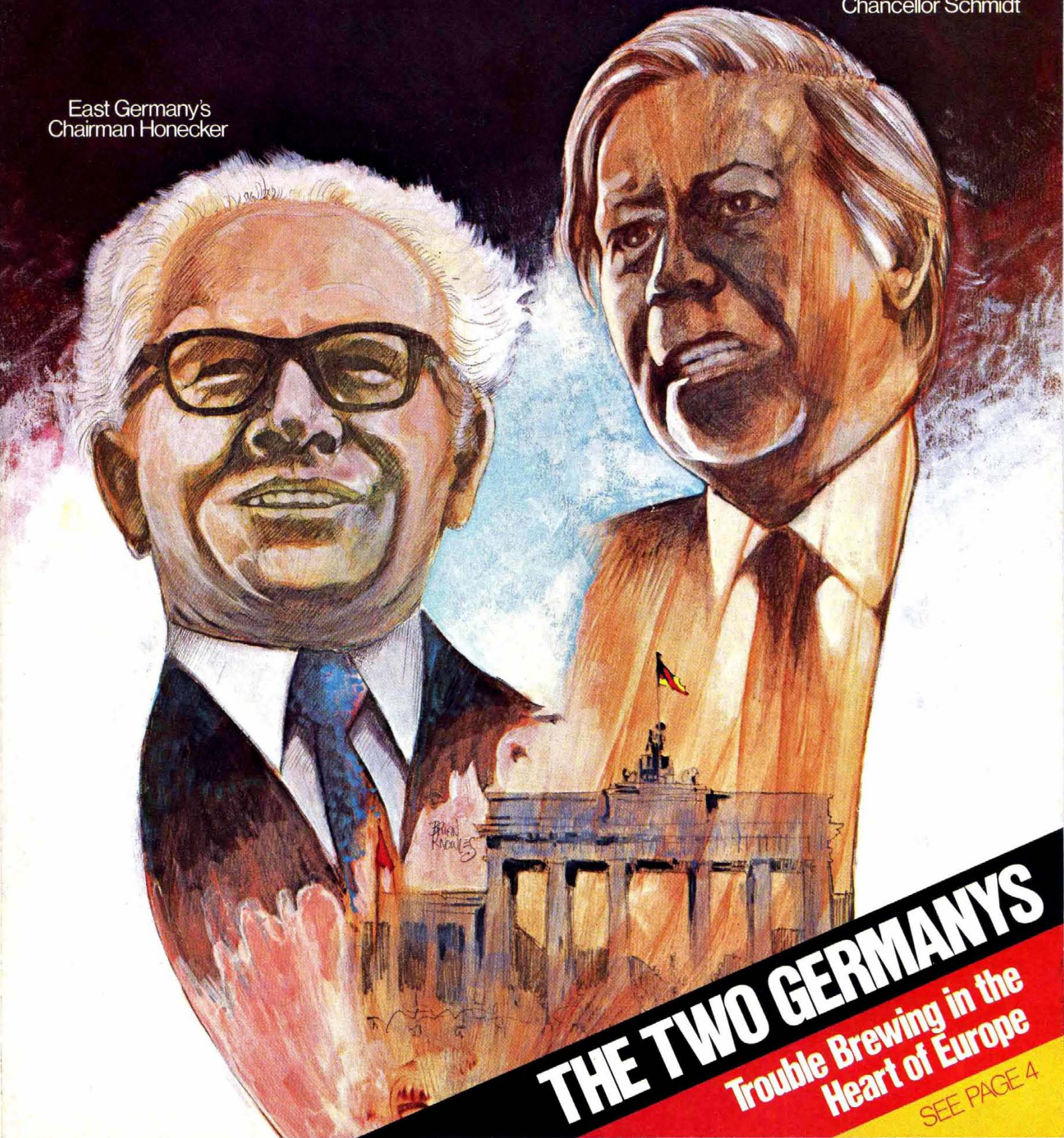


# THE PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*

West Germany's  
Chancellor Schmidt

East Germany's  
Chairman Honecker



**THE TWO GERMANY'S**  
Trouble Brewing in the  
Heart of Europe

SEE PAGE 4

# THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

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## ABOUT OUR COVER

The postwar division of the German nation into two separate states, now in its 30th year, has long been regarded as more or less permanent. But some political observers are beginning to speculate about Germany's eventual reunification, perhaps within the framework of a massive realignment of borders in Europe as a whole. See article beginning on page 4.

Cover Illustration by Brian Knowles

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Personal from...

## Why I Talk With Heads of State About World Evils and World Peace

In the last eight or nine years I have frequently, on this page, told you of personal meetings with heads of state around the world—kings, emperors, presidents, others high in governments—and with leaders in higher education.

But WHY all these meetings with world leaders?

At first, I did not know, myself. I did not initiate these meetings. Invitations seemed to come coincidentally. And the favor I was given in the eyes of these government leaders was even more astonishing. All my life, from age 19, I have come in personal contact with important men—at first, executives of major business corporations and banks. Although I found those men cordial, there was no *special* warmth and favor, such as I began to experience in meeting these heads of state. I didn't understand it myself.

I did know that they were tremendously concerned about their own problems of government and about accelerating evils in this world. All my life I had felt concerned about the social evils and the unhappy state of the lives of most of this world's billions. And I knew I had learned what few seem to know—the CAUSES of the unhappy state of the world, as well as what would, if applied, CAUSE world peace, universal prosperity, happiness and abundant well-being.

These men at the helm of governments are charged with the responsibility for improving their peoples' well-being. And I learned that they really were interested in hearing what I had to say.

But how should I know the solutions? Didn't it seem ridiculously incongruous that I should have discovered the *answers* to humanity's problems which had eluded science, religion, education and governments—answers to the seemingly unanswerable?

What I knew was something undiscovered by science, something outside the field of technology, overlooked by religion, untaught by education.

Yes, it would seem one might retort with that age-old

cliché, "Just who do you think you are?" They might ask, "Do you set yourself above science, religion, education?"

And I answer, "No, indeed!" I have just been willing to BELIEVE the SOURCE of knowledge and truth. It was all there for any and everyone to know, IF THEY WOULD ONLY HAVE BELIEVED!

Well, how did it come about?

Back in 1926 I was challenged! I was challenged on the theory of evolution and on a biblical question. I wasn't religious. I knew virtually nothing of the Bible. I had no interest in it. I did have an interest in Darwin—and even studied farther back into Lamarck's theory of use and disuse. I researched Darwin's *Origin of Species*, Huxley, Haeckel, Spencer, Vogt, Chamberlin. They, of course, instilled within me no biblical faith. But I wanted to research both sides. I believed in the slogan, "Get ALL the facts—then decide."

In that world's best-seller, the book which, it seemed, as Bruce Barton said, "nobody knows," I found astonishing facts. There I found the ANSWERS. It required no extraordinary intellect. It needed only willingness to BELIEVE what is true. There I found, available to all, what science has never discovered, religion has overlooked, education has never taught.

I noticed the incident of the "forbidden fruit." It portrays the ever-living Creator instructing the man and the woman He had just created in what they needed to know. It portrayed Him revealing basic knowledge—knowledge undiscoverable and unobtainable, except by revelation from the SOURCE. But the first humans *didn't believe!* After all, they had only their Maker's *word* for it! The serpent suggested their Maker was not a reliable source of knowledge.

"You shall not surely die," he lied, contradicting the Creator's positive statement. When Eve *observed* that the forbidden fruit was good for food, pleasant to the sense of sight, and intellectually (Continued on page 42)

# Part Three:

# 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

*Previous installments in this series of articles included proof number one, "Who and What Is God?" (February Plain Truth); proof number two, "The Government of God and Creation of Holy Righteous Character" (March Plain Truth); and proof number three, "What and Why Is Man?" (March Plain Truth).*

## Proof Four:

### THE TRUTH ABOUT ISRAEL

**T**he Holy Bible is essentially the book of and concerning the nation Israel. It is concerned with other nations only as they come into contact with Israel.

But the answer to WHY God called that nation and the fact of their division into the TWO nations—the kingdom of Israel and the kingdom of Judah—and the present-day identity of the house of Israel forms another vital PROOF that identifies the one

and only original, true Church of God.

God's true Church knows that ONLY those specially called by God for a special purpose have had access to Him from Adam until now.

Certainly it is almost without exception that those called did not first seek God—He sought out and called them.

Noah was not seeking God, but God called Noah to build a great ship on dry land away from any ocean. Noah carried out the assignment amid persecution and jeers.

Abraham was not seeking God, but God called him—and without protest or question he obeyed and went on to become the "father of the faithful," to whom the promises of both the national birthright of Israel and eternal salvation through Christ were given.

Moses was not seeking God, but God called Moses at the burning bush. He made excuse, protesting the assignment—saying he could not do it because he had an impediment of speech. But God called his brother Aaron to speak for him.

The children of Israel, 430 years after Abraham, were groaning and crying out because of their slavery in Egypt—but there is no statement recorded that they were seeking a relationship with God. However, God heard their groanings and delivered them by supernatural miracles out of Egypt under Moses.

There must have been two to four million of them—for there were 600,000 men, not counting women and children.

At Mt. Sinai God proposed to them His covenant that they become His nation and His congregation ("... the church in the wilderness..." [Acts 7:38]). God offered them, for obedience to His government, material and national rewards—but *no spiritual salvation*. The Holy Spirit was given *only* to the prophets whom God called and chose.

#### **Wonderful Abilities of Natural Mind**

Now WHY did God call a carnal, unspiritual people into a husband-and-

wife relationship, designating them as His nation and giving them His government?

Natural carnal MAN, with only the "human spirit" to impart materialistic intellect, has been—even without contact with and help from GOD—able to accomplish wonders in the physical realm. This is *not* testimony to the goodness of MAN, but to the wonderful creative ability of man's Maker!

At the tower of Babel God said: "... this they *begin* to do: and now nothing will be restrained from them, which they have imagined to do" (Genesis 11:6). Invention and production of the modern computer and sending men to the moon and safely back are two modern examples.

Cut off from GOD—having only the one "human spirit" that empowers intellect—MAN has developed a scholarship that says, "Given sufficient KNOWLEDGE, we can solve every problem." The modern university is a KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTION factory.

Yet, I have said the most highly educated are the *most ignorant*—because their development of knowledge has been LIMITED—confined to the physical and material. Without the Holy Spirit of God, they are, in the vernacular, "not all there"!

God says of this "intellectual" human mind, that it is "deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked" (Jeremiah 17:9); and, "... the carnal mind is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Romans 8:7).

God had shut man off from God's revealed knowledge.

### Why Carnal Israel

One reason God raised up ancient Israel was to *eventually prove* to all humanity, the vast majority of whom do not yet realize it, that the carnal mind with all its intellectual accomplishments simply *will not* accept and live by the revealed knowledge of GOD—even though God should reveal it to them (Romans 1:20-21).

Other nations were cut off completely from God's revealed knowledge. But, as stated previously, God retained the prerogative of calling out of man's world a certain few in

preparation for His Kingdom. So God deliberately called a NATION, and through Moses revealed to them the knowledge of HIS LAW, HIS WILL, HIS WAY OF LIFE, which is outflowing LOVE!

God DID NOT give them His Holy Spirit. He gave that only to Moses and the prophets—all specially called.

But God did give them His spiritual LAW. As a *substitute* for the shed blood of Christ, He gave them animal sacrifices, which could not remit sins—they were only a reminder of sin. He gave them also, as a temporary *substitute* for the Holy Spirit, a law of physical rituals, meat and drink offerings and carnal ordinances. These instilled the *habit* of obedience. Then, of course, He gave them, as a civil nation, His GOVERNMENT, with its basic spiritual law and its statutes and judgments. He gave them HIS SYSTEM of government—authority from the TOP DOWN. God Himself was their congress, parliament, kneset and diet. He, through Moses, was their Lawgiver.

Under God was "the Word"—Yahweh—who was to become Christ. Under Him was Moses. Under Moses were captains over thousands, captains over hundreds, over fifties.

When Moses' brother Aaron and their sister Miriam wanted equal authority in the government with Moses, God punished! When Korah and his group wanted equal say-so and authority, God destroyed them. It was GOD—not the people—who chose and put Moses in authority. There was no democracy.

### How Did Carnal Israel Respond?

But how did carnal-minded Israel respond to God's great generosity, love and blessings?

Let God answer!

He says: "Hear, O heavens, and give ear, O earth: for the Eternal hath spoken, I have nourished and brought up children, and they have rebelled against me. The ox knoweth his owner, and the ass his master's crib: but Israel doth not know, my people doth not consider. Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are

corrupters: they have forsaken the Eternal, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel unto anger, they are gone away backward" (Isaiah 1:2-4).

### After Moses

After Moses, the Israelites were led into the promised land by Joshua. Israel served God—to a degree—until Joshua died at age 110.

Then, true to human experience, when that generation died, "... there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Eternal... And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal, and served Baalim [a pagan god of the Canaanites]" (Judges 2:10-11).

Repeatedly they would forsake God, turn to idolatry of neighbor nations, go into captivity, and cry out to God for deliverance. Then God would raise up judges (heroes, leaders) by whom He freed them, but then, after a degree of peace, idol worship was resumed, and when the judge died, God allowed them to be taken into captivity again.

This continued for some few generations.

Then Israel was ruled by the priest Eli. Eli had two sons, also in the priestly service. These sons were taking unlawful gain from the people, misleading the people, having immoral relations with the women who assembled at the door of the tabernacle. Now Eli was very old—near 90—and said to his sons, "... Why do ye such things? ... Notwithstanding they hearkened not unto the voice of their father ..." (I Samuel 2:22-25). The sons continued the evils, and the priest Eli did not put them out of the priesthood.

### When Sons Go Wrong

God said to Eli, "Wherefore ... honourest thy sons above me?" (I Samuel 2:29) and decreed they should die. When news came to Eli that his sons had been killed and the ark of God taken in battle, Eli fell backward, broke his neck and died!

Perhaps another evidence of the Worldwide Church of God being the one original Church of God is that its apostle did remove his son, who was secularizing God's Church and col-

(Continued on page 40)



Christopherson—Plain Truth

## The Two Germanys— **TROUBLE BREWING IN THE HEART OF EUROPE**

*The cornerstone of post-World War II Europe has been the division of Germany into two states, one allied with the United States and the other with the Soviet Union. This unnatural arrangement—now in its 30th year—is under its greatest strain ever. How long will it be before the map of Germany—and all of Europe—is redrawn, with enormous consequences for the entire world?*

by Gene H. Hogberg

**W**est Germany came of full age during the first week of January 1979. The occasion was the Western summit meeting held on the French Caribbean island of Guadeloupe.

Similar meetings in the past had revolved around the "Big Three" of the Atlantic world: the United States, Great Britain and France.

This time—and for the *first* time—there was a fourth and equal member—the Federal Republic of Germany.

### **Growing World Role**

Upon his return to Bonn after the conference, Chancellor Helmut Schmidt said that his presence at the talks, along with President Carter,

Prime Minister James Callaghan of Britain and President Valéry Giscard d'Estaing of France, was a confirmation of his country's increasing prominence on the world scene.

"The fact that we are involved in consultations that concern matters other than economic problems is no novelty," Schmidt said. "But, of course, through Guadeloupe it's

**THE BERLIN WALL:** both a symbol and a real-life reminder of the division of Germany and all Europe.

entered the public consciousness.”

The Guadeloupe summit followed closely two other events displaying West Germany's growing power and influence. First, Chancellor Schmidt was the center-stage personality when he hosted a seven-nation economic summit in Bonn in July 1978. Second, the West Germans in general and Schmidt in particular are the leading forces behind the proposed European Monetary System (EMS) which should be launched sometime later this year.

Summing up Bonn's emerging leadership role, one European ambassador stationed in Bonn says that during the past year “the Germans have had greatness thrust upon them.”

#### **Island of Stability**

The first few weeks of 1979 witnessed a wild flurry of international crises and upheavals. Throughout all this turmoil, one country in the Western world—West Germany—maintained a steady calm, though it was deeply concerned over events in Iran and the future availability of a good portion of its oil supply. The Federal Republic could almost be classed as an island of stability in an ocean of chaos.

With her politicians clustered closely around the moderate center, with once troublesome left-wing terrorism basically under control, and with her people enjoying the benefits of perhaps the world's most solid currency, Bonn is the envy of her neighbors and allies.

West Germans have, in effect, submerged their own nationalistic urges within that of Europeanism. And, as the recent showing throughout Germany of the U.S.-made television production *Holocaust* revealed, Germans are not afraid to take a hard, though difficult, look at the recent past of Nazi brutality.

#### **World's Leading Exporter**

Success seems to breed success for the West German economy. The steady, almost embarrassing rise in

the value of the *deutsche mark* has in no way put a dent in Bonn's hefty trade surplus. In fact, the 1978 surplus totaled an unexpectedly high 40.7 billion *deutsche marks*—the second highest in its history. Even more significantly, the surplus, when calculated in U.S. dollars, amounted to \$20.3 billion, the largest on record—“an embarrassing swelling . . . to . . . unforeseen magnitude when measured in current prices,” said the *Journal of Commerce* in New York.

A modest gain in exports, coupled with appreciation of the mark, was enough to propel West Germany past the United States in 1978 to the rank of the world's number-one exporting nation.

One of the most interesting components of West Germany's foreign trade picture is the role that Communist China is playing. Bonn's exports to most Communist countries in 1978 advanced at a steady rate, whereas sales to the People's Republic leaped a spectacular 72 percent.

“German experts,” reported another *Journal of Commerce* finding, “feel that China will soon become the second-biggest buyer of German goods in the East Bloc.” Should this occur, it will not make the Soviet Union, Bonn's biggest Communist customer, happy, to be sure.

#### **East Germany Slipping Badly**

The apparently unstoppable success of West Germany is not occurring without drawbacks, however. The entire ideological and economic balance between capitalist West and Communist East Europe is threatening to be thrown out of kilter. This is especially true with the impact the soaring West German economy is having upon the neighboring German Democratic Republic or East Germany, where the economy is heading in the opposite direction.

The economic outlook in East Germany today is grim, with little hope of improvement. Yet it was not always that way for the country's Communist bosses and centralized economic planners.

East Germany, in fact, made rapid economic advancement during the 1960s. Moscow hoped that “its Ger-

many” could be developed as a showcase Communist society, thereby serving as an inspiration to the other captive nations of her East Bloc empire. It was felt that if anyone could make Marxist-Leninism a success, the determined Teutons could.

For a while the experiment seemed to work. The East German living standard rose year after year. The small but hardworking state emerged from nowhere to become the world's ninth largest industrial power. The populace even began to develop a genuine pride in its country's accomplishment. A common saying was: “Look where we are now—and we didn't have the Marshall Plan to put us on our feet like the West Germans did.”

But then the reality of being locked into COMECON, the Russian-dictated Eastern economic web, hit hard with the eruption of the worldwide oil crisis of 1973-74. Up zoomed the prices of Soviet raw materials, including oil (though not a member of OPEC, Moscow increased its oil prices almost in step). At the same time there were few compensating price advantages for the manufactured items the East Germans sold to the Soviets and their COMECON partners.

Almost overnight the East German “miracle” fizzled.

#### **Bonn's Helping Hand**

If it weren't for direct and indirect aid from her wealthy West German uncle, the GDR would be in far worse shape than it is today.

The East German economy is subsidized by the Bonn government to the tune of almost \$300 million a year—road transit fees, \$220 million; visa charges, \$14 million; and ransom payments for “buying free” political prisoners, \$55 million. On this latter item, Bonn, since 1950, has quietly paid over \$500 million to East Germany to buy the freedom of political captives.

East Germany also permits individuals over the age of 65 to emigrate to the West to rejoin family members. This relieves the Eastern regime of having to pay further pensions and social security benefits, placing the burden for doing so

upon Bonn. One joke making the rounds in East Germany is that everybody there is waiting for the year 2014, when the GDR itself will be 65, and "everyone will be able to go west."

Trade between the two German states, much of it conducted by barter, also provides extra built-in advantages for the East. Goods cross the border free of customs duties, the East acquiescing to Bonn's view that this commerce represents "intra-German trade." As a result, East German products gain back-door access to the European Economic Community, making the GDR the EEC's unofficial tenth member.

#### Extra Benefits Bonn Pays

In trade between the two states, the GDR runs continually in the red. This amounts to a permanent interest-free line of credit, commonly known as "the swing," which now amounts to about \$450 million.

Even with all of these advantages, the East seems to be digging its economic ditch deeper and deeper. It has run up a \$2.6 billion payments deficit with Bonn only since 1975. At the same time, it is incurring a \$1 billion annual deficit with Moscow.

Still, help from West Germany continues to flow in. The most recent development is an agreement for the building of a new autobahn from Hamburg across East Germany to Berlin, for which Bonn will pay nearly two-thirds of the cost. Also, parts of the Berlin canal system, which East Germany has kept closed for years, forcing Berlin freight traffic into lengthy detours, are to be reopened and improved. Bonn will pay the entire cost of this project.

Some might think that the West Germans are foolish for continuing to make these apparently one-sided arrangements. But there is another way of looking at them. Bonn wants to keep the tenuous lifeline open to Berlin. It wants, moreover, to increase people-to-people contacts across the border. To the West Germans these factors are worth the considerable outlays, and even the occasional grief of seeing their kith and kin machine-gunned by border guards in tragic attempts to flee to the West.

The Soviets permit all of this massive capitalist assistance simply because they cannot afford to let their most important satellite nation go down the drain. Moscow depends heavily upon East German technological expertise. Besides, when help is offered so readily from the other side, why should the U.S.S.R. alone make up the GDR's deficits?

#### Deforming Communism

Despite the various built-in advantages accruing to the GDR, the gap in living standards between the two parts of Germany continues to widen. In 1961—the year in which the infamous Berlin Wall was constructed—real wages in East Germany were 76 percent of those in West Germany. Now they are 50 percent. Productivity has also slumped to about half the West German level.

Worst of all, especially for the politicians and technocrats who run the Eastern regime, as well as the two million GDR Communist party members, everyone in East Germany knows how much worse off he or she is than the average citizen of the West.

Every evening, over ninety percent of the people of East Germany watch West German television. Each year about eight million West Germans visit their relatives in the East, bearing personal information about life beyond the barbed-wire fence.

East Germany's rulers have tried various methods to skirt the limitations of their own economic system, without corrupting it completely, in order to satisfy pent-up consumer demands.

East German citizens have been permitted to obtain Western currencies and to buy Western goods in a network of so-called "intershops," places usually run in the Communist world for foreigners. As a result the coveted West German mark has become virtually the second currency inside the country. Many craftsmen and those who moonlight ask for payment in *deutsche marks*. To placate those who can't get their hands on the West marks, high-priced goods from the West can be obtained in so-called *exquisit* and *delikat* shops.

Yet, all of these capitalistic

sleights of hand only seem to aggravate the situation even more. Theo Sommer, editor in chief of the West German weekly *Die Zeit*, pointed up the dilemma confronting East Germany's rulers in an article appearing in the European edition of *Newsweek* (February 27, 1978): "All this is bound to widen the gap between East Germany and its Communist neighbors even more. The main point, however, is that it deforms Communism in its westernmost bastion into a cheap imitation of capitalist consumerism. For one thing, intershop socialism makes the GDR dependent on West Germany. For another, it may give some people ideas; why put up with a copy of the affluent society? Why not go for the real thing?"

"Finally, it runs counter to the very core of traditional Communist thinking. Poland's leader Edward Gierek put his finger on it recently: 'We have to act decisively to prevent the copying of consumption patterns of capitalist societies. . . .' Similar noises have been heard from the Russians.

"Erich Honecker [East Germany's Communist party boss] is in a bind. . . . The East Germans know what amenities life can offer. Their frustration would be much greater if they were denied the semblance of prosperity Gierek deplors.

"Honecker wants to open his country economically in order to stabilize it politically. He therefore offers the people the Western carrot and the Eastern stick: as much affluence as possible, as much repression as necessary. The trick may not work."


#### Dissident Communists

Early last year the West German weekly *Der Spiegel* published a 30-page manifesto issued by a group of underground dissenters in East Germany who called themselves the League of Democratic Communists of Germany. The document denounced the Soviet Union for "brutal exploitation and suppression" of East Germany. With bitter sarcasm, the anonymous authors called their country "a pathetic imitation of a Soviet Republic whose worst features


(Continued on page 43)



## PART SIX:



# THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY



*Never in history have two nations spurred from virtual obscurity into incredible, unprecedented national wealth and power. Was it merely chance? A fluke of history? Or were they given this wealth for a reason? This installment explains just why these birthright peoples enjoyed nearly three-fourths of the world's wealth, and what the Bible prophecies about them mean to you today!*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**T**he most remarkable fulfillment of biblical prophecy in modern times was the sudden sprouting forth of the two mightiest world powers—one, a commonwealth of nations forming the greatest world empire of all time; the other, the wealthiest, most powerful nation on earth today. These birthright peoples came, with incredible suddenness, into possession of more than two-thirds—nearly three-fourths—of the cultivated wealth and resources of the whole world! This sensational spurt from virtual obscurity in so short a time gives incontrovertible PROOF of divine inspiration. Never, in all history, did anything like it occur.

But why did this unprecedented national wealth and power come to our birthright inheritors only after the year A.D. 1800? Why did not this national dominance come to the tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh millennia ago—in the days of Moses, or Joshua, or David, or Elijah?

### **A "Nation" and a "Commonwealth of Nations"**

Remember now the birthright promise was given to the two tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh—not to the other

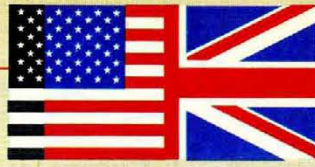
tribes or their descendants. These two birthright tribes were part of the northern kingdom of Israel.

Notice again the original promise: "A *nation* and a *company of nations* shall be of thee" (Gen. 35:11).

In passing on the birthright promise the dying Jacob (Israel) said of Ephraim and Manasseh, sons of Joseph, "...let *my name* be named on *them*" (Gen. 48:16). Hence it is **THEY**—the descendants of Ephraim (the British) and Manasseh (Americans)—not the Jews, who are referred to in *prophecy* under the names of *Jacob* or *Israel*. Continuing, Jacob added, "...and let *them* grow into a multitude."

Then, speaking of Manasseh and his descendants *alone*, Jacob said prophetically: "...he also shall become a people [nation], and he also shall be **GREAT**: but truly his younger brother [Ephraim] shall be greater than he, and *his seed* shall become a **MULTITUDE** [a company, or **COMMONWEALTH**] of **NATIONS**" (Gen. 48:19).

In A.D. 1800 the United Kingdom and the United States were small and insignificant among the earth's nations. The United Kingdom consisted only of the British



Isles, a very small part of India and of Canada and a few little islands. The United States consisted only of the original 13 colonies and three added states. Neither possessed any great wealth or power.

But beginning in 1800 these two little nations began to sprout and to grow into vast national riches and power such as no people ever possessed. Soon Britain's empire spread around the world, until the sun never set upon her possessions. Canada, Australia, South Africa were given dominion status—made free and independent nations, ruling themselves independent of England—a *company*, or commonwealth, of nations joined together, not by legal government, *but solely by the throne of David!*

But why was that tremendous birthright, which was promised *unconditionally* to Abraham, repromised to Isaac and Jacob, never bestowed for millennia of time—until after A.D. 1800? The answer is amazing—exciting!

To understand this miraculous burst into world dominance, it is necessary to examine the very pivot of Old Testament prophecies—the 26th chapter of Leviticus.

#### Prophecy for Now!

This remarkable prophecy pertains to *our time*, as well as giving warning to the people of Israel in Moses' day. Few realize that the prophecies of the Old Testament pertain, primarily, to this 20th century—not, in many cases, to Old Testament times at all.

Most ministers and church leaders today were schooled in the theological seminaries of their particular denominations. They were taught, nearly altogether, from sectarian books, *not* from the Bible. Many of these will say: "We are a NEW Testament church," supposing Old Testament prophecies pertained only to Old Testament times, having no meaning for us today. *That is an error and a delusion!* Many Old Testament prophecies were never written for, nor read by or to, the Israelites of those times. The New Testament Church of God is actually built on the FOUNDATION of the Old Testament prophets, as well as the apostles (Eph. 2:20).

Daniel wrote after both Israel and Judah had been removed from Palestine as slaves. He had no way to communicate his prophecies to his enslaved countrymen—and besides, the meaning was closed and sealed until our time, now (Dan. 12:8-9).

Ezekiel was a prophet, *not* to the Jews of the house of Judah, though he was among them in their captivity. But his prophecy was to be delivered to the house of Israel—driven out some 130 years before, and by Ezekiel's time lost from view. His prophecy was to be delivered to the house of Israel TODAY, in this 20th century, by God's ministers who now *know* their identity!

And this prophecy of Leviticus 26, though written by Moses before the Israelites had entered the promised land, is one of dual fulfillment. It was a *warning* to those of Moses' day, but its final fulfillment, as we shall see, has taken place and is now taking place—in our time. And,

through the dual fulfillment, typical of so many prophecies, it is also a WARNING to the American and British peoples of impending events! Leviticus 26 is the basic prophecy of the Old Testament. It contains a vital, living, tremendous message and warning for our people today!

#### The Pivotal Prophecy

In this central prophecy, God reaffirmed the birthright promise—but with conditions—for those of Moses' day! The birthright tribes of Ephraim and Manasseh were then *with* the other tribes—as one nation. Obedience to God's laws would bring the vast national wealth and blessings of the birthright not only to Ephraim and Manasseh, but the whole NATION would automatically have shared them at that time.

Notice carefully that two of the Ten Commandments are mentioned for emphasis. These were the main *test commandments!* They were the test of obedience, and of faith in and loyalty to God. God said: "Ye shall make you no idols nor graven image . . . to bow down unto it: for I am the Eternal your God. Ye shall keep MY sabbaths . . ." (verses 1-2).

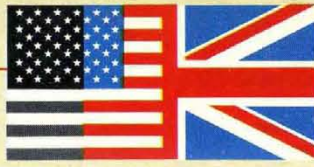
There was a *condition*—a great big "if"—to their receiving actual fulfillment of this stupendous birthright promise *in their time!* God said: "If ye walk in my statutes, and keep my commandments, and do them; *then* I will give you rain in due season, and the land shall yield her increase . . ." (verses 3-4). All wealth comes out of the ground. They would enjoy bumper crops the year round, one harvest on the heels of another. Verse 6: "And I will give PEACE in the land . . . and none shall make you afraid . . . neither shall the sword [of war] go through your land." What a blessing! What nation enjoys continuous peace, without fear of invasion?

Of course, in this world, every nation has enemies. What if enemy nations attacked? Verses 7-8: "And ye shall chase your enemies, and they shall fall before you by the sword. And five of you shall chase an hundred, and an hundred of you shall put ten thousand to flight. . . ."

Since many nations in this world always have been aggressors, Israel would have been attacked. A nation with the military superiority to defeat all attackers would soon become the dominant, most powerful nation on earth—especially with resources and great wealth from the ground. Verse 9: "For I will have respect unto you, and make you fruitful, and multiply you, and establish my covenant with you."

#### The Great Big If

But here comes the alternative—*IF* the conditions are not met: ". . . if ye will *not* hearken unto me, and will not do all these commandments. . . . I also will do this unto you; I will even appoint over you terror, consumption, and the burning ague [fever], that shall consume the eyes, and cause sorrow of the heart [RSV: waste the eyes and cause life to pine away]: and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for



your enemies shall eat it. And I will set my face against you, and ye shall be slain before your enemies: they that hate you shall reign over you . . .” (verses 14-17). They would be invaded, conquered, become once again slaves—as they had been in Egypt before God freed them.

### Now What Did Happen?

These Israelites griped, grumbled, complained, doubted God almost from the very night they left Egypt. God miraculously delivered them from the pursuing Egyptian army at the Red Sea. God sent manna and quails from heaven to feed them. God caused drinking water to gush from the great rock. But always they complained, showed a rebellious attitude.

The children of Israel, under Moses, came to the desert at the foot of Mount Sinai. There Moses was called up the mountain where God spoke to him. God here offered Israel the opportunity to become HIS NATION—under His rule, and, upon obedience and loyalty to His government, to receive the fabulous national birthright of world dominance.

The ETERNAL said: “Now therefore, *If* ye will obey my voice indeed, and keep my COVENANT, then ye shall be a peculiar treasure unto me *above all people*: for all the earth is mine” (Ex. 19:5). Notice, God did not force them to become His nation—a “peculiar” nation, different from the apostate Gentile kingdoms. The choice was theirs!

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### The Beginning of a Nation

Moses returned to camp. He laid God’s proposed agreement (covenant) before that vast congregation of perhaps two or three million people.

“And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Eternal hath spoken we will do” (verse 8).

For two days the people were specially prepared for a tremendous event. They were to hear the very voice of God from the mountain. On the third day, amid a fantastically tremendous supernatural display of thunder and lightning and thick clouds swirling over the mountain, God’s tremendous voice—exceedingly loud—thundered in their ears the *basic law* of His government—the great SPIRITUAL law defining, in principle, GOD’S WAY of life—the way to *avoid* the evils besetting the world—the way that would cause peace, happiness, prosperity.

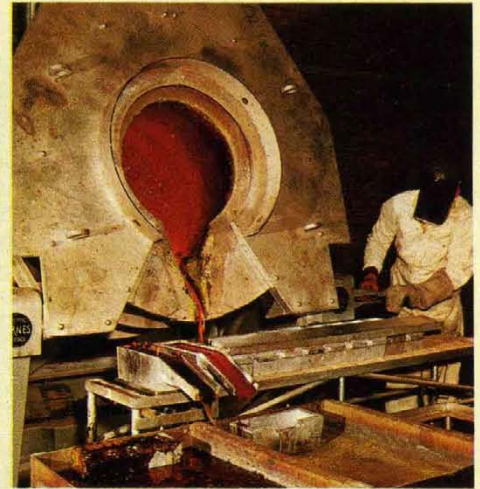
That vast assemblage actually heard the voice of THE ETERNAL GOD, delivering to them the Ten Command-

ments! The people were frightened! They trembled! It was an awesome experience which had never happened before—and has never occurred since!

Then, through Moses, God outlined in more detail His proposition for setting them up as God’s NATION. Again, the people answered with a unanimous voice, “All the words which the Eternal hath said will we do” (Ex.



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**THE INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION** brought the birthright tribes to national prominence. Early foundry in Britain used charcoal in smelting of iron (left); present-day gold smelter in the Republic of South Africa (right).

24:3). Moses wrote all the terms of this COVENANT—this AGREEMENT making these ex-slaves God’s nation—this agreement which also was a marriage covenant, with the Eternal as husband, binding the wife (Israel) to obey her husband.

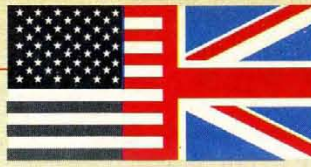
Moses read the terms and conditions—the “book of the covenant”—before all the people. Again came the unanimous decision on their part: “All that the Eternal hath said will we do, and be obedient” (Ex. 24:7).

### Old Covenant a Marriage

The covenant agreement between God and this people—called “the old covenant”—was then ratified and put into effect with BLOOD (Ex. 24:5-8).

This “old covenant” was mediated by Moses. It married a mortal, human people to the Eternal. They became HIS NATION. They had promised loyal obedience as citizens.

This “old covenant” was based on the birthright promise God had made to Abraham. But human mortals, filled with the vanity, envy, lust and greed of human nature, seldom remain faithful. So the living Christ is now coming soon to be the Mediator of the new covenant, based on better promises (Heb. 8:6-10 and 9:15). But the NEW covenant will not be made with human mortals who do not keep their promises. God has been preparing—and still



now is preparing—a people to be made immortal. These immortals are to be married to Christ. And He died, rose, and sent God's HOLY Spirit "that he might sanctify and cleanse" this NEW Testament "wife" (Eph. 5:26-27).

The new covenant will be made with a people who already have been *proved*, by their Christian life of obedience, faith, growing in spiritual character and knowledge, and overcoming—a people *then* made immortal and holy and perfect.

The NEW covenant is based on the *sceptre* promise made to Abraham—through the coming KING of kings, Jesus Christ, of the very dynasty of David.

### They Turn to Idolatry

But notice how these mortal Israelites performed.

After the old covenant between God and Israel had been ratified, God called Moses up into the mountain. Moses was kept there forty days, receiving detailed instructions for the congregation (church) and for the nation—for with the Israelites church and state were united.

After Moses had been gone some days, the people said to Aaron, "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not what is become of him." So they took their golden earrings and trinkets, and Aaron had them made into a golden calf for an idol (Ex. 32:1-4).

Moses came down from the mount carrying the two tablets of stone on which the Eternal had engraved the Ten Commandments with His own finger. On seeing this golden idol and the people worshipping it in merriment and dancing, he lost his temper and in a rage threw down the tablets of stone and broke them.

Of course, just as some very large religious bodies who claim to be Christian do today, they merely said this calf *represented* God—it pictured to them what they supposed God looked like.

After making this molten gold calf, Aaron proclaimed a feast "to the Eternal" (Ex. 32:5), during which they worshiped before the IDOL. Go into an Anglican church or a Roman Catholic church today and ask the priest or official whether the images of "Christ" and of "Mary" are idols—whether or not they are worshipping IDOLS. They will indignantly say, "No! We don't worship idols. We don't worship the images. We don't claim the images actually *are* Christ or Mary—only that they *represent*, or picture to us, what Christ or Mary look like!"

Well, that is precisely the way ALL PAGANS ALWAYS WORSHIPED IDOLS! But God's wrath waxed HOT at this (Ex. 32:7-10). God will NOT ACCEPT such worship! See also Deuteronomy 12:30-31.

### Withheld 40 Years

In the second year after leaving Egypt, God had moved the Israelites to a new camp in the wilderness of Paran (Num. 10:11-12). God then told Moses to send twelve



Gentry—Plain Truth

**MORE THAN HALF** of all tillable, cultivatable, temperate-zone lands of the earth came into possession of the United States and British Commonwealth nations after A.D. 1800.

men—one leader or ruler from each tribe—to spy out the promised land and bring back a report on the land and its inhabitants (Num. 13:1-2).

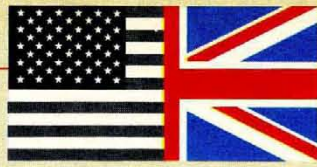
These men were gone 40 days. On their return, all but two—Joshua and Caleb—misrepresented what they had seen, giving an evil report. When Joshua and Caleb reported the truth, the people tried to stone them. They accepted the evil report, complained against God, doubted, rebelled, disobeyed.

Have you ever wondered why these Israelites were 40 years in the desolate, barren, desert-and-mountain wilderness getting to the promised land? It was not because it required 40 years of travel. These men sent to report on it journeyed to it, walked all over it from one end to the other and returned—round trip—in 40 days. But the people griped, disbelieved God, disobeyed, and refused to go forthwith to POSSESS IT; instead of deciding to march ahead and POSSESS this great prize God wanted to give them, they *despised it*, lacked faith to go in and possess it, refused to march forward.

This promised land is a type of the glorious Kingdom of God, which the living Savior, Jesus Christ, offers us. But today we, the descendants of those Israelites, despise it, prefer the "slavery" of SIN, fail to exercise the FAITH to go on and POSSESS God's Kingdom. We, too, rebel, disbelieve, and disobey. And those who thus despise it shall not enter that glorious Kingdom with eternal life in happiness and accomplishment.

To this rebellious population, God said: "Your carcasses shall fall in this wilderness . . . ye shall not come into the land . . . save Caleb . . . and Joshua. . . . But your little ones, which ye said should be a prey, them will I bring in, and they shall know the land which ye have despised" (Num. 14:29-31).

"And," continued God, "your children shall wander in



the wilderness *forty years*, and bear your whoredoms, until *your* carcasses be wasted in the wilderness” (verse 33).

And now comes the “*day-for-a-year* principle”: “After the number of the *days* in which ye searched the land, even *forty days*, each day for a year, shall ye bear your iniquities, even *forty years* . . .” (verse 34). And this punishment was, in fact, a WITHHOLDING of the promised blessing for this duration of forty years.

#### Idolatry Again

That generation of Israelites was not allowed to enter the promised land. They spent forty years in the wilderness. Their children entered the Holy Land under Joshua’s leadership.

Then what?

They became so busy occupying their promised land, driving out the many little kingdoms, that during Joshua’s life and a little longer they served God and prospered. They were making a nice start toward inheriting—in *their* day—the tremendous blessings of the birthright.

But after Joshua died “and also all that generation . . . there arose another generation after them, which knew not the Eternal, nor yet the works which he had done for Israel. And the children of Israel did evil in the sight of the Eternal, and served Baalim: And they forsook the Eternal God of their fathers. . . . And the anger of the Eternal was hot against Israel, and he delivered them into the hands of spoilers that spoiled them, and he sold them into the hands of their enemies round about, so that they could not any longer stand before their enemies. Whithersoever they went out, the hand of the Eternal was against them for evil, as the Eternal had said, and as the Eternal had sworn unto them: and they were greatly distressed” (Judges 2:10-15).

So, precisely as God had warned in verses 14-17 of Leviticus 26, God *did* appoint over them terror; they *did* sow their seed in vain, for their enemies ate it. God did set His face against them!

God’s WORD STANDS! What a pity neither individuals nor nations seem able to believe that!

But that was not the end. God is a merciful, forgiving God. He repeatedly gave them another chance. Continue the history in the book of Judges: “Nevertheless the Eternal raised up judges, which delivered them out of the hand of those that spoiled them. And yet they would not hearken unto their judges, but they went a whoring after other gods, and bowed themselves unto them: they turned quickly out of the way . . .” (Judges 2:16-17).

This happened repeatedly. Every time they were put under the yoke of another nation, as vassals, they cried out to God for deliverance. But also every time God sent a judge to free them, they quickly turned from God. As soon as things were going well for them, these people turned again to idolatry.

But were they so different from us, their descendants

today? Most of us seek God only when in trouble—only when in our *self*-interest we feel we need Him!

Up until this time, though these people had complained, lacked faith, gone contrary to God repeatedly, nevertheless, they still recognized GOD as their only Ruler. They may not have trusted in, or obeyed Him and His rule, but they acknowledged no other Ruler.

#### They Reject God as King

But in the days of Samuel they rejected God even as their national King—as their civil Ruler. They demanded a human king, like all the unbelieving Gentiles (I Sam. 8:1-7). This probably took place near the end of 1112 B.C.

To reject God as Ruler was the greatest sin. Up until this time they had recognized Him—had looked to no other as King. This seems to have begun the years of complete sin, for which God punished them.

Nevertheless, under the “old covenant” of Mt. Sinai, they were still God’s nation. God still dealt with them. He did not “divorce” them until 721-718 B.C., as we shall see.

They suffered under Saul. They began prospering under King David, and in Solomon’s reign they reached a considerable state of prosperity. However, they had not yet flowered into the full predominant-world-power status promised under the birthright. And Solomon’s prosperity turned him to idolatry. Again they were violating the *condition* for receiving the birthright.

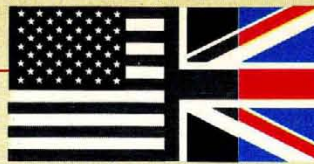
When Solomon’s son Rehoboam became king, he threatened to put still heavier tax burdens on the people. Thereupon the nation rejected Rehoboam and set up Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, as king.

#### A Nation Divided

This caused division! In order to retain the Davidic dynasty, Judah thereupon seceded. With Benjamin, and most of Levi, they formed a new nation—the kingdom of Judah! No longer did they have the national name “Israel.” The people of this new-formed kingdom of Judah are the ones who became known as the JEWS. The people of the kingdom of ISRAEL, occupying the northern part of Palestine north of Jerusalem, never were called Jews.

Now the birthright and sceptre promises *were divided* into TWO NATIONS. Remember, Ephraim and Manasseh shared the birthright. *If* it were then inherited, the others of the TEN-TRIBED nation of Israel would have automatically shared it with them—since they were part of the same nation!

But under Jeroboam the ten-tribed nation ISRAEL completely violated God’s laws, particularly the two test commandments. Almost the first act of Jeroboam was setting up idols. And he *changed* God’s autumn festivals from the seventh to the eighth month. There is ample evidence that he also changed God’s Sabbath from the seventh to the “eighth” day (first day of the week). This will be shown in a later installment.



Even after all this, God gave the nation every chance to qualify for the tremendous birthright blessings. During the reigns of nineteen kings in seven different dynasties, God pleaded with them through His prophets. But this rebellious nation showed no disposition to turn to God's ways. They had been punished repeatedly. But they refused to learn the lesson experience should have taught them.

### The Seven Prophetic Times

Now continue in Leviticus 26: "And if ye will not yet for all this hearken unto me, then I will punish you *seven times* more for your sins" (verse 18).

It is important to UNDERSTAND this!

This expression "*seven times*" is translated into the English from a Hebrew word which conveys a dual meaning. The original Hebrew word Moses wrote is *shibah*. It is defined as "seven times," and also as "sevenfold." The "*seven times*" implies *duration* or *continuation* of punishment. But the word also conveys the meaning of "*sevenfold*," or seven times greater *intensity* of punishment—as a punishment that is sevenfold more intense. In this sense, the meaning would be the same as in Daniel 4, where King Nebuchadnezzar, in a rage, commanded that the furnace into which Daniel's three friends were to be thrown should be made seven times hotter. However, in Daniel 4 a different Hebrew word is used which can mean *only* this greater intensity, and cannot refer to "times," or number of *years*. But the Hebrew *shibah*, used in Leviticus 26:18, can mean this, or "times."

Now understand the "seven times"—or seven prophetic "times." For this *is* a prophecy. In prophecy, a "*time*" is a prophetic 360-day year. And, during Israel's punishment, each *day* represented a *year* being fulfilled.

This "day-for-a-year principle" is explained in two other passages dealing with the *duration* of Israel's punishment. One of these we have already covered. God punished that generation of Israelites Moses had led out of Egypt by *withholding* from them entry into the promised land FORTY YEARS. That promised land was a beginning *part* of the birthright. God punished them on the principle of a YEAR for every DAY—*forty years'* DURATION of punishment for the 40 *days* of transgression.

### Ezekiel's "Day for a Year"

In order to impress on the prophet Ezekiel the *seriousness* of Israel's years of rebellion against God's rule and God's laws which would *cause* great blessings, God imposed this very principle on him—but it was enacted in reverse.

The *sins* of the house of Israel had continued from their rejection of God as King for 390 years. Naturally God could not expect this prophet, in a human lifetime, to undergo the bearing of these years of sin on the basis of each *day* of sinning being borne by him for a *year*. That would have required 2,000 lifetimes. So God reversed the actual application of the principle. Ezekiel was required to bear

Israel's sins a *day* for each *year* they had sinned. But it still was the "day-for-a-year principle"!

Ezekiel was told to lie on his left side, in an imaginary siege against Jerusalem, pictured on a tile before him. "Lie thou also upon thy left side, and lay the iniquity of the house of Israel upon it: according to the number of the days that thou shalt lie upon it thou shalt bear their iniquity. For I have laid upon thee *the years* of their iniquity, according to the number of the *days*, three hundred and ninety days: so shalt thou bear the iniquity of the house of Israel. And when thou hast accomplished them, lie again on thy right side, and thou shalt bear the iniquity of the house of Judah forty days: I have appointed thee *each day for a year*" (Ezek. 4:4-6). It is mentioned further in verse 9.

But in the other application of the "day-for-a-year principle," previously explained, where it applied also to a *duration* of punishment put on THE PEOPLE, the punishment was to be borne by them on the basis of a year of punishment for each *day*. Also in this case, the punishment was the number of *years* during which a promised blessing was withheld.

Now when we come to the expression "then I will punish you *seven times* more for your sins" in Leviticus 26, it is evident both by its manner of wording in the sentence and by the fact of actual fulfillment that it was speaking of a DURATION of seven prophetic "*times*," or YEARS. And on this "year-for-a-day principle," it becomes seven 360-day years—a total of 2520 *days*. And when each *day* is a *year* of punishment—in this case, as in Numbers 14:34, a withholding of a promised blessing—the punishment becomes the withdrawing of and withholding the promised blessings for 2520 years! For that is precisely what did happen!

### What is a "Time"?

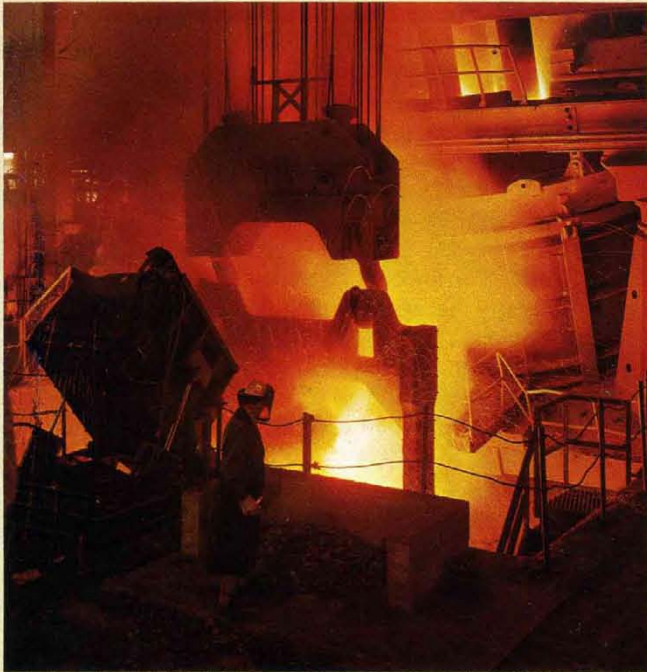
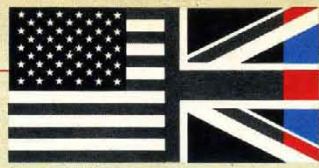
But now did you notice I said that a prophetic "*time*" is a 360-day year? Why not a year of 365¼ days? Why not a solar year?

In ancient biblical times, a year was figured on a basis of twelve 30-day months. Previous to the time, in Moses' day, when God gave His people the sacred calendar, the 30-day month was used.

Notice Genesis 7:11: "In the six hundredth year of Noah's life, in the second month, the seventeenth day of the month, the same day were all the fountains of the great deep broken up, and the windows of heaven were opened." Now verse 24: "And the waters prevailed upon the earth an hundred and fifty days."

Next, Genesis 8:3-4: "And the waters returned from off the earth continually: and after the end of the hundred and fifty days the waters were abated. And the ark rested in the seventh month, on the seventeenth day of the month, upon the mountains of Ararat."

So notice—the flood started on the 17th day of the second month. At the end of 150 days, the ark rested on Mount Ararat, on the 17th day of the 7th month. That



Armco Steel

**A UNITED STATES** steel mill. The U.S. possesses vast resources of iron and has facilities for turning out tons upon tons of fine-quality steel.

was five months to the day. Five 30-day months are precisely 150 days. So months, then, were 30-day months!

We find it definitely figured this way in both Daniel and Revelation. In Revelation 12:6, a prophecy of an event which in actual history did last 1260 solar years is spoken of as “a thousand two hundred and threescore days.” So here, again, a prophetic *day* was a *year* in fulfillment. In Revelation 13:5 (referring to a different *event* but the same amount of time) this same period of 1260 *days* being fulfilled in 1260 solar years is spoken of as “forty and two months.” Now 42 calendar months, according to the calendar now in use, would not be 1260 days, but 1276 days—and, if a leap year occurred, 1277. Or, if the extra *half-year* happened to be the *last* half of the year, it would be 1280 or 1281 days. But the 42 months of Revelation 13:5 is the same amount of time as the 1260 days of Revelation 12:6. So the 42 months were 30-day months.

The same amount of days is spoken of in still different language in Revelation 12:14 as “a time, and times, and half a time.” The “time” is one prophetic year; the “times” is two more prophetic years; and the whole expression is 3½ prophetic “times,” which is a literal 1260 *days*—or 3½ years of thirty-day months. Seven of these “times” then would be 2520 days—and on a day-for-a-year basis, 2520 years!

Then in Daniel 12:7 the same expression “time, times, and an half [time]” is mentioned.

Enough space is being taken here to make this concept plain, clear, understandable. For it is basic to several key prophecies.

A prophetic “time,” then, is a 360-day year—or a plain 360 days. And during those years of Israel’s punishment, as made plain by combining Leviticus 26:18 with Ezekiel 4:4-6, Numbers 14:34, and Revelation 13:5 and 12:6, each *day* of a prophetic “time” was one *year* in fulfillment. In Leviticus 26:18, and in Revelation 12:6 and 13:5, this meaning is verified and **PROVED** by the fact that the prophecy was fulfilled in precisely the time indicated.

#### **Birthright Withheld 2520 Years**

Now back again to the pivotal prophecy of Leviticus 26.

These Israelites had not listened to God—had not qualified to become recipients of the fabulous, overwhelming birthright national blessing. They had broken especially the two *test commandments* emphasized in verses 1 and 2 of this chapter. God had punished them in the manner He had said He would, as described in verses 14-17.

Now God said, as quoted before, “And if ye will not yet *for all this*”—all He had punished them with, described in verses 14-17—“hearken unto me, then I will punish you *seven times* more for your sins.”

Because of the manner in which this warning is worded, compared with the manner of wording where the “*seven times*” is again mentioned—and because the birthright *actually was withheld* **PRECISELY** 2520 years—it is certain that the meaning of the “*seven times*” in verse 18 is a **DURATION** of seven 360-day **YEARS**, each *day* being a *year* in fulfillment—total: 2520 actual **YEARS**! And the very enforcing of the “day-for-a-year principle” also implies a multiplied *intensity* of the punishment.

Actually, they had sinned the 390 years mentioned in Ezekiel’s prophecy (Ezek. 4:4-5). Even from the time they rejected God as their national King, God allowed them to remain in the promised land those additional 390 years! During all these years God continued to send prophets to warn and plead with them. Had they repented and turned back to God and His ways, they still could have received the richest national blessing of all history. But they would not. Rather, they increased in sins!

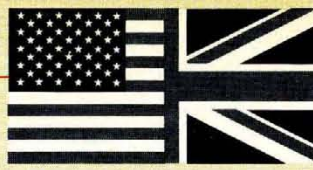
So finally God took completely away from them—for a duration of 2520 years—this opportunity to reap such vast material prosperity and power.

#### **Israel Becomes Lost**

Finally God *drove them out of the promised land!*

All these 390 years of national sin (Ezek. 4:5), of rejecting Him and His ways, God continued to deal with them. He kept contact with them. He sent His prophets to them. At any time during these years of their rebellion, they could have repented, turned to God, and received this vast national status.

But now, at last, God drove them out of His land! He “removed them out of his sight” (II Kings 17:18).



Again it is repeated (verse 23), He “removed Israel out of his sight, as he had said by all his servants the prophets. So was Israel carried away out of their own land to Assyria unto this day.”

From that time, God sent no prophets to them. He gave them no more chance to receive the greatest national blessing of all history—until the end of the 2520 years! He hid, as it were, His face from them! He removed them out of His sight. He pleaded no longer with them. They had not qualified for nor deserved His blessings! Now He left them a slave people, to shift for themselves. He left them to their own devices!

They had rejected even the identifying sign by which they were to be known and recognized as God’s people Israel. So now they soon lost even their identity! No longer were they known by the world as God’s people. No longer did they call themselves God’s people.

They became lost! The “LOST TEN TRIBES.” Lost in name. Lost in identity. Lost spiritually! They had lost their tremendous birthright—for a duration of many generations! In due time, as a second and third generation came along, they *lost* even their Hebrew language! They regarded themselves as Gentiles! The world supposed they were Gentiles!

#### **Apostles to Britain?**

Generations later, Jesus of Nazareth, well knowing where they had migrated, sent His twelve original apostles to *make* known to them His precious gospel of God’s Kingdom—God’s government! It was the apostle Paul who was sent to the Gentiles.

Did you never wonder *why*, after Acts 15, we read no more of the twelve apostles? Except for a trip by Peter to Babylon, they had gone to “lost” Israel!

Regarding the original apostles, the Bible says: “These twelve Jesus sent forth, and commanded them, saying, GO NOT into the way of the Gentiles, and into any city of the Samaritans [Gentiles] enter ye not: But go rather to the LOST sheep of the house of Israel” (Matt. 10:5-6). Yes! The lost Ten Tribes.

But Jesus never begged, urged, pleaded with anyone to “get saved!” Nor did His apostles! That is a modern Protestant method. They merely proclaimed the truth, leaving it to every hearer to make his own decision whether to act on it.

Yes, the British Isles heard Christ’s gospel! But they accepted, instead, the idolatry of the Druids, pagan worship, and the counterfeit “Christianity” of the Roman Babylonian mystery religion, and even spawned the devil’s religion of the evolutionary concept.

#### **Birthright Conferred at Last!**

But when that 2520-year withholding of the birthright had expired, God was faithful to His unconditional PROMISE to Abraham! Not because of any British or American goodness, superiority, or worthiness, but because of God’s

faithfulness to His promise, beginning in 1800 these two birthright peoples *suddenly* burst forth as the greatest world powers in all history!

This national wealth and power came not because our peoples in any manner finally qualified for it. They never did! But consider:

The very fact of a withholding of the birthright from them for a definite duration in itself implies a conferring of it at the end of the 2520 years. And remember, God had promised this birthright to the descendants of Abraham unconditionally because of Abraham’s faithfulness and obedience (Gen. 26:5). God was bound by His promise to confer this stupendous national blessing regardless of the righteousness or wickedness of the descendants. But God had not bound Himself to bestow it upon any one particular generation.

Thus God was able to offer it conditionally to Old Testament Israel in and after Moses’ day. The people of those generations could have had it upon compliance with the *conditions!* Denying it to those particular generations—withholding it for 2520 long years, even—did not violate God’s unconditional PROMISE to Abraham.

But the very *fact* of a withholding for the definite duration of 2520 years implies the direct conferring of that national blessing on expiration of that definite period of withholding—*regardless* of any further qualifying or deserving on the part of the people. This must be so because of God’s faithfulness to His UNCONDITIONAL PROMISE to Abraham.

So—beginning A.D. 1800-1803, after 2520 years—God did cause the birthright nations—and them *only*—to become *suddenly* the recipients of such national wealth, greatness and power as no nation or empire ever before had acquired! Together they—the British and Americans, descendants of only *one* original tribe, Joseph—came into possession of more than two-thirds—almost three-fourths—of all the cultivated resources and wealth of the whole world!

It sounds incredible! All other nations combined shared between them only little more than a fourth of the world’s wealth. And that includes the nations descended from other tribes of Israel. It includes such nations as Germany, Italy, Russia, China—all other nations on the whole earth.

The most amazing fact of all history is this sudden skyrocketing from virtual obscurity of two nations to the most fabulous wealth and economic power ever possessed by any people. Britain became GREAT Britain—a gigantic, stupendously wealthy commonwealth of nations—the United States, the greatest nation of history.

More amazing still are the unbelievably shocking facts of the present—of how—and WHY—we are *losing* it faster than it came!

WHY? The incredible facts, the reasons, and what’s now ahead will follow! □

(To Be Continued)



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# Just What Do You Mean— “FORGIVENESS of Sin”?

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*There are many counterfeits—but only one genuine way for man to be at peace with God and with himself. You need to understand what that way is.*

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by Roderick C. Meredith

**H**IS LARGE, muscular shoulders shook, and his chest heaved with sobbing as Roy told us about himself.

Now a rancher in the American Southwest, Roy recounted his past life in the cow towns, the bars, the red-light districts—and the wretchedness he had gotten himself into in the military service in World War II.

He had certainly had more than his share of “fun”—of sleazy night-clubs, drunkenness, prostitutes and venereal disease, of hangovers, headaches, run-ins with the military police, jail, bail bondsmen and doctors.

#### **What Roy Did**

We were standing on the bank of a small river just after we had baptized Roy. There, dripping wet, secluded by trees, we asked the great God who made the beauty around us to give this man His Spirit—His very nature, character and spiritual strength.

We later said our good-byes, got back into the car and waved a final

good-bye to this tall American Westerner. In the years that followed, we saw him change and grow from a tough-talking, whiskey-drinking, chain-smoking, hard-headed, very empty and frustrated individual into one of the kindest, most dependable husbands and fathers in the American Southwest. He was still hard-working and resourceful, but now he knew where he was going, and he knew the way. He no longer blustered and bristled with impatience, tension and inner restlessness. He had a quiet confidence and peace of mind that was noticeable to those who had known him before.

Through months of listening carefully to *The World Tomorrow* broadcast, reading *The Plain Truth*, and finally learning to study the Bible and meditate on its principles, this man was changed.

He had come to prove the existence of and know the true God—the Creator and Ruler of all that is, the One who even now is intervening in world affairs according to His own master plan. Roy had proved that the Bible is the inspired revelation of that God. He had come to know and accept the true Messiah of the Bible, Jesus Christ, who not only died for our sins, but who also now sits at the right hand of the great Governor of

the universe and who is ready to return soon to earth as King of kings to rule the nations of this earth.

Roy had proved these fundamental points and had surrendered his life and will to the Creator God. And what Roy did, every living man and woman may do—in God’s time and according to His calling.

#### **Is Your Mind Open?**

Are you willing to face this same momentous decision? Are you willing to change if God shows you through His written Word—the Bible—that you may not have really known Him, nor have been properly baptized, nor have had His Holy Spirit living within you? Your own personal vanity will, in many cases, prevent you from admitting, in this most important of all areas, that you have been wrong and in ignorance of God’s way.

Your Bible says: “Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his” (Rom. 8:9). In plain language, one has to have Christ’s Spirit or he is not a Christian—*not converted!*

A truly converted person is filled with and led by the Holy Spirit of God (Rom. 8:14). God lives His very life within us through His Holy Spirit. By this means, we are begotten of

Him as children and thus partake of His very nature.

Through His Spirit, God gives us His love. We read in Romans 5:5, "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us." Thus we partake of His nature—His character—which is love. And God's character is expressed in the spiritual principles contained in the Ten Commandments.

How is this love of God expressed? Your Bible answers: "For this is the *love of God*, that we *keep his commandments*: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

God's Spirit leads us to obey Him as our Maker and Ruler. The apostle Peter was inspired to write of the Holy Spirit, "... whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32).

True conversion involves repentance and the surrendering of our lives to obey God and His laws. You repent of sin. But what is the Bible definition of sin? "Sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). That is the Bible definition of sin—the breaking of God's law.

So to be truly converted, you must repent of breaking God's law. You must be so sorry that you are willing to quit breaking it and turn around and go the other way. You must be willing, therefore, to begin obeying God's law and to begin literally living by all ten of the Ten Commandments! Is this a great "burden" to perform?

What is so burdensome about having no other gods before the true God, about not taking God's name in vain, about not breaking His day of rest? What is so hard about honoring your parents?

Why do people think they must fight, kill, lie, cheat, steal, and curse in order to be happy?

Don't reason that it is "too hard" to obey. God's love shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit enables us to keep God's spiritual law.

But what are the conditions for receiving God's Spirit? In Acts 2:38, the inspired Peter tells how: "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."

Christ's righteousness is put within us through His Spirit. His Spirit enables us to have the love that fulfills the law, and joy and peace with God and our fellowman—to the extent that we yield obediently to Him and to the extent that we are growing and overcoming our human nature throughout this life, preparatory to eternal life in the world tomorrow.

#### **Baptism—Burial of Your Old Self**

In the New Testament, the commandments of God are magnified to their full spiritual intent by Jesus Christ—particularly in Matthew 5 in the Sermon on the Mount. New Testament Christians are to keep not merely the letter of the law, but also the very spirit and intent of God's law in every phase of their lives.

Jesus said, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

In repenting and being converted, then, you must repent of *disobeying* God's law—disobeying His word and His rule over your life. You must be willing to honestly see and acknowledge that you have been wrong. You must then be willing to surrender your will to obey your God and your Maker. You must be willing to accept the shed blood of Jesus Christ in full payment for your sins. Jesus died for you to pay for your sins because "the wages of sin is death" (Rom. 6:23).

Then you are ready to be baptized as an outward sign of your willingness to completely bury your old self—to literally give your very life to God as your Father and to Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, High Priest, and coming King.

Notice the description of the meaning of baptism in Romans 6:3-4: "Know ye not, that so many of us as were baptized into Jesus Christ were baptized into his death? Therefore we are buried with him by baptism into death: that like as Christ was raised up from the dead by the glory of the Father, even so we also should walk in newness of life."

Baptism symbolizes the death and burial of the old self—the old human nature which has been contrary to God and His laws. It symbolizes our faith in and acceptance of the death

of Jesus Christ on our behalf. It symbolizes our acceptance of and faith in His resurrection—which our coming up out of the watery grave also pictures. "For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection" (Rom. 6:5).

Also, baptism is an outward acknowledgement that our old self—selfish, vain, and sinful—must die in order that we might rise again to live, really live, by God's laws and commandments and quit sinning. "Knowing this, that our old man is crucified with him, that the body of sin might be destroyed, that henceforth we should not serve sin" (verse 6). As we have seen, sin is the transgression of the law. So Romans 6:6 certainly shows that we should *not continue in lawlessness*. Rather, we must repent of breaking God's laws and begin to let Jesus Christ—through His Spirit and His love—live within us a life of obedience to God's laws and of service to our fellowman.

#### **Be Sure You Do Your Part**

Are you absolutely sure that you have come to this kind of real repentance and surrender to the God of the Bible? Have you come to abhor yourself—to realize that your natural spirit of lust, competition and vanity is simply not bringing you real peace, happiness and eternal life? The people of this world, as a whole, simply do not know this way to peace and righteousness (Rom. 3:10, 17).

The greatest stumbling block that prevents most people from accepting God's truth and being converted is their own vanity. Most people have grown up with some religious teaching from grandparents, parents, uncles, aunts or friends. But they hate to admit that they—and perhaps friends and loved ones—have been wrong. They fear to admit that they may never have been converted. Human nature makes them want to maintain their own righteousness.

But God says, "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways. . . . For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9).

"There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 14:12). Our own human ways and reasonings are nearly always wrong!

#### Why Total Surrender?

It is almost certain that most of you reading this article still have what the Bible describes as a "carnal mind." You probably never really surrendered your will to God and began obeying all of His commandments. Do you still argue, reason and justify self? Do you say: "This is the way I look at it"?

Although many religious people think they have already been what they call "saved," the sad truth of the matter is that they do not know what it means to be saved! They have never come to the place of even beginning to truly surrender their wills to really obey the God of the Bible. They have never received God's Holy Spirit or become His begotten sons.

Such people are not overcoming themselves, nor do they understand and live by the words of the Bible more and more every month and year of their lives. Why?

"Because the carnal mind is enmity against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7).

You see, God describes the "carnal mind" as a mind that is disobedient to His laws. The carnal mind tries to "reason around" those laws and go its own way. Through a process of "reasoning" it refuses to worship God *His way!*

That is why such people have never really understood the great purpose being worked out here below and why God has always seemed so far away to them—so unreal.

#### What About You?

Be honest with yourself. Have you, personally, gone through a really heartrending repentance as the first step toward conversion? Have you continually changed and grown in spiritual understanding, knowledge and character ever since?

Never forget that prior to real conversion is real repentance. You must humble yourself—quit being self-willed—so that you sincerely repent,

as David did in Psalm 51—one of the best examples of repentance in all the Bible. "Wash me thoroughly from my iniquity, and cleanse me from my sin [RSV]," David cried. "For I acknowledge my transgressions: and my sin is ever before me."

Notice that David did not try to justify himself. Rather, he acknowledged his sin freely and asked for forgiveness. He continued: "Against thee, thee only, have I sinned, and done this evil in thy sight."

God didn't have to argue, brow-beat, or "reason" David into admitting that his sin was against God when he committed adultery with Bathsheba and had Uriah murdered. David was willing to see his sin and to bitterly repent of and acknowledge what he had done.

Have you been led by God to see your own selfish nature? Are you ready to repent not only of what you have done, but also of what you are?

King David knew that this was what God required. He said, "The sacrifices of God are a broken spirit: a broken and a contrite heart, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17). Before anyone is really and truly converted, he has to be humbled, often beaten down through circumstances, and made to realize his own NOTHINGNESS. He has to begin a lifelong process of acknowledging his sins to God and repenting of them—turning around in his heart, mind and will and determining to go the other way.

When that time comes, a person will quit arguing with God. He will quit trying to reason around obedience to God's commandments. He will seek correction from God's servants.

#### Time for Action

Perhaps the God of heaven has brought you to understand His reality, His immutable spiritual laws and His great purpose for human existence. Through hearing *The World Tomorrow* broadcast and reading *The Plain Truth* magazine, you may have come to see that God is now intervening in human affairs in a definite and specific way all over this earth.

Perhaps you are beginning to see that God's way of life is good—that it teaches the way to live, how to have a happy home, how to rear well-balanced children, how to keep in good physical health, how to have peace of mind, and how to know and fulfill the purpose for which you were born.

If this be the case, you may wish to write to us to request a visit from one of God's own ordained ministers. These men are sent to counsel and interview people all over the world, people who are interested in changing their lives and perhaps in being baptized in the name of Jesus Christ after real repentance. These men will be able to answer questions you may have about your spiritual life, about baptism and about the Bible. They will help you learn more regarding this Work of God and of the possibility of fellowship with others who are living God's way.

So if you want to make the decision to act on the truths you have been learning—perhaps to sincerely bury your old self in baptism and give your very life to God—send us your name and address and request to be counseled.

And while you are writing, be sure to ask for our vital booklets *All About Water Baptism* and *Just What Do You Mean—Conversion?* They are sent absolutely free and will give you additional understanding of the real meaning of repentance, water baptism and conversion.

If you have really understood this article as you read it, then it is high time you acted on the vital truths you have been receiving!

Roy, whom I described at the beginning of this article, was never able to overcome his restlessness, emptiness and sense of guilt—never, that is, *until* a fellow associate and I baptized him and stood there under a wide Texas sky, asking the great God to fill him with His Spirit as He has promised to do upon true repentance and baptism.

Now Roy's craggy, outdoorsman's face beams with quiet assurance and a deep and abiding peace. For he has been truly forgiven by his God and Father—and he now deeply understands the goal of life and the way to achieve it. How about you? □



*THE "GARDEN TOMB," located beyond the present north wall of Old Jerusalem and thought by some to be the actual crypt in which corpse of Jesus lay.*

# Does Easter Commemorate the Resurrection ?

*Christ did not rise on Easter Sunday!*

*This article explains what Christ did command His Church to observe!*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**H**AVE you ever stopped to consider *why* you believe the things you believe?

Where did you learn the custom of observing Easter?

"I learned it from childhood," you reply. Of course you learned it from childhood! But where did the custom *really* originate?

You have *supposed* it was part of the true Christian religion to observe Easter, "Good Friday," Lent and "Holy Week"; to have colored Easter eggs; to dress up and go to church Easter Sunday. Yes, you have *supposed* the Bible taught these customs.

But *where* did God ever command you to keep any of them?

## The Meaning of Easter

From a child you have been led to believe that Easter signified the resurrection of Christ. For 1600 years the Western world has been taught that Jesus rose from the dead on Sunday morning.

These are merely some of the *fables* that the apostle Paul never taught. Christ did not rise Easter Sunday. He said He would be in the grave "*three days and three nights*" (Matt. 12:40). How can you figure 72 hours between so-called "Good Friday" at sunset and "Easter morning"?

You will want to know *when* Jesus *did* rise from the dead, so write im-

mediately for the astonishing proof in our free booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*.

The name "Easter" is merely a slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess *Ishtar*. As Alexander Hislop says in *The Two Babylons*, Easter "bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than *Astarte*, one of the titles of Beltis, the 'queen of heaven,' whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country."

Easter, according to Webster's dictionary, comes "from the name of the old Teuton goddess of spring." You probably never were taught that, were you?

But if Easter came from a pagan origin, where did we get Lent?

Not from the true Church! For Cassianus, who wrote in the fifth century, says: "It *ought* to be known that the observance of the forty days [Lent] had no existence, so long as the perfection of that primitive Church remained inviolate."

Jesus never observed Lent, nor did the apostles. "The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonish goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by the Yezidis of pagan Devil-worshippers of Koordistan,

who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians" (Alexander Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, pp. 104, 105).

Lent came from the ancient heathen sun worship, not from Jesus Christ. The same is true of the use of hot-cross buns, of dyed eggs and the Easter *sunrise* services. You will want to learn many more facts about these pagan customs that can't be included in this short article. Write for the free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*, which explains these and many more facts you surely need to know.

## Apostles Observed Passover

Instead of observing the customs of the churches of our day, the original, *inspired* Church of God, under the guidance of the apostles, observed the Passover as Jesus commanded on the eve before His death. Even the writers of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, realized that fact when writing their article "Easter": "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. . . . The first Christians continued the observance of the Jewish [that is, God's] festivals, though in a new spirit, as *commemorations of events* which those festivals had foreshadowed."

Yes, the true, original Church kept

the Passover annually when God commanded.

It was years later, after the death of the apostles, after many Gentiles had made a profession of faith, that we find the observance of Easter beginning. The Gentiles began observing the day on Sunday, rather than on the eve of the 14th day of God's first month, when Jesus always kept the Passover, setting us an example. A controversy then arose between these Gentiles, who were bringing pagan customs into the Western churches, beginning at Rome, and those who still remained faithful to the instructions of Jesus and the apostles.

Here is a brief sketch showing how the "Easter" that you have been taught from childhood crept into the churches:

"Polycarp, the disciple of John the Evangelist, and bishop of Smyrna, visited Rome in 159 to confer with Anicetus, the bishop of that see, on the subject, and urged the tradition which he had received from the apostle of observing the 14th day. . . . A final settlement of the dispute was one among the other reasons which led Constantine to summon the council of Nicaea in 325. . . . The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter was to be kept on Sunday, and on the same Sunday throughout the world, and that 'none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews'" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, article "Easter").

That, in plain language, is how the apostate church decreed that none should follow the ways of Christ—the ways of the TRUE Christian Church! That's where the universal custom of observing Easter in the churches began.

#### It Was Prophesied

This astonishing account of the injection of Easter into the church, which will be much more thoroughly documented in our free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*, was prophesied by Jesus and the apostles. They did not tell of a widespread, popular growth of the true New Testament Church, but of a FALLING AWAY FROM THE TRUTH on the part of the great majority.

Prophesying of this universal

FALLING AWAY from the faith which Jesus delivered for you and me to keep, Paul wrote to the Thessalonians: "The *mystery of iniquity* doth already work" (II Thess. 2:7)—only some 30 years after the Church began! He referred to the very "Chaldean Mysteries," of which Easter and Christmas were the two chief festivals!

In another place, Paul wrote Timothy: "*Many* shall follow their pernicious ways." So today it's the *many*, not the *few*, who are going the wrong way. It is the *many* who are keeping Easter, which God never once commanded, but it is only the *few* who are observing the ordinance which God, through Christ, commanded.

Remember, the broad way leads to destruction. Let's quit these pagan customs and return to the faith once delivered.

#### What God Did Command

The communion, often misnamed the "Lord's Supper," is actually the Passover—as the ordinance should properly be called. On observing the Passover, as on every practice, Jude exhorts "that ye should earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints."

Now that we know the *pagan* origin of the Easter celebration, let's clear away the web of error that covers the truth about keeping the Passover, the memorial of Christ's death.

Let's examine the way Jesus observed this ordinance, because we can't be wrong if we follow His example. In Luke 22:14-20, we read: "And when the *hour was come*, he [Jesus] sat down. . . . And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, This is my body which is given for you: *this do in remembrance* of me. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying, This cup is the new testament in my blood, which is shed for you."

Notice, it was "when the hour was come" that Jesus introduced the unleavened bread and the wine. There was a DEFINITE TIME—a definite hour—when He held this ordinance as an example for us.

Notice, too, He commanded them to observe it—"THIS DO"! And why? "In remembrance of me," said Jesus. He instituted this New Testament

way of keeping the Passover on that tragic night, the very eve of His death.

In Matthew's account, the Bible shows that this ordinance was at the very time of the Passover, "as they were eating" (Matt. 26:2, 26). Jesus knew that His time had come. He was our passover, sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

The Passover had always been held on the eve of the 14th of God's first month, according to the sacred or Jewish calendar. It was the night of the final and last Passover supper that Jesus introduced these NEW TESTAMENT emblems—the unleavened bread and the wine—in place of the lamb that was always slain annually.

For a full explanation of the *original* Passover as God instituted it, write immediately for the two booklets *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* and *How Often Should We Partake of the Lord's Supper?*

Remember, Jesus commanded: "This *do* in remembrance of me." Why? Because the Passover was commanded "FOREVER."

The Passover was to be observed *annually*, along with the Days of Unleavened Bread. "Thou shalt therefore keep this ordinance in his season from year to year" (Ex. 13:10). Jesus set us an example (I Peter 2:21), observing this ordinance at the same time once a year (Luke 2:42). Suppose the Israelites in Egypt had observed this ordinance at some other time than that set by God? They would not have been saved when the death angel passed by that night! God does things ON TIME. He has given us an exact time for this ordinance. Jesus instituted the New Testament symbols "when the hour was come."

#### The Ordinance of Humility

In giving us their accounts, Matthew, Mark and Luke describe the taking of unleavened bread and wine. But John relates another part of this ordinance.

In the 13th chapter of John we notice that after the Passover supper was ended (verse 2), Jesus took a towel (verse 4) and began to wash His disciples' feet (verse 5).

"So after he had washed their feet,

and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU" (verses 12-15).

If any of you are wondering if this ordinance of humility is a *command* to you, then turn to Matthew 28:19, 20. Here Jesus said to these same disciples: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them . . . *teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded YOU.*" So they were to teach us to observe ALL things WHATSOEVER Jesus commanded them!

#### Kept Once a Year in the Apostolic Church

In I Corinthians 5:7-8, Paul tells the Corinthians: "Christ our passover is sacrificed for us: *Therefore let us keep the feast*, not with old leaven . . . but with the unleavened bread of sincerity and truth." And in the 11th chapter he gives the directions regarding this ordinance.

Some misunderstand verse 26 ("as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup") by interpreting it "take it as often as you wish." *But it does not say that!*

It says "as often" as you observe it "ye do show the LORD'S DEATH till he come." Even Jesus commanded: "This do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in *remembrance* of me" (verse 25). We do it in remembrance of THE LORD'S DEATH—a memorial of His death. As you know, *memorials* are celebrated annually, once a year, on the ANNIVERSARY of the events commemorated. The United States sets aside every May 30 as a special day of commemoration. So we observe the memorial of Christ's death *annually*. And just as often as each year comes around we are to "show the Lord's death till he come" by keeping this memorial.

Christ instituted this ordinance on the EVE OF HIS DEATH. It was the 14th of Abib, by God's sacred calendar, in the very beginning of the day. God starts days at sunset, not midnight. So later that same day, after Jesus had gone out to Gethsemane,

Judas Iscariot led the crowd to seize Jesus. Then He was crucified later that same day, in the daylight part of this same 14th of the month Abib.

By following the example of Jesus in observing this sacred ordinance at the same time He did—the very same time the Passover was forever commanded to be observed—we continue to remember His death, annually, on the eve of the crucifixion.

Some always question the meaning of Paul in verses 27-29, in I Corinthians 11. The apostle is not speaking about a Christian being worthy or unworthy to take it. It is speaking of the *manner* in which it is done. We take it unworthily if we take it wrongly, in the wrong manner. Once

“

*Instead of observing the customs of the churches of our day, the inspired Church of God, under the guidance of the apostles, observed the Passover as Jesus commanded on the eve before His death.*

”

we learn the truth about its observance, and yet take it at any other time than what God says, then we take it unworthily. We take it unworthily if we do not accept the body and blood of Christ. So let's not take this most sacred ordinance to our condemnation, but take it *worthily* instead!

#### "Easter" a Mistranslation

Following the example of Jesus and the apostles, the early Church observed the Passover and the Days of Unleavened Bread. Notice Acts 12:3. The Holy Spirit of God inspired these words: "Then *were* the days of unleavened bread." But in the next verse we read of "Easter."

We have just seen that "Easter" was injected into the church years after the time of Christ. This word

"Easter" is a MISTRANSLATION. The original Greek word is *pasha*, meaning PASSOVER. In every other place, exactly the same word is used in the original and always rendered PASSOVER. Many other translations faithfully render this verse in Acts as "intending after the Passover to bring him forth to the people."

So this verse, instead of mentioning Easter, really proves that the Church, ten years after the death of Christ, was still observing Passover.

#### What Does "Break Bread" Mean?

There are some denominations that read Acts 20:7 as a proof that the "Lord's Supper" should be taken each Sunday *morning!* First notice that this was after the Days of Unleavened Bread (verse 6). Paul was preaching a farewell meeting not on Sunday morning, but on Saturday night. It was after midnight (verse 7) that they broke bread because they were hungry. When they "had broken bread, *and* EATEN, and talked a long while, even *till* break of day," Paul departed.

So this was just an ordinary meal!

The same expression "break bread" is found in Acts 27:34, 35: "Wherefore I pray you to take some MEAT. . . *he took bread* . . . and when he had *broken it*, HE BEGAN TO EAT." Again in Acts 2:46: "And *breaking bread* from house to house, did EAT THEIR MEAT with gladness." This could not possibly have been the "Lord's Supper" or, more properly, Passover, because Paul says that if we take it to satisfy our hunger we take it to our condemnation (I Cor. 11:34). In that day, everyone "broke bread" at ordinary meals, because they did not have the kind of bread that we slice. Jesus broke bread because it was at the Passover supper, while "*at meat*," eating a meal.

We need to return to the faith Jesus delivered to us. Let us humbly and obediently observe this sacred ordinance as we are commanded, at the scriptural time, after sunset the 14th of Abib, according to the sacred calendar. If you haven't as yet studied about the observance of this ordinance as a memorial of Christ's death, write us immediately for the booklet *How Often Should We Partake of the Lord's Supper?* □



**E**ek! A spider!" Maybe it's the eight creeping legs or the sticky strands of cobweb that scare us. Whatever it is, few of us are particularly fond of spiders.

Yet spiders are among the world's most fascinating creatures. Over 50,000 different kinds are estimated to live on the earth. Some huge ones, like the Mexican tarantula, are big enough to eat a mouse. Others are so tiny they are hard to see with the naked eye.

All spiders can spin silk. But, un-

like the larvae of insects which spin from their mouths, spiders have a set of tiny spinnerets in the back underside of their bodies. These spinnerets can produce different kinds of silk for a variety of uses.

Some spiders can spin a line of silk one-millionth of an inch in diameter! Yet this single thread has such elasticity that it can stretch one-fifth of its length before breaking. Its tensile strength is surpassed only by fused quartz fibers. Steel is weak by comparison.

Yet surely the most amazing achievement of the spider is that marvelous architectural masterpiece known as the web.

#### **Architectural Masterpiece**

The spider's web is a construction job par excellence, as well as a strong and dangerous trap for catching prey. The striking beauty and symmetry of the web of the black and yellow golden garden spider (*argiope*) can be seen in the photo above.

In building a web, the spider has to





© James H. Robinson—Photo Researchers

# THE DEADLY ART OF WEB WIZARDRY

by Robert A. Ginskey

first fashion a miniscule, fan-shaped kite on the end of her silk-thread line and then sail it in the direction of a nearby branch or solid object. Once this line is secured, she will bite through it, then inch along suspended between the two loose ends, all the while winding up the thread ahead and spinning a new strand in the rear.

When these basic foundation lines are anchored, the spider begins the process of carefully constructing the inner portions of the web. She con-

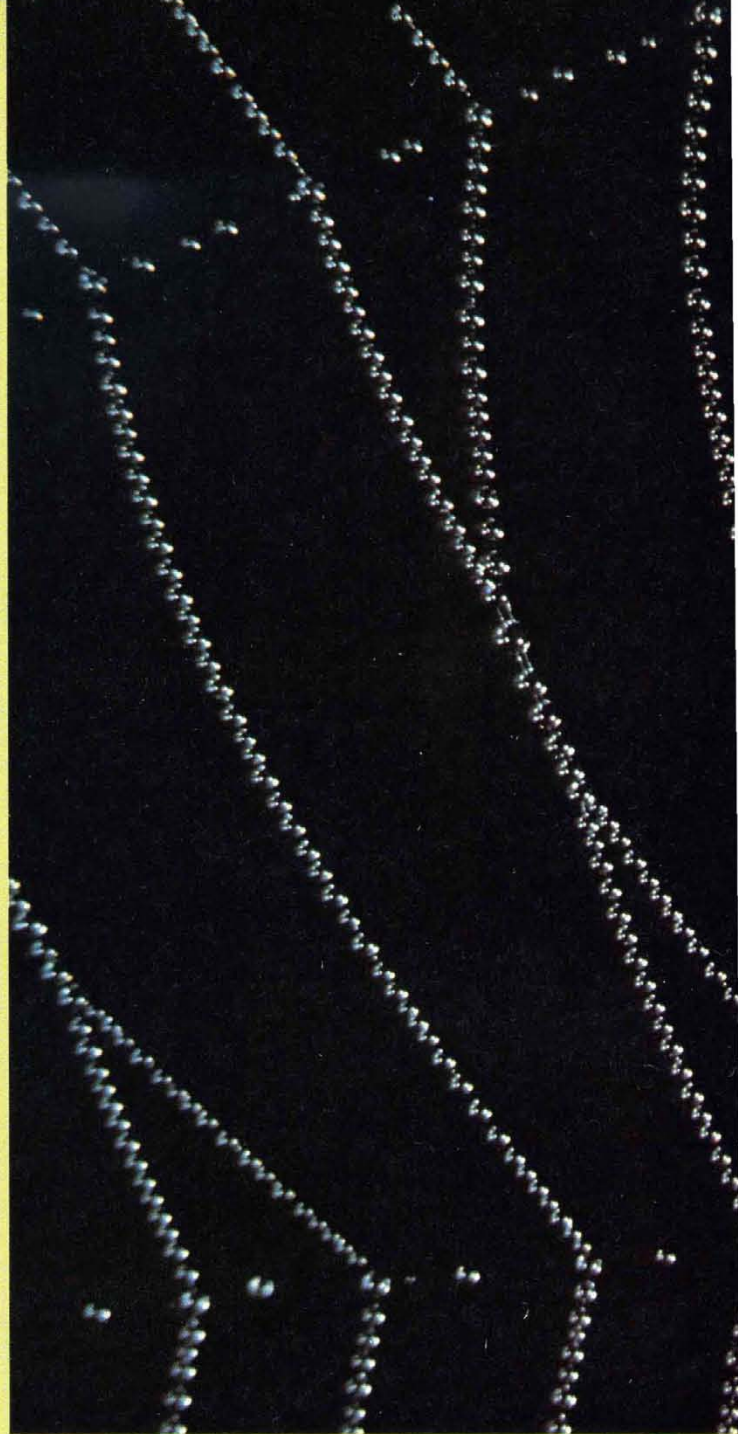
structs a temporary spiral to keep the web intact, then goes about the business of spinning the sticky strands that will do the actual insect-catching. After that, the spider will polish off her construction work by cutting away the temporary threads.

Unlike the insects that are snared in this tangle of lines, the spider has a specially adapted foot that enables her to freely move about the web. She also constructs her web at an angle that is slightly inclined from the vertical. This helps her to hang

**A WITNESS TO THE GREAT CREATOR**, orb-weaving spider (far right) pauses a moment before continuing its web wizardry. Spiders are preprogrammed to spin effective insect traps (below and lower right). Single strands of silk (center) show beads of sticky glue which help catch and hold spider's prey.



© S. J. Krasemann—Photo Researchers



Spence McConnell—Bruce Coleman

to one side and further avoid entrapment. A special “telegraph wire” enables her to feel the presence of a blundering insect. And she can detect nonmoving victims by systematically plucking each of the threads that serves as a radial spoke for the web.

#### **Preprogrammed Ability**

Do spiders “learn” to spin their webs, perhaps by trial and error?

In an experiment reported in *Scientific American*, common cross

spiders were hatched in small boxes and kept there until they were partly grown, then were transferred to large cages.

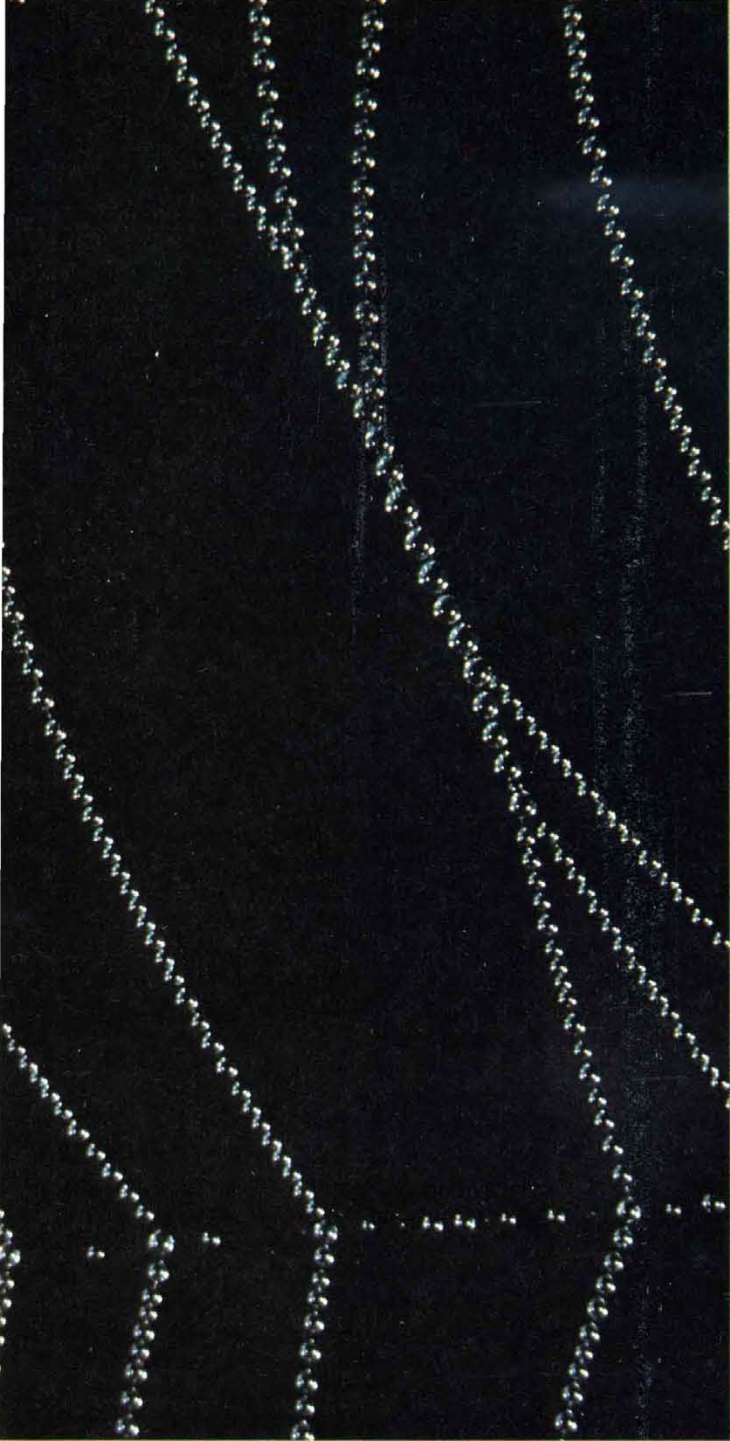
They were immediately able to spin perfect webs!

In other words, they did not begin their careers by spinning primitive webs or webs of a type from which the full-blown web might later evolve.

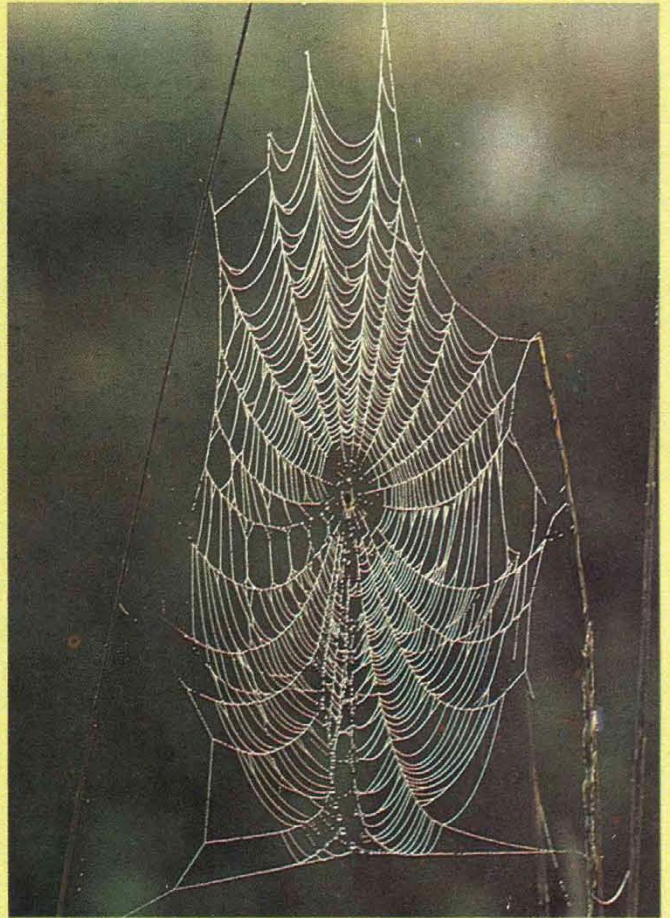
The fact that during their “childhood” they had been fed by their keeper without any need for spinning

had not affected their abilities!

Another experiment was done in outer space in one of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration research satellites. Spiders were carried aboard to see if they could weave their webs in zero gravity. The answer was yes! Even without “reference information” that gravity provides, the spiders were still able to carry out their web-building instincts. So spiders inherit their web-weaving skills—the ability is preprogrammed.



© George K. Bryce—Animals, Animals



J. Shaw—Bruce Coleman

### Did Web-Weaving Evolve?

But how could such an elaborate and complicated scheme for web-building ever develop? Can you imagine the first spider trying in vain to catch insects in a "proto-web"?

Most spiders don't spin webs at all, so you can hardly say they "had" to spin a web. Yet if they didn't "have to," then why spend all those "millions of years" (according to evolutionary theory) developing the ability? The whole process of designing and constructing a silk web is abso-

lutely incredible—especially if you believe it all happened by chance and gradual evolution.

Did the lowly spider learn the art and science of web-building on its own? "The orb web would seem to stand alone as a glorious creation, an incredible novelty designed by superior artisans!" writes Willis Gertsch, author of *American Spiders*.

And according to another source: "The question of how the elaborate method of construction once was ac-

quired by the ancestors of today's orb weavers is not easy to answer" ("Evolution of the Web," B. J. Kaston, *Natural History*, April 1966).

It's certainly not an easy question to answer as long as you assume it all depended on the spider and random evolutionary changes. But, like many other marvels of creation, the amazing web wizardry of spiders can be readily understood as a fascinating example of the creative genius of the Creator God. □

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# Is This the Only Day of SALVATION?

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*Is there a "great controversy" between God and Satan—God doing His best to get everybody saved—Satan trying to keep them lost—with time now fast running out on God?*

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by C. Paul Meredith

*The late Dr. C. Paul Meredith, former director of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course (from 1953 to 1968), was an evangelist and longtime servant of the Church of God. This article was originally written and appeared in The Plain Truth in 1958. We are reprinting it here, and we hope you will find it interesting and helpful.*

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**M**illions of people are now living in Communist Russia and Red China where Christianity is suppressed. Those people did not choose to be born into these godless nations. Are they lost forever because they never had an opportunity to hear the true Bible teachings? Will God condemn to an eternally burning hell those people who died before the true gospel was brought to them?

#### **Gentiles Without Hope?**

What is the eternal fate of the countless millions of Asia and Africa who are without Christ? Is this their *only* day of salvation? Are

they eternally doomed when they die? Is God about to "shut the door" of salvation in their face?

Paul, in Ephesians 2:11-12, gives the answer. Here is what he wrote to converts in Asia Minor: "Being in time past Gentiles . . . at that time ye were without Christ, being aliens . . . and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

Clearly, people who have not heard the way of salvation and the name of Jesus Christ are at least temporarily without hope of salvation—and would be lost forever *if* there were no future opportunity for salvation.

But God desires that all humanity *eventually* avail itself of the opportunity for salvation: "God our Saviour, who will have all men to be saved, and to come unto the knowledge of the truth" (I Tim. 2:3, 4). But, some will say, "Oh, so *everyone* is going to be saved—universal salvation!"

Absolutely not! The Bible does not teach universal salvation.

Notice what II Peter 3:9 says: The Eternal "is longsuffering to usward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance." It is God's will or wish that all would come to a knowledge of the truth so they would repent

and be saved from the penalty of sin—death. But some people are not going to repent! For if all repented and met the conditions for eternal salvation, there would be no necessity for casting human beings into the lake of fire, depicted in Revelation 20:15 and 21:8, which will destroy the wicked! Malachi 4:1-3 absolutely disproves the doctrine of universal salvation derived from heathen philosophy. The wicked are to become ashes, left neither root nor branch. There will NOT be a resurrection from the lake of fire. (Write for our free reprint article "Does the Bible Teach Universal Salvation?")

But does this mean there is no hope for the millions who have died in ignorance of the true Christ? No!

God is desirous that all may attain eternal life. He is "longsuffering," not being quick to judge—desirous that all will accept His way of life as revealed in the Holy Bible so we may become His spirit-born children at the resurrection. But we must choose whether we will accept His way.

#### **The Common Attitude**

"Well," many will say, "it might seem from what the Bible says, that God would not be fair if He did not

give those people who lived in the Old Testament times a chance in the future; but all of us since Christ are having our chance now, and we must be saved by the time Christ comes again or we will be lost."

Yes, that does SEEM to be the idea, and almost everyone today believes it to be a fact. It appears to be so evident that no one even questions the matter. It is taken for granted.

Did you ever hear it questioned? No, you probably never have in your lifetime. People do not investigate. "Everybody can't be wrong" is the popular attitude!

It would appear from the common teachings that salvation is open to everyone today and that all one has to do now is to "join a church" and be "saved." But is one free to accept salvation and be saved any time one wishes? Or has God purposely *blinded* some to salvation in this day?

Let us see what the Bible teaches about this subject. It concerns every one of us.

#### Why Ancient Israel Blinded

Note what Moses said to the ancient Israelites shortly after he had led them out from Egypt: "Ye have seen all that the Eternal did before your eyes in the land of Egypt . . . those great miracles: yet the Eternal [not Satan] hath not given you an heart to perceive, eyes to see, and ears to hear, unto this day" (Deut. 29:2-4).

God Himself had blinded Israel. Why?

Now notice Ezekiel 20. This chapter is vitally important. It is a summary of God's dealings with rebellious Israel. Particularly take note of verses 11 and 12: "And I gave them my statutes, and shewed them my judgments, which if a man do, he shall even live in them. Moreover also I gave them my sabbaths."

But what did God do when they rebelled? Verses 24 and 25 tell us: "Because they had not executed my judgments . . . had polluted my sabbaths. . . . Wherefore I gave them also [over to] statutes that were not good, and judgments whereby they

should not live." God said He gave them over to other laws by which they should not live!

All through the Bible, after it tells of God's punishments, it quotes what God said was His reason for blinding people: "That they may know that I am the Eternal." This phrase occurs over fifty times, with slight variation. Ezekiel 20:26 is an example. Yes, God wants everyone to truly know Him. Whoever rejects knowledge will be punished in order to learn of God and His ways by hard experience.

But what was the reason for blinding Israel? Are they lost forever?

#### Why God Blinds

Man naturally wants to do things that are contrary to God's laws.

“

*For God hath concluded them all [all mankind] in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all.*

”

"The carnal mind [which we all have before conversion] is enmity against God" (Rom. 8:7). Compare this with Romans 3:9-18 and then with Galatians 5:17. "The flesh [man's natural heart and mind] lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other." All have a desire—lust—to go contrary to God's laws (James 1:14; Psalm 81:11-12).

A person's carnal mind remains at enmity against God *until* that person becomes sick and tired of the results of his own ways, repents of them, and calls on God to change him by giving him the Holy Spirit—the very mind of Christ (Phil. 2:5).

Satan has deceived man into rejecting truth and into doing what is right in his own eyes, wanting to sin—wanting to break God's laws.

It is by this means that God blinds man—not to destroy him, but to bring him to repentance. Concerning blinded Israel, Paul said: "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief, that he might have mercy upon all" (Rom. 11:32).

So ancient Israel isn't lost forever. Their time of salvation is yet coming.

#### The Creation of Character Takes Time

Nothing that God has ever created begins to compare with that which He is creating in man—CHARACTER. God knows that it *takes time* to do this. He said: "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always" (Deut. 5:29). God is not in a hurry to save all until they have learned their lesson.

The Eternal let ancient Israel try various forms of human government, as the books of Judges and Kings explain. Human beings are blinded to the Kingdom of God because they believe that their own forms of government are right. Today, we have democracies, dictatorships, and other forms of government. None has brought happiness!

#### Christ Didn't Convert Everyone

Christ said to the disciples: "Unto you it is given to know the mystery of the kingdom of God: but unto them [the vast majority] that are without, all these things are done in parables: that seeing they may see, and not perceive; and hearing they may hear, and not understand" (Mark 4:11-12).

Do you catch the significance of this verse? Some of Jesus' parables were spoken so that the truth might remain hidden. But why? What is the mysterious purpose of God that is taking shape before our eyes without our realizing it? Here is the answer:

Man does not know his own inability to rule either himself or the world as compared with the ability of God. The Father wants us to develop our initiative and ability. But He also wants us to recognize that He is the One to whom we should go

with our problems, and that His laws are best and that He is the true Ruler of the earth. He wants us to know that we must have His very Spirit within us (Acts 2:38).

Of all material things that God has ever created, man is far superior to others in his ability to reason and to make things. But these abilities are of no value to God—indeed they are a hindrance—if man's will or desire to use these abilities is against God's will! "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven" (Matt. 6:10). God wishes His will to be done in us.

When man has had—through spiritual blindness—an opportunity to exercise his own will and seen the evil results of it, he is ready to have his old self—his own will—killed, "buried with him [Christ] by baptism into death" (Rom. 6:4), and willing to present his body as a living sacrifice to God—a living body through which God can carry out His will (Rom. 12:1).

#### **Are the Majority Blinded?**

Paul, speaking to the Romans concerning their Gentile forefathers, said: "As they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a *reprobate mind*, to do those things which are not convenient; being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, wickedness . . . full of envy" (Rom. 1:28-29). Again, "For God hath concluded them all in unbelief [all mankind], that he might have mercy upon all" (Rom. 11:32). The Gentiles were blinded then, and they are blinded today.

What about Israel? "Even so then at this *present* time also there is a remnant [just a remnant] according to the election of grace" (Rom. 11:5). A few had received the chance of salvation—but notice verse 7: ". . . the rest [the vast majority] were blinded."

The same is true today. The few, whosoever will, may come to God; but the vast majority won't, because they are blinded to God's truth by thinking their ways are better. Jesus never once said that everyone is called to salvation in this age.

Paul said: "Not many wise men

after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called" (I Cor. 1:26). Only those drawn by the Spirit of God can come to Christ (John 6:44, 65).

In this connection some have been confused by II Corinthians 6:2, which seems to say that now is the *ONLY* day of salvation. But the word "the" in the King James Version is actually misleading, because it is absent in both the Hebrew and the Greek. Actually, II Corinthians 6:2 was quoted by Paul from the Old Testament. Paul is quoting Isaiah 49:8. But the Hebrew text of Isaiah 49:8 does *not* have a definite article. Neither does the Greek text of II Corinthians 6:2. The first part of the verse is more correctly rendered as follows: "I have answered thy prayer, he says, in a [not the only one] time of pardon, I have brought thee help in a [not the only one] day of salvation" (Knox translation).

Certainly, this is the day of salvation for those who have been called and whose minds have been opened to the truth by God. *Now* is their chance—their opportunity to qualify for His Kingdom. This is *the* day of salvation for them. But it is *not* the day of salvation for the vast majority. They will receive their chance—their *first* and *only* chance—at a later time. It is *a* day of salvation, but *not* the *only* day of salvation.

Consider also that if it were the *only* day of salvation in Paul's time—then it is closed to us today. But Paul was quoting a scripture hundreds of years old. Was that time—in the days of Isaiah—the only day of salvation? Obviously *NOT*. Today, as in the time of Paul, it was only one of several times of salvation.

#### **Blinded Spiritually**

So we see that the vast majority of all peoples today are blinded! "Broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction" (Matt. 7:13). People today are spiritually in Babylon! Remember, it is a great religious power with its roots in the ancient city of Babylon—"Babylon the great"—that deceives this world (Rev. 17:2, 5; 18:4).

The vast majority will continue to remain so blinded that they will even fight against Christ at His second coming—not recognizing who He is. The devil will have them so deceived that they will think Jesus is "antichrist" (Rev. 17:13-14).

Of course, people blinded to the truth can have salvation *now* if they will earnestly ask God to show them His ways and then be willing to follow these ways. "Whosoever will may come."

But only a relatively small number will seek salvation in this age. These will be used to teach, rule, and judge those called later in the millennium (Rev. 1:6; I Cor. 6:2).

But what of the vast blinded majority who never had an opportunity? Are they damned because they were blinded to the ways of salvation?

Now, as God is just, and as it is He who has permitted the majority to be blinded, then He will have to remove the blindness to give them a chance—their *first chance*—*not* a second chance.

He has promised to do it. "And he will destroy in this mountain the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations"—the veil of spiritual darkness (Isa. 25:7). It is no stigma or disgrace to your loved ones or others that they are among those who are blinded now. God's plan calls for the removal of blindness from only a few now. It is His responsibility.

#### **Salvation in the Millennium**

God has allotted six thousand years to mankind here on this earth in which they can try out all methods of living which they think will bring them happiness. Look at the world today for the results! Now—in this very end time—man is writing a finish to a history of his poor attempt to rule himself without God's help—a history that all may profit by when they have their first chance. The world today is feverishly preparing to drench itself in a bloodbath.

What happens after this?

"The people that walked in darkness [blindness] have seen a great

light [the blindness removed]. . . . For unto us a child is born . . . and the government shall be upon his shoulder. . . . Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end" (Isa. 9:2, 6-7).

This tells of Christ's birth and of His taking over the rule of this earth for 1000 years at His second coming (Rev. 20:4).

This is the long-awaited millennium.

This is the time God has set to really start to save the people. Blindness will be removed; the people will see God's mercy and love clearly. All who are blinded today, but who live into that period, will have their first opportunity for salvation. Christ will come with "ten thousands" of His saints to execute judgment and convince all that are ungodly of their ungodly deeds (Jude 14, 15). The devil will be chained so he cannot deceive people (Rev. 20:1-3). The saints will be ruling the nations *here on earth* (Dan. 7:27; Luke 19:17; Rev. 2:26, 27; 5:10).

Christ will pour out His Spirit on all flesh (Acts 2:17), and the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Eternal (Isa. 11:9). God will cleanse the people and give them a new heart and a new spirit, and cause them to walk in His statutes and judgments (Ezek. 36:25-27). The whole chapters of Isaiah 11 and Zechariah 14 describe this time more fully.

But the people who live on from this life into the thousand-year period are relatively few compared to the millions and millions that have died blinded to the truth. What about them?

#### When Is Vast Majority Saved?

Notice Revelation 20:5: "The rest of the dead lived not again until the thousand years were finished." Now read verses 11-12: "And I saw a great white throne, and him that sat on it, from whose face the earth and the heaven fled away; and there was found no place for them. And I saw the dead, small and great, stand [a resurrection] before God; and the books were opened, and another book was opened, which is the book

of life [there is still a chance of obtaining eternal life]: and the dead were judged out of those things which were written in the books, according to their works."

They are to be judged by the Word of God—the books of the Bible—in accordance with what they have done in this life and what they will do after they are resurrected to mortal life.

This scene in Revelation 20 pictures the climax of God's plan—the great white throne judgment, when the vast number of unsaved people will be resurrected and be given their first chance for salvation—all those millions and millions who have lived and died since the time of Adam up through our age, and have not known the true way to eternal life.

“

*He will destroy . . . the face of the covering cast over all people, and the veil that is spread over all nations.*

”

Salvation will be open to all then resurrected, just as in the thousand-year reign of Christ on earth, only now there will be many more to accept it.

This will not be a SECOND CHANCE. Here's why. If they were blinded when they formerly lived, they never had a *first* chance. The ancient inhabitants of Tyre and Sidon will be resurrected, and those people who were formerly blinded will be given their first chance (Matt. 11:22). Also, the people of Sodom and Gomorrah will be resurrected (Matt. 10:15), and their deceived citizens will have their first chance. God is a just God. He is giving even the worst of the people who were blinded before Christ's second coming their first opportunity to receive salvation.

Ezekiel 37:11-14 gives a good pic-

ture of how this physical resurrection will be accomplished for all people. Here it is speaking of Israel as a type of all nations. This shows how spiritual begetting and growth come about. Here are people receiving the Father's Holy Spirit for the first time, just as a few are being called today to receive it.

People will live in the physical *flesh* for a period of time sufficient to be given a just and fair opportunity to receive salvation—eternal *spirit* life in God's Kingdom. But they will have to *choose* whether or not to accept God's way (Deut. 30:19).

All this information ought not come as a surprise. For anyone could and would understand this great and comforting truth if he were observing God's command to keep the holy days, which show God's plan of salvation. In Leviticus 23:34, the Feast of Ingathering or Tabernacles represents salvation in the 1000-year period; and the eighth day, in verse 36, represents the great white throne judgment period when the vast majority will be resurrected and have their first opportunity to be saved from sin.

All this is explained in our booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* Write for your free copy.

No, the blinded world today does not understand that the Father is in the process of making from mortal man, here on this earth, a spirit family of His very own—a family that is being carefully trained. His family will constitute the Kingdom of God, living by and administering His laws of love which are written in the heart and mind (Jer. 31:33-34; Heb. 8:10).

After blinded man has had a lifetime of sad experience living by his own way of life, he will be resurrected back to physical life and have his blindness removed so that he can see and practice God's way of life—the only way that leads to happiness. Then, and only then, is God going to save the vast majority of mankind and give eternal life to those who are willing to come under His loving rule and aid Him in administering wisely the great power He will share with them. □

# '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 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, Kealahou** — 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.; 6:30 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.; 11 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

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

### NEW YORK

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

**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, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

**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.  
**WPMS, 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.

#### 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.

#### 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.

#### 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, 9:30 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, 6:30 a.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, 11:15 p.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, 12 noon, 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.

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# How You Can Be Imbued With the **POWER** of God!

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*The Church in apostolic days was filled with power! Today, Christians are spiritually lifeless. Why? What has happened that Christians seem cut off from the source of that power?*

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by Herman L. Hoeh

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**N**ews flashes constantly bombard us with reports of undreamed-of new powers unleashed by science. Never has the world had in its grasp more stupendous powers than it has today.

Nations are stockpiling horrifying weapons of unbelievable power in a mad race for survival. Manufacturers are building machines with ever-increasing power output to satisfy the power-hungry buying public. Health food addicts are peddling new powerful potions guaranteed to rejuvenate the impotent and the aged. Even the churches are selling people on new ways to tap "hidden powers" lying dormant within them.

Yet people today are more spiritually empty, lifeless and lacking in power than ever before! The churches seem to be destitute of any real spiritual power!

Why?

What has gone wrong? Are we missing the real source of power that

imbued the original Church in apostolic days?

#### **The Source of That Power**

There is a reason why people are spiritually empty, dissatisfied, frustrated. People have been seeking the wrong source of power! The churches are looking to material substitutes, to psychological panaceas. But they are not looking to the real source of power which filled the apostles and the whole Church in apostolic days!

Notice the source of that power: "May the God of your hope so fill you with all joy and peace in your faith, that you may be overflowing with hope, by the power of the holy Spirit!" (Rom. 15:13, Moffatt translation.)

Notice it! "Filled"! Filled with what? "With all joy and peace"! By what power? "By the power of the holy Spirit"!

The inspired, original New Testament Church was filled with the power of the Holy Spirit. We don't see that today. Instead, we see either insipid pseudospirituality or uncontrolled human emotionalism masquerading as the power of God.

Consider what mighty spiritual power overflowed the Church in apostolic days: "And when they [the inspired Church] had prayed, the place was shaken where they were assembled together; and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and they spake the word of God with boldness" (Acts 4:31).

Inspired preaching—not soft, purring sermons—came from the apostles! Where do you see that kind of power in today's churches? This was not some kind of uncontrolled, pseudospiritual, humanly generated, emotional ecstasy often witnessed in evangelistic campaigns. This was the real power of God—not a counterfeit, uncontrolled emotionalism.

#### **World in Utter Confusion**

But why are inspired, powerful, spiritual-minded sermons not generally heard today? Have the churches lost contact with the Holy Spirit of God? How many professing Christians really know what the Holy Spirit is—why they need it—and how they can receive it? And how many really know when they have received the Holy Spirit?

How many really believe that God

acts upon or operates in human lives through the Holy Spirit?

Why do almost none of the churches and ministers agree about what the Holy Spirit is, or about why we need the Holy Spirit?

Isn't it about time we understood the truth about this most vital subject?

### **Preaching About a Counterfeit Spirit**

Most people are totally unaware of Paul's warning that there would be many false churches preaching different doctrines about the Holy Spirit—deceiving the many into accepting a different spirit from the one, true Holy Spirit revealed in Scripture.

Notice: "But I fear"—Paul was sorrowed; he knew what was coming in our day—"lest somehow, as the serpent beguiled Eve in his craftiness, your thoughts should be corrupted from the simplicity and the purity that is toward the Christ"—Christ's doctrine is simple, when we understand it; it is not a theological mystery!

Continuing with II Corinthians 11:3-4: "For if he that cometh"—any false minister coming in the name of Christ—"preacheth another Jesus"—the world is filled with the preaching of a different Jesus who was born, who died and rose at a different time than the true Messiah, a different Jesus who rejected the Father's immutable laws—"whom we have not preached"—says Paul—"or if ye receive another spirit, which ye have not received"—from the preaching of the apostles—"ye might bear well with him"—or accept him.

That is what has happened today! Paul warned about receiving a "different spirit" and "a different gospel."

This prophetic warning from Paul has already been fulfilled! The world has accepted a different spirit—the spirit of error—not the spirit of truth.

Professing Christianity is split asunder by hundreds of different denominations preaching different doctrines from those of the inspired apostles of Jesus Christ. It is time we face facts squarely and look into the

Bible to see what God reveals about His Holy Spirit.

### **How to Receive the Holy Spirit**

There is only one Holy Spirit—only one source of divine spiritual power. Without it we will never gain eternal life!

How do we receive it?

Open your Bible to Luke 11:13. Here are Jesus' own words: "If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

Observe that the Holy Spirit is a gift. It is called a gift in Acts 10:45 and 11:17. Then the Holy Spirit is not something we were born with, nor



*Spiritual qualities and entities seem so unreal to most people. And no wonder. Spiritual things are invisible, not discerned by the senses until revealed in writing in the Bible!*



is it anything we earn. It is the source of spiritual power we need, but which we receive as a gift upon asking God for it.

But how do we know that God hears us when we ask Him in prayer? Here is the answer: "Whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight. And this is his commandment, That we should believe on the name of his Son Jesus Christ, and love one another, as he gave us commandment" (I John 3:22-23).

Notice that we must not only repent and believe in Jesus Christ, but we must also obey the Father—that is what love is. "This is the love of God, that we keep his commandments" (I John 5:3). If we perform

these conditions by surrendering our wills unconditionally to God, He will answer us. We can then receive His Holy Spirit.

Observe how this is again explained in Acts 2:38: "Then Peter said unto them, 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."

That is how! You begin by repenting—by turning away from your past sins through the blood of Christ, by being baptized (immersed). You are then unconditionally promised the Holy Spirit. God has bound Himself to perform His part if you first perform yours. You can ask God thereafter to direct you through His Holy Spirit to lead a new life in conformity with His revealed Word, the Bible.

To continue, in Acts 5:32 you read: "And we"—the apostles are speaking—"are witnesses of these things; and so is also the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him."

Notice the stress placed upon obedience, upon submission of your mind to the will of God—to the law of God. Jesus said, "Not my will, but thine, be done" (Luke 22:42). God expects a submissive, obedient attitude before we receive the Holy Spirit. How plain it is that the Holy Spirit is the spirit of total submission and obedience to the Father. This is the way to a full, abundant, power-filled life!

### **How to Lead a Fruitful Life**

How many of you feel empty and frustrated; feel spiritually lifeless?

Here's how to lead a rejuvenated, fruitful life—how to be imbued with power!

Notice the fruit of the Spirit: "The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law" (Gal. 5:22-23, RSV). It is by the fruits of the Spirit that you know you have received the Holy Spirit of God. "By their fruits ye shall know them," said Jesus (Matt. 7:20).

The first fruit is love. Love is the greatest spiritual power on earth. "The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is

given unto us," says Paul in Romans 5:5. What is the love of God?

"Love is the fulfilling of the law" is Paul's answer in Romans 13:10. Love is a godly, spiritual force, imparted by the Holy Spirit, that channels the human will into obedience—obedience to God's law. If you love God, you will—by the power of God, not by your human strength—be keeping all His commandments—all ten of them.

No one who continues to break God's law of love has received the Spirit of God or has the power of God working in him! That means that millions of deceived, but sincere, professing Christians who have not surrendered their wills to God and who do not keep all the Ten Commandments have never received the Spirit of God—they are still unconverted—and they never will be converted until they yield to God's spiritual law of love.

The other fruits of the Spirit, mentioned by Paul in Galatians 5:22, amplify the attitude of love. Obedience to God is not harsh and cruel and unyielding—it is a joy, it is peaceable and gentle, it expresses itself in self-control. Self-control is the key to real spiritual power. Most people cannot be filled with spiritual power because they have not been willing to exercise self-control. Uncontrolled power is worse than no power at all.

I know that this is hard to believe. Some of you probably were taught that you cannot receive the Holy Spirit until you work up your emotions—until you reject God's law. That deceptive teaching results from hearing a different gospel than Jesus preached. That is the way of Cain who hated his brother Abel. God's law of love has been His message from the beginning (I John 3:11-12). But men have refused it!

#### **Why We Need the Holy Spirit**

Man was born without the vital spark that will enable him to live forever. Man is mortal. Man is subject to death.

Notice: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his. And if Christ be in you"—living the same life in us now by the Holy Spirit as He lived by the Holy Spirit while

He was personally on earth—"the body is dead because of sin; but the Spirit is life because of righteousness. But if the Spirit of him"—the Father—"that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your mortal bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Rom. 8:9-11).

How plain! The Holy Spirit imparts the power to commence eternal life. We inherited mortal life through Adam. We became heirs of eternal life—heirs of God—by being begotten through the Holy Spirit, which is the life of God. "And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son"—not in an immortal soul. "He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life. These things have I written unto you," says John, "that ye may know that ye have eternal life" (I John 5:11-13).

Eternal life with unending spiritual power is a gift of God. It is an attribute of the Holy Spirit. "For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life" (Rom. 6:23). If we already had it, it would not be a gift; it would be inherited.

But the Holy Spirit does more than impart to us the possibility of eternal life. It imparts to us the characteristics of the Almighty, the all-powerful God the Father.

That portion of the Holy Spirit which a person may receive, if he asks God for it in conforming to His will, may be compared to the germ or sperm of physical life. It transmits to us God's spiritual characteristics and attributes.

#### **The Germ of Eternal Life**

First, notice that the Holy Spirit—the germ by which we are begotten—comes from the Father. God has masculine characteristics. That is why we call Him "Father." We are called the begotten children of God (I John 5:1).

God, then, has the power to beget us as His children. He begets us by His Spirit. Each portion of the Spirit by which we are begotten is termed in the Bible a germ or "seed." Peter tells us we are "[begotten] again, not

of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth" (I Pet. 1:23). Jesus completes this by saying we must finally be born again—at the resurrection—when we shall be spirit (John 3:5-8). Now we are only flesh with the spiritual germ of eternal life impregnating us.

Second, notice that an attribute of God's Spirit is perfect character. The Holy Spirit, the germ of eternal life, transmits that possibility into us. It is the Spirit of obedience—of perfection.

Every begotten child of God must ask God for the power to resist sin. We must let Christ live His life in us through the Holy Spirit. If Christ abides in us through the Holy Spirit, we have the power which enables us to resist practicing sin. Notice what Paul wrote: "... for what I would, that do I not; but what I hate, that do I. If then I do that which I would not, I consent unto the law that it is good. . . . For I know that in me (that is, in my flesh,) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me; but how to perform that which is good I find not" (Rom. 7:15-18).

Notice how weak and powerless to resist sin Paul really was. He needed divine help—the same power that was in Jesus Christ which enabled Him to resist sin. That power comes from the Holy Spirit of God!

#### **The Mind of God**

Conversion starts with repentance. Conversion means change. Repentance means a change from the wrong to the right. It is a change of mind. But that change is not enough. We must receive the Spirit of God in order for that change to be permanent. Our minds need to be developed to become like God's mind. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5). But how is this possible?

Your Bible reveals there is a spirit in man (Job 32:8). It is not the man—it is something in the man. Connected with physical brain, it forms human mind. It imparts the power of intellect and personality that no animal can have. This spirit in man is not conscious of itself. It cannot know apart from the brain. It is spirit essence. It is a human

spirit. Man, with this spirit, knows only physical things. It requires the addition of another Spirit—God's Holy Spirit—to open the human mind to comprehension of spiritual things (I Cor. 2:9-11).

The mind of the flesh—with which you were born—is death—it produces death through sin; but the mind of the Spirit is life and peace (see Romans 8:6).

Few grasp how great and all-powerful God is—and how great His kindness is in making it possible for us to have His mind!

Now that we understand that the Holy Spirit imparts eternal life and spiritual characteristics of God, we can better understand the nature and attributes of the Spirit.

#### **What It Means to Be Born of God**

Only when one is born of God at the resurrection does a person become perfect (I John 3:9). Christ is the only human being thus far born of God. He is perfect. If He, so to speak, lives His life in us by means of the Holy Spirit (that is the same as saying we are to live by every word of God, for Christ is the Word personified—Christ is the Bible in action), we have at hand the power of spiritual self-control as we yield to His Spirit. We have the capacity to grow toward a perfect character like God!

Of course! If we are God's children, we are to grow up to become like Him. That is true of all offspring in nature—they inherit the characteristics of their parents. It is equally true of Spirit as it is of matter.

Notice: "For the invisible things of him from the creation of the world are clearly seen, being understood by the things that are made, even his eternal power and Godhead" (Rom. 1:20). The physical creation reveals the divine attribute of God to reproduce us in His image. Nature reproduces—therefore it reveals that God does. And if He is our Father, if we are begotten of His seed, the Holy Spirit, we shall become like Him. That is what the world does not know!

#### **The Family of God**

Since there is a heavenly Father, and we are His begotten children, then

God must be a family! And the Church of God must be composed of the begotten family of God. It is the Holy Spirit that unites the Church.

Notice the family relationship in Galatians 4:6: "God hath sent forth the Spirit of his Son into your hearts, crying, Abba," meaning "Father." It is the same Spirit by which we are placed or immersed into the Church. "For by one Spirit are we all baptized into one body"—the Church (I Cor. 12:13).

In Hebrews 12:9, the Almighty is called "the Father of spirits." We are ultimately, at the resurrection, to be composed of spirit—members of the divine family (John 3:6).



*There is a reason why people are spiritually empty, dissatisfied. People have been seeking the wrong source of power! The churches are looking to material substitutes, to psychological panaceas.*



In the resurrection we will be changed to spiritual bodies (I Cor. 15:44) imbued with the power of God.

Notice how often in Scripture we are declared to be heirs of the divine nature—of immortal, incorruptible, perfect, all-powerful spirit possessing the very mind of God. We are to be full "partakers of the divine nature" (II Pet. 1:4). But we may also receive a part of that power in this life—now! The apostolic Church had that power—so can we!

#### **We Are Like an Egg**

Whenever we become members of God's begotten family, we receive a portion—a seed or germ—of the Father's Holy Spirit. "On the Gentiles also was poured out the gift of the

Holy Spirit" (Acts 10:45). This gift is called a seed. It is poured out from the Father in heaven and, like physical life-giving germs or sperms, unites with the human spirit in each of our minds upon conversion. Each human mind is like the nucleus of an egg with which the Holy Spirit or seed unites.

Just as the egg in a mother's womb must be nourished with life-giving food through the placenta, so we must be nourished by the Word of God.

"The words that I speak unto you," said Jesus, "they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63). Those words are the Bible. That is why man must live by every word of God.

Just as the physical life-giving nutrients circulate in the mother's uterus, so must the life of God circulate through our minds. We drink in the life-giving words of God from the Bible through reading and studying and meditating. Then, just as the physical poisons are carried through the umbilicus by the bloodstream away from a fetus in the womb, so must we allow our sins to pass from us by asking God for forgiveness through prayer, the shed blood of Christ figuratively bearing our sins away. But this is not all!

Not only must the words of God flow into our minds through Bible study, but spirit must flow into our minds.

Notice that each converted Christian receives a seed—composed of spirit, not matter—which unites with the human spirit in each repentant human mind. That is what begets us. But that spiritual germ must spiritually grow like the fetus in a mother's womb. Let "Christ be formed in you," said Paul in Galatians 4:19. And we are to "grow up into him in all things"—in spiritual mindedness (Eph 4:15).

How is that seed, now united with our minds, going to grow?

By the addition of more Spirit—by the "supply of the Spirit of Jesus Christ" (Phil. 1:19).

Added to the germ which proceeds from the Father there must be a continual supply of Spirit sent from Jesus Christ so that our minds grow spiritually—till our minds become

more and more spiritual—till we grow to mature spiritual minds. Spiritual growth comes through prayer—earnest, heartrending prayer! Most people don't grow spiritually because they do not pray in earnest!

Just as a fetus in a mother's womb must have physical substance added to the original ovum (egg) and sperm if that new physical life is to develop, so we must be filled with spiritual nourishment—"filled with the Spirit"—so that our minds grow spiritually.

The Holy Spirit from Christ and the Father may be compared to a current of electricity flowing through a light bulb. We are that bulb. But there could be no light without a filament inside the bulb. That filament is comparable to the spiritual seed from the Father. As we receive more of God's Spirit, we emit more power—more light! Our light literally fills the room!

The expression "filled with the Spirit" (Eph. 5:18) does not mean to be filled with emotional manifestations (which come from the flesh and not from Spirit). It means that we are imbued with Spirit from heaven administered through Jesus Christ in His office as High Priest.

Notice how Paul explains this in Romans 8:9: "But ye are not in the flesh"—we are not motivated by fleshly passions—"but in the Spirit"—motivated and guided by Spirit—"if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you." That is the Holy Spirit in the form of a seed from the Father transmitting His characteristics. But notice what Paul adds: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his"—that is, the Holy Spirit from the Father and Jesus Christ, filling our minds so that we can grow spiritually. This begettal and growth through the Holy Spirit most people have never understood.

#### **Hidden in Old Testament Times**

In the Old Testament, men did not pray to the Father. But we pray to the Father. No one addressed God as Father in Old Testament times. Christ came to declare who the Father is—to declare that we may be begotten of Him: "God no one hath

ever seen; an only begotten"—Christ—"himself God, who is [ascended] unto the bosom of the Father, he hath declared him" (John 1:18, Panin translation).

Then what about the prophets and patriarchs of old? Did they not have the same power as we can have today? Did they not have the same power as the apostles?

How did they have access to the Spirit of God? Through the One who was to become Christ (I Pet. 1:11). Christ, one of the members of the God Kingdom, was the One who administered the Spirit to Moses, to Abel and to all the prophets of old. He sent the Holy Spirit of the Father to be in them, to give them faith and power. "And these all, having obtained a good report through faith, received not the promise: God having provided some better thing for us, that they without us should not be made perfect" (Heb. 11:39-40).

It was not fully revealed to the patriarchs and prophets how one is begotten and born into the Kingdom of God. They knew only that through the Eternal, who would come to give His life a ransom for many, they would inherit eternal life. They knew that the Spirit of God was not then made available to the people in general. They knew there would be a "new and living way" (Heb. 10:20) whereby in the millennium all would have direct access to the Father through Christ—that the called might partake of the Spirit of God—"the earnest of our inheritance" (Eph. 1:14).

Today we can have God's life and power as a very part of our being, enabling us to overcome and master our human nature!

#### **The Nature of Spirit**

Spiritual qualities and entities seem so unreal to most people. And no wonder. Spiritual things are invisible, not discerned by the senses until revealed in writing in the Bible!

When we speak of the Holy Spirit, many cannot grasp its nature. Yet the Bible makes clear the nature of spirit.

Notice, "God is a Spirit" (John 4:24). The God family is composed of spirit. The Father and the Son, who

are composed of spirit, have definite shape. From one end of the Bible to the other we are told about the shape and the parts of each member in the God family. The Father and the Son each have a head, hair, eyes, nose, mouth, arms, fingers, a torso, legs, feet, plus inward parts. Man is in the image of God. Man is matter, but God is spirit.

The Holy Spirit, like matter, exists in various states. It not only composes the members of the God family, it also flows through our minds and empowers us to do good works.

#### **Also a Creative Spirit**

Even though the Father and the Son are in definite locations with respect to each other, spirit proceeds from them and fills the entire universe, much like air fills everything on earth! Note David's words that God's Spirit permeates everything (Ps. 139:7-11). Spirit is God's life. Air contains the physical life-giving oxygen of man. Notice how similar the comparison is.

The divine Spirit that fills the entire universe is the channel by which the Father and the Son create. The Spirit of God transformed the creative energy of Father and Son into the physical world we see around us. Man has no such attribute or power born into him. But man may form tools which transform man's expended physical energy into visible objects, into light, heat, and numerous other physical manifestations.

Man is put here on earth to learn to develop tools for limited creative work—to train himself for the eternal goal—becoming part of the God family, which means sharing control of the creative Spirit of God. (Write for our free booklets *Why Were You Born?*; *What Will You Be Doing in the Next Life?*; and *What Do You Mean—Kingdom of God?*)

God is a family. The Father in heaven wants you to become a member of His divine family. You can be His son if you surrender your whole life to Him; believe all that is in the Bible; believe Christ is your Savior and obey Him; and become filled with the power of the Spirit of God. This knowledge has now reached you. What are you going to do about it? □

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# In the IMAGE of God

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*Does God look like a man or a woman? Is God a male chauvinist? Did He make women second-class human beings? Whose idea was sex anyway? This article addresses these questions directly.*

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by Jon Hill

**A**ccording to the theology of many, sex in the Garden is equated with the "fall of man"! Sin in Eden is the indictment of our protoparents for understanding carnal knowledge. Following this theology, woman becomes the bane of man, the cause of his downfall, the thorn in his side. This theory goes on to indicate that Adam was created first with Eve sort of thrown in as an afterthought!

With theology like that, no wonder we have the traditional "battle of the sexes"!

But is that what the Bible really says and teaches?

On the other hand, some of the fem-libists of today would have us believe that God is the Mother of us all. One of the leaders of the movement, when asked how her relationship with God was, quipped: "*She and I have a very fine relationship!*"

## **The Likeness of God**

The seeking of equality doesn't really require the put-down of one to raise up the other, but rather a balanced understanding of the way things real-

ly are. Let's cheat a little, read the Book, and find out the plain truth about women (and men)—in God's eyes.

"In the image of God . . . male and female created he them." So says the record of the book of Genesis (1:27). Therefore "in the image of God" does not demand one sex or the other. Each is equally "in the image of God." To be male doesn't make one more in the likeness of God than to be female—each equally reflects God.

Let's reason a little. If male and female are equally "in the image of God," then what is that image? It must be what both male and female share in common. Two arms, two legs, a human body shape, a head with two eyes, two ears, a nose, a mouth—and, most important of all, *a mind!*

Not just a brain—A MIND!

Ten toes and an equal number of fingers just about round out the complement. Color of skin is not a factor, any more than color of eyes, hair or the bottoms of the feet. A different arrangement of hair, length, texture or degree of curl alters not one whit the basic "image."

But what about those embarrassing differences? What about sex? Male reproductive organs are out-

rageously different from female. Women develop, to different degrees, mammary glands on the chest that remain dormant (but obviously there) on the man. Hair grows on most men's faces, while on most women's it does not. Fat, muscle and bone are arranged in slightly differing patterns in the male and female. But do any of these differences make one "in the image of God" and the other not? No!

The generally easily recognizable differences between the sexes are physically caused by minute chemical differences. Modern science has helped us understand how "fearfully and wonderfully made" we are, as David noted in awe in Psalm 139:14. There is a great deal of female in every male, and vice versa. Subtle changes in hormone makeup produce overt changes in outward appearance and striking differences in the internal workings of the body. Tiny differences in chemical formulas, preprogrammed at conception when each individual destined to be "in the image of God" begins its existence as a single cell, demand time-released alterations in the bodily construction that ultimately produce the delightful differences that make us man or woman.

Neither chemical change makes us

more or less "in the image of God"; neither change makes for superior or inferior.

All changes only accent the uniqueness of God's image: *man-kind!* All changes only make possible the reproduction of God's image in infinite variety for a possibility of unending generations. All changes provide for absolute compatibility, demand interdependence, produce a strong desire *for* the opposite sex.

#### Along Came Eve

God says the difference of sex is "very good." "And God saw *every thing* that he had made, and, behold, *it was very good!*" (Gen. 1:31.) In the detailed record of what God made on that sixth day of creation, preserved for us in Genesis 2, God explains to Adam: "It is *not* good that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet for him." "Meet" is an old English word meaning "suitable, fit, proper." The whole flavor of the word "meet" is to fit, join, combine, agree, be in union, be together. Only antagonism of spirit and mind cause a "meeting" to have the spark of hostility.

God created, out of the ground before Adam, the land animals and the birds—each of which was obviously *not* "meet" for Adam, and it was still "not good," because Adam was still "alone." This exercise also made it clear for all time that one made in the image of God should not cohabit with one *not* made in the image of God.

Then came Eve!

God didn't permit Adam to see Eve being created. He put Adam into a deep sleep, made him unconscious, while He performed a most loving and thoughtful pre-designed act of creation. Beginning with a part of Adam himself—flesh, bone and blood—God "built" the first woman. I'm sure you've heard the expression "well-built woman." Well, believe it or not, that is the precise term the Bible uses.

#### Built for a Purpose

When Adam was created, God began with a clump of clay, dirt, earth. And the word in Hebrew used for the verb "formed" is the common word for the

shaping and molding of pottery. But the Hebrew verb used in reference to God's creation of Eve is different. Unfortunately, the translators of the King James Version ignored the difference and used the commonplace and unspecific, as well as unimaginative, word "made" to refer to the Lord God's act of finishing half of His creation of mankind "in his image."

God inspired the word "built"—or "builded" as the margin of your Bible may indicate. The same word is used to refer to the building of houses, temples, cities. Surely, from the hand of God Himself, Eve must have been the best—"built" woman! But more important than the interest or humor involved in this word "built" is the overall meaning.

You do not "build" by mistake. You conceive, plan, blueprint, calculate and finally produce the finished product of something you build. Things are built for a purpose. Reason and forethought are integral and necessary elements of building. Building doesn't just happen. Woman was the deliberately designed climax of creation, the purposeful finishing touch, the last half, fifty percent of the creation of the "image of God."

When Adam was revived and presented with this crowning achievement of God's creation, he was in no way disappointed. "Now this is just right; she is *just like me!*" Adam happily declared. Who knows—maybe he said, "Wow!" At any rate, what we are told he *did* say is most important.

#### One Creation

Earlier called on to name other creations of God, Adam had an immediate name for what Eve obviously was. Not her given name, Eve, but what KIND of creature she was. Hebrew is simpler than English, and more plainly explains exactly what a woman is: *ish* is Hebrew for *man*. Adam said, "Now here is bone exactly like my bone, and flesh exactly like my flesh; because she was built from what was taken from me, I will call her *isha*: a female man!" (Gen. 2:23, paraphrased.)

Adam merely added a single letter to the word which stood for himself to define the quality of difference: sex. And God confirmed Adam's understanding that they were both *exactly alike* despite the obvious outward differences: "In the day that God created man, in the likeness of God made he him; *male and female created he them*; and blessed them, and called THEIR name ADAM, in the day when they were created" (Gen. 5:1-2). To both God and Adam, it was *one* creation "in the image of God."

*Ish. Isha. Male. Female. Both Adam. Both mankind. Both "in the image of God!" "And God saw every thing that he had made, and, behold, it was very good!" Still no evil in Eden. Nothing bad yet allowed—and one more good thing happened before any record of evil is entered. "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and were not ashamed" (Gen. 2:25).*

Once the physical creation was complete, what more joyous occasion could there be than a wedding? The very first social ceremony of newly created *mankind* was the one which united them as *one* flesh. No inequality even considered. No superiority, inferiority alluded to. No hint of second-class creation. And above all, *no sin*.

God "blessed" this union of *Ish* and *Isha*, this *one* creation He called Adam. God discreetly withdrew after the ceremony of wedding (which means joining together) and not only allowed, but encouraged, the consummation of that marriage with a direct command. Before God said that everything He had created was very good, we are told His instruction to that first pair of newlyweds: "Be fruitful, and multiply, and replenish the earth!"

Now, you know, and I know, and Adam knew, and Eve knew, *and God knew* that there is no way you can "multiply" and "be fruitful" without engaging in sexual intercourse. This, God made possible by the very design of His creation. This, God commanded to be performed. This, God blessed—AND THIS WAS "VERY GOOD!" And in addition to that, God knew ahead of time, Adam and Eve



quickly found out, and you and I now know, that obedience to this command of God is a great enjoyment!

### Subtle Serpent on the Scene

So, the perfect pair, Adam and Eve, were off to a perfect start in wedded bliss, naked, unashamed, blessed by their Creator—all was well. . . .

Until Satan, the Snake, showed up. In about as much time as it takes to tell, he convinced our first parents to partake of the only tree in the Garden that God had commanded them not to touch. That meal changed their attitudes, their outlook, their feelings about the blessings God had showered on them. The blessing and beauty of sex the way God intended—husband and wife, naked and unashamed, bound to each other as one flesh—soured into a feeling of guilt. They hid themselves from God, ashamed. Satan had convinced them that good was evil and evil good, turned their world upside down, made a mockery of what God intended for them.

Deceit and lying entered the world. Death followed. Our parents had dishonored their only parent, God, stolen the one thing not belonging to them, lusted, believed Satan's lies, bought human nature wholesale from the manufacturer! (See Ezekiel 28:15 and John 8:44.) The curses reaped caused the inequities between the sexes so prominent since. Life became a burden and a struggle. The beauty and equality of the Garden disappeared. Strife, guilt, shame and pain took over—Satan's way held sway.

But it doesn't have to be that way for you and me. James gives the simple formula by which to return to the innocence and open freedom for an unlimited future first offered in Eden. The gift of life is still available; no need to slave for the wages of sin: death. "Resist the devil, and he will flee from you. Draw nigh to God, and he will draw nigh to you" (James 4:7-8).

Satan hates sex. He besmirches it with evil of every sort. He makes it seem sinful in every way, perverts it, glorifies its denegration. From one extreme to the other the devil broadcasts his hate: The best state of human beings is celibacy (God said, "It

is *not* good that the man should be alone"); adultery and lusting after your neighbor's wife is encouraged by every artifice (God said, "Husbands, love your wives" and "Thou shalt not commit adultery"); sodomy and bestiality are nurtured as natural (God said, "Thou shalt not lie with mankind, as with womankind: it is abomination. Neither shalt thou lie with any beast to defile thyself therewith"). Satan says, "Ye shall not surely die" (Gen. 3:4) if you taste of these fruits of rebellion against the Creator God. God says in Genesis 2:17: "Thou shalt surely die."

Whom do *you* believe? Adam and Eve believed Satan—and so has each generation since. Except for individuals who answered the call of God and came to understand His gift of truth and freedom, who entered into life from death, who shed their guilt in genuine repentance and a change of heart and spirit.

Satan the devil has deceived the whole world (Rev. 12:9). Deceived it in every aspect: religious, moral, governmental, even physically. Concepts and ideas practiced for the centuries since Eden, which put women into the typical stereotypes which so many of them abhor today, are the result of this deception, along with so much else that is wrong with the world. It was not God's intent that such inequality should exist, nor does He consider woman one whit inferior to man.

### Simple Reasoning

There are differences, to be sure. Thank God that there are differences! But it is an all-too-common case of bad judgment to automatically decide that if something is different from something else it must be either superior or inferior. Sadly, that is just the human practice (inspired and goaded by that old Serpent) in so many areas. Race, nationality and sex are prime misjudgments. The races (or, more accurately, the colors) mankind is by variety divided into are carefully classified (depending on the race or color) as to inferiority or superiority. The same with nationalities. In each of the former categories there is room for many strata. With sex there are only two (we will not, at this time, discuss

the opinion of some that there are three). Hence, one must be inferior, and the other superior.

Simple—AND WRONG—reasoning.

Each living human being is different from every other. Differences do not make for an inferior or superior individual; they only make for a *different* individual. Women can have babies; men can't. That's a difference. Men generally have a stronger musculature than women—that's a difference. Neither attribute changes either from being a human being made in the image of God: *That's equality!* If differences make for strengths, they should be amplified; if they make for weaknesses, they should be controlled. Trying to prove equality by playing the other fellow's game is not wise or logical, does not make sense—and proves nothing.

It is not necessary for women to become better (or as good as) men truck drivers, ditch diggers and warriors for them to prove their equality. It is not necessary (nor possible) for men to bear children and give suck to them to prove equality with women.

### Whence Equality?

Many will argue with one of the main precepts this nation of the United States is founded upon: "All men are born equal." They point out the differences of wealth, social status, physical or mental strengths, and they argue inequality. This is the old apples-and-oranges trick: disallowed.

Where, then, does the equality lie?

In human potential.

Every member of the human race, male and female alike, was created by God to become His son or daughter—a member of His own family. "Ye shall be my sons and daughters," says God (II Cor. 6:18). We are all "heirs together of the grace of life" (I Pet. 3:7).

Each of us has a mind, the spirit in man(kind), to which God joins His own Holy Spirit and enables us all to call Him Father (Rom. 8:15-16). Each of us can partake of His divine nature (II Pet. 1:4). Each life is judged by the same God, granted the same forgiveness by the same God, has the same blood of the same Christ applied, is welcomed into the

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# CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

lege, besides other sins. It is a difficult and heartbreaking thing for a father to have to do. Eli honored his sinning sons, holding priestly office, above God. God's apostle of our day, crushing and heartbreaking though it was, was given the courage by the living Christ to do the very difficult task of removing his son.

Samuel had been trained as a prophet from a child under Eli. He was Israel's next leader. But the people rejected God as King over them and demanded a human king "that also we may be like all the nations" of Satan's world (I Samuel 8:4-7, 20).

God gave them Saul, tallest man in Israel. But in due time Saul disobeyed God and sinned. God sent Samuel to the house of Jesse where God had chosen Jesse's youngest son David to be the next king over Israel.

Samuel's sons had not continued in Samuel's ways. And now King David had sons who conspired to take their father's throne. First, Absalom, having been exiled for committing murder, on being received back by kind-hearted David, conspired to steal his father's throne. Later another son, Adonijah, conspired to seize it and overthrow his father.

But God had chosen David's son Solomon to succeed to the throne over Israel. After Solomon's death his son Rehoboam became king.

Solomon had reigned in splendor. Not only had he built the world's finest edifice, the Temple (as God had willed and approved), but he spent lavishly on great public works, buildings and other projects. He lived in gorgeous splendor, exceeding every king before him. For this he grievously overtaxed the people. He plunged, in old age, into idolatry and turned to women.

After Solomon's death the people sent a delegation to King Rehoboam. "Reduce the excessive taxes," the people's delegation said, "and we will serve you" (I Kings 12:4).

Rehoboam consulted the older, wiser men, who advised him to heed the complaint of the people. Then he sought advice from the younger men,

whose advice he followed, saying to the people, "... My father hath chastised you with whips, but I will chastise you with scorpions" (I Kings 12:11, 14).

Again, a younger son departed from the wisdom of older men and willfully sought to lead God's people on his own rebellious way.

But the nation thereupon rejected King Rehoboam and made Jeroboam king. However, the tribe of Judah, with Benjamin, seceded in order to maintain David's dynasty and formed the *new* kingdom of JUDAH.

Jeroboam established the capital over the kingdom of Israel at Samaria, north of Jerusalem. And so the Israelitish nation was now divided into TWO NATIONS—the kingdom of Israel with its capital at Samaria and the kingdom of Judah with Jerusalem its capital. Often, in biblical history, they were called, respectively, the "house of Israel" and the "house of Judah."

Jeroboam immediately led Israel into idolatry. After a succession of 19 kings and seven dynasties of continuous idolatry and other sins, God drove the house of Israel into captivity. King Shalmaneser of Assyria conquered them in a siege from 721 to 718 B.C., removing them from their land, carrying them as slaves to Assyria on the southern shores of the Caspian Sea.

Shalmaneser thereupon "brought men from Babylon"—and other cities following the Babylonian mystery religion—"and placed them in the cities of Samaria instead of the children of Israel: and they possessed Samaria, and dwelt in the cities thereof" (II Kings 17:23-24).

## Kingdom of Israel Not Jews!

So here is another TRUTH unknown in the teachings of most churches called Christian: Israel was divided into two nations—and the people of the kingdom of Israel were NOT Jews, nor are they ever called Jews in the Bible!

The first place where the word "Jew" or "Jews" occurs in the Bible is in II Kings 16:5-6, where Israel and ally Syria were at war against the Jews!

But those of the house of Israel did

not remain more than a generation or so in Assyria. They migrated northwest. They became known as "the LOST Ten Tribes." And indeed they were doubly lost—lost in identity until they themselves, after a generation or more, did not know who they were—and also lost spiritually from God. The knowledge of this, from the Bible, is ANOTHER PROOF of the one original true Church today!

This mystery is cleared up in a substantial booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*—sent free upon request. It is one of the most amazing, exciting, eye-opening accounts ever written. Shocking—but TRUE! Meanwhile, the house or kingdom of JUDAH (the Jews) continued to an extent in God's ways, but within a hundred years were sinning more flagrantly than Israel had.

## Judah Driven Out

By about 604 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar had become king over the world's FIRST EMPIRE—the Chaldean Empire, often called Babylon. From 604 to 585 B.C. Nebuchadnezzar's armies captured the kingdom of Judah and moved the Jews into Babylonian territory as slaves.

Seventy years later, the Persian Empire had succeeded the Chaldean. God caused King Cyrus, by "stirring up the spirit of Cyrus" (Ezra 1:1)—his "human spirit"—to issue a decree sending a contingent of Jews back to Jerusalem to build the second temple. Zerubbabel was the governor of the contingent and builder of the temple to which Christ came at His first appearing on earth as the human Jesus. Also, prophetically, this Zerubbabel was the type of one to come in the LAST DAYS of this world whom Christ would use in building the temple to which the glorified all-powerful Christ shall come at His second appearing. Apparently none but God's Church understands the truth of the building of this temple.

Some of Judah remained in and near Jerusalem—others were scattered into Russia, Poland, Yemen. Most of the Israelis in today's Israel have migrated into the original "promised land" from these countries. □

(To Be Continued)

# BIBLE PROPHECY: RELEVANT TODAY?

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## Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

challenging, intellectual curiosity seized her, and she decided to make the first "scientific experiment."

The scientific *method* is observation, experimentation, and reason, but rejection of revelation. She disbelieved, disobeyed, seized the forbidden fruit, and induced her husband to join the experiment. They took to themselves production of the knowledge of what is good and what is evil.

Result of that experiment: They died! And their posterity have been disbelieving, disobeying, relying on themselves for the production of knowledge, *and dying*, ever since!

I noticed how Jesus came with a message of factual truth from God. But though some "believed on Him," they didn't believe what He said! I read in the book of John: "As he spake these words, many believed on him. Then said Jesus to those Jews which believed on him, If ye continue in my word [His revealed knowledge], then are ye my disciples indeed; and ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free" (John 8:30-31).

They answered him controversially.

Jesus said, "Ye seek to kill me, because my word hath no place in you. . . . If ye were Abraham's children, ye would do the works of Abraham. But now ye seek to kill me, a man that hath told you the truth, which I have heard of God: this did not Abraham. . . . And because I tell you the truth, ye believe me not" (John 8:37, 45).

Actually, biblical revelation shows that the God whose teaching was disbelieved by Adam and Eve was the very same Personage who later became Jesus Christ. The message Jesus brought was the identical teaching He had imparted to the first humans. But after three and a half years of Christ's teaching, there were only 120 disciples (Acts 1:15).

These grew and multiplied for a while. But then the great persecution set in (Acts 8:1). And soon ensued the "lost century" in the history of the Church. When the curtain lifts, about a century later, we behold a

church called "Christian," teaching doctrines which are mostly the very antithesis of Christ's teaching—and His gospel, the Kingdom of God, no longer being proclaimed.

In this world have sprouted up many religions. But the "missing dimension" in knowledge has appeared in none. That original and basic essential knowledge is still MISSING.

Science has not discovered it. Reli-

“

*In that world's  
best-seller, the book  
which, it seemed, as  
Bruce Barton said,  
"nobody knows," I found  
astonishing facts.*

”

gions have overlooked it. Education has not taught it.

And what is that missing basic knowledge? It is the knowledge of WHAT man is, WHY man is, WHERE man is going, and WHAT the WAY is. It is knowledge of the CAUSE of all human ills and evils.

It is knowledge of the WAY that would CAUSE world peace—that would produce universal prosperity, happiness, abundant well-being. It did not take any extraordinary intellect to discover it in the biblical revelation. It required only a willingness to BELIEVE.

I decided, back in 1926, that I should give biblical revelation as much credence as the Darwinian theory and the writings of his promoters Haeckel and Huxley. I found in the Bible the facts that explained WHY man is as he is—with intellect so great he can fly to the moon and back, yet utterly unable to solve his own problems or to live at peace with himself and his neighbors here on earth. I found revealed the CAUSES of all our problems. And I found the WAY that will cause all GOOD.

It all *made sense!* So I decided in early 1927 that I would make a "scientific experiment." I would put

this knowledge into practice. I would make it my WAY OF LIFE.

Fifty-two years of living that way myself have *proved* that it does result in PEACE, HAPPINESS, beauty of physical environment and BEAUTY in human character.

Yes, harassed and troubled heads of state do show interest in what is CAUSING all their troubles. Many of their top aides show interest. And these personal meetings lead to public appearances before large audiences, who come to hear what has not been proclaimed for 19 centuries—what is outside the fields of science or traditional religion.

I'm aware that the world doesn't believe it. But, in our time, the world is going to be *compelled* to enjoy PEACE, universal prosperity, happiness, and abundant well-being! Humanity won't bring it about. It will be done *to* and for humanity! □

## IMAGE OF GOD

(Continued from page 39)

same family. Each is given the same law of love to govern life, the same spiritual rules and regulations. Lust, envy, malice and hate do not recognize any difference of sex. Love, patience, mercy and joy do not recognize any difference of sex. Character is a quality of Spirit equally available to either sex. Competition, strife and openness to Satan's deception know no sexual bounds. Life, love and the peace of God are equally available to *everyone*.

Equality is nothing you have to prove: You were created that way. It is God's will to grant eternal equality in His Kingdom to men and women alike—it makes no difference to God whether you are male or female; why should it make a difference to you?

But there are differences. How can you make the best of unique qualities granted by a just God for the purpose of gaining equality with God? What are the biblical examples of the women of God? And how can you apply them to make you a better human being, closer to the image God intended? There are many examples in the Bible, and some surprising detail plainly given. These will be discussed in next month's issue of *The Plain Truth*. □

# The Two Germanys

(Continued from page 6)

have been reinforced by German thoroughness."

The Communist dissenters leveled telling salvos against the "ruling class" in the supposed classless society, stating that "no ruling class in Germany has ever so mooched from or secured itself against the people than the two dozen families that use our country as some sort of self-service store. None has ever built itself such opulent golden ghettos in the woods, guarded like fortresses. No caste has ever enriched itself so shamelessly with special stores, private imports from the West, subsidies on top of subsidies."

The dissenters, while still professing allegiance to Marxist-Leninism, nevertheless questioned the very foundation of the East German state: "Why is the disparity between the productive capacity of the GDR and West Germany growing ever wider," they asked, "even though a decisive element in Lenin's thesis is the superiority of Communism over capitalism? Why is there no letup of the petitions to emigrate from the GDR or the risking of lives in attempts to escape from the Republic? Why do 94 percent of all GDR citizens seek daily flight from the Republic each evening by watching West German TV? Because the ideological psychoterror of the State is unbearable. . . . Never before in the GDR has there been such a gap between expectations and reality."

Harking back to a demand by Karl Marx during the Revolution of 1848 ("all of Germany is proclaimed as a unified indivisible republic"), the underground manifesto called for the restoration of basic freedoms and the reunification of Germany after the East withdraws from the Warsaw Pact and the West from NATO.

The East German government naturally denounced the authenticity of the manifesto, but the impact of its strident demands and the obvious depth of dissatisfaction it reflected in the GDR was heard loud and clear in the West.

"These problems are no cause for

rejoicing," editorialized the *London Times* of May 6, 1978. "Most Europeans feel happier with two German states and hope only that they can live together in peace. But unless this arrangement is fully accepted by the peoples as well as the governments of both German states it will remain a running sore across the heart of Europe, demanding the continuing presence of large numbers of foreign troops on both sides. And then at some point people will start wondering whether a different arrangement might not be preferable."

## Germany's Division Artificial

The growing disparity between the two Germanys is causing some people to question long-held assumptions concerning the "German problem."

The division of the German nation into two separate states—the one allied with the U.S.-led West and the other incorporated into the Soviet-led Eastern Bloc—has come to be taken for granted by most of the world. Nevertheless, this division is an artificial and unnatural one and, by its very nature, inherently unstable.

The division is kept in force only by two factors: 1) the most forbidding physical barrier between humans since the Great Wall of China: a long barbed-wire fence paralleled by a mined "death strip" which is policed by fierce Alaskan dogs and thousands of guards in watchtowers, and which is fitted with floodlights and hidden trip-wires that set off automatic machine guns. Another wall surrounds free West Berlin, isolated inside East Germany. And 2) the stationing of massive numbers of foreign troops on the soil of both states.

Most of America's 300,000-strong NATO land force is positioned in West Germany, having under its control thousands of tactical nuclear weapons. Backing up this commitment is the very sizable military contribution from West Germany itself—at 489,000, by far the largest conventional force among Europe's NATO partners.

Across the Iron Curtain, which slices Germany in half, 17 million East Germans are kept in line largely by the presence of 22 divisions of

Soviet troops. A huge East German "People's Army" of about 400,000 troops, including reserves, plus an even larger militia, secures Moscow's stake in Germany's future.

These foreign sentries, perpetuating Germany's partition, have been around so long that it is forgotten that the original intent after World War II was to keep Germany united—but neutralized and demilitarized—under the joint control of the four victorious powers (Russia, France, Britain and the United States).

Even after the country was split by the cold war, the Soviets continued until about 1955 to talk about some sort of reunification within the framework of an East-West European security system. Nothing came of this proposal, and the rift between the two Germanys widened.

It was not until 1972 that Bonn agreed to formally recognize the East German regime. Even then the main hope on the part of West Germans was to trade political recognition for a more normal relationship in their desire to open up the frozen zone to greater human contact.

## Reunification Talk Surfacing

The reunification of Germany is not just around the corner, but the certainty of its occurrence is drawing closer all the time.

Dramatic shifts on the world scene—especially the opening to the West of Communist China, and the paranoia this trend produces in Moscow—will have a great bearing on the German situation. Note this report from the "International Outlook" section of the January 8, 1979 issue of *Business Week*: "Is Moscow flirting with the idea of allowing more normal relations between the two Germanys in exchange for a loosening of Bonn's ties with the Western alliance? In short, are the Soviets about to play their German card? The standard diplomatic answer, from Bonn to Washington, is that both the Russians and West Germans are locked into positions held for 30 years—the Russians fear a reunited Germany and the West Germans depend for protection on the U.S. nuclear shield.

"Yet shifting alliances are the order of the day. The current tacit entente of the U.S., Japan, and China against the Soviet Union would have been unthinkable even three years ago. So it is not unthinkable that the cornerstone of post-World War II Europe, the division of Germany into two states, one allied with the U.S., the other with the Soviet Union, could be eroding—and faster than generally recognized. . . .

"There seems no doubt that the turn of the political tables on their far eastern borders will force the Russians to look for some counterweight in Europe. And the heart and soul of the European system is West Germany."

A month later, in the February 5, 1979 issue, another *Business Week* dispatch put it this way: "Bonn alone cannot rescue the East German economy, and Moscow simply cannot afford to let it fall apart. . . . To help relieve the East Germans . . . the Kremlin might allow the notion of German reunification to surface again. That could get Bonn to come across with a lot more, possibly in new credit, and at the same time provide the Soviets with a European counterpoint to U.S.-China harmony."

#### **Russ Ambassador**

To underscore the high importance that it attaches to German affairs, Moscow, a few months back, appointed Vladimir Semyonov to be its ambassador to West Germany.

Mr. Semyonov is a deputy foreign minister, a candidate member of the Central Committee, and one of Moscow's foremost experts on German affairs. He first served in Germany in 1940. He played a role in the Molotov-von Ribbentrop conference that led to the 1939 nonaggression treaty. After the war he was a known advocate of a neutral, united Germany.

Commenting on Semyonov's appointment and related matters, the *London Times* of October 31, 1978 editorialized that the Soviets "see the European Community growing in size and wealth and West Germany becoming the dominant economic and military power within.

"There is, however, a new factor

giving added urgency and importance to Soviet efforts, and that is the change in China. On top of this they now observe China endorsing the reunification of Germany, which sets a whole new puzzle for the Kremlin.

"Interestingly, the Soviet response has been to scatter tiny hints that it, too, has a certain understanding for German aspirations. Some West Germans have even detected echoes of old Soviet proposals (notably Stalin's note of 1952) for a reunified neutral Germany. The Soviet leaders appear to have decided that they cannot allow China to play the reunification card alone. Could there be anything behind these hints other than a desire to counter China, woo Germany, and possibly drive a few wedges of suspicion into the Western alliance?"

"It is possible that one day there will be a Soviet leadership which comes to regard eastern Europe as more of a liability than an asset (which objectively it already is) but the prospect is still too distant to have any influence on contemporary policy. Therefore any Soviet hints in this direction must be purely tactical.

"The new situation is, however, interesting as a reminder of how little can be taken for granted as permanent, how easily questioned are some of the basic assumptions on which the present arrangements in Europe rest."

#### **Stage Being Set**

Even shortly after Germany's defeat in World War II, the editors of *The Plain Truth* told readers that Germany would rise once again to unprecedented heights, and that the unnatural division of the German people would very likely be healed, producing a unified nation of enormous power and prestige.

Germany, *Plain Truth* readers were told, would not embark again upon any careless adventure of its own, but would be the dominant power in a ten-nation union in Europe (see Revelation 17:10; Daniel 2:42). It already is the leader of the nine-nation European Community. How much more influence would the Germans wield once they are united with

their industrious but frustrated countrymen to the east?"

The great image of Daniel 2 not only has "ten toes," but of course stands upon two feet. Could it be that the coming ten-nation union will consist of five nations or groups of nations from Western Europe (possibly considering the Benelux countries as one entity) plus five nations from Eastern Europe? The ancient Roman Empire, one must recall, was divided itself between east and west.

But how could this reunification come about? Possibly something like this: The Soviets, increasingly fearful of the emergence of China and Peking's growing ties with Japan, recognize they must fortify their position in Asia. To do so means a relaxation of tensions along the East-West line in Europe.

Moscow decides to play its "German card," offering to free East Germany—perhaps even other East Bloc states—in return for West Germany and the remainder of Western Europe going neutral, abandoning NATO ties with North America.

Needing assurance of peaceful intentions from Moscow, the Europeans get the Soviets to agree to an all-European nonaggression treaty. The Soviets also agree to a pullback of the monstrous SS-20 missiles aimed at West European cities from just inside the Soviet border. (Europeans are fearful right now that the proposed SALT II talks between the U.S. and the Soviets will allow these horrible weapons to remain targeted on them. U.S. credibility in West European eyes is falling rapidly.)

Not being foolish, the reunited Germans and their partners in the West build up their own defenses "just in case."

The odd man out in the entire matter: the United States! And what happens to the U.S.? Keep reading Mr. Armstrong's current series in *The Plain Truth* on the United States and Britain in prophecy to find the startling answers!

This scenario may seem farfetched to some. But events in Europe and the world are moving inexorably in this direction. And, as the *Business Week* article said: "Shifting alliances are the order of the day." □

# orchids & onions

L E T & T E R S

## Mr. Armstrong's Articles

Boy, am I excited! I just received the January issue of *The Plain Truth* and read the "Personal" and "This Is the Worldwide Church of God—Part II." My husband and I have been in the Church since late fall of 1972 and we are as excited about it now (possibly even more so) as we were then. God has showed me that it is indeed a great opportunity and privilege to sit with the other brethren at Sabbath services, hearing the word expounded.

Mrs. Terry Brantzeg,  
West Allis, Wisconsin

After reading through the current issue [January] of *The Plain Truth*, I am not only struck by the meatiness of the articles, but also by the very fact that Mr. Armstrong is able to write such huge quantities of material along with all his other many responsibilities. It is absolutely incredible that somehow he has the strength to do all of this. Of course, age is irrelevant when God multiplies a man's efforts.

Lon Lacey,  
Fair Oaks, California

The quality of *The Plain Truth* has deteriorated during recent months. It is becoming the personal "house organ" of Herbert W. Armstrong, whom I respect but do not always agree with.

Arthur Flack,  
Hilton, New York

## Icon Supreme?

You did an excellent job presenting an objective view of the evidence concerning the authenticity of the Shroud of Turin. I was surprised, however, that you did not embrace it as proof of Jesus' resurrection. You often have proved the unprovable with less evidence than Mr. Wilcox presents.

At the present time there is no physical evidence to prove the shroud as a hoax. To say the shroud is not authentic because Jesus didn't have long hair or that He was wrapped in the customary Jewish way is mere opinion based on your own interpretation of Scripture. It sounds like *The*

*Plain Truth* is only open to evidence that fits into its own mold of the "real Jesus."

Scott P. Wycherley,  
Greenbelt, Maryland

I would like to answer the question, as put by your author, "How was Christ's body really wrapped?" The reason for burying Jesus wrapped differently from the use of the Jewish custom was merely because Jesus Christ had been robbed of his own clothes and this method could not be applied, for the Jews used to be wrapped round in their clothes. Thus the long linen cloth served as a dress to cover the sacred, beaten, bruised, lifeless body of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was kept in a tight position with his body by the "rolls of cloth." What about the napkin which "had been on his head"? Could it not represent the long hair, as the writer claimed the image of Christ is seen with? Does the long history this shroud went through (1945 years) not make it an exceptional relic? I am more than certain that if we close our eyes and believe this mystic then God will open them for us and enlighten our minds to see some of his power and glory.

E. Mamo,  
Senglea, Malta

• **The author replies:** *Had the Shroud of Turin been held tightly pressed to the corpse of Jesus by the cloth strips as an outer wrapping and thus received an image of His body and wounds, it would also preserve clear evidence of its wrinkles and folds. So the shroud itself is proof against such a theory. As mentioned in the article, it is the Bible itself which says that Jesus was wrapped and buried, "as is the burial custom of the Jews" (John 19:40). His case was not an exception; He was wrapped and buried according to the usual custom.*

*It would be hard to imagine a "napkin" or head wrapping allowing a detailed image of the facial features while itself showing as false "long hair." This idea, too, must be rejected.*

*At this time it remains to be seen whether the shroud has a "long history." Per-*

*haps some information from carbon-14 testing will be available in the early 1980s. In the meantime, let us not "close our eyes" in order to "believe." Please see Matthew 13:15, Isaiah 6:10 and Ezekiel 12:2.*

## What's Wrong with Prosperity?

I would like to laud the author of "What's Wrong with Prosperity?" The article was written by Jeff Calkins, and it was magnificent. It struck at the roots of the question. I thought it was perfectly thorough and perfectly balanced. So hard as it may sound to some, the socialist, egalitarian doctrine is a product of Satan's wavelength, and we need to rid ourselves of that influence.

George Slivinsky,  
Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada

## The Devil's Religion

I was just reading along in Mr. David Jon Hill's article ["What Is the Devil's Religion?" in the January *Plain Truth*] when my breath was suddenly almost taken away by the truth triumphant and beautiful in that section where he quotes, "Hereby know ye the spirit of God . . ." to the end of that section. Surely, as you have written us, God is blessing us most bountifully with the marvelous spiritual food He is providing us now in your writings and that of His ministers and true servants.

Betty M. Rakasi,  
Springfield, Missouri

## Church in Her Area?

Thank you for your reminder that I may receive a free subscription to *The Plain Truth*. It is the most informative, interesting and inspiring magazine I have read. But I realize you can't continue to send this free subscription with no funds. I wish to contribute for my subscription. Keep up the fantastic work. I have been more or less looking for a church that makes sense to me. Do you have a church in this area at all?

Julie Whitehead,  
Branscomb, California

• *Yes, there is a church in your area. We are sending you the address.*

# What's the driving force behind your marriage?

What is it that makes people marry . . . or stay married? For some, like the characters illustrated here, it might be the determination of one partner that gets and keeps it together. Others might marry for love or physical attraction, but find they stay married for more mundane reasons—security (financial or emotional), social pressure, moral obligations or “for the children.” Increasingly, though, as attitudes change, many are discarding marriage for less permanent arrangements. And in all the furor, it's unlikely that many people have taken the time to discover the real heart of the issue. An important booklet that's yours for the asking can help guide you through the confusion to an understanding of the meaning and purpose of marriage. It's entitled, *Why Marriage! Soon Obsolete?* To request your free copy, just fill out and return the coupon below.



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