother of Zebedee's children with her sons, worshipping him, and desiring a certain thing of him. And he said unto her, What wilt thou? She saith unto him, Grant that these my two sons may sit, the one on thy right hand, and the other on the left, in thy kingdom" (Matt. 20:20-21).

Jesus Christ had to reveal to this woman and also to James and John that their selfish request was the way of self-exaltation. They were asking something which they never should have asked. His answer: "But to sit on my right hand, and on my left, is not mine to give, but it shall be given to them for whom it is prepared of my Father" (verse 23).

Yes, even Christ is not the One who places the various ones in the government of the Kingdom of God. This is the Father's direct responsibility.

The Greatest Serves Most

Christ went on to show that the Gentile rulers lord it over their subjects (verse 25). Christ condemns such arrogant, high-handed methods of rulership (I Pet. 5:1-4).

And then He added, "But it shall not be so among you: but whosoever shall be great among you, let him be your minister; and whosoever will be chief among you, let him be your servant" (Mat. 20:26-27).

Christ repeatedly warned men about exalting themselves. On one occasion He observed how those bidden to a feast chose the chief rooms. He rebuked them in no uncertain terms! They should, said Christ, always take the lowest place, unless they were asked to take a higher position.

He then added, "For whosoever exalteth himself shall be abased; and he that humbleth himself shall be exalted" (Luke 14:11).

Secure Your Crown

Yes, you should be careful that no man takes your crown (Rev. 3:11). Furthermore, we all need to make

certain "that we receive a full reward" (II John 8).

We should not be content with just making it into God's Kingdom. We should seek to live full, abundant, productive lives in God's service (to produce one hundredfold!) here and now so we can receive a greater position of responsibility and service in God's Kingdom.

It is quite all right not only to seek for immortality, but also to seek for glory and honor. We must, however, always make sure we do not seek to exalt ourselves. Wrong ambition is a sin! We must always ensure that we do not seek honor from men—but seek "the honor that cometh from God only" (John 5:44).

What is your goal? Are you content merely to make it into God's Kingdom? Or do you want to make it

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*Seek for glory and honor
from God, but don't
become filled with vain
ambition or with
self-exaltation.*

”

there with flying colors—and have Jesus Christ reassuringly say, "Well done, thou good and faithful servant"?

Certainly, those who have real understanding of God's Word will not be content just to make it into God's Kingdom. They will seek a position of honor and glory in God's service—they will have "respect unto the recompense of the reward" (Heb. 11:26).

Christ solemnly promised, "Behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be" (Rev. 22:12).

Let us keep this promise foremost in our minds and serve God to the very utmost of our abilities! If we do this, we will not receive thirtyfold, or sixtyfold—but one hundredfold—in the Kingdom of God! □

HIDE Himself?

(Continued from page 31)

by trying it! There is no other way. You must personally experience the enormous benefits of God's Spirit. And we don't mean some pseudo-sanctimonious hodgepodge of self-deluded emotion, nicey-nice prayer meetings and goody-good testimonials. We do mean God's breathtaking purpose in life—and His specific office of scintillating authority prepared especially for you.

Let's get down to business. How do you get God's Holy Spirit? There are just two requirements: 1) a wholly repentant attitude of mind, and 2) baptism. That's it. "Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

How do you know if you are repentant? How do you get baptized? Where are God's ministers? We can answer your questions.

The Worldwide Church of God has sent dedicated men (ordained ministers) into most communities in the United States and the British Commonwealth, and into many other cities around the world. These sincere individuals have no religious ax to grind, no quota to meet, no pressure to exert. Their main purpose in life is to help you gain eternal life. If God has granted you the capacity to catch the vision, if you have questions which you want answered, write to us and request a special, private appointment. Give us the pleasure of serving you. We'd love to.

Of all God's revelations to man, the clearest and most dramatic for you will occur when you personally sense the remarkably thrilling change in your own mind brought about by God's Holy Spirit—a steady perfection of your character, a new power in your understanding, a sudden zest in your life, and a fantastically happy outlook for your future. You will never again have to rehearse the many times, places and ways of God's revelations to mankind. When you want to see God revealing Himself, you'll just look at God's power in your own life! □

CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

one place. There is this instruction in Isaiah: "Whom shall he teach knowledge? And whom shall he make to understand doctrine? . . . For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept; line upon line, line upon line; here a little, and there a little" (Isaiah 28:9-10). But most who try to apply this principle in biblical understanding take each "little" out of context, in order to interpret their *own* idea into it.

Much directly concerned with what is revealed in Genesis 1 is filled in by other passages of Scripture in various parts of the Bible.

So now, let's UNDERSTAND the background. Earth's angels had *not* completed the creation of this planet by improvement, development and beautification. Rather, they had brought it to desolation and ruin. The GOVERNMENT OF GOD had been nullified on earth.

And now *only* God could be *certainly* relied upon never to depart from the way of His law and His government.

No higher, more perfect kind of being could be created than Lucifer—and he had rebelled. Since GOD ALONE would never deviate or turn from GOD'S WAY, God now determined (or probably had already predetermined) to accomplish the SUPREME creative feat—to REPRODUCE HIMSELF! In God's supreme wisdom He knew this must be brought about *through matter!*

Man in God's Image

To prepare the earth for the creation of MAN, God first renewed the face of the earth. This is explained in Psalm 104:30: "Thou sendest forth thy spirit, they are created: and thou renewest the face of the earth."

Now back to Genesis 1:2. The earth was in a state of ruin. ". . . And the Spirit of God moved upon the face of the waters."

The first thing God did was turn darkness back into LIGHT as originally made. God said, ". . . Let there be light: and there was light" (Genesis 1:3).

So in six days God RENEWED THE FACE OF THE EARTH (the six days in Genesis 1 is not the time of earth's original creation), preparing it for the creation of MAN! Once again the earth was a perfect creation—but lacking the finishing touches.

The Purpose of Man on Earth

WHY did the Creator God put MAN on the earth? To *improve* the physical earth as God gave it to man, *finishing* its creation, which sinning angels had deliberately refused to do; and in so doing to RESTORE the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, with God's WAY of life, and, further, in this very process, TO FINISH THE CREATION OF *man* by the development of God's holy, righteous CHARACTER, with man's own assent. Once this perfect and righteous character is instilled in man and man converted from mortal to immortal spirit, then is to come the INCREDIBLE HUMAN POTENTIAL—man being BORN INTO the divine FAMILY of God and then participating in the completion of the CREATION of the entire endless expanse of the UNIVERSE!

So, on the sixth day of that (re)creation week, God (Elohim) said: "Let us make man in our image, after our likeness: and let them have dominion over the fish of the sea, and over the fowl of the air, and over the cattle, and over all the earth, and over every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth. So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them" (Genesis 1:26).

Man was made to have (with his assent) a special relationship with his Maker! He was made in the form and shape of God. He was given a spirit (essence) to make the relationship possible. Much more of that a little later.

The Soul Is Mortal

But God made MAN *wholly* of MATTER! This was necessary for the supreme accomplishment God willed.

"And the Eternal God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath [air] of life; and man became a living

soul" (Genesis 2:7). Man, formed from material dust of the ground, upon breathing air BECAME a living soul. It does not say man is or has an immortal soul. What was formed from material ground BECAME a soul.

Therefore the SOUL is physical, composed of matter, and can die. This is a TRUTH believed by very few denominations and probably by no religions other than Christianity—another PROOF that identifies the one true Church of God!

How Human Mind Functions

Now we come to another truth, so far as I know exclusive in the one true Church.

Did you ever wonder about the vast difference between human mind and animal brain? This incidentally is another PROOF of the falsity of the theory of evolution!

The physical brain of vertebrates in the animal kingdom is almost precisely the same in physical form, design, and constituents as human brain—and the brains of whales, elephants, dolphins are larger, and of chimps almost as large. Yet the output of human brain is indescribably greater. Few indeed know WHY!

Many passages of scripture show that there is a spirit *in* man. Spirit is *not* matter, and man is wholly matter. But, as there could be a small metal object swallowed by mistake *in* man, yet no part of the man himself, so with the spirit within each human. It is in the form of essence—not a ghost or being of itself, and to distinguish it from God's Holy Spirit, I designate it as the "human spirit." Nevertheless, it is spirit and not matter.

This "human spirit" imparts the power of intellect to the human physical brain. The spirit cannot see, hear, taste, smell or feel. The *brain* sees through the eye, hears through the ear, etc. The "human spirit" cannot of itself think. The physical brain thinks.

What, then, is the function of the "human spirit"? It is NOT a "soul." But it 1) imparts the power of intellect, of thinking and of MIND power to the human brain; and 2) it is the very means God has instilled to make

possible a personal relationship between human MAN and divine GOD.

Two Stages of Man

God creates, as previously mentioned, by the principle of DUALITY. So it is with the creation of MAN. It is accomplished in TWO STAGES: 1) the physical phase, which began with the first man, Adam; and 2) the spiritual stage, which begins with the "second Adam," Jesus Christ (I Corinthians 15:45-46).

So also, man was made from creation (and birth) with the one "human spirit"—but he is INCOMPLETE. He was made to need another Spirit—the HOLY SPIRIT of God, and when that gift of God is received, His "Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God" (Romans 8:16)—in the begotten or first stage of the *spiritual* creation.

This is most clearly explained in I Corinthians 2.

"... Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart [mind] of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him" (verse 9)—spiritual knowledge. The natural mind can know only what the brain can physically see, hear, taste, smell or feel. The natural mind is *confined* to physical, material knowledge!

"But God hath revealed them [spiritual things] unto us by his Spirit..." (verse 10).

"For what man knoweth the things of a man, save the spirit of man which is in him?..." (verse 11). A cow, sheep or dog cannot know the things a MAN knows—and neither could a man, except by the spirit of man which is *in* him. Likewise, the natural man with this one spirit is *limited* to material knowledge: "... even so the things of God knoweth no man, but the Spirit of God" (verse 11).

ONLY when the Holy Spirit enters, combining with the "human spirit," can a man come to know that which is spiritual. "But the natural man receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned" (verse 14).

That is WHY the most highly educated are overall the most ignorant. They are confined to knowledge of the material. Knowledge of God and the things of God are foolishness to them. But, of course, God says, "... the wisdom of this world is foolishness with God" (I Corinthians 3:19).

World Cut Off from God

Now back to the first human, Adam.

Remember God's PURPOSE in creating man on the earth: 1) to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth, and by regulating human life through that GOVERNMENT, to complete the physical creation of earth where angels turned it to ruin, and in the process to complete the creation of MAN by developing righteous spiritual CHARACTER; and 2) to establish the KINGDOM OF GOD and eventually the incredible human potential of finishing the creation of the vast UNIVERSE.

This supreme PURPOSE required: 1) that MAN reject Satan's WAY, embracing GOD'S WAY of LOVE, based on God's spiritual law; and 2) that man be made first of matter so that if he were led into Satan's way of GET, he could be CHANGED, converted to GOD'S WAY of LOVE.

Spirit, once a finished creation, *cannot be changed!* That is why the one-third of the angels who followed Satan are forever demons. Spirit is constant and eternal—not subject to change. But physical matter is constantly *changing*.

Through God's master plan for His spiritual creation, to be covered later, it had been determined by God and the Word that the Word would divest Himself of His supreme glory, and in due time take on Him the likeness of human flesh as Jesus Christ, making possible the spiritual phase of the creation of MAN—God REPRODUCING HIMSELF! What a MASTER PLAN for the extreme ULTIMATE in creative accomplishment! How GREAT is our God—in mind, purpose, planning, designing, as well as CREATING—from the tiniest germ or insect to the most huge sun, dwarfing our own great sun to insignificance!

And the incredible human poten-

tial is that the GREAT MAJESTIC GOD is, in MAN, reproducing Himself—man can be born into the GOD FAMILY!

The first human, Adam, was created with the potential of qualifying to replace Satan, the former Lucifer, on earth's throne, restoring the GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

But it was necessary that he resist and reject Satan's GET way and choose GOD'S WAY of His law—the way of LOVE (GIVE)!

His Maker talked first to Adam and Eve—instructed them thoroughly in the GOVERNMENT and spiritual LAW of God—even though in Genesis 2 only the most condensed summary of God's instruction to them is revealed. Satan was restrained from any contact with them until God first had completely taught them.

Two Symbolic Trees

In the gloriously beautiful Garden of Eden, in which God placed them, were two symbolic trees. One was the "tree of life." Taking its fruit, freely offered, symbolized obedience and faithfulness to God's law of outgoing LOVE and receiving the gift of God's Holy Spirit.

The other was the "tree of the knowledge of good and evil." Taking of its fruit was taking to *themselves* the knowledge of what is good and what is evil—deciding for themselves what is right and what is sin. This, of course, meant rejection of God's LAW, which defined *for them* the right and the wrong.

The glorious archangel Lucifer, as God originally created him, was the pinnacle of God's creative power in a single being. Few today remotely realize the great power, now turned to cunning deception, possessed by Satan. Apparently Adam completely underestimated him.

The wily Satan got to Adam through his wife Eve. He did not say, "CHOOSE MY WAY." He appeared as a subtle serpent. He cleverly deceived her. He put DOUBTS in her mind about God's veracity. He deceived her into believing God had been unfair—selfish. He subtly injected vanity of mind. He misled her into thinking it was *right* to take of the forbidden fruit.

Adam, not deceived, nevertheless went along with his wife. With her, he took to himself the determination of what is right and what is wrong—thus **DISBELIEVING** what his Maker had said, **REJECTING** God as Savior and Ruler—rejecting God as the Source of revealed **BASIC KNOWLEDGE**. He believed and followed Satan's **WAY!**

Man's Sentence Pronounced

When the Eternal God "drove out the man" from the Garden of Eden and barred reentrance—*lest* he go back and receive eternal life in sin (Genesis 3:22-24)—God **PRO-
NOUNCED SENTENCE!**

God said, in effect, "YOU have made the decision for yourself and the world that shall spring from you. You have rejected me as the basic Source of knowledge—you have rebelled against my command and my government—you have chosen the **GETTING, TAKING** way of Satan. Therefore I sentence you and the world you shall beget to 6,000 years of being **CUT OFF** from access to me, my revealed knowledge, my **WAY** of life—**EXCEPT** for the comparative exceedingly few I shall specially call for special service preparatory to my Kingdom. **GO**, and produce your own fund of knowledge with your carnal, hostile minds. Produce your own carnal scholarship and system of disseminating it. **GO**, and create your own gods and religions. **GO, FORM YOUR OWN HUMAN-DEvised GOVERNMENTS**. Satan, in all this, will deceive your world into receiving his **ATTITUDE** of vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, suspicion and disbelief, competition and strife and violence—into unrealized **REBELLION** against me and my **WAY** of outflowing **LOVE!** After your world has written the lesson of your **WAY** in 6,000 years of evils, troubles, frustrations, sickness, sorrow, suffering and **DEATH**, I will **INTERVENE!** I will by supernatural divine **POWER** take over the government and education of the whole world, calling all to me—to repentance from your false way, and to eternal salvation."

Except for those specially *called* for special duty preparing for God's **KINGDOM**, **ALL HUMANITY HAS BEEN**

CUT OFF FROM GOD THESE 6,000 YEARS!

I know and privately discuss world conditions with many heads of state—kings, emperors, presidents, prime ministers, ambassadors, men high in governments. They all have to deal with problems and evils with which they are utterly unable to cope.

WHY? Few indeed know. But I have just told you the **CAUSE**. This **KNOWLEDGE** makes the one true Church of God **UNIQUE** in the world!

The **TRUTH** that all are **CUT OFF** from God except those specially called by God was emphasized by Jesus. He said, plainly, "**NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which . . . sent me draw him . . .**" (John 6:44). No scripture contradicts that.

The Only Day of Salvation?

The most universal false teaching, believed by virtually all churches called Christian, except the one and only true and original Church of God, is that **ALL** are automatically *lost* unless they profess Jesus Christ as Savior and that now is the *only* day of salvation.

Those cut off from God are **NOT** lost—unless called and then lost. They are simply **NOT YET JUDGED!** All so far called since Adam have been called, not for salvation alone, but primarily for a special mission—and salvation goes along automatically if they do repent, believe, receive and are led by the Holy Spirit.

All still living will be called during the millennium, with Christ ruling all nations—and all others previously uncalled will be resurrected and called in the "great white throne judgment" following the millennium. There will be no Satan to overcome then.

Just as Adam was required to reject and overcome the pull of Satan to qualify to succeed to the throne of the earth, so was Jesus Christ, the second Adam. Jesus Christ *did* qualify. Those converted prior to His return must also qualify, in order to sit with Him on His throne (Revelation 2:26-27 and 3:21). □

(To Be Continued)

THE KINGDOM OF GOD-

What does it mean to you?

Kingdom *n.* A politically organized community or major territorial unit having a monarchical form of government headed by a king or queen.

The phrase "kingdom of God," which appears frequently in the Bible, is often heard in religious circles. It is generally assumed to be a reference to heaven or to a condition of mind held by believers. Almost no one would apply the standard dictionary definition of "kingdom"—a type of government over a specific territory. Yet that is precisely how the term is most often used in the Bible. The real meaning of the term "kingdom of God" is far more interesting and exciting than the traditional vague concepts. The booklet *Just What Do You Mean . . . Kingdom of God?* clearly explains what the Kingdom of God is and why it's important to you. For a free copy write to *The Plain Truth* at the address nearest you. (See inside front cover for addresses worldwide.)

Just what do you mean . . .
**KINGDOM
OF GOD?**

FREE WORLD

(Continued from page 6)

new pro-India tilt has served to further aggravate U.S.-Pakistani relations. Sensing which way the wind is blowing, Pakistan has withdrawn its ambassador to the U.S. and has sent him to Moscow with an eye toward securing better relations with the Kremlin.

Pakistan's president and chief martial law administrator, General Mohammed Zia ul-Haq, has also decided to pull Pakistan out of the Central Treaty Organization (CENTO), whose other members include Iran, Turkey and Britain (the U.S. is an associate member).

In *Turkey*, serious rioting between leftist Alawite Moslems and rightist Sunni Moslems forced Prime Minister Bülent Ecevit to declare martial law in 13 of the country's 67 provinces last December, in what is seen as the most difficult period in the 56-year history of the Turkish Republic. Ecevit has labeled the sectarian clashes as a serious threat to Turkey's national unity. The recent wave of terror has been compared to the left-right clashes throughout Turkey that led to more than two years of martial law in some provinces in 1971.

Of concern to Washington amid Turkey's growing religious unrest and social instability is evidence of a changing attitude vis-à-vis the United States. Turkey maintains some 465,000 men under arms—the largest NATO standing army outside that of the U.S.—and has long been regarded as one of the alliance's most strategically vital countries. But the 1975 American arms embargo—prompted by Turkey's invasion and occupation of 40 percent of Cyprus—raised serious doubts in Turkey about how genuine Washington's friendship really is.

Despite the fact that the embargo was finally lifted last August, its effects linger. While pledging to remain loyal to NATO, Turkey has let it be known that it can no longer rely on a "single source" (the U.S.) for its military supplies. NATO officials are gravely concerned. They are

keenly aware that Turkey is a soft spot in the alliance's strategic underbelly.

Some analysts feel that Turkey's historic suspicion of its Russian neighbor rules out any serious alliance with the Soviets. But there are many indications that Ankara intends to at least hedge its bets by pursuing closer ties with its northern neighbor.

Under a trade agreement signed at the end of last year, Ankara and the Kremlin agreed to raise the volume of their trade by 50 percent (to \$1.275 billion) over the next three years. The Russians are also building an oil refinery and a steel plant at Iskenderun near the Syrian border.

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Complete economic collapse of the Western world may be just over the horizon—unless the deteriorating events in the arc of crisis are somehow arrested.

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And significantly, Soviet naval vessels were permitted to anchor at Istanbul last November for the first time in 40 years.

In *Iraq*: Current turmoil in neighboring Iran has prompted pro-Soviet Iraqi leaders to closely monitor the potential threat from their own various disaffected national minorities, especially the Kurds. The government fears that Iran's troubles could overflow their 700-mile common border and incite chaos in Iraq.

Amidst the regional turmoil, Baghdad has been careful to keep its lines open to the Kremlin, its chief arms supplier, as a visit to Moscow by the Iraqi vice-president last December made clear.

In a related development, Iraq's Baathist government has succeeded in patching up its long-standing feud with archrival Syria. The Iraqi

army—rated as possibly the most effective in the Arab world—has been placed with the Syrian army under a single unified command. In the eyes of some observers, this military muscle could be used to back up a powerful destabilizing campaign against pro-Western Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

Saudi Arabia is in a far weaker position than its huge oil reserves and bulging dollars-and-gold stockpile would indicate. Reports columnist Joseph Kraft: "The oil giant has feet of clay. Saudi Arabia, far from being a global power, is a country characterized by inner weaknesses and divisions." Its military forces are small and rife with division. The ruling royal family is wracked with splits over modernization versus traditional Moslem ways of life. However, unlike in Iran, the political rulers maintain good relations with the country's religious leaders.

Nevertheless, Saudi Arabia's population is small—officially about eight million, but insiders believe it is less than seven million. At least half of the workers are foreigners; Egyptians and Palestinians hold most professional and clerical jobs. Adds columnist Kraft: "These conditions make the Saudis highly vulnerable to outside pressures. . . . They are terrified of radical subversion, especially of the Palestinians. Isolation provides one means of defense. . . . But the major bulwark is the payoff. The Saudis give protection money to virtually every group in the Arab world."

The Saudis took great notice of Mr. Carter's weak response to Brezhnev's hands-off-Iran warning. They are convinced, reports *Newsweek's* Senior Editor Arnaud de Borchgrave, that "their country, like Pakistan, is on its own," the recent "fly-in" of U.S. Air Force F-15s notwithstanding. They are now talking to the Russians about establishing diplomatic relations (up until now Riyadh has had no ties with the Communist world). Continues de Borchgrave: "As Iran disintegrates, the Saudis maintain, the U. S. has begun to look to Mexico as an alternative to Persian Gulf oil. In response, they say, Saudi Arabia is veering away from a



Abbee—Gamma/Liaison

MASS PROTESTS against the monarchy have become a daily feature in cities throughout Iran. Crowds carrying placards declaring "Down With the Shah" demonstrate their strong opposition to the 54-year-old Pahlavi dynasty.

close alliance with the U.S., and hedging its bets with the Soviet Union." This undoubtedly explains why the Saudis did not stand in the way of the recent sizable hike in OPEC oil prices.

U.S.-British Decline Responsible

All in all, the deteriorating political climate in the arc of crisis is made to order for radical disruptions, aggravated by Soviet mischief-making, jeopardizing the economic structure of the entire world.

None of this would have happened had not Great Britain and the United States fallen so precipitously from pinnacles of political and military power. But this was prophesied in your Bible. (Write for Herbert W. Armstrong's booklet *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*. See mailing addresses on inside front cover.)

Postwar British governments succeeded—if that is the word—in shrinking the once globe-girdling British navy virtually back to the Thames estuary itself.

British naval bases throughout the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf were abandoned, leaving a gaping

power vacuum. The once-powerful British bastion at Aden is now encompassed within a Communist "republic." It is also a base used by East Germans and Cubans for training terrorists and subversives worldwide.

Britain no longer protects the oil-rich sheikhdoms of the Persian Gulf, nor ensures that the Strait of Hormuz sea gate (see Genesis 22:17) remains open. Now even Iran will no longer play that role.

The Soviet navy looms ominously throughout the Mediterranean, once a British "lake." Under the prow of Red naval vessels passes 25 billion barrels of oil in the Mediterranean at any given time on 300-plus tankers.

At the southern tip of Africa the British abandoned the strategic Simonstown naval base, guardian spot for 24,000 ships—many of them oil tankers—which round the Cape of Good Hope every year.

After Britain's fall from power, America's high-prestige role continued to ensure the preeminence of the West in the tide against Communist encroachment.

Until Vietnam.

In Southeast Asia the pride of

America's power (Lev. 26:19) was shattered beyond repair. Since that time, the Soviets, utilizing their Cuban legionnaires, have won virtually uncontested victories in Angola and Ethiopia. Thousands of Cubans are positioned in the radical states of Africa and elsewhere.

Now the timorousness of U. S. foreign policy is causing key nations throughout the Persian Gulf-Indian Ocean region to seriously question America's resolve.

Time is indeed short before the "close of the age" (Matt. 24:14). Complete economic collapse of the Western world may be just over the horizon—unless the deteriorating events in the arc of crisis are somehow arrested.

If they aren't, note what Matthew 24:21-22 says: "For then there will be great tribulation, such as has not been from the beginning of the world until now, no, and never will be. And if those days had not been shortened, no human being would be saved; but for the sake of the elect [those whom God is calling and working with now, so they may rule in the next age, the world tomorrow] those days will be shortened." □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:30-32).

They answered Him sarcastically and hostilely. They were Abraham's descendants and were already free, they said.

"I know that ye are Abraham's seed," responded Jesus, "*but ye seek to kill me, because my word [His gospel message] hath no place in you.*"

They believed on the messenger—but they *rejected His message*—they didn't believe what He said!

Jesus continued, "But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth [His gospel message], which I have heard of God."

Later, Jesus said, "And because I tell you the truth, *ye believe me not. . . why do ye not believe me?*" (Verses 45-46.)

Before the end of the first century that message was suppressed and another false "gospel" substituted (Gal. 1:6-7—A.D. 58). Christ's message was not proclaimed to the world again until now—in the latter half of the twentieth century!

But God saw to it that His word—His message to mankind—was inspired and put into His *written* Word. But even today, the religions that have appropriated Christ's name preach about the PERSON of Christ—but they do not proclaim His MESSAGE—His *true* gospel.

And in many basic doctrines they teach the very opposite of what Jesus and the first apostles taught. They condemn the customs Jesus observed, and observe customs Jesus and the Bible condemn.

Today, a professing adherent of "Christianity" will say, in surprise, "Why, you surely don't take the Bible *literally*, do you?"

Humans have written books by the millions. People read and take *them* literally. They take them to mean what they say—and say what they mean. But the Bible? They can't seem to *believe* it can mean what it plainly says.

For example, the Bible says, "The wages of sin is DEATH" (Rom. 6:23). But professing Christians will say,

"But death doesn't *mean* death—it means everlasting life in hellfire!" God in His Word SAYS "death"—but they don't believe what God says.

This same verse says, also, "But the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." Do they believe eternal life is a gift of God? No, they believe we are "immortal souls" who already *have* eternal life. But God says in His Word, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4). God says that—but professing Christians don't believe what He says! He says the same words again in Ezekiel 18:20.

God said the same thing to Adam and Eve: ". . . in the day that thou eatest thereof [of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil] *thou shalt surely die*" (Gen. 2:17). And in verse seven God says He "formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man [made of the dust of the ground] became a living soul." God told this "soul" he would "surely die" if he disobeyed by taking the forbidden fruit.

It was Satan who said, "Ye shall NOT surely die." Today those who profess Christ believe what Satan said. But they do not believe what God said!

And what about modern science and higher education? Like our first parents they reject revelation (what God says) as the basic source of knowledge. Do they believe there was a flood in Noah's day? God says there was, but they do not believe what He says! What about higher education? God says the waters of the Red Sea parted and the Israelites walked across on the dry floor of the sea. In His Word, God says the walls of water returned, covering and drowning Pharaoh and his army. But can you find that in the ancient history texts? They don't *believe what God* said!

God shows us the way to world peace—peace between individuals, between groups, between nations. But men do not believe *what God* says, and so we have no peace.

God shows us the way to peace, happiness, prosperity in abundance and eternal life as His gift. But men, except for the *very* few, don't believe what God says! Instead, humanity suffers on! □

REAL CONVERSION (You can't win the prize unless you start the race)

The apostle Paul likened the Christian life to a race which must be run for the "prize" of eternal life. A person does not even begin his "race," however, until he has undergone a *genuine* conversion. The New Testament concept of conversion involves much more than a mere intellectual or ritualistic acceptance of a set of beliefs. True conversion can be defined in two parts. The first involves a definite event which occurs when God fulfills His promise to place the Holy Spirit within a person after certain conditions are met. The second part is a process which continues through the Christian's life. If you'd like to know more about the Bible's teaching on conversion, request the free booklet *Just What Do You Mean—CONVERSION?* Write to *The Plain Truth*. (See addresses on inside front cover.)

Just what do
you mean...
CONVERSION?

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L E T & T E R S

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The U.S. and Britain in Prophecy

After reading the second installment of "The United States and Britain in Prophecy," I can't help but wonder why you cannot talk to our President, Mr. Carter; also all congressmen. You have gone to foreign countries and talked to dignitaries, why not here?

Eleanor Norton,
Santa Rosa, California

The Plain Truth is really an interesting magazine again. "The United States and Britain in Prophecy" is really fascinating. Please keep up these informative articles.

Mrs. Judy Johnson,
Wayne, Ohio

God and the Astronomers

Your article on "God and the Astronomers" fails to appreciate, for obvious reasons, that the matter of the universe must have already existed; it was not created by God. The Genesis account refers to the earth and heaven, being the sky above, as the entire universe. What you have attempted to do is modernize the Bible and say that Genesis refers to all the known universe. If all matter is created, then who created God? If God had no creator, then why should the universe have one?

Glenn Urquhart,
Auckland, New Zealand

Your article "God and the Astronomers" in the December *Plain Truth* did a fine job explaining and disposing of the "steady state," "oscillating universe," and "big bang" theories.

Elaine Johnson,
Kansas City, Missouri

Cambodia Cover

We found the picture on the front cover of the current (September) issue of *The Plain Truth* magazine in very poor taste and incongruent with the total scope of God's Work. In fact, we found it quite repulsive. I'm indeed aware of the "real world" today and do realize the horrible

state of affairs men have caused. Nevertheless, this issue of *The Plain Truth* is not one which I would proudly display with other Ambassador literature in our living room before guests.

Mr. and Mrs. G. Zink,
Kent, Washington

When I took the September issue of *The Plain Truth* from my mailbox and saw the cover, I knew that it was going to be an interesting issue. I enjoyed the article "Holocaust in Cambodia" very much and commend you for giving thousands of readers all over the world this account of what communism means. Thanks again for work outstandingly done.

George Crafton,
Nederland, Texas

Coming Soon: Too Good To Be True?

There was a fabulous article titled "Coming Soon" that set my thinking in the right direction. In the back of my mind I always knew our King would come again, but I never understood why or when. Now I can truthfully say I will look forward to that one certain day when He will govern the world. I wish to thank all of you who make it possible to understand God's creation better. Keep up the good work.

Lori Petersen,
Mathis, Texas

Personal—The Knowledge Explosion

So many thanks for the December issue just received. I have just read Mr. Armstrong's "Personal" and I found it to be most inspiring. In fact, his account of Mrs. Loma Armstrong's healing left me with goose flesh—very thrilling! I love the graphics on pages 36 and 37. Their beauty was surprising and for personal reasons the back cover cartoon is quite attractive. I can hardly wait to examine the rest of the magazine and to study the Bible with its guidance.

Mrs. Betty Rakasz,
Springfield, Missouri

Just a few informal statements regarding your article "The Knowledge Explosion" (December 1978 *Plain Truth*), in which you state: "For evolution is the atheists' attempt to explain the presence of a creation without a Creator." The theory of evolution does not imply this at all. It only states that all forms of life have a common ancestor. It makes no attempt to explain the origin of life. I find it very compatible to believe in divine creation and evolution at the same time, as they are really talking about the same thing.

Russell P. Craddock,
Florence, South Carolina

Orchids from Our Readers

I would like to congratulate those who contribute their time and effort in such a meaningful way to make possible the publication of *The Plain Truth*. Indeed it is truly a challenging magazine for both Christians and non-Christians.

Johnny Goh,
Narrabundah, Australia

I've just started attending services at the Saskatoon Church, and I am most impressed by the people. The whole place is just overflowing with joy. Included is a tithe and offering to help others have the opportunity to come in contact with the Church as I have.

Mr. Gordon T.,
Saskatoon, Saskatchewan, Canada

I am a devout Roman Catholic and at the same time a very happy recipient of your publication, *The Plain Truth*. Every issue is a unique experience for me. It never fails to challenge either a theological, sociological or economic concept that I have personally internalized. Every issue then sends me to my own small library or to a period of meditation in search of answers to the questions *The Plain Truth* creates in my mind. We may not always agree, but I appreciate the occasion for keeping me a thinking person in such vital areas.

Robert Hunt,
Santa Clara, California

WHY WERE YOU BORN?



To live a meaningless life in an absurd random universe? To suffer at the pleasure of a vindictive God? To be reborn time and time again until you're fit to be reabsorbed into some ethereal universal consciousness? Or were you born to fulfill a destiny far higher than anything you've ever dreamed of? Believe it or not, at birth you were given an incredible human potential—to become something that science knows nothing about and religion has not understood. To find out more about your purpose—your fantastic goal—and how you can learn to live an abundant,

happy life in pursuit of that goal—write for the booklet *Why Were You Born?* For your free copy, send the coupon below to the address of our office nearest you (see inside front cover for addresses). Or call in your toll-free request to 1-800-423-4444 (residents of California, Alaska and Hawaii may dial 213-577-5225 collect).

Why
were you
BORN?

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