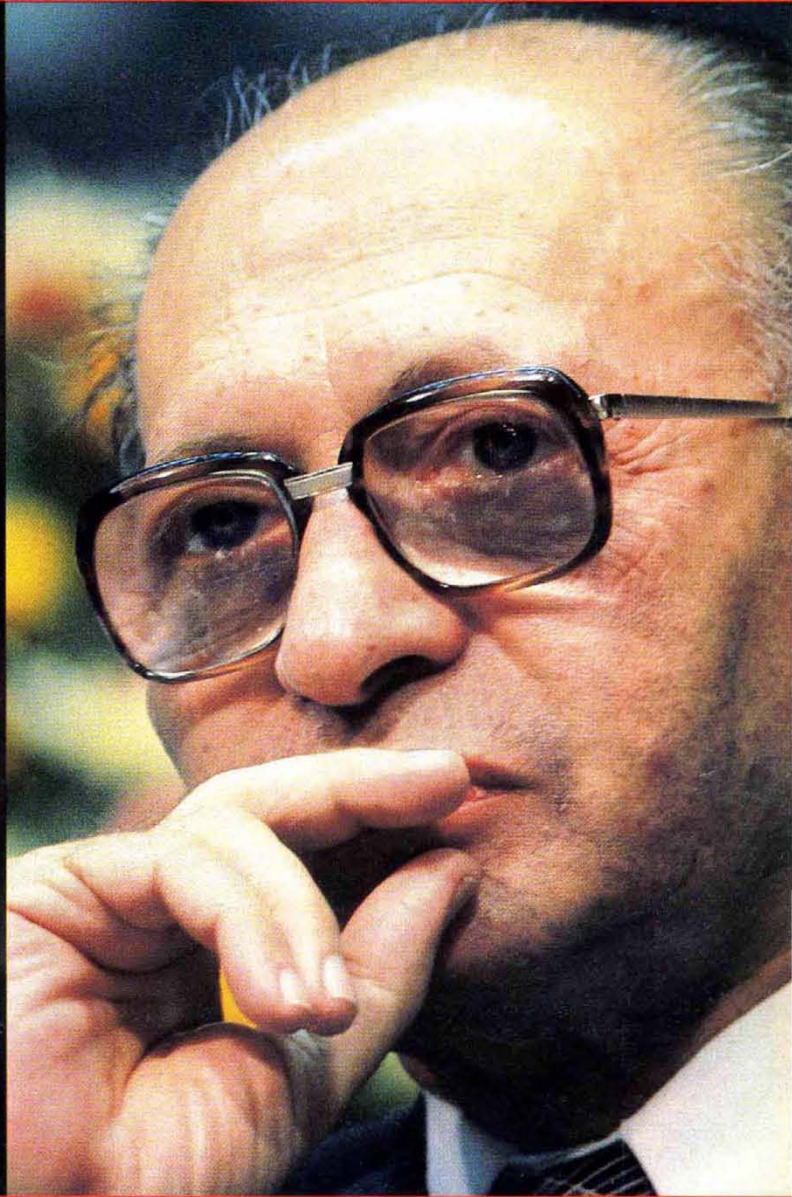


FEBRUARY 1981

the

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



EGYPT & ISRAEL Prelude to World Peace?

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ABOUT OUR COVER

Amid the complex and highly volatile situation in the Middle East, two men of courage and vision—Anwar Sadat of Egypt and Menachem Begin of Israel—have ignored personal and political risks to move their nations in the direction of peace. Where will their efforts ultimately lead? For the answer, read the revealing on-the-spot report by *Plain Truth* Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong, beginning on page 2.

Cover Photos by Abbas-Gamma/Liaison (left) and William Karel-Sygm (right)

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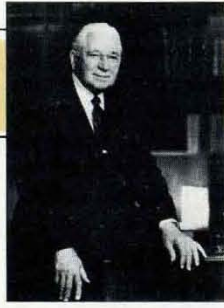
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Personal from...

Why is there no daily reminder of the HUMAN SURVIVAL CRISIS?

WE FACE a far greater problem than the U.S.-Iranian hostage crisis. For the first time since humanity inhabited the earth, weapons of mass destruction exist that can erase mankind from this planet.

Today the **WHOLE WORLD** is being held for ransom! Would Americans have forgotten all about the fifty-two government representatives held hostage, if they were not reminded daily?

Are we forgetting—*putting out of mind*—that *four billion of us* are being held in danger of human extinction? Do we think that just by keeping our minds off of it, the threat to our own survival will just go away?

Are the hard, cold facts too awesome—too frightening—to think sensibly about? Are we playing ostrich—until it will be too late?

This voice reminds you—there had to be a **CAUSE** to bring us to our number one problem of human survival! And we are pursuing that same **CAUSE** with increasing momentum!

Are we deceiving ourselves? Do we reason foolishly that nuclear and other mass-destruction weapons are so frightening that no one will *dare* unleash them? No weapon of increased mass destruction ever yet has been produced that was not used! The nuclear family includes smaller nations beside the Soviet Union and the U.S.A. A madman in a smaller nation could set off the nuclear war that could spread to destroy all mankind!

What a paradox! This twentieth century has spawned a man-made civilization of awesome

progress. But before our problems, troubles and evils, we and our leaders stand utterly **HELPLESS!** There seems no limit to human accomplishment—in the physical and material. But our troubles and evils are spiritual in nature.

An invisible spiritual Law governs our lives. That Law is outflowing **LOVE**. I simplify it, and its transgression, by the simple terms of “**GIVE**” and “**GET**.” This world has traveled the way of the “**GET**” incentive—self-centeredness, vanity, coveting, competition leading to strife, violence and war! This spiritual Law is as relentless, as inexorable, as the law of gravity. Break it and it will break you! The whole world has been breaking it—and world peace, happiness, universal abundance and well-being have been taken from us!

It isn't too late, even now, for a deluded and misled world, self-exalted by its achievements in the materialistic sphere, to come awake to its bankruptcy in the moral and spiritual realm.

But if a self-willed and vain humanity will not, that unseen “**Strong Hand from Someplace**” will intervene very soon in the world's chaotic affairs, and forestall the climactic death-blow to the human race. A stubborn world, ignorant of the **TRUE VALUES**, is going to be *compelled* to enjoy **PEACE** worldwide, with happiness and universal well-being in abundance! We are going to be compelled to change our motivations from “**GET**” to “**GIVE**.” In spite of us, the wonderful **WORLD TOMORROW** will dawn in this generation! The spiritual Law of “**GIVE**” will fill human minds and hearts worldwide, as the ocean beds are filled with water.

Believe it or not, it is as sure as the rising of tomorrow's sun. □

MT. SINAI JERUSALEM

Now Foreshadow World Peace

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Is it possible?

Events of the eighties at Mount Sinai and Jerusalem are an actual prelude to soon-coming world peace!

THE WORLD NEWS spotlight has been focusing on the boiling caldron of animosities and wars in the Middle East.

The hostage crisis with Islamic Iran, the Arab-Israeli wars, the Arab oil crisis, have flared all over news headlines.

This entire embroilment has enflamed out of an ancient jealousy between two women over one man. Yet out of the present emotional flare-up emerges now a prelude to final GLOBAL PEACE for the first time since mankind has inhabited the earth!

It is a factual story, stranger, more exciting and intriguing, than any fiction. Yet the world is unaware of this tremendous portent or its fascinating background.

Seven modern events involving Middle East antagonisms, the United States and Britain converge into this immediate forerunner to world peace.

I have been remotely involved, personally, in some of these seven events. These recent events and their background is a long story,

but one of major significance to the whole world.

I have only recently returned from my most recent Middle East visit. There I had significant personal conferences with Prime Minister Menachem Begin of Israel and President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt. President Sadat showed me architect's renderings of his historic projected World Peace Center at the base of Mount Sinai. Amazingly, this is an actual prelude to soon-coming world peace! Mr. Sadat invited my participation in this peace project.

But my personal detached involvement in this whole Middle East activity, leading to the climactic crisis at the close of this age, began even before the establishment of the modern state of Israel in 1948.

I Meet Arab and Zionist Leaders

After the end of the Second World War, 1945, the charter for the United Nations was drawn up at the San Francisco Conference. I attended the entire conference. There I met and had private talks with several world leaders. I had two long meetings with sheik

Hafiz Wabba, Plenipotentiary Extraordinary and spokesman for the Arab world at the conference.

Later, February, 1947, my wife and I were in London en route to Switzerland to investigate a possible establishment of a European branch of Ambassador College. The sheik was hosting in London a royal reception in honor of crown prince Emir, who later became the late King Saud of Saudi Arabia. There I had another private talk with the sheik.

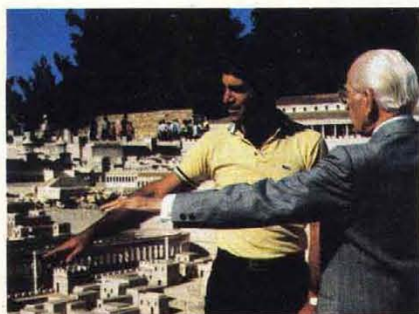
Again in June, 1958, we were in Cairo, Egypt. The sheik was spending the summer in Alexandria. He and his wife came over to Cairo to spend an afternoon with Mrs. Armstrong and me.

After the San Francisco Conference and formation of the United Nations, I attended the first meeting of the Security Council. It was held at Hunter College, in the Bronx, New York City. While in New York I had a conference with the secretary of the Zionist movement. Whether it was Chaim Weizmann or his successor I do not now remember.

He was working energetically



MIDEAST VISIT. Clockwise from above: Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin (left), Stanley Rader, former Los Angeles Consul General Michael Ravid and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek discuss issues with Herbert W. Armstrong; Mr. Armstrong talks with Egyptian President Anwar el-Sadat and his adviser Dr. Abdul-Kader Hatem; Mount Sinai, site of proposed World Peace Center; Mr. Armstrong views model of first-century Jerusalem.



through the United Nations for establishment of a Jewish state in Palestine. He told me the Zionist view. God, he said, had *promised* this land to the nation Israel. It had always been called "the Promised Land." It belonged to Jews by divine right. If GOD ordained that Jews should be there, he, of course, had a well-founded argument. And just about everybody supposed the biblical account did affirm the divine right of Jews to have there a national state.

But, on the other hand, sheik Hafiz Wabba told me the Arab side of the story. It was equally convincing.

"Do you feel," he asked me, "that your American people have a right to the land of the United States, including California?"

"Your people have occupied this country as a nation less than 200 years, and California still a shorter time." This was said during the San Francisco Conference. "Suppose the Japanese came claiming the land of California by divine right, and demanded they be allowed to move all Californians out, and make it a Japanese national state. Would you think their claim valid? Well, we Arabs have occupied Palestine for many times 200 years, and the Zionists want us to move out and turn it over to them."

Thus leaders of both Arabs and Zionists explained to me their respective view, *prior* to the United Nations' declaration of 1948 making that part of the land assigned as "Israel" a national Jewish state.

But what the Zionist leader, and the whole world, did not know—and does not know yet—is that actually happened after God promised the land of Canaan to Abraham and his descendants.

True, the promise was made to the descendants of Abraham through Isaac, and not through Ishmael. And therein lies the very *beginning* of the age-long animosities between Arabs and Jews.

As I stated at the beginning of this article the entire interracial antagonism started with the jealousy between two women over one man.

God originally had promised Abraham, "I will make of thee a great nation" (Genesis 12:2) and later, "thou shalt be a father of MANY NATIONS" (Genesis 17:4).

Abraham's wife, Sarah, was barren and childless. This, in those days, was a reproach for a wife. So Sarah brought her Egyptian maid, Hagar, to Abraham asking him to give her a child by the maid. But when Hagar was pregnant, she despised Sarah. Sarah treated Hagar harshly, and Hagar fled. Hagar became the mother of Ishmael, who became the father of twelve princes, fathers of the Arab world.

God had not caused the pregnancy of Hagar, but had, by a miracle, caused Sarah to become pregnant when ninety years of age. Her son was Isaac. God passed the PROMISES made to Abraham on through Isaac, not through Ishmael, though God promised Abraham that Ishmael would be the father of a large people—which turned out to be the Arab world.

The promises, the land and nations (plural) as well as the messianic promise through Christ, were passed on to Jacob. God changed Jacob's name to Israel. Israel's twelve sons became the progenitors of the twelve tribes of Israel. Four hundred thirty years after the covenant with Abraham (Genesis 17), when the Israelites were slaves in Egypt, God led them to the "PROMISED LAND" through Moses.

God promised them (Lev. 26) that if they obeyed His laws in their national government, as established through Moses, they would become the greatest people on earth, the wealthiest and militarily the mightiest. If not, the promises would be taken from them and restored only after a duration of 2,520 years.

They never obeyed God's

laws—for long at a time. After Joshua, the judges, and the prophet Samuel, they demanded a kingly government like the rest of the world. God gave them Saul, then David, then Solomon. When Solomon's son, Rehoboam, became king, Israel rebelled, making Jeroboam king, later establishing a new capital at Samaria. The tribe of Judah, with that of Benjamin, seceded, taking the new national name, kingdom of JUDAH, so that they might retain Rehoboam as king and Jerusalem as capital.

The kingdom of ISRAEL, its new capital at Samaria, as a people had never been called "Jews." Only the southern kingdom of Judah was called Jews. The first place in the Bible where the term *Jews* is mentioned is II Kings 16:6, where ISRAEL, allied with Syria, was at war against the Jews! The tribe of Levi joined with the Jews of the kingdom of Judah.

But the kingdom of ISRAEL, often called by the national name, "House of Israel," in the Bible, flagrantly disobeyed God. After nineteen kings in seven dynasties, they were invaded by Assyria, 721-718 B.C. They were defeated and removed from their land, taken as slaves to Assyria. Within about a hundred years they and the Assyrians had migrated northwest. The ten-tribed nation ISRAEL, or "the House of Israel," migrated on into western Europe and Britain. They lost their language, lost their identity. They had rejected God's Sabbath, God's signs to identify them as His people (Exo. 31:12-18). They became known as the "Lost Ten Tribes." The world has never known what became of them, or where they are today. (See our book *The U.S. and Britain in Prophecy*.)

In 604-585 B.C. King Nebuchadnezzar of the Chaldean Empire—the world's first real empire—invaded and removed the Jews of the House of Judah from their home in southern Pal-

(Continued on page 39)

CRISIS IN EASTERN EUROPE

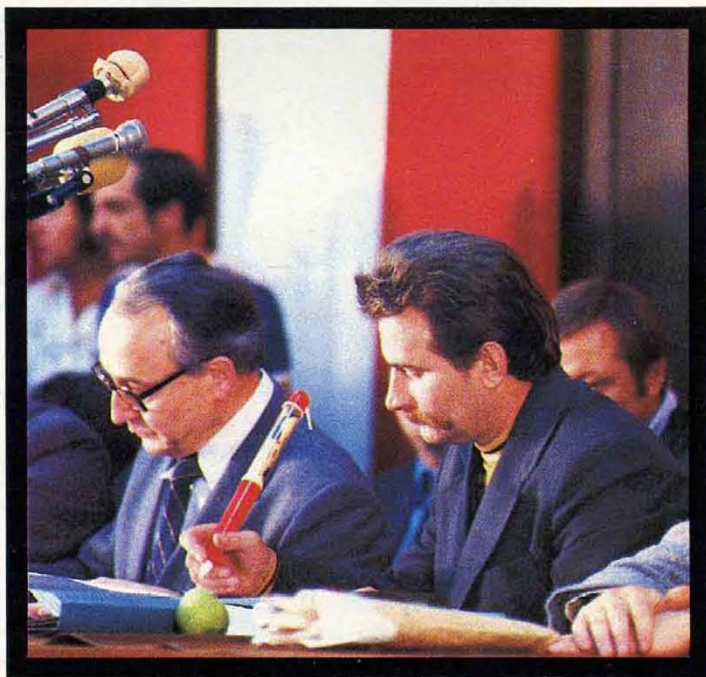
Where It Will Lead

by Gene H. Hogberg

Workers in Poland are threatening to unravel Soviet dominance over the political affairs of Eastern Europe. Will Moscow have to make a deal with the West to preserve its interests? If so, the political map of Europe will be altered beyond recognition—with grave consequences for Britain and the United States.

NOT SINCE the late Marshal Josip Broz Tito wrested independence for Yugoslavia in 1948 has the Soviet Union been faced with such a stern challenge in Europe. At stake is Moscow's entire buffer zone that it acquired by force in the aftermath of the Second World War.

Communist Party officials in East Germany, Czechoslovakia, Hungary and Romania are deeply disturbed over the stunning economic and political concessions made by Poland's communist government to that country's newly independent labor movement. They fear that Poland's whiff of freedom will blow their way



LECH WALESA, Poland's independent union leader, signs agreement with government official. Mr. Walesa uses souvenir pen from Pope's 1979 visit.

as well, threatening the communist monopoly of power.

To Crush, or Not to Crush

The year 1980 ended with the

military forces of the Soviet Union and other Warsaw Pact allies poised to forcefully put an end to the Polish experiment. That the Soviets *could* do so no one doubted. Kept in a stage of alert, in a tightened noose around Poland, were some sixty Soviet divisions—roughly one-third the entire armed might of the U.S.S.R.

But military intervention, on the order of Soviet thrusts into Hungary in 1956 and Czechoslovakia in 1968, confronts Moscow with a decidedly no-win option, one that the Kremlin has shown extreme reluctance to exercise.

Intervention could not be undertaken without paying an enormous price. The Polish army and civilian population would resist mightily. According to some estimates, the Soviets might have to use up to a million soldiers—and keep them there indefinitely. The fifteen Polish

divisions, moreover, would be lost to the Warsaw Pact's forward defense structure. Worst of all, civil insurrection in Poland would leave Moscow's most strategic buffer state of all, East Germany, virtually isolated on the western perimeter.

Military intervention, moreover would seriously cripple the Soviet war effort in Afghanistan, which has become bogged down. Defenses along the Soviet Union's 7,000 mile, often-tense border with archrival China, would suffer cutbacks.

The Polish Burden

The Kremlin knows full well that a military move would likely mean the complete collapse of the Polish economy, whose chronic weakness led to the labor unrest in the first place last summer. Militant labor leaders have warned Moscow that Russian soldiers might be able to force Polish workers back to the factories, mines and shipyards—but they couldn't make them work.

Soviet leaders have agonized over the grim prospects of having to assume, under occupation conditions, the burden of helping feed Poland's thirty-five million people. The U.S.S.R. has suffered through two bad harvests, Poland three. In the aftermath of intervention, Poland's private farmers—who comprise eighty percent of that country's farm force—would probably stop producing for the urban areas, gravely compounding the food shortages.

Moscow would also have to assume the burden of Poland's enormous debt to Western banks, now \$23 billion. (The sum is so huge that Polish exports barely pay the yearly interest due on these loans. After an intervention, production of key export items, such as coal and ships, would be seriously impaired.)

Lastly, NATO member countries quickly warned Moscow of grave repercussions to be expected in the wake of marching orders into Poland. At stake, they warned, was the Soviet Union's

confirmed access to Western grain supplies as well as a full array of advanced technology.

Moscow's Security Concerns

All in all, Moscow was confronted with a dilemma that promised, as 1981 began, to look like a nearly hopeless situation. Intervention would mean incalculable bloodshed and grave economic setbacks for both Poland and the Soviet Union. But not to intervene might only insure the gradual slipping away of nearly its entire buffer zone in Central and Eastern Europe.



ROMAN CATHOLIC PRIEST ministers to striking Polish shipbuilders during labor unrest in port city of Gdansk in the summer of 1980.

Above all else, the Soviets are concerned over their Western defensive line. Moscow came out of World War II having lost twenty million people, and demanding protection against any possible revival of fascism. It seized that protection for itself in the form of the military occupation of the eastern part of Germany. Seizure of the war-ravaged states of Eastern Europe completed the *cordon sanitaire* against an invasion from the West.

"As long as a Soviet army sits on the East Germans," notes Joseph C. Hatsch of the *Christian Science Monitor*, "Moscow can feel secure against a German revival." But that Soviet position,

Mr. Hatsch observes, would disappear if Moscow lost control of Poland. That would automatically and inevitably lead to the eventual loss by Moscow of control over East Germany, Czechoslovakia and Hungary.

"There would then be nothing left" adds Mr. Hatsch, "of what the men of Moscow regard as their just compensation for the enormous losses they suffered during World War II."

Conflicting Nationalisms

Clearly, the challenge to the leadership of the Soviet Union is how to preserve its interests in Central and Eastern Europe while at the same time diffusing political unrest that threatens to have the Red Army intervening time and again. Is there another way, the Kremlin must surely be thinking.

After thirty-five years of Soviet-imposed communism, the national self-identities of the Eastern European states have simply refused to be submerged. In the dark Stalinist period of the late 1940s the U.S.S.R. tried to suppress the individual nationalisms. But it has long since given up trying to recast its once totally-subservient satellites in a made-in-Moscow mold.

The nations of Eastern Europe are not only different from the peoples of the Soviet Union, they vary greatly from each other. They range from the Germans in the north, through various families of the Slavic race, to the Magyars in Hungary and the Romanians in the southeast. As their very name attests, the Romanians, in language and culture, are inheritors of the cultural traditions of Western Europe.

Moscow has had to tolerate these national differences and accommodate a wide range of approaches to communism. Hungary, for example, practices what the Soviets derisively call "goulash communism," a mixture of state enterprises coupled with a small-scale private enterprise. As a result, Soviet tourists come in
(Continued on page 43)

WHAT AND WHY THE CHURCH?

How could the world have become so mixed up? Out of this spiritual wilderness, a voice cries out in clarity and power, with the reassuring truth of the world's only and sure hope!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Editor's note: We are printing here, serially, the new book by Herbert W. Armstrong with the same title as this series. The book will appear later in bookstores.

Chapter 7

Part Three

UNTIL NOW, I have not been able to give a clear, concise explanation of precisely WHAT and WHY is the CHURCH.

And WHY NOT?

People naturally and normally think only of and about physical and material things. People do not realize it, but they have been CUT OFF from God! The human mind, unless and until it receives the Holy Spirit of GOD, cannot think

spiritually—cannot know spiritual knowledge—cannot understand human problems, troubles, evils or purposes of human existence.

But the CHURCH is GOD'S Church. And the things of GOD are a mystery—not understandable to the natural carnal mind. So people may have some kind of human idea of what and why the Church is, but it is not GOD'S concept.

God has communicated to man in our day through His printed Word, the Holy Bible. But the real central meaning in the Bible is spiritual. And natural minds without God's Spirit cannot think spiritually or comprehend spiritual knowledge. To make it still more a MYSTERY, the Bible is like a jigsaw puzzle, made up of thousands of parts which, for understanding, must be put together "here a little, there a little, line upon line, precept upon precept" (Isaiah 28:9-10, 13). And it requires the addition of the Holy

Spirit to the human mind to put this spiritual "jigsaw puzzle" properly together. Even then it requires time, diligence, patience. I have not been able to give this "what and why" of the Church to the reader all at once briefly. I want fully to reveal the MYSTERY!

The CHURCH is the Church of GOD! God is working out a PURPOSE here below. Even GOD could not work it out quickly, all at once! Even GOD has had to exercise patience and work out His supreme PURPOSE a step at a time, according to His pre-laid MASTER PLAN!

God's PURPOSE is to reproduce Himself through humans composed, first, of matter. To change material humans into Spirit-composed immortal GOD BEINGS! And WHAT and WHY is GOD? First of all GOD is CREATOR. TO CREATE describes what GOD DOES.

But what IS God? God is the supreme Divine FAMILY—consisting of more than one Person—
(Continued on page 31)

Rid Yourself of the Dark Shroud of **MENTAL DEPRESSION**

by Donald D. Schroeder

Perhaps you are needlessly experiencing the feeling of hopelessness and despair. Isn't it time you understood the reasons for this all-too-common human affliction?

IT IS a tragic but real fact of life.

Mental depression has run like a heavy dark thread throughout the fabric of human history. Men and women, the great and small, have been afflicted with it. Brave, brilliant and insightful individuals have suffered periods of "the gray menace"—dark emotions that shrouded their lives in feelings of utter despair, hopelessness and helplessness.

Winston Churchill, one of the greatest statesmen of the World War II era, was beset by what he called his "black dog" of depression. Abraham Lincoln suffered frequent depressive moods in his life.

Biblical heroes—men of great courage—at times showed their human frailty and weakness by suffering from this problem. King David of Israel, Elijah, Jeremiah and others, all powerful prophets or leaders, experienced deep depressions, some to the point of wanting to die.

These men, however, found a way of escape from depression. They, and others since, were able to tap the right power and resources to conquer fear, worry, and deal with seemingly hopeless situations. Out of weakness they were made strong (Hebrews 11:34). Out of their suffering they became more stable, more

compassionate, more mature persons.

Wearing Many Faces

Mental depression wears many faces. It knows no class barriers. It afflicts rich and poor alike, and even people who don't realize they are suffering from it. Mental depression is a major affliction in young children, leading to increasingly more youthful suicides.

And, though mental depression afflicts young and old, it rises abruptly in incidence with adolescent years.

Depression is a broad range of negative states of mind. At one end of the scale, depression shows up as the common, short-term down or blue feeling after hearing bad news. Or perhaps learning of the loss of something or someone. Sometimes it results from a blow to the ego. This blue feeling may last for only a few hours or days at most.

At the other extreme are chronic or lifelong crippling emotions of futility, hopelessness, emptiness, lack of joy and energy. These can be coupled with total loss of self-esteem, unremitting guilt, shame and eventual suicide. There is much ground in between these two extremes. Mental depression may be mild, moderate or severe. Or it may be masked—a person doesn't even realize he is suffering from it, though he manifests symptoms to others.

Every one of us has his blue days. It's our common response to losses or setbacks, or to something we feel we failed to achieve in life. "Hope deferred makes the heart sick," says scripture (Proverbs 13:12).

The vast majority of depressed persons (90 percent, estimate some authorities) eventually snap out of it, although it may take days, weeks or even months to fully recover. These persons resolve their losses, setbacks or failures and go on.

For around 10 percent of afflicted persons, however, depression becomes chronic or frequent, way out of proportion to a loss. For these persons, depression is unresolved and leads to week after week of feelings of helplessness and guilt—that life isn't worth living. This condition is serious and needs skilled help.

Yet, most depressed persons are too ashamed to admit to anyone that they can't cope with a certain problem or set of problems in life. Their depression, though painful, is covered up.

That's false pride at work. No person is always strong or capable under every adverse condition, circumstance or setback in life. Everyone needs help with some problems in life.

What Depression Is

The majority of depressed feelings begin in response to a specific loss,



fear of loss or adverse occurrence in life—something one can pinpoint. There seems no way of retrieving or achieving what is lost or what is threatened with loss.

The depressive cycle leads to collapse of self-worth, then to self-deprecation, then to a feeling that the situation is hopeless. Hopeless attitudes produce changes in responses of the mind and body, which begin to immobilize the person. Perhaps you have felt that helplessness.

In depression, all systems—mental and physical—slow down. Growing evidence from medical and mental health research indicates changes occur in the chemical balances of the brain and nervous system. These changed chemical balances alter transmission of brain and nerve impulses, which, in turn, produce disturbing brain patterns and painful or crippling emotional and physical feelings.

Serious depressives often say: "I can't get out of this. . . . It's hopeless. . . . I'll never get better. . . . Things will never change." Others feel: "I'm powerless to do anything; what's the use of trying? . . . There are no options. . . . I'm drained, empty. I can't sleep. I can't keep going on like this, but I see no way out."

In serious depression, almost everything is viewed negatively. The future is seen as bleak, unrewarding, and there appears no way to change it. Depressives mentally stop fighting. They are possessed with their own sad feelings. They often assume others are equally obsessed with the same feelings (they are not).

One type of depressive, the manic-depressive, swings between periods of extreme optimism and unfounded pessimism.

Depressives stubbornly resist reassurances of their worth. Statements to "snap out of it" or "pull yourself together" usually have little effect. These persons, of course, do not need ridicule or further loss of self-esteem; their morbid mind is full already.

Hidden Depression

For every serious depressive there are several masked depres-

sives—persons functioning, however at far less than their ability, in jobs, homes or schools. They don't realize that their emotional problems, difficulties with a job or other people, or many of their physical ills, are caused by a subtle depression, which they do not recognize. For many of these persons, lack of positive emotions and attitudes have become a way of life for so long, they don't realize why happiness and good feelings perpetually elude them.

Masked depressives find little true joy in life. They are constantly restless and irritable. They fill doctors' offices with real or imagined complaints of lack of energy, chronic headaches, stomach problems, constipation, and similar ills. They are a large part of the army of up to 85 percent of patients visiting doctors' offices whose health problems are largely mentally (psychosomatically) induced.

Many of these patients seek a miracle pill or drug to free them of their ills. The peace of mind and better health they seek will only occur when they develop a positive and constructive state of thinking and handling their problems!

Still others, because their depression is mixed with anxiety, engage in frenzied pleasure-seeking, sexual activity or even violence. Growing numbers of depressives drown their depression in alcohol or drugs to kill the mental pain of weakness, emptiness and futility.

What a tragic toll! And the reason is humanity has jumped the track! Let's understand.

Vulnerable to Depression?

In normal grief at a loss, a certain amount of sadness or crying is often helpful and necessary to work through to normal feelings. Grief at the loss of a loved one or something highly valued is not wrong. It becomes unhealthy and damaging when it causes total loss of personal self-worth, or the desire to live. Grief is damaging when it is unresolved and one is crippled from ordinary human

functions for weeks or months on end.

The line between natural remorse and pathologic depression may be a subjective judgment. To make an illustration, a man who loses a job and is unable to mobilize himself to find work for weeks after being fired or losing his job is seriously depressed and needs help and encouragement.

While the cause of a depression is often related to a loss one can pinpoint (sometimes called a *reactive depression*), the cause at times can be much more vague—a mood we don't understand. Depressed feelings can come over a person for no seemingly rational reasons. But there are reasons nevertheless—mental, physical or spiritual reasons.

Endogenous depressions are related to less distinct causes that develop within a person—perhaps from subconscious or denied fears, needs or desires, which unsettling or unfavorable events now threaten. This kind of depression may develop either slowly or suddenly.

Vulnerability to frequent depressions often depends on the kind of encouragement, values, self-esteem, love or support (or lack of them) that we received in early years of life. Vulnerability may be related to how we learned to respond to losses or problems in life. In addition, certain personalities seem more sensitive to blue moods than others.

A depressive mood can float over the mind for no apparent reason. It could be the result of a final straw—reaching a breaking-point in a series of unfortunate setbacks in life. Or it could happen for reasons that many totally overlook or are unaware of.

How many are aware that the violation of God's spiritual laws—the laws of love to God and other human beings, as revealed in the Ten Commandments—sets one up to experience problems or attitudes of mind for which there seems to be no hope or help?

And doing things we know are wrong results in negative or depressive feelings.

Unresolved resentment, bitterness, jealousy, envy or anger lead to feelings of loss, hence to depressed feelings. "Envy is as rottenness to the bones," correctly states scripture (Proverbs 14:30). For such sins one needs to ask for forgiveness from God, and others you have offended. Then set your values right and resolve not to do them again.

Though many do not believe in evil spiritual forces—Satan and a host of fallen angels (demons)—they do exist and they do influence the minds and attitudes of unwary humanity. No wonder so many psychiatrists and their patients don't understand some of their negative moods or attitudes! (See Ephesians 2:2-3.)

Scripture warns, "For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness [wicked spirits, margin] in high places" (Ephesians 6:12).

These evil spirits place damaging and negative moods and feelings in vulnerable or unwary human minds. In some weakened persons, they implant impulses to want to give up on life and end it.

Physical Causes

Overwork, prolonged mental stress, anxiety or fear may drain our mental and physical energy levels. Gone is the needed strength to cope with life and its problems.

Physical or mental exhaustion may take weeks or years to develop. But it eventually can translate into mental energy rundown—a feeling of being unable to cope.

Improper nutrition can gradually set one up for depression. Too many refined sugars, starches or fats in the diet, or other unbalanced nutrition, can weaken the body's physical endurance, mental alertness and ability to handle problems or stress. Allergic reactions to certain foods or substances can also produce mental dullness, irritability or depressed feelings.

Proper sleep, diet and exercise is necessary to help avoid falling

into depressed states of mind. Proper rest, food and creative activity are needed to help a depressed person come out of his or her condition.

Creative activity or achievement of any kind, even if it must start out small, should be encouraged for depressed persons. It is necessary to build up, a step at a time, a depressive's sense of worth and accomplishment again. Accomplishments should be pointed out positively to the depressive, because their depressed attitude tends to downgrade even things they can accomplish.

Here is another important, but comforting, piece of knowledge: many deeply depressed persons feel they have totally lost all their former skills and abilities, hence are total failures. This is a misleading feeling caused by the depression. Unfortunately, it viciously adds fuel to feelings of hopelessness and futility. But the skills and abilities are really still there! They will return as the person recovers from depression, as he or she reorders his or her life with positive values and attitudes.

Although many don't realize it, boredom is another endogenous stress. The human mind and body were created to need a modest amount of healthy variety and stimulation to feel alive and maintain equilibrium.

Boredom is the absence or dullness of stimulation and feeling. Boredom produces apathy, lethargy, loss of sense of worth and of positive feelings about oneself. Continual boredom will set one up for a depression. Many of the symptoms of boredom and depression are similar, only the intensity may differ.

This tragedy of boredom is virtually engineered in many areas of modern life—such as homes for the elderly, prisons for the criminal and bleak residential quarters.

Drugs and alcohol are often used to tranquilize the resulting pain or to fill the emptiness. Yet the pain and suffering will not be truly alleviated without an exciting, worthwhile goal or purpose

in life. What is needed is a life filled with faith and hope for growth in the future.

Drug/Health Factors

Depressive feelings can be induced by certain drugs, abuses of alcohol, improperly working bodily functions or viral infections. This is called *toxic depression*.

Wrong use of certain drugs needs special emphasis. Many depressives take barbiturates, sedatives, tranquilizers or alcohol—drugs that depress the central nervous system—to alleviate their suffering. Some doctors carelessly prescribe such drugs for vague physical or emotional complaints not realizing that the problem is not physical—the person is depressed. Biochemical responses are already depressing the depressive's central nervous system. These drugs may alleviate certain pain or suffering temporarily, but in the long term they depress the brain and nervous system even more. This causes even less ability to solve underlying problems with right responses.

Imbalances in hormone production can also cause depressive feelings. This may happen from malfunctioning pituitary, adrenal, thyroid or other glands.

Menstrual, post partum (after birth) or menopause hormone changes sometimes produce negative moods.

Diseases such as diabetes, hypoglycemia, thyroid illness, mononucleosis, infectious hepatitis, a heavy touch of the flu or other poor health conditions can be responsible for some depressive feelings.

Because a wide variety of such conditions exist, anyone suffering from prolonged depressive feelings should seek a thorough physical examination to see to what extent any physical health problems may be involved.

Therapy Controversy

The medical and mental health professions today attempt to combat mental depression with a wide variety or combinations of drug, electric, verbal and health thera-

pies. There is controversy over the effectiveness and safety of almost every technique.

An arsenal of new drugs have been developed in an attempt to calm or correct chemical imbalances in the depressed patient's mind and central nervous system. Doctors must often experiment with different drugs, and many of these must be taken for several weeks to have an effect. Consequent side effects must then be dealt with.

Modern mental health officials hope such therapy will reduce distressing emotions and feelings to more tolerable levels. Meanwhile therapists try to discover the underlying causes and suggest a course of dealing with them. Or they hope patients relieved of some distressing symptoms will improve by themselves.

It is not our editorial policy to make judgments about what is good or bad therapy for depressed persons—all of which treats the effects, not the ultimate causes. Such a decision is the personal responsibility of individuals involved or those taking responsibility for them.

For some seriously or chronically depressed persons—especially those threatening suicide or bodily harm—certain drugs or other special treatments may be the only option available if rational communication is no longer possible or if immediate lifesaving is necessary.

An objective presentation of the benefits and problems associated with common modern depressive therapies is discussed in the book *Depression—How to Recognize It, How to Cure It, How to Grow From It*, by Wina Sturgeon.

Our editorial policy, by contrast, is to reveal the causes of our human problems—*why* humanity is plagued with so much mental illness, with fears, worries and depression.

The Missing Dimension

The missing knowledge about mental depression is revealed in the Bible. Here is spiritual knowledge that unveils both the causes

and solution to most mental ills, fears and worries.

“My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge [and that includes spiritual knowledge] . . .” Why? “. . . because you have rejected knowledge . . .,” reveals the Creator in Hosea 4:6, Revised Standard Version.

Mental ill health is the result of broken spiritual and, possibly, physical laws that God set in motion and mankind as a whole has rejected.

Many modern minds think it educated to reject biblical revelation and the reality of immutable spiritual laws. But if we break these laws, eventually they break us!

Christ said, “. . . ye shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free” (John 8:32). God's written Word is truth. It makes us free—free of mental depressions, free of spiritual depressions, free of sin.

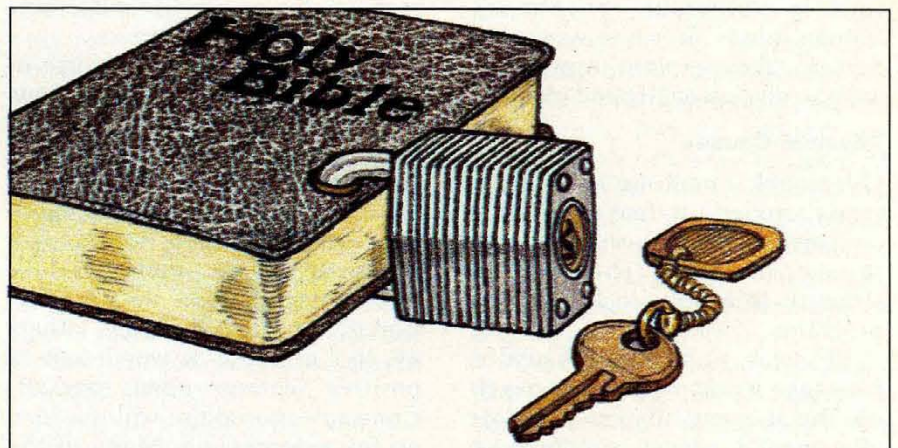
The truth that is missing in so many lives and in education in general is the true understanding

of the purpose of human life and of the laws, values and attitudes that produce peace of mind, joy and happiness.

Millions do not understand how and why their human nature develops with so many damaging values and fearful attitudes in life. Most humans have been blinded to the understanding of how they can receive the spiritual help and power they need to overcome their damaging human pulls and fears—of how to deal with every adverse situation in life with faith and hope—of how “to pray and not to faint,” as Jesus taught (Luke 18:1).

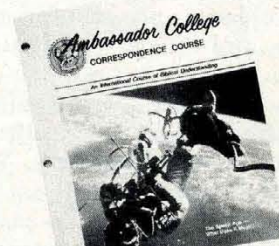
Next month, an important follow-up article will fill in these enormous gaps of spiritual knowledge. You will be shocked to learn how humanity, cut off from God by wrong values and attitudes, has been set up by the devil to experience fears, hopelessness, futility and deep depression.

And, finally, you will learn God's way of escape from every fear and depression you now have! □



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Uncovering a 2500 Year Old TIME CAPSULE

by Keith W. Stump

AMERICA'S BICENTENNIAL in 1976 saw dozens of time capsules buried in virtually every state across the nation.

A time capsule is a metallic container into which records and mementos of one generation are placed for safekeeping, later to be opened and studied by a succeeding generation anxious to know how it was "back then."

Magazines, newspapers, coins and currency, tape recordings, articles of clothing, photographs and other items of contemporary society are carefully selected and lodged inside the capsule. The capsule is then sealed. Finally it is buried, never to see the light of day until, at the proper future time, it is dug up and its seal broken—100 years, 500 years or even 1,000 years hence.

Momentous Find!

Few realize that in recent times a 2,500-year-old time capsule has been uncovered and opened to view! It was not unearthed by the spade of an archaeologist along the Euphrates River. Nor was it discovered in the tomb of an ancient Egyptian pharaoh. It was, in fact, never *physically* lost to begin with!

The identity of that time capsule? Bible prophecy!

Few realize that a significant portion of the Bible is, in effect, a time capsule. But a truly unique type of time capsule!

Nearly one third of the Bible consists of prophecy. The majority of those ancient prophecies are yet unfulfilled!

Notice, as an illustration, the instructions given long ago to the

prophet Daniel regarding the prophecies he had received from God:

"But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end . . ." (Daniel 12:4).

Daniel's prophecies were to be sealed from human understanding until the end times, the last days of this present human civilization. The actual words, of course, would remain through the centuries for all to see, but men's eyes would be blinded to their true meaning and intent.

Even Daniel himself did not fully understand the prophecies he had recorded. He was simply told: "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are closed up and sealed till the time of the end" (Daniel 12:9). When that future time finally arrived, however, then "the wise [would] understand" (verse 10).

The vast majority of the prophecies of the Bible were sealed and shut up, like a time capsule, for the last days.

Those days are now!

The prophetic biblical time capsules are now open for full view. Moreover, the messages contained therein are not just dusty records of past events and forgotten civilizations—but vivid pictures of things to come, events just ahead!

Time Setting

Let us see the works of just one of the many prophets of the Bible, the prophet Ezekiel. Let us see the proof that these prophecies were *not* intended—as most theologians and Bible scholars con-

tend—simply for the peoples of Ezekiel's time, the 6th century B.C. We shall discover that these living prophecies are instead vitally important messages for today—the latter 20th century!

Few understand this vital truth. And few today are heeding Ezekiel's warnings. Yet no message is more timely or more urgent.

To begin, it is imperative to properly understand the time setting of Ezekiel's prophecy. It is one of the vital keys unlocking a true understanding of the message and intent of the book of Ezekiel.

Ezekiel leaves nothing to the imagination. The time factor is spelled out in unmistakable detail in Ezekiel 1:1-2. Ezekiel records that his first vision occurred in the fifth year of the captivity of king Jehoiachin of the ancient nation of Judah.

Remember, King Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon had besieged Jerusalem on more than one occasion during the reign of Jehoiachin's predecessor, King Jehoa-kim. Nebuchadnezzar had taken many captives back to Babylon. Among them had been a young man named Daniel. That captivity is recounted in II Kings 24:1-7.

Later, King Jehoiachin was taken into captivity by the armies of Babylon. The record of Jehoiachin's captivity can be read in II Kings 24:10-16. It was in that captivity that Ezekiel was taken prisoner.

It was in the fifth year of King Jehoiachin's captivity (594-593 B.C.) that Ezekiel experienced his

first vision. This was still six years before the final Babylonian assault against Jerusalem, which resulted in the destruction of the city and the Temple (II Kings 25).

Ezekiel's Commission

Next notice to whom Ezekiel was sent with his messages. His commission is very clearly spelled out.

In Ezekiel 3:1, God commands Ezekiel: "... go speak unto the house of Israel." Ezekiel is called "a watchman unto the house of Israel" (3:17; 33:7).

Anciently, the 12-tribed nation of Israel had split into two separate nations after the death of King Solomon. The account of that break is found in I Kings 12.

The southern nation, with capital at Jerusalem, subsequently became known as the house of Judah. The people of the house of Judah became known as Jews.

The northern nation, with capital at Samaria, was called the house of Israel. It consisted of 10 tribes, headed by Ephraim and Manasseh. Those two leading tribes were descended from Joseph, son of the patriarch Jacob (see Genesis 46:20).

Now notice the following fact: the northern, 10-tribed house of Israel had been conquered and carried away into national captivity by the armies of Assyria (II Kings 18:9-12) *130 years before* Ezekiel began to prophesy! Yet it was to the house of Israel that Ezekiel was sent!

Consider further: Ezekiel himself was now also in captivity! He was among the Jewish captives by the river Chebar in the land of the Chaldeans (1:1, 3). Chebar was a great canal southeast of Babylon. The 10 tribes of Israel, on the other hand, had been carried over a century before, not to the land of Chaldea, but to the lands of the Medes to the northeast.

Now the crucial point: Ezekiel was never released to seek out the house of Israel and deliver his message to it. He never reached the 10 tribes! Read the entire book and see for yourself. Tradition has it that Ezekiel was ulti-

mately murdered by fellow exiles after rebuking them for idolatry.

The conclusion is therefore inescapable!

Ezekiel's prophecies were meant for a *future time*, and a different nation than Judah! He never went to the house of Israel or to the smaller neighboring nations to whom his prophecies were directed. Instead, he wrote the prophecies among Jewish captives—to be preserved by them until the time for which they were intended.

That time is now!

Who Is Modern Israel?

Ezekiel's prophecies never reached the ears of the nations for which they were intended. They are primarily meant for the house of Israel today.

But where is the house of Israel in this latter half of the 20th century? It is not in Palestine. The modern-day state of Israel is a Jewish nation—composed of descendants of the ancient house of Judah.

The captives of the 10-tribed house of Israel, on the other hand, never returned to the Holy Land, except for one priestly family (II Kings 17:27). The 10 tribes became known as the "Lost Ten Tribes." Few understand what became of them.

Longtime readers of *The Plain Truth* know that these 10 Israelitish tribes ultimately migrated northwestward into Western Europe. Some remained there. A large group later arrived in the British Isles in the mid-fifth century A.D. We know them as Anglo-Saxons. From there many later journeyed to North America and to Britain's colonies around the world.

The amazing truth is that Ephraim and Manasseh—the leading tribes of the house of Israel—are, respectively, Britain and the United States today! It was upon Ephraim and Manasseh that the patriarch Israel (Jacob) placed his name and to whom the birthright of national greatness and wealth was bestowed (Genesis 48). The Messiah, by contrast, was to descend from Judah.

The ancient prophecies of Ezekiel are thus essentially prophecies for the British and American peoples of today! (For proof of this vital truth, request your free copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* by Herbert W. Armstrong.)

Now, after more than 2,500 years, these prophecies of Ezekiel are being proclaimed to the ears of those for whom they were intended—the modern descendants of the ancient house of Israel!

Watchman to the House of Israel

Notice, now, God's warning to Ezekiel:

"Son of man, I have made thee a *watchman* [guard or sentry] unto the house of Israel: therefore hear the word at my mouth, and *give them warning from me*. When I say to the wicked, Thou shalt surely die; and thou givest him not warning, nor speakest to warn the wicked from his wicked way, to save his life; the same wicked man shall die in his iniquity; but his blood will I require at thine hand" (Ezekiel 3:17-18).

Ezekiel was given an awesome responsibility. Had he failed to properly execute his commission of warning the people of the house of Israel, God would have held him ultimately responsible for their deaths!

God always gives ample warnings before meting out corrective punishment. God has promised that he will never dramatically intervene in world affairs without first revealing his intentions to his servants—who are then held responsible for warning the nations or peoples involved. "Surely the [Eternal] God will do nothing but he revealeth his secret unto his servants the prophets" (Amos 3:7).

After the warning is delivered, the watchman's job is finished. It is then up to the individual to decide whether he will personally act on that warning to avoid impending punishment.

Ezekiel took his commission seriously. Unable by circumstances to personally deliver the

(Continued on page 37)

WHY I DON'T WANT TO BE YOUR VALENTINE



by G.O. Marx

SEXUAL LOVE has always been the essential ingredient in the observance of St. Valentine's Day. This was true in ancient Rome, during the Middle Ages, and it is true today. Moreover, the mid-February date of this observance has not changed. Only the name of the game has changed, since February 14 is the eve of the Roman festival originally called *Lupercalia*.

The Valentine of Roman days was less refined, however, than its modern celebration. After sacrifice of goats and a dog, the priests, called *Luperci*, traditionally ran, in two bands, a marked course around the city on this day, scantily dressed only in goatskin girdles and carrying strips of goatskin with which they struck women to take away their infertility. The strips bore the

name *februa*, a word connected with *februare*, "to purify," hence the day was called *Februatus* and the month *Februarius*.

Lupercalia was, or became, connected with the legendary she-wolf (Latin *lupus*=wolf) who suckled Remus and Romulus, the eponymous founders of Rome; and "wolf" was a synonym in Rome for a sexually available woman. So the day became connected with Venus, goddess of sexual love. Venus' son Cupid also played an important part in this love feast.

Roman mythology ascribes to mother and son the power to instill passion in people, and with their love potion they also had the power to make love cease. Cupid is often portrayed shooting arrows into the hearts of hapless victims. Usually naked, winged and armed with a bow and arrow,

cupids are still portrayed in modern times on Valentine cards, in theater decor and the like.

First Christian Valentine

As can be well imagined, a bawdy festival of sex and love was popular with the masses of Rome. The Christian-professing church, on the other hand, had no desire to perpetuate *Lupercalia* and so tried to uproot this love feast. But the attempt met with failure. The pagan population of the empire, as well as many recently converted Christians, continued its observation.

Eventually the church decided that the only way this matter could be handled was to let the great masses of the empire, including members of the church, continue keeping the *Lupercalia* feast, but to rededicate it for another purpose. This policy of

religious compromise was used quite effectively by the early church fathers.

Once the Roman emperors embraced Christianity, church growth became explosive. In order to quickly "convert" the pagan populace, the church felt it could not be too hard on prospective members. Some church leaders reasoned that if Christianity was to conquer the world, it could best do so by relaxing what the world perceived as too rigid principles of the teachings of Christ.

Another effective way of gaining members was to blend and incorporate popular pagan beliefs and practices with Christian ones—syncretism. Seeing that the masses could not be persuaded to relinquish many of their superstitious customs, the attempt was made to add Christian concepts to the superstitious feasts. The historical development of the Christian church shows that, for almost every pagan ceremony, some Christian rite was introduced.

So, beginning with A.D. 496, the Roman populace could still come to their love feast, no longer dedicated to Venus, the goddess of love, but to the Virgin Mary and the saints. The *Lupercalia* was officially christened "St. Valentine's Day." The attention of the masses on each February 14 was now to be centered on Christian saints. People could still draw lots for their "valentines," but with the names of saints written on them instead.

Valentine Becomes a Saint

The name was chosen because third-century church records already revealed a tradition about a certain presbyter named Valentine who had married couples secretly against the edict of Emperor Claudius II and had been executed for so doing. He had now been elevated to sainthood, and as it happened, his day of commemoration was February 14, the same day as *Lupercalia*.

So Gelasius, bishop of Rome,

officially "christianized" *Lupercalia* and renamed it St. Valentine's Day.

But when the Protestants came on the scene, St. Valentine fell into the background, since Protestants did not hold to the concept that saints are worthy of celebration. People went back to drawing the names of ordinary young men and women choosing themselves partners for the celebration. Saints and Christianity had never become a major part of the festival anyway.

Cupid was still there. So were the arrowed hearts. Lots were still drawn as chance directed, the day was still the original Roman day and it was as popular as ever. In the late Middle Ages a lot of folklore developed, such as the belief that birds were said to mate on February 14. It was also held that the first person of the opposite sex one encountered on the morning of Valentine's Day was to become one's future spouse. Love po-

tions were considered especially potent on that day.

A Christian's Obligation

The fact that the origin of Valentine's Day is not saintly nor espoused in the Bible should make us think how many other Christian customs, concepts and even festivals are actually nonbiblical in origin.

No one denies that there is a need for the keeping of festive occasions and religious celebrations. In fact, a Christian is biblically admonished to celebrate truly meaningful festivals that reveal man's purpose for his existence. But to opt for non-Christian festivals, often totally irrelevant and meaningless, can blind us to the real purpose the Creator intends us to understand.

Write for the information concerning these festive occasions—the festivals observed by Christ and the apostles. They are fully explained in our free booklet *Pagan Holidays—or God's Holy Days—Which?* It's yours for the asking. □



When your time is up . . .

WHERE do all those sinners go? Millions cringe at the thought of an ever-burning inferno. But is this *true doctrine*? Would a merciful God in heaven subject the ignorant and the wicked alike to *eternal torment*? *Is There a Real Hell Fire?* brings to light the origins of today's misconceptions. Send for this *free booklet* today. It will spark your interest!



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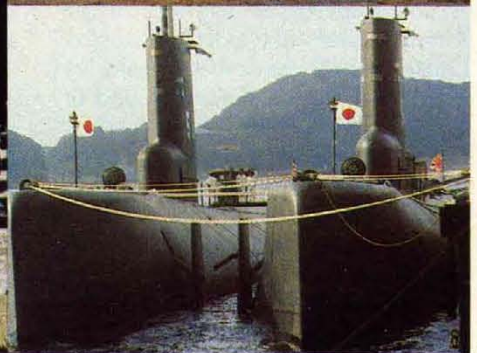
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Gamma/Liaison Photos — Left: Kaku Kurita; Top Right: Charles Habib; Center: Kaku Kurita; Bottom: Charles Habib

Ahead!

JAPANESE REARMAMENT

The changing geopolitical scene in East Asia may leave Japan no choice: It is rearm or perish!

by Keith W. Stump

JAPAN TODAY faces a sobering reality.

Japan is Asia's premier industrial nation. Its remarkable postwar economic miracle has been admired around the world. The industrious Japanese are affluent—ahead of most Europeans, and not far behind the United States.

But there is one potentially fatal flaw. Japan's prosperity relies on peace. Japan has no major natural resources. It cannot feed itself. It cannot energize itself. Japan is starvable. The nation relies on international trade for its very survival. With-

out it, Japan's huge industrial machine would grind to a sudden halt!

Were Japan to be denied food and energy—whether through war or some other form of economic disruption—the nation would face the specter of virtual overnight collapse!

For years the largely pacifist Japanese public has chosen to ignore these dire possibilities, enjoying their growing affluence with little thought to protecting it.

But times have changed. That ostrich-like inattention to events swirling around them is coming

to an abrupt end. Japan is beginning to face up to realities.

Soviet Buildup

Defense has been an understandably dirty word in Japan for most of the 35 years since the end of World War II. But Japan's strong postwar pacifist tradition is being shaken. The onrush of events is jarring the Japanese awake, stepping up pressures to remilitarize.

The Soviet invasion of Afghanistan more than a year ago has forced the touchy and highly controversial question of Japan's defense to the forefront of national attention. Add to this the con-

tinuing Soviet military buildup in the Far East. The Japanese public has taken these developments seriously. They are very conscious of their strategic implications.

The growing vulnerability of Japan's oil import route from the Middle East is particularly disturbing. Consider the growing strength of the Soviet navy in the Indian Ocean, and the Soviet access to naval and air facilities at Cam Ranh Bay, Vietnam. Both pose a serious new threat to the air and sea lanes to Japan. Many Japanese feel it is time to take steps toward asserting their right to maintain their economic lifeline.

Also of concern is the building of Soviet air bases on three of the Kurile islands just north of Japan. These islands have been held by the Soviet Union since the end of World War II, but are claimed by Japan. In addition, some 75 Soviet submarines and 70 major surface vessels are now based in the area of the nearby Sea of Okhotsk. This is much too close to home for the Japanese to ignore.

Finally, the continuing volatile situation in the Korean peninsula adds to Japan's strategic concerns.

Polls taken after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan show a definite increased concern for national security among the Japanese public. Pollsters also report a growing support for a stepped-up defense capability. Public opinion is clearly changing.

The pacifism spawned by the tragic experience of World War II is beginning to yield to the realities of modern geopolitics.

Self-Defense Forces

Article IX of Japan's postwar constitution—drawn up by the American occupation forces after the war—declares that "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as a means of settling international disputes." It also states that "Japan will never maintain land, sea and air forces, as well as other potential forces of war."

This ban, as interpreted, has not prevented Japan's taking

steps to insure its self-defense. Japan today maintains a 260,000-man "Self-Defense Force" (SDF)—about 180,000 soldiers, 40,000 sailors and 40,000 air force men. In fact, Japan's defense budget—which totaled \$8.5 billion for fiscal 1980—is the *eighth largest* in the world, after the Soviet Union, United States, China, West Germany, France, Great Britain and Saudi Arabia!

Proportionately, however, Japan's defense budget is one of the smallest in the world, representing less than 1 percent of the nation's gross national product (GNP). This compares to about 6 percent in the United States, nearly 14 percent in the Soviet Union, 5 percent in Britain, 3.5 percent in West Germany and 3.3 percent in France. Japan would have to more than triple its level of defense spending to bring it into line with the NATO powers of Western Europe.

Japan's bare-bones Self-Defense Force is a far cry from Japan's formidable Imperial Army of 5 million men at the outset of World War II. According to a recent report by a major Japanese government defense study group, Japan could not adequately defend itself at this time against even a small-scale conventional (nonnuclear) attack!

It has been estimated that Japan's small air force could hold out less than four hours were it to face a Soviet attack.

"Japan's defense system," explained Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki last September, "is a two-pronged policy of meeting small-scale limited aggression with Japan's own defense capability and relying upon the deterrent strength of the United States under Japan-U.S. security arrangements to meet situations beyond our capabilities."

Many Japanese are coming to realize that this plan—even if feasible—has not yet been adequately implemented.

U.S. Commitment Doubted

Japan has for four years been under steadily increasing pressure

from Washington to shoulder more of the burden for its own defense. With the election of Ronald Reagan as U.S. President, some Japanese foreign ministry officials are expecting even greater American pressure on Japan to spend more on defense.

Over the years, however, Japan has largely resisted this pressure to flex its military muscles. But now the force of events is succeeding where U.S. urgings have failed.

As the Japanese watched the Soviets invade Afghanistan and support the Vietnamese invasion of Cambodia—with Washington standing idly by—their confidence in America's ability to defend them sagged considerably. Doubts about America's commitment to their defense continue to grow. "Would Washington really risk Chicago for Osaka?" the Japanese ask. They are beginning to realize, as the Bible long ago predicted (Leviticus 26:19), that the pride of America's power has indeed been broken! (Request *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* for the surprising details of the English-speaking world in Bible prophecy.)

Moreover, the Japanese perceive a shift in U.S. defense priorities to the Middle East and Europe. Japanese Foreign Minister Masayoshi Ito said last October that Japan would have to increase its military capability to compensate for the departure of American forces from the Western Pacific to the Indian Ocean and Arabian Sea. Many of the ships are from the U.S. Seventh Fleet based in Japan.

The Japanese realize they are going to have to take up some of the slack created by the dilution of the American military presence in the Western Pacific. But their strategic thinking has gone beyond that point. Some are now asking whether Japan should remain dependent on the United States at all!

Budget Hike

Japanese concern over the uncertainty of the American commitment
(Continued on page 30)

TWO STATESMEN

by Stanley R. Rader

THE popular cliché these days is that the world no longer has leaders of the stature of Churchill, Adenauer or de Gaulle. One historian, Ronald Steel, recently declared that we are living in a time of "pygmies" when it comes to leaders. Another historian, Barbara Tuchman, has said "these are not the times that evoke great leadership." However, after accompanying Herbert W. Armstrong on his recent and most successful visit to the Middle East, I am now convinced that there are at least two leaders in the world who *do* fill the bill as great statesmen.

Anwar Sadat radiates a bold confidence every bit the worthy of Churchill or de Gaulle. He is willing to take risks—risks to his *own personal political position*—to create a peaceful, prosperous Middle East. He is a man who sees clearly the tremendous potential in his own country, and is willing to pursue a clear and consistent path to see that that potential is realized.

President Sadat's willingness to do the dramatic—to take bold risks—in pursuit of peace was evident from the beginning of his tenure of leadership. In 1971 he attempted to jar the Middle East out of stalemate with his tough talk about the "year of decision." The next year, he laid the foundation for what later became the Camp David Accords by evicting his Russian advisers. By 1976, Mr. Sadat had established himself as a man who was willing to do what was necessary to achieve a Middle East settlement. Even before his historic trip to Israel, then-Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban was describing him as a "historic figure," willing to reduce tensions.

The trip to Jerusalem and the

establishment of ties to Israel in 1977 likewise followed Mr. Sadat's pattern of bold and courageous statecraft. The offer to go to Jerusalem surprised even his own wife. The trip and a year later the Camp David Accords have cost Egypt's leader support among hard-line nations in the Arab world—but they have been broadly supported by the overwhelming majority of the Egyptian populace who have had to bear much of the brunt of past Arab-Israeli hostility.

Perhaps there is no better example of Mr. Sadat's striking courage than his treatment of Shah Reza Pahlavi of Iran.

At the time of the shah's illness, Iranian Foreign Minister Sadegh Ghotbzadeh threatened there would be a "great deal of trouble in Egypt" if the shah were allowed refuge there. While much of the rest of the world cringed, President Sadat was undeterred. The shah came to Egypt after being treated like a pariah by his former friends in the West. Later, when the shah died, Mr. Sadat was defiantly alone among the world's leaders in having the personal courage to march in the funeral procession in Cairo.

Lesser men, confronted with Egypt's overwhelming economic problems would have resorted to looking for a scapegoat—Israel—on which to divert attention from their problems. But Mr. Sadat has been willing to take constructive action—bold peace efforts to allow the country to channel its resources away from war and into peaceful economic investment.

When the final history of the 20th century is written, my bet is that Anwar Sadat will go down as one of our era's truly outstanding leaders.

Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin is likewise a towering figure among world leaders. Much has been written, of course, about Mr. Begin's supposed intransigence on such issues as Israeli settlements on the West Bank. But one must remember that the very existence of the state of Israel is always at stake in Middle East negotiations. Accordingly, Mr. Begin has chosen to err on the side of caution: the first duty of any leader is the preservation of his nation and people, and Mr. Begin is a man who will not sacrifice the security of Israel for a few favorable headlines.

Mr. Begin possesses, as few leaders in the world today possess, a clear sense of his own nation's purpose and identity. To understand Menachem Begin, one must realize that he is the only leader on the world scene who has personally endured the terrors of imprisonment in a Siberian concentration camp, or experienced the heartbreak of knowing his own father, mother, brother and sister perished in one of Hitler's death camps. Thus Mr. Begin understands, as few others can, just how precious is the continued existence of the state of Israel and the Jewish people.

His overriding sense of Jewish identity manifests itself in his personal faith as well. He is a devout, Orthodox Jew, who ascribes his recovery from a heart attack in 1979 as a direct result of God's intervention.

The Western press has underrated Mr. Begin's ability to compromise, and create harmony and agreement. Yet just before the 1967 war, Mr. Begin was instrumental in helping to form the Government of National Unity at a time of deep political crisis. Mr. Begin's own persistence at Camp David in reaching important compromises has not yet received the full credit in the Western press it is due.

Like President Sadat, Mr. Begin is a man of courage. He
(Continued on page 29)

Scientists in Quandary About DARWIN

by Clayton Steep

But they don't question evolution! Why?

WERE you taught in school that you are the result of a gradual process of evolution? That when all the "missing links" are finally discovered they would show the progression of evolution as conceived by Darwin?

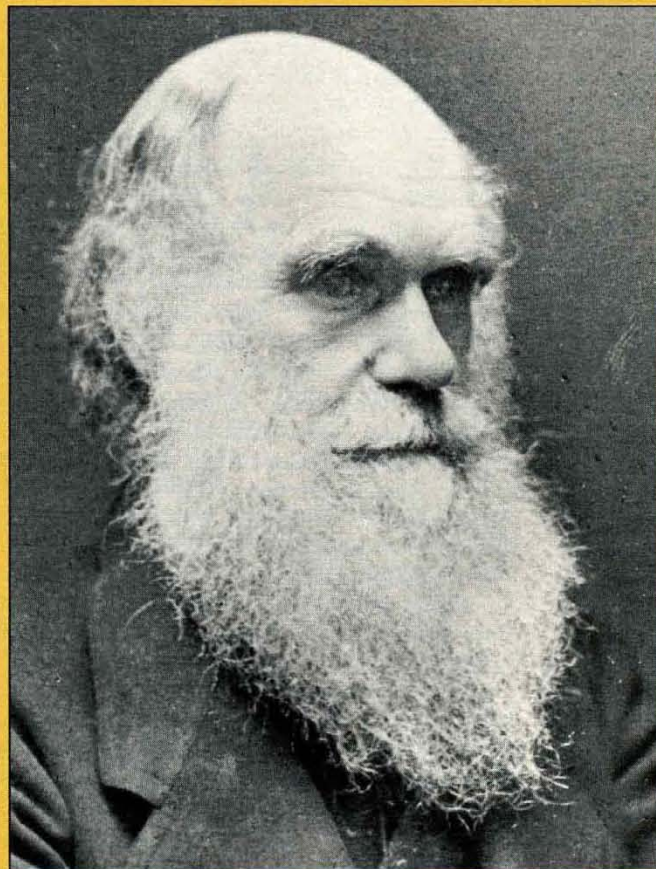
And if you dared to question the validity of Darwin's concept were you looked at strangely? Even laughed at?

Well, guess what! A growing body of scientists is concluding that Darwin was not right after all!

A century has gone by—a century of searching for the missing links essential to hold Darwin's theory together. It has become all too evident that those missing links will never be found because they never existed in the first place.

This does not mean that those scientists who are abandoning Darwinism are abandoning the idea of evolution. They continue to maintain that life evolved—but not the way Darwin thought it did.

How did it evolve then? That is



Wide World Photo

what they would like to find out!

Classical Darwinism has held that life evolved from simple forms to complex forms through the slow accumulation of small changes over many millions or even hundreds of millions of

years. When a change occurred, the principle of competition determined whether or not the change was an "improvement." This was known as natural selection or survival of the fittest. The whole process was gradual and relatively simple—according to the theory.

However, if that is the way it happened the story should have been reflected in the fossil record. There should be evidence of a long unbroken chain of life forms starting with minute organisms, progressively working up through various branches of the evolutionary tree to the ultimate complex form—man himself. Each link in the chain should look a little like the link before it and a little like the link after it.

But, much to the disappointment of evolutionary scientists, record of such an unbroken chain of life forms has not been found. Not that they haven't looked! They have very diligently searched and pieced together what they have unearthed in an

attempt to construct the chain of evolution. But without proven success. There are just too many missing links. Reporting on the gaps, science writers for *Newsweek* commented: "In the fossil record, missing links are the rule: the story of life is as disjointed as a silent newsreel, in which species succeed on another as abruptly as Balkan prime ministers. The more scientists have searched for the transitional forms between species, the more they have been frustrated" (*Newsweek*, November 3, 1980).

Hence the disillusionment with Darwin's ideas.

Still Searching

The search now being undertaken by many scientists is for a new theory of evolution to replace that of Charles Darwin. A very promising replacement is a theory that has gained prominence in just the last few years. It is called punctuationalism.

Rather than a slow but steady series of changes through eons of time, punctuationalism would have life forms changing very little for lengthy periods and suddenly making a significant sporadic and spasmodic evolutionary leap. The burst of activity would be followed by another period of inactivity. Missing links would no longer be a problem, since transitional life forms would not be needed. But by what mechanism would such quantum leaps occur?—chance mutations perhaps?

When 160 of the world's most eminent paleontologists, anatomists, evolutionary geneticists and developmental biologists met in Chicago last October, the majority of them favored some form of punctuationalism. But there is sharp contention concerning details. The new theory poses many difficult questions. Meanwhile there are some scientists who still refuse to abandon Darwin's concept.

And so the scientific community is in disagreement as to how various life forms came to be.

But it is remarkable that in all the discussion going on, in all the searching for alternate explanations, there is no move among evolutionary scientists to reconsider whether the biblical record of how God created the different life forms might be accurate after all. There is no indication that it even enters into serious discussion. Investigation of that possibility is out of the question in the mainstream of science.

The biblical record doesn't need any missing links. It fits the fossil evidence that various species came suddenly into being. Then why isn't it considered?

Perhaps the answer was given by NASA astrophysicist Robert Jastrow. Though his field of interest is more the origin of the universe than the origin of life, the parallel between both studies is interesting.

In the Beginning

The study of the origin of life is being altered by evidence that life forms came abruptly into being. So too, the study of the origin of the universe has been modified by findings that compel astrophysicists to consider that the universe had a definite beginning.

That the heavens and the earth came into being at a definite point in time is contrary to what many experts prefer to believe. But that is exactly what the Bible has always said. One would think the astronomers and physicists would therefore consider the biblical account as a possibility at least. But no, as with the evolutionary scientists, there is no move among the astronomers and physicists to the Bible. It is as though there is an unspoken rule among the members of the scientific community that God and the Bible are to be automatically excluded from any search for scientific truth.

So striking is this phenomenon that Mr. Jastrow, a self-proclaimed agnostic, commented on it: "Theologians generally are delighted with the proof that the universe had a beginning. But

astronomers are curiously upset by it. Their reactions provide an interesting demonstration of the response of the scientific mind—supposedly a very objective mind—when evidence uncovered by science itself leads to a conflict with the articles of faith in their profession. It turns out that scientists behave the way the rest of us do when our beliefs are in conflict with the evidence: We become irritated; we pretend the conflict does not exist; or, we paper it over with meaningless phrases" (Los Angeles *Times*, June 25, 1978).

There is a religion in science—a faith that every event can be logically accounted for as the product of some previous event. But to define that previous event science insists on evidence it can see, feel, measure or weigh. This leaves out the supernatural, because the ultimate "event" is—God.

Thus a vital dimension is missing from scientific reasoning. The Bible depicts as fools those who are "ever learning, and never able to come to the knowledge of the truth" (II Timothy 3:7). Truth in any matter cannot be determined if *all* the evidence is not examined.

As long as the spiritual dimension is excluded from scientific reasoning, new theories will constantly have to be advanced as old ones prove inadequate. Ultimately, though, it will be necessary for science to come to terms with the supernatural. Mr. Jastrow describes that moment: "For the scientist who has lived by his faith in the power of reason, the story ends like a bad dream. He has scaled the mountains of ignorance; he is about to conquer the highest peak; as he pulls himself over the final rock, he is greeted by a band of theologians who have been sitting there for centuries." The question we pose to Mr. Jastrow is, why have the band of theologians been *sitting* there. Has there been something equally wrong in theology as in evolutionary science? □

Education for the TOTAL MAN

by Raymond F. McNair

Ambassador College is unique among today's institutions of higher learning. Its goals and objectives are different from those of other colleges. How—and why—this difference?

EACH year, many thousands of visitors from all over the world tour the Ambassador College campus in Pasadena, California. Many of them have remarked that the Ambassador campus is the happiest, most beautiful campus on earth. Recently Ambassador College received an award—its third such award—for being the best kept and most beautiful campus in America!

Certainly, those of us privileged to work and live on this unique campus agree!

Why are Ambassadors the happiest of students? And what inspired the creation of this gem of a college, set in the "Crown City" of Pasadena?

Not Just Another College

The founder and chancellor of Ambassador College, Herbert W. Armstrong, has often explained why Ambassador had to be *unique*—utterly different from other institutions of higher learning.

Surveying the educational institutions in the United States in 1947, Mr. Armstrong clearly saw the need for a college to be totally different in its goals. What flaws did Mr. Armstrong see in institutions of higher learning that made it imperative to found a college with totally different objectives?

His answer was aptly expressed in his own words in the *Bulletin of Ambassador College*: "Something is criminally wrong with education today."

"Educational institutions," said Mr. Armstrong, "generally, have grown so large that regimented assembly-line processes have replaced individualized instruction. The student has lost his identity. Development of *personality* and *initiative* is largely sacrificed.

"*Moral bars have toppled . . . stuffing minds with crass materialism, while moral, spiritual and emotional development is neglected, produces lopsided, unbalanced education and is criminally dangerous*" (*Bulletin of Ambassador College*, 1966-67).

Herbert W. Armstrong was determined that the college would have God and his written Word the center of everything. This central idea is now inscribed on the west wall of the beautiful Ambassador Hall: "The Word of God is the foundation of knowledge."

Mr. Armstrong described the founding of Ambassador College by saying:

"I was never called to engage in the college business. But in 1947 the need had become imperative to establish an educational arm of the Church on the college level.

"It definitely was not because this world needed another college. There were too many of this world's institutions of higher education already! [There are 3,000 institutions of higher learning in America today!]

"But the living God had caused me to realize the serious need for

a college to train *an educated ministry* for his Church and *other personnel* to fill the increasing need for administrative offices.

"For this purpose it had to be God's kind of college—utterly unique in the world. No college or theological seminary extant filled this purpose" (*The Good News*, July, 1978).

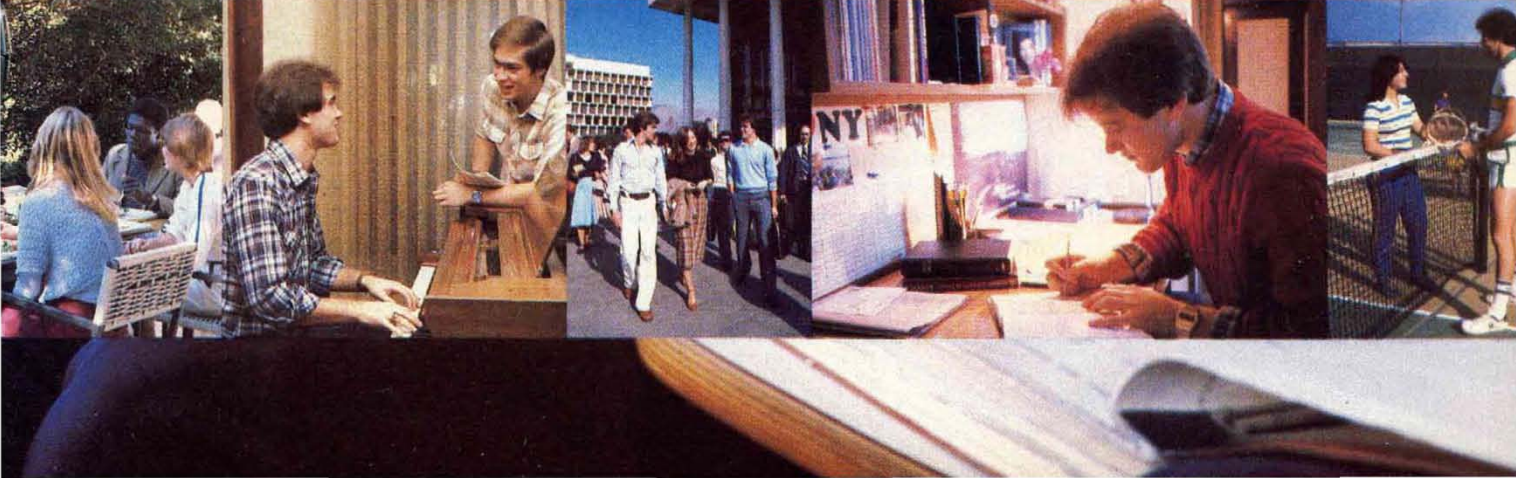
It was not to be a Bible college or theological seminary. Students were to receive a broad, liberal arts education—not a narrow, restricted Bible education only.

Ambassador Opens Its Doors

Ambassador College opened its doors in October, 1947, a small college campus then comprising 2¼ acres. From that very small beginning, Ambassador expanded until today it encompasses approximately 45 acres in one of America's more prestigious communities. Under Chancellor Armstrong's firm guidance, Ambassador College today remains small (with 500 students) so that a *family-like atmosphere* will



Roland Rees — PT



always be part of this unique college. Under no circumstances do we intend to allow Ambassador to become a large rubber-stamp college—like so many institutions of higher learning. The mass, assembly-line processes of education must never replace personalized instruction. Students must never lose their individual identity.

Ambassador, over the years, has provided the vital, but missing dimension in modern education. The development of character—not the intellect only. As the Rolls Royce factory in England builds only a limited number of virtually handmade, highly finished cars, so would Ambassador seek to produce a limited number of thoroughly trained young people in whom would be developed Rolls Royce-like character. Ambassador would never seek to mass produce large numbers of students. Ambassador would not aim for a cheap, inferior product—but would aim for a superior product—for the very best.

A Character Building College

Ambassador College has a four-fold purpose: 1) to develop a keen intellect; 2) to develop a strong, healthy body; 3) to develop personality; 4) and most important of all, develop sterling character.

Of these four (intellect, body, personality and character) character development is far more important. Yet, in the average college of today, personality and character development is virtually ignored. Not so at Ambassador.

"There can be no well-balanced, broadening and worthwhile education," writes the founder and chancellor of Ambassador College, "where the *true values* have been obscured from view, where *character building* is a lost and discarded art and minds are filled with dead knowledge and false materialism.

"... The development of the *man* himself, his *character*, right sense of values, knowledge of the real purpose of life and the laws that govern happiness, peace and abundant well-being is neglected. Modern education commits the crime of *developing the machine*

while failing to *develop the man*.

"At Ambassador College, students find the *true values*. They learn the real purpose of human life. Life takes on true meaning. *Emphasis is upon character building*. Students acquire a well-rounded, broadening, balanced education. There is not only *mind* development, but also that of *personality*, true culture, poise and emotional maturity."

Developing the "Whole Man"

At Ambassador, things are different. We are concerned, first and foremost, with character and personality development—but also realize the importance of developing the intellect. (Graduates of other colleges may find it more difficult to make high marks in Ambassador than in some of the world's most renowned colleges and universities.)

"The Ambassador policy is based upon the recognition," says Chancellor Armstrong, "that *true education* is not of the *intellect* alone but of the *whole personality*—not alone of technologies, sciences and arts, but an understanding of the purpose of life, a knowledge of the *spiritual laws* which govern our lives, our God-relationship and human relationships. Not a memorizing of knowledge alone but a thorough training in self-discipline, self-expression, *cultural* and *character development*. Not book learning only but broadening travel and experience; not only hearing and learning but doing.

"In other words," concluded Chancellor Armstrong, "the curricula [at Ambassador] are planned to give students a broad, cultural background—a *foundation* for the art of living happily, usefully, successfully, abundantly. Hence the emphasis upon *character building* and spiritual development is aptly stated in the Ambassador motto: 'Recapture True Values' " (*Bulletin of Ambassador College*, 1966-67).

Today, the handwriting is on the wall of Western civilization. And it is modern educational institutions that are, in large mea-

sure, responsible for failing to teach young people the right *moral values*. Look at the fruits of our modern educational systems: soaring crime, rampant immorality (homosexuality, husband and wife swapping, pornography, cheating, lying).

To further illustrate: A recent article entitled, "The Games Teen-Agers Play," reveals America's slide into immorality: "The latest figures... indicate that nearly 50 percent of the nation's 10.3 million young women age 15 to 19 have had premarital sex. The percentage has nearly doubled since Zelnik and Kantner began their surveys in 1971" (*Newsweek*, September 1, 1980).

"One disturbing consequence of this advanced sexuality is that teenage pregnancies are epidemic: 1 million teenage girls—one out of every 10—get pregnant each year. Statistics in a 1977 study show that 600,000 unwed teenagers were giving birth each year, with the sharpest increase among those under 14. Venereal disease is rampant among adolescents, accounting for 25 percent of the one million reported gonorrhea cases every year" (*ibid.*).

Modern educators (whether in the schools or colleges) are hamstrung when it comes to teaching "old-fashioned morals"—like the Ten Commandments. "In many schools [and colleges], any mention of *morality* or emotion is forbidden" (*Newsweek*, September 1, 1980).

Telling It Like It Is

But at Ambassador College, we tell it like it is. We are not afraid to brand evil as such. We are not afraid to call lewdness "sin"—since the Word of God, the only true foundation for a proper education, reveals the truth about what sin is. "For sin is the transgression of the law [of God]" (I John 3:4). Sin is breaking any one of the Ten Commandments—lying, stealing, committing adultery, murdering, etc.

Can you now see why the main emphasis at Ambassador College

is on character building? The Bible is taken as man's infallible guide. It tells him how to think, and how to live—successfully, happily, abundantly.

But, at Ambassador other subjects are also important: history, science, (true) psychology, music, foreign languages, speech, home economics (for the women), geography, English and writing courses, international relations.

History, as an example, is an important subject at Ambassador. Unfortunately, many colleges no longer stress this vitally important subject. Robert Penn Warren, one of America's most distinguished men of letters (he received three Pulitzer Prizes), made the following significant comments regarding the importance of history:

"One sign of our loss of humanity is the *declining interest* in history. . . . But history today is almost ceasing to be studied.

" . . . How many people coming out of *college* now know any American history? And if they know U.S. history, do they know about the history of any other country?

"There's an appalling *ignorance and contempt for history*.

"Not only is there an *ignorance of history in colleges*, there is also a problem with literacy among students" (*U.S. News & World Report*, August 18, 1980).

Here at Ambassador history remains important.

We also offer various courses in business, teaching, home economics, secretarial skills and other areas that will enable graduates of the college to obtain secular jobs immediately upon graduation. Only a select few qualify for the ministry.

Quite recently, a number of graduates of Ambassador College informed me how their intensive training in character development, leadership, writing and public speaking enabled them to get and hold good jobs after graduating from Ambassador. One young male graduate of Ambassador earns a salary three times the national average, and he attrib-

uted his financial success to intensive training at Ambassador in the fields of character development, public speaking and leadership training.

A young female graduate of Ambassador recently told me that though she was not yet "qualified" in any particular field (didn't possess that many technical qualifications) she was able, nonetheless, to go out and leapfrog a long list of graduates from other colleges and get a job that pays more than \$20,000 per annum. She attributed her success in the field of business to her excellent training while at Ambassador in the fields of public

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Ambassador, over the years, has provided the vital, but missing dimension in modern education. The development of character — not the intellect only.

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speaking, dress and grooming, leadership and all-around character development.

Many of America's 3,000 institutions of higher learning teach students a lot about specific fields, but most of them utterly fail to teach students the basics: what life is all about, why man was put on this earth, the real source of all life and intelligence, the right way to attain real peace, happiness, wisdom and understanding.

King Solomon, the wisest man who ever lived, was inspired to say: "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: and the knowledge of the holy [i.e., to know God] is understanding" (Proverbs 9:10).

Ambassador Provides Answers

At this college-of-the-future, students are taught that man is

limited, fallible—that of himself he does *not* have the solutions to the complex problems of life. But God, the Designer and Maker of man, knows what is good for him. Ambassador students are given real answers—workable solutions to life's difficult problems. Students are taught to have hope in the future—not unlimited hope in man!—but unbounded faith in their Creator and in his great purpose for all mankind.

Though students at Ambassador are taught how to earn a living, the primary emphasis is first and foremost on how to live!

What is it that really makes a "whole man"—a complete person—a truly educated individual? Is it merely material or physical knowledge? Or, is it that knowledge coupled with true spiritual wisdom and understanding? "The end of the matter, all having been heard: fear God, and keep His commandments; for *this is* [or, this comprises] the whole man" (Ecclesiastes 12:13, J.P.S.).

What makes a young man or woman complete or "whole" is knowledge of true spiritual values—a comprehension of man's incredible potential, the true knowledge of how to conduct oneself toward our Creator and our fellowman. These are real basics of life.

Ambassador students are taught the real meaning of human existence. They quickly learn that it is only through the development of sterling character that they can become whole or complete in their education. Any educational system that leaves God and his way out of the picture will of necessity be a lopsided, incomplete education. That is why at Ambassador College, education is for the "total man." When this vital "missing dimension" in modern education is supplied, students are equipped to live happy, successful and abundantly productive lives!

It is this education that is standard at Ambassador College! □

The Plain Truth About the So-Called CHRISTIAN RIGHT

by Jeff Calkins

Groups like the Moral Majority and Christian Voice played a big role in last year's U.S. elections. The rise of this "Christian Right" has caused a near-hysterical reaction in some quarters—critics warn of "goose stepping," and "moral fascism." What is the real meaning behind the increasing involvement of fundamentalist and evangelical religious groups in this world's politics?

A NEW PRESIDENT and Congress have just been installed in Washington. Another of this world's governments has changed hands. But there was something dramatically different about the 1980 election.

Fundamentalist and evangelical groups got heavily involved—contributing money, time and effort to specific candidates. In at least two races in Bible-belt states, challengers backed by these groups upset entrenched incumbents whom almost no one thought could possibly lose.

The movement—dubbed the Christian Right by those who aren't particularly fond of it—is centered around three activist groups: Christian Voice, Religious Round Table, and television evangelist Jerry Falwell's Moral Majority. They are essentially rough alliances of ministers and individuals from various churches, even including Jews and Catholics. They claim to represent somewhere between 40 and 60 million voters.

An article in *The Wall Street Journal* summed up their "party platform:"

"The newly politically active Christians stand for propositions that are the reverse of those inherited from the '60s, now Democratic Party doctrine.

These propositions are, first, that there are moral differences in the ways people lead their lives, some right and others wrong; and, second; that American values are superior to those of nations whose values differ, notably the totalitarian regimes and religious dictatorships. In particular the Christian activists are against abortion, against the ERA, for school prayer, for the traditional family, for capital punishment, for a balanced budget, for military superiority over the Soviet Union."

Accordingly, the Christian Right supported politicians who supported these positions. For example, they supported Ronald Reagan over Jimmy Carter. Of course, four years earlier, Mr. Carter had gained a great deal of political mileage by publicly "professing Christ." While in office, on the other hand, he promoted feminist causes, opposed legal steps to curb abortion and established the White House Conference on Families—deliberately called "families" and not "the family" so as to include communes and homosexual relationships. And when candidate Reagan caused anguished screams in the press by actually posing a question about evolution—Mr. Carter issued a statement that he believes in evolution

and God. After the electoral landslide, first lady Rosalynn Carter said she felt no bitterness toward the voters—but she was bothered by the Moral Majority.

Mr. Carter probably did not lose the election simply because the Moral Majority was against him. But the Moral Majority no doubt helped Mr. Reagan's landslide by having many evangelical Christians register to vote—45 percent of such people usually don't vote.

At the outset, we must emphasize—although *The Plain Truth* and the Worldwide Church of God believe in a strong traditional family life, indeed, the restoration of proper family life is one of the directives that God has given his Church in these last days (Malachi 4:6)—WE ARE NOT PART OF THE MORAL MAJORITY OR OF ANY LIKE OR UNLIKE GROUPS. We take no part in this world's politics! Churches that are a part of this world may take part in this world's politics. God's true Church must remain "unspotted" by political involvement.

But the true significance of the Christian Right is *not political*: it is *prophetic!*

Real Meaning Behind Christian Right

All the hullabaloo about the Christian Right springs from

varying points of man's perspective. What is God's perspective—as revealed in his Word?

Everyone has overlooked a key prophecy for *our day and age*, which lends understanding to what the Christian Right is all about.

How many political scientists, for example, understand this vital prophecy: "As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths" (Isaiah 3:12).

This prophecy reveals that God's pattern of family life will come under severe attack in these *last days!*

Now listen to Ms Gloria Steinem, the feminist "spokesperson" who, along with Eleanor Smeal, head of the National Organization of Women, an ultrafeminist group, denounced President Reagan during the campaign:

"The ultra-right-wing, using the smiling facade of Mr. Reagan, is *trying to restore the authoritarian family*," said Ms Steinem, in founding Women Against the Republican Nominee, a campaign group that urged women to vote for President Carter because of his support of the Equal Rights Amendment.

Authoritarian is a feminist code word. Ms Steinem is *not* referring to drunken wife-beaters. She is referring to families in which the father's position as head of the house is respected. This is too authoritarian for her!

But notice! She used the word *restore*. So Gloria Steinem acknowledges what God's prophets reveal—family patterns have broken down and therefore are in need of restoration!

The overlooked significance of the so-called Christian Right is that things have gotten so bad that the churches of this world, which at least profess to take the Bible seriously, have been forced to political action!

In Alaska, before the presidential primaries, the members of the Moral Majority swamped GOP district meetings to elect their own delegates to the state Repub-

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of the Christian
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”

lican convention. At the convention, they passed a number of resolutions, directly contrary to the general antifamily drift in the country: against abortion, drafting women, and the White House Conference on Families (because it was stacked against traditional families), and in favor of the parental right to discipline children. They also issued the most remarkable statement for a "political" party:

"Our country is rapidly turning into a 20th-century Sodom and Gomorrah."

The statement is a dramatic confirmation of a prophecy found in Jeremiah:

"I have seen also in the prophets of Jerusalem an horrible thing: they commit adultery, and walk in lies; they strengthen also the hands of evildoers, that none doth return from his wickedness: they are all of them unto me as Sodom, and the inhabitants thereof as Gomorrah" (Jeremiah 23:14). (Jerusalem, as capital of ancient Judah, often represents latter-day descendants of the ancient house of Israel and Judah.)

It is a fact that many politicians who earned the wrath of the Moral Majority have done their bit to promote values fundamentally at odds to the family as God ordained it.

For example, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare (now split into two departments) has, for the last several years, pushed regulations against school dress codes that "enforce sexual stereotyping." That is, against asking boys to dress as boys and girls as girls. (For God's opinion of "sexual stereotypes," see Deuteronomy 22:5: "The woman shall

not wear that which pertaineth unto a man, neither shall a man put on a woman's garment: for all that do so are abomination unto the Lord thy God.")

The Department has also tried to abolish school-sponsored father-son dinners and has pushed coed physical education programs—all in the name of sexual equality.

In another instance, the federal government has funded "values-education" programs, which, as President Reagan remarked during the campaign, "indirectly teach grade-school children relativism."

And then there's the Equal Rights Amendment—aggressively pushed by feminists. (As Herbert Armstrong likes to say, mother Eve, when she ate the forbidden fruit, was the first advocate of equal rights!) Lawyers disagree as to exactly what the ERA will do—though it certainly will force women to be drafted and also face an equal risk of combat—but everyone agrees that the ERA is more than just a proposed amendment to the U.S. Constitution. It is a symbol of how our society views family life and sex roles: the traditional pattern where in the context of the family, men do certain things and women do certain things—or the brave new world of unisex.

What the Moral Majority people have realized is that the ERA is a kind of national referendum on family life. If it were to become part of the American Constitution, it would permanently enshrine the unisex theory of law.

Then there's abortion. What many people whose outlook is primarily secular and humanistic fail to realize is that abortion is to the 1980s what slavery was to the 1840s. It is such a monstrous evil that those who see it as the wholesale slaughter of human babies will not go away and accept it as part of a women's "right to choose." The senators who were the targets of the Moral Majority were universally against taking the necessary political action (ba-

sically, passing a Human Life Amendment) in order to end the evil of abortion.

Or take homosexual rights. Many politicians favor laws that would *force* a religious person for whom homosexuality is an abomination (see Leviticus 18:22; 20:13) to hire or rent to homosexuals. The acceptability of homosexuality has been aggressively pushed on prime-time television, and by television networks who haven't the foggiest ability to relate to people who take the Bible seriously.

Then there's pornography. The Supreme Court has said that pornography can be banned if it "offends" local community standards. This has allowed a number of small communities to rid themselves of the public display of pornography. However, at the same time, the Supreme Court decision virtually insures that even the grossest obscenities will be on sale in large cities where the "community standards" are just about where they were in Sodom and Gomorrah.

Hysterical Reaction

Some of those of the opposite political persuasion have attacked these "conservative" Christians with a shrill vengeance.

James Dunn, a Southern Baptist official in Texas, denounced the "evangelical right" as "uninformed, unrealistic, unfaithful to their highest ideals, uncaring, unbrotherly and untruthful."

Carl Henry, a respected evangelical theologian, warned of the "goose-step mentality of a handful of vocal religious leaders."

A Jesuit magazine, *America*, called the platform of the Christian Right "moral fascism."

Jimmy Allen, head of the Southern Baptist Radio/TV Commission (and active himself in Jimmy Carter's reelection campaign) said Christian Right leaders were guilty of "dishonesty in oversimplification" about the abortion issue.

Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, declared that it was "no

coincidence that the rise of right-wing Christian fundamentalism has been accompanied by the most serious outbreak of anti-Semitism in America since the outbreak of World War II." (It is a little surprising the Rabbi should make such a statement—these groups are among the most enthusiastic supporters of Israel you will find among non-Jewish American voters anywhere!)

And the Los Angeles *Times* ran an article from one of their staff writers warning of book censorship in the wake of the November elections. Prompted, we were asked to believe, by conservative fundamentalist ministers.

Norman Lear, the prominent television producer, who gave the American public "Maude" and "Mary Hartman, Mary Hartman" (hardly "profamily" shows) organized his own media campaign to warn that the Christian Right represented a threat to American democracy and the "American way."

The big worry, of course, is the mixing of church and state. The American press has fed this worry over the last year by calling the supporters of the Ayatollah Khomeini in Iran "Moslem fundamentalists." The point is to link the Christian Right—made up largely of Christian "fundamentalists"—to the practices of Khomeini's regime. The press is thereby subtly propagandizing that if the Moral Majority got its way, the United States would resemble Khomeini's Iran.

In actuality, if the Moral Majority and like groups got their way, the laws on the books would merely return to something like what they were in the 1950s—when America was probably a freer society in many ways than it is today. The United States was hardly like the Ayatollah's Iran in the 1950s when it had stronger laws against abortion and pornography, and it permitted prayer in schools.

Old-Fashioned Hypocrisy

Much of the outcry over the Moral Majority and like groups

is plain old hypocrisy. Remember the 1960s? Remember all the prominent clergymen who got involved in political causes—like opposing the Vietnam War or working to increase welfare: William Sloan Coffin, the Berrigan brothers, James Groppi—these men of the cloth were not at all bashful about supporting liberal political causes. Indeed—you don't even have to go back to the 1960s—Andrew Young, the former U.S. Ambassador to the UN who called the Ayatollah Khomeini a "saint" and said the Cubans were a "stabilizing" force in Africa, is a minister. Where were all the concerned voices of protest about breaching the wall of church and state when they were advocating their causes?

The National Council of Churches issued, in the wake of the election, a high-sounding statement saying it is "wrong for any religious group . . . to seek to Christianize government. It is arrogant to assert that one's position on a political issue is Christian and all others are unChristian."

(The National Council of Churches, incidentally, has funneled money to revolutionaries under the guise of fighting "racism.")

For years, religious groups have used their religious credentials to push causes like disarmament, higher taxes and more welfare, and harsh campaigns against South Africa (but never, ever the Soviet Union).

Now that some religious leaders are pushing other causes, there are hysterical shrieks about "goose-stepping," "fascism," and "book-burning," all to imply that the Moral Majority and like groups are some variety of Nazism.

If the Christian Right may pose a possible danger, it is in an area largely overlooked by the left-leaning critics. While there is a smattering of Jews, the Christian Right is made up almost completely of Sunday-keeping churches. It would be a tragedy if the Moral Majority—which has

fought against secular atheistic humanistic propaganda being *forced* on believers in the public school system—were to try to enforce Sunday keeping under the guise of blue laws, which forbid work or shopping on Sunday. Thus far, Sunday keeping is not one of the causes of the Christian Right. We hope it will stay that way.

Biblical Ignorance

It doesn't take any special spiritual understanding to realize that family life and morality have been seriously eroded by the secular humanistic spirit that has dominated the major U.S. media and many left-leaning politicians over the past years. The Bible is so plain on these basic issues that no one who professes to take it seriously can possibly doubt that the Bible is a pro-family book.

Jerry Falwell and other leaders of the Christian Right profess, of course, to follow the Bible. It is a shame, then, that, outside matters of basic morality, many of their doctrines are nowhere to be found in Scripture. Mr. Falwell should know, for example, that *reverend* is a title appropriate to the Eternal God (Psalm 111:9), and therefore not something that he should attach to his own name. Likewise, nowhere to be found are beliefs that you go to heaven when you die, that you should worship on the first day of the week, that you should observe Christmas and Easter instead of God's revealed Holy Days, that God is a Trinity—or that it is a sin *not* to vote, as Mr. Falwell claims.

And most assuredly, Mr. Falwell is not "born again" (when you are born again, you are composed of spirit—read John 3:5-7).

And it is a special irony—in light of their support for the modern state of Israel—that Mr. Falwell and the Moral Majority do not profess the basic key to Bible prophecy: the knowledge that modern Britain and America—*as well as* the Israelis—nationally

make up the descendants of the biblical 12 tribes of Israel of old.

A Modern Josiah?

The candidate of the Moral Majority—Ronald Reagan—won the election. The Senate changed hands—something not expected in this generation. The House of Representatives became more conservative.

Does this mean the course of the country will change? The ERA now looks dead. But changing the laws regarding pornography and abortion will require a change at the Supreme Court—the Moral Majority still doesn't have the clout to pass a constitutional amendment. The drive for the affirmative rights of homosexuals to force others to rent to or to hire them may slow—but homosexuality will probably remain acceptable in the eyes of the liberal media.

The realistic odds are that the Christian Right will fail to stem the decline of the family. It is, for example, afraid itself to do much about laws that do more than anything else to promote family breakup—the no-fault divorce laws that sanction divorce for even the most frivolous of reasons.

Nevertheless, it is possible that at least a temporary change of direction—or slowing of the decline—is in the offing. Such would parallel events of about 2,500 years ago. Just before the ancient nation of Judah fell, it had one last king who stemmed the tide—Josiah.

Mr. Reagan has made the appropriate pro-family statements. He seems as if he will be against the subtle antireligious and antifamily bias that pervades federally funded programs in sex and moral education in the public schools, as well as many other activities of the government.

"When I hear the First Amendment used as a reason to keep traditional moral values away from policymaking, I am shocked," Mr. Reagan has said. "The First Amendment was

written not to protect the people and their laws from religious values but to protect those values from government tyranny."

When Josiah came to office, Judah was already in a state of advanced decay. National character does not change easily—or quickly. Can anyone really expect a reversal of the trend toward sexual and moral permissiveness at this late hour? From a hardheaded point of view, and from Bible prophecy, we know that such is extremely unlikely. □

IN BRIEF

(Continued from page 19)

was willing to risk his political future for the sake of the Egyptian-Israeli peace pact. He was willing to expose himself to cruel heckling on the floor of the Knesset, even in front of visiting heads of state, in order to see that the pact got ratified.

Mr. Begin is renowned for his old world charm and good manners—a fact that Mr. Armstrong and I know firsthand from our recent visit. In order to meet Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Begin left a meeting in Tel Aviv and made a special one-hour drive to Jerusalem.

I continue to believe, as I have written before, that Mr. Begin's reputation as an Israeli "hawk" puts him in a special position to negotiate a final Middle East peace accord. Mr. Begin may be a "tough" bargainer, but the Arabs can know that any agreement they work out with him will be unassailable.

Both Mr. Sadat and Mr. Begin have demonstrated clear vision and sense of purpose in their efforts to achieve a Middle East peace. Both are men of goodwill. Each has been willing, as Mr. Armstrong has remarked, to practice the way of "give" in order to break the previous Middle East stalemate. Their examples clearly show that our generation is not without its own Churchills and de Gaulles. □

JAPAN

(Continued from page 18)

ment in Asia has now begun to translate itself into tangible shifts in policy. The Japanese are increasing their military expenditures. They are attempting to improve their combat preparedness.

Last July, the Japanese government approved a defense budget increase of 9.7 percent to \$10.9 billion for fiscal 1981. (Japan Defense Agency Director Joji Omura had wanted a 15 percent increase.) The additional funds will be used to buy more jet fighters, patrol planes, tanks, submarines and ships in the coming year.

"This is a very significant political decision," said one government source. "It reflects the change in public opinion [about defense issues] and the new circumstances surrounding Japan, including the Soviet military buildup in this area."

This increase still does not breach the self-imposed ceiling of less than 1 percent of Japan's GNP. But reliable sources indicate that the Japanese government is giving serious thought to a substantial increase in the military budget in coming years—possibly to 3 or 4 percent of the GNP.

Businessmen Supportive

Japanese business leaders are among the most ardent supporters of an improved Japanese defense capability. A pro-defense campaign by the Japanese business community is already in evidence.

A stepped-up defense program would greatly stimulate Japan's aircraft, transport and other heavy industries. Considerable amounts of government funds would undoubtedly be poured into military research and development projects.

Last year, Shigeo Nagano, president of the Japan Chamber of Commerce and Industry, called for a wide-ranging debate on defense—including a review of

Japan's arms export controls. Hosai Hyuga, president of the Kansai (western Japan) Economic Federation, and chairman of Sumimoto Metals Company, proposed an increase in Japan's defense spending to 1.9 percent of the GNP—also intended to touch off a hot debate on the defense issue.

Observers believe that, given time, Japan's weapons makers might well succeed in surpassing the West in developmental research and technological experience—just as Japanese industry has done in television, camera and automobile production.

"If we have sufficient money and time," says an official of the big Mitsubishi group, "it will be possible to manufacture the next-generation jet fighter domestically." Mitsubishi Heavy Industries' aircraft division was the manufacturer of the renowned Zero fighters of World War II.

Draft, A-Bomb?

In the course of his previously mentioned comments, Hosai Hyuga also dared suggest instituting some form of conscription. The idea of a general draft system has raised a storm of protest among die-hard pacifists. Some experts assert a draft would be a clear violation of Japan's no-war constitution, and could only be instituted following a constitutional revision.

Already the right wing of the ruling conservative Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) has begun to push for just such a revision. There is little doubt that the constitution would have to be amended if Japan is ever to play a meaningful role in maintaining the security of Asia.

Even the once-taboo question of nuclear armaments is now being discussed in some circles. Since the end of World War II Japan has maintained three non-nuclear principles: of not possessing, manufacturing or permitting the entry into Japan of nuclear weapons. The memories of Hiroshima and Nagasaki are still alive. But there has recently been a marked increase in public opinion

in favor of Japan's abandoning these principles in the interests of national security.

Japan certainly has the technology to produce its own nuclear bomb. With its vast financial and technological capacities, Japan could detonate a nuclear device within two to six months of a decision to do so.

Neighbors Wary

The Soviet Union has been quick to label Japan's announced increase in military spending as "saber-rattling," charging that Japan seeks to become a big military power in the region.

Of greater concern to Japanese government officials, however, is how to reassure their friendly neighbors that any Japanese military buildup would remain purely defensive and in the name of peace. Japan must be careful not to revive dormant memories of World War II. A stepped-up military program might be viewed by past victims of Japanese aggression as the beginning of a return to an earlier militarism, causing tensions to rise throughout Asia.

Late last year, Japanese Prime Minister Zenko Suzuki went out of his way to stress that Japan's ultimate goal is only to provide itself with enough military muscle to cope with small-scale, limited aggression.

"Japan," he said, "will build up its defense but not to the point that its military capability would threaten its neighbors. It will not become either a lion or a tiger in defense but rather a porcupine, to defend ourselves should we be invaded."

Soul-searching Ahead

In a country that still remembers the last grim days of World War II, moves toward rearmament will continue to draw heavy fire. But the momentum appears to be clearly in favor of rearming.

Japan has some serious soul-searching to do in coming months. Changes in the Japanese attitude will become increasingly apparent as their reassessment focuses in on present-day political and military realities. □

Voice Cries Out

(Continued from page 7)

age, forming ONE GOD! In reproducing Himself, God is creating by begetting and birth of humans into HIS OWN SUPREME GOD FAMILY! And that FAMILY is GOD. And what is GOD? God is that FAMILY, all but two Person-ages, yet in process of being born—being created!

Yes, HOW WONDERFUL!

How beyond the most brilliant and highly educated, natural mind to grasp! So incomprehensibly MYSTERIOUS to the highly educated of this world!

The preceding two chapters have laid the groundwork.

God created man with MIND power. The human mind is physical brain with the addition of the "human" spirit, which imparts to physical brain the power of intellect. But even so, human comprehension and human thought is confined to the PHYSICAL and MATERIAL.

The addition to that "human" spirit of the HOLY Spirit of God imparts power for SPIRITUAL comprehension—receiving spiritual knowledge—understanding spiritual problems, conditions and truths.

Before the first man Adam were placed the two symbolic trees—one the tree symbolizing God's Holy Spirit and with it the gift of immortal GOD-life. But Adam had to make a CHOICE—it was necessary for him to reject Satan and Satan's WAY, in order to choose GOD'S GOVERNMENT and God's WAY OF LIFE. He was compelled to choose between God and Satan. Adam chose Satan's way by taking to himself the knowledge of good and evil. He rejected God—and thus rebelled against GOD'S Government, even as Lucifer had.

Adam was making the decision not only for himself, but for his progeny, the world. It was MAN'S decision, and God made it binding on MAN UNTIL the Government of GOD could be restored!

That meant the rejection of

Satan's way—defeating Satan—which only the "Second Adam" could do!

Not only had Satan, the former cherub Lucifer, rebelled against God. Not only had the Government of God become unoperative on earth—the powerful Satan STILL SAT ON THAT THRONE!

Until Christ shall sit on that throne—restoring the Government of God—and Satan is banished from the earth, all Adam's human family must remain CUT OFF from God—EXCEPT THE MINUTE FEW GOD SHOULD SPECIALLY CALL TO OVERCOME SATAN AND SIT WITH AND

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God began providing for the foundation of His Church through the comparatively few prophets in Old Testament times. . . . They had chosen, on God's calling them, God's Government.

”

UNDER CHRIST ON THAT THRONE!

Humanity continued under Satan's sway, as Satan's world.

WHAT, then, IS THE CHURCH?

It is that body God has specially called out of Satan's world—the body of humans who on being called have REJECTED and overcome Satan and his WAY OF LIFE—have surrendered to the GOVERNMENT OF GOD—have repented of sins by turning from them—have actually received what the first Adam rejected, the HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD. It is that body of repentant believers who have turned from Satan's way—TO the way of GOD'S GOVERNMENT based on HIS LAW—who are the begotten children of the living GOD!

God began providing for the FOUNDATION of His Church

through the comparatively few prophets in Old Testament times. They had turned from Satan's way. They had chosen, on God's calling them, God's GOVERNMENT. They qualified by overcoming Satan. However, no one of them could qualify for all humanity—only individually, each for himself. It required Christ, the Son of God, by whom humanity was created, to qualify for all humanity.

But I repeat, God has of necessity taken a single step of His Master Plan at a time.

The CHURCH, then, is that body called out from Satan's world *being prepared* to restore, with and under Christ, the GOVERNMENT of God. That shall be a time when Satan shall have been REMOVED. It shall be a time when all living shall be called to repentance and salvation with eternal life through the Holy Spirit of GOD! The CHURCH, immortal, shall be RULING with Christ—replacing the present rule of Satan!

The CHURCH, then, is that body of "called-out ones" which at the resurrection shall form the FIRSTFRUITS of God's harvest. That harvest is the reaping of physical flesh-and-blood, matter-composed humans converted into divine immortal GOD BEINGS—those in whom God actually *has* reproduced Himself!

Church Still Carnal

WHY has God in wisdom gone slow—a step at a time? Few realize HOW GREAT is God's PURPOSE!

After all these years of sinning, human life CUT OFF from God, even with God's own Holy Spirit given to those *changed* by initial conversion, those in the Church are initially "babes in Christ"—still far more carnal than spiritual.

UNDERSTAND THIS!

The CHURCH, as initially called in this life, is NOT YET capable of RULING the earth—of sitting with Christ in the THRONE where God originally placed Lucifer—of administering THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD. And THAT IS WHY God has

placed HIS GOVERNMENT in His Church. That is *WHY* God's Church Government is theocratic instead of democratic. That is *WHY* it is hierarchical in form—government from GOD at the top on down, not from the bottom up. Otherwise those at the bottom would be ruling GOD!

It is the SAME Government by which Christ shall rule all nations beginning with the Millennium!

And that is *WHY* Satan has subtly influenced dissidents in God's Church to become resentful and bitter over God's Government—why some have gone out of the Church!

The churches of this world! "traditional Christianity"—DO NOT speak of the Government of GOD. They do not picture Jesus as coming world RULER. They do not preach Jesus as coming KING—but only as Savior. They overlook—reject—scriptures speaking of Christ as King and coming Ruler, and *government* rule in the Kingdom of God. And that is to say, they deliberately REJECT and OMIT the Gospel MESSAGE of Christ in their teaching and preaching! They teach that one is *already saved* on "receiving" (GETTING) Christ!

I repeat, the individual whom God calls and adds to His Church is not, at initial conversion, remotely capable of being given POWER of rule over nations!

He is called a "babe in Christ." He has, if repentant and really converted in this preliminary human state, actually received the Holy Spirit of God. Indeed in Romans 8:16 we read: "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit, that we are the children of God."

We are already, though yet unborn, the begotten children of God. By direct comparison the impregnated embryo or fetus in a mother-to-be's womb is *already* the child of its parents, though not yet born. Therefore I remark, in passing, *abortion is MURDER!*

But this brings us to a most important PURPOSE and FUNCTION of the Church!

Beginning verse 22 of Galatians 4 is an allegory about the two covenants—the Old Covenant made with national Israel at Mount Sinai, and the New Covenant to be made at Christ's return. However, ministers in the Church are "able ministers of the New Testament" (II Corinthians 3:6).

The CHURCH is a part of, and preliminary to the final making of, the NEW TESTAMENT.

In this allegory of the two covenants, the Church is called "THE MOTHER OF US ALL"—that is, of those in the Church.

So notice the direct comparison. God is reproducing Himself through humans. He endowed us with power to reproduce *ourselves*. And human reproduction is the exact type of God's SPIRITUAL REPRODUCTION!

How Human Reproduction Pictures Spiritual Salvation

Now see and UNDERSTAND how human reproduction pictures spiritual SALVATION!

All human life comes from a tiny egg, called an ovum. It is produced inside the human mother. This ovum is about the size of a pin point. Inside it, when highly magnified, can be seen a small nucleus. But this ovum has a very limited life, *of itself!* Some doctors and scientists believe it has a life of some 24 hours, unless fertilized by a sperm from a male.

But human life may be imparted *to* it by a sperm cell, produced in the body of the human father. The sperm cell is the smallest cell in the human body—about one-fiftieth the size of the ovum. The sperm—technically named a spermatozoon (plural, spermatozoa)—on entering an ovum, finds its way to and joins with the *nucleus*. This imparts *life*—physical *human* life—to the ovum.

But it is not yet a born human being. Human life has merely been *begotten*. For the first four months it is called an *embryo*. After that, until birth it is called a *fetus*. This human life starts very small—the size of a tiny pin

point—and the sperm that generates it is the *smallest* cell in a human body!

Once begotten, it must *be fed* and nourished by physical food from the ground, through the mother. From this physical nourishment it must grow, and *grow* and *GROW*—until physically large enough to be born, after nine months. As it grows, the *physical* organs and characteristics gradually are formed. Soon a spinal column forms. A heart forms and begins to beat. Other internal organs form. Then, gradually, a body, a head, legs, arms. Finally hair begins to grow on the head, fingernails and toenails develop, facial features gradually shape up. By nine months the average normal fetus has grown to a weight of approximately six to nine pounds, and is ready to be born.

A human has to be BEGOTTEN by his human father. To be born *again* of the Spirit—of GOD—one must first be begotten by the SPIRITUAL FATHER—Almighty God.

The Amazing Comparison

Now see how HUMAN begetting, the period of gestation and birth is the astounding identical TYPE of spiritual salvation—being BORN of God—being given ETERNAL LIFE in the Kingdom of God—the God FAMILY into which we may be BORN!

Each adult human is, spiritually, an "egg" or "ovum." This spiritual "ovum" has a very limited life span, of itself—compared to ETERNAL LIFE—an average of some 70 years. But spiritual, *divine immortal* life may be imparted *to* it by the entrance into it of the HOLY SPIRIT, which comes from the very Person of GOD the Father. This divine Spirit of GOD imparts to us also the *divine nature* (II Peter 1:4). Heretofore we have had only human, fleshly or carnal nature.

As the human sperm cell is the very *smallest* of all human cells, even so, many newly begotten Christians start out with a very *small* measure of God's Holy Spirit. Many may

still be, at first, about 99.44 percent carnal! Apparently those in the Church of God at Corinth were (I Corinthians 3:1-3). The apostle Paul said he still had to feed them on the spiritual *milk*—not yet adult spiritual “food.” They certainly were not yet “BORN AGAIN.”

Now, as the physical male sperm finds its way to, and unites with the *nucleus* in the ovum, so God’s Spirit enters and combines with the human MIND! There is, as explained before, a *spirit in man*. This human spirit has combined with the brain to form human MIND. God’s Spirit unites with, and witnesses with *our* spirit that we are, now, the children of GOD (Romans 8:16). And God’s Holy Spirit, now combined with our human spirit in our MIND, imparts to our mind power to comprehend SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE (I Corinthians 2:11)—which the carnal mind cannot grasp.

Now we have the presence of ETERNAL LIFE—God life—through God’s Spirit, but we are not yet immortal spirit beings—not yet BORN of God—not yet inheritors, and possessors, but physical HEIRS (Romans 8:17). But *IF* God’s Holy Spirit dwells in us, God will, at the resurrection, “quicken” to immortality our mortal bodies *BY* His Spirit that “dwelleth in” us (Romans 8:11; I Corinthians 15:49-53).

Now we see how the astonishing analogy continues!

As yet we are not *born* divine beings. We are not yet *composed* of spirit, but of physical matter. The divine life has merely been begotten. This divine CHARACTER starts so very small it is doubtful if much of it is in evidence—except for the glow of that ecstasy of spiritual “romance” that we may radiate in that “first love” of conversion—spiritually speaking. But so far as spiritual KNOWLEDGE and developed spiritual CHARACTER goes, there is not much, as yet.

The Spiritual Embryo

So now, once spiritually begotten, we are merely a spiritual

embryo. Now we must be fed and nourished on SPIRITUAL food! Jesus said man shall not live by bread (physical food) *alone*, but by EVERY WORD OF GOD (spiritual food)! This we drink in from the Bible! But we drink in this spiritual knowledge and character, also, through personal, intimate, continuous contact with God through PRAYER, and through Christian fellowship with God’s children in His Church. And also by the continual teaching imparted by the Church.

Now the *physical* embryo and fetus is fed physically through the mother. God’s CHURCH is called

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God has set His called and chosen ministers in His Church to feed the flock — ‘for the perfecting of the saints . . .’

”

Jerusalem *above* “which is the MOTHER OF US ALL” (Galatians 4:26).

Notice the exact parallel! The CHURCH is the spiritual MOTHER OF ITS MEMBERS. God has set His called and chosen ministers in His Church to FEED THE FLOCK—“for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body [CHURCH] of Christ: TILL WE all come in the unity of the faith, and of *the knowledge* of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fulness of Christ” (Ephesians 4:11-13).

It is the duty of Christ’s TRUE ministers (and *how scarce today*) to PROTECT the begotten but yet unborn saints from false doctrines, from false ministers.

The HUMAN mother carries her unborn baby in that part of her body where she can best PROTECT it from *physical* harm; and that protection is part of her function,

as well as to nourish the unborn child! Even so, the CHURCH, through Christ’s ministers, instructs, teaches, counsels with, advises, and PROTECTS from *spiritual* harm the unborn members! What a WONDERFUL picture is human reproduction of spiritual SALVATION!

Continue further! As the physical fetus must grow *physically* large enough to be born, so the begotten Christian must *grow* in grace, and in the knowledge of Christ (II Peter 3:18)—must overcome, must develop in spiritual CHARACTER during this life, in order to be BORN into the Kingdom of GOD!

And as the physical fetus gradually, one by one, develops the physical organs, features and characteristics, even so the begotten Christian must gradually, continually, develop the SPIRITUAL character—love, faith, patience, gentleness, temperance. He (or she) must live by, and be a DOER of the Word of God. He must develop the divine CHARACTER!

Finally—Immortality!

Then in God’s due time—though the person may die meanwhile—by a resurrection, or by instantaneous CHANGE to immortality at Christ’s coming, he shall be BORN of God—into the KINGDOM OF GOD—because GOD *is* that Kingdom! He is no longer material flesh from the ground, but composed of spirit, even as God is a spirit (John 4:24).

HOW WONDERFUL is the TRUTH OF GOD!

Yet, by his dastardly deceptions Satan has DECEIVED THE WORLD—has blinded humanity to the fact that God *IS* this KINGDOM Jesus proclaimed—and that WE may be *born* as spiritual individuals—as part of that Divine FAMILY—as part of the GOD KINGDOM!

How precious is GOD’S TRUTH! God designed reproduction to picture His truth in a physical manner and to KEEP US CONSTANTLY IN THE KNOWLEDGE OF HIS WONDERFUL PLAN OF SALVATION! □

“I AM NOT AN ANIMAL”

The true story of the Elephant Man reveals a profound lesson about the incredible human potential.

by Jeff Calkins

What is the measure of man? What makes a person uniquely human? What is the most important human quality?

These questions are raised by the widespread interest in the story of Joseph Merrick, the “Elephant Man” of Victorian England. At one point Merrick was one of the most physically repulsive, loathsome men ever to walk on earth—forced to exhibit himself in a freak show on Whitechapel Road in London.

But Merrick also eventually became the darling of London high society, a person renowned for his intelligence, gentleness and humility. His life story is so moving that it has become the subject of at least two books, a

Broadway play, and a popular movie.* As newspaper columnist George Will has remarked, Merrick has come a long way since Whitechapel Road.

Merrick’s story, and our natural interest in it, tells us much about the dignity and grandeur of the ultimate human destiny. It does so because it tells us about human character. It also reveals why God’s way of giving brings good results.

*The authoritative source on the life of Joseph Merrick is *The True History of The Elephant Man* by Michael Howell and Peter Ford, Penguin Books, 1980, which includes both the Elephant Man’s own autobiography and the memoirs of Frederic Treves, the physician in London Hospital who brought him to prominence. It provided the biographical source material for this article. The movie and the play depart from the true story in a number of instances.

Most of what we know about Joseph‡ Merrick comes from Frederic Treves, a surgeon at London Hospital, who rescued him from his nightmarish existence.

When Treves first saw Merrick, the Elephant Man was being exhibited in a small shop across the street from the hospital in a one-man freak show. Treves had been made curious by a poster advertising a creature who was half-man, half-elephant.

It was a dark and bare room. The curtain was drawn. On a stool sat Joseph Merrick, small and frail, with a blanket covering

‡The Elephant Man’s real name was Joseph. Treves had a mental block over the name and always called the Elephant Man “John,” an error repeated by other writers.

his head and shoulders. A gas burner was the only heat and only light in the shop. Treves later wrote that Merrick seemed the "embodiment of loneliness."

"Stand up!" commanded Merrick's exhibitor, as if speaking to a dog.

The Elephant Man dropped his blanket and slowly rose.

His head was about twice normal size—about the same size around as his waist. Bony, fleshy masses of skin grew out from the forehead and upper jaw. The upper lips had been turned almost inside out. The Elephant Man's face was like a block of gnarled wood. The skin was spongy and fungeous looking, resembling brownish cauliflower.

Treves was struck. "At no time had I met with such a degraded or perverted version of a human being as this lone figure displayed." Treves had another thought: surely this poor creature must have no more consciousness of his own plight than an animal!

Wretched and Lonely

Merrick was not born deformed; he was suffering from a disease that we now know to be multiple neurofibromatosis. The disease causes benign tumors to form at nerve endings. It also distorts the bone structure. It is a very rare disease. It is still incurable, though today men "control" it through drugs and constant surgery, unavailable to Merrick.

The disease first made its appearance at age 5. It progressively got worse throughout the Elephant Man's life, as tumors continued to appear and distort his face and body.

His mother died when he was 10 years old. Evidently she was kind to her son, for Merrick carried around with him a small portrait of her throughout his life. Later, Merrick would often volunteer that she was beautiful.

Treves' Compassion

"God's law—the true law of life—is, simply, love! Love means giving, not getting," wrote the

editor-in-chief of this magazine as far back as 37 years ago. The law, of course, is timeless. Had not Treves acted in conformity to God's great law, we never would have known about the human being—in which dwelt the spirit of man—trapped inside the Elephant Man's body.

Sometime after their first meeting, the Elephant Man had to be rescued from a mob at Liverpool Street Station. Evidently, after Treves had examined Merrick, the Elephant Man was taken on a "tour" of Europe where he was robbed of his life savings and abandoned by his "manager." Somehow Joseph Merrick made it back to England in what must have been a nightmare of a trip. On his arrival at Liverpool Street Station, in London, an ugly crowd gathered to taunt and gawk. The movie plays up this incident in the Elephant Man's life: it is here Merrick, panic stricken and trapped in the corner of the underground men's room, cries out: "I am not an animal—I am a human being!"

The police came to the Elephant Man's rescue. They found Treves' card on him and brought him to London Hospital.

For the first time in his life, or at least since his mother died, Joseph Merrick was about to be treated with kindness and compassion. London Hospital was overcrowded. But Treves realized that the Elephant Man had nowhere else to go. For weeks his fate was in doubt, and Merrick himself assumed he would soon have to be moving on.

But a friend of Treves, a barrister named Carr Gomm, also took pity on the Elephant Man. Gomm wrote a letter to the London *Times* explaining Merrick's plight.

Enough money came in. Merrick, shunted everywhere he had gone, now could have the refuge of his own room in the basement of the hospital—for the rest of his life.

Treves saw a human being inside the Elephant Man's grotesque body—and was determined to

bring out that humanity.

He decided that the best thing for the Elephant Man was to meet people of high quality.

Treves asked Leila Maturin, a pretty widow, to meet Merrick. It was a simple task. All she had to do was enter Merrick's room, smile and shake his good hand. This she did successfully.

In Treves' own words: "As he let go her hand he bent his head on his knees and sobbed until I thought he would never cease. The interview was over. He told me afterwards that this was the first woman who had ever smiled at him. . . ."

The first woman who had ever smiled at him!

The event changed Merrick's life. Afterwards, Treves brought many prominent members of London society into Merrick's room, including Madge Kendal, one of the most popular actresses of her day, and the Prince of Wales. Afterwards, Merrick, once turned out by his family as a burden, would occasionally receive bags of game from the future king after royal hunts.

None of this would have come about—Merrick would have remained imprisoned in his twisted, distorted body—if Treves had not acted according to God's principle of GIVE.

The Measure of a Man

Merrick's visitors all seemed to remark about his gentle, humble, romantic spirit. Often Merrick's attitude was described as child-like—constantly appreciative of little kindnesses showed him.

"Judge not," the apostle John quotes Jesus as saying, "according to the appearance" (John 7:24). Merrick all his life had been judged by his appearance. Those who now looked beyond the degraded, outward appearance had nothing but praise.

What is the most important aspect of a human being? It is his *character!* If Merrick's life stands for anything, it is that character, and not appearance, is what counts.

. . . "the Lord seeth not as man

seeth; for man looketh on the outward appearance, but the Lord looketh on the heart" (I Samuel 16:7).

God looks on the heart! In the Bible, the prophet Samuel came to the house of Jesse. Samuel had come to anoint the future king of Israel. Jesse paraded before Samuel seven of his eight sons—the ones who most appeared to be future kings. But God had not chosen them. He chose the youngest, most unlikely candidate—completely independent of what he looked like.

Treves himself seemed to grasp the same principle. He wrote, "Those who are interested in the evolution of character might speculate as to the effect of this brutish life upon a sensitive and intelligent man. . . . He had *passed through the fire* and had come out unscathed. His troubles had ennobled him. He showed himself to be a gentle, affectionate and lovable creature. . . . I have never heard him complain. . . . His gratitude to those about him was pathetic in its sincerity and eloquent in the childlike simplicity with which it was expressed." (Emphasis added.)

Merrick's story should remind us that God's supreme purpose is the creation of perfect, righteous character—God reproducing himself by developing in human beings perfect character. Merrick should remind us Christ said that such character is worth infinitely more than physical appearance or ability: ". . . it is better for thee to enter into life halt or maimed, rather than having two hands or two feet to be cast into everlasting fire" (Matthew 18:8).

And as Herbert Armstrong has written, "perfect, holy and righteous character is the supreme feat of accomplishment possible for Almighty God the Creator."

Not an Animal

The key to understanding character is that there is a spirit in man, which records that character as it develops throughout one's life.

The key difference between humans and the rest of God's creatures is the *spirit in man*.

As Herbert Armstrong has written in his book *The Incredible Human Potential*:

"Animals are equipped with brain and instinct. But they do not have power *to understand and choose moral and spiritual values or to develop perfect spiritual character*. Animals have brain, but no intellect—instinct, *but no ability to develop holy and Godly character*.

"And that pictures the transcendental difference between animal brain and human mind."

The Elephant Man is a poignant reminder that there is a vast difference between animal mind and human mind!

When Treves first met Merrick, it was because of curiosity. Merrick's freak-show manager had managed to imply that he was exhibiting a creature, half-human, half-animal. When Treves first describes Joseph, Joseph is an it, not a he.

But Merrick possessed human knowledge—and no one can have such knowledge except the spirit of man be in him (I Cor. 2:11). Imprisoned in a hideous outer shell was an intelligent human being.

Merrick received many gifts from his visitors at London Hospital. The ones he prized most were books. By the end of his life, he managed to acquire a "respectable" library. Merrick was an eager reader—including the Bible and several serious English novels, such as those of Jane Austen.

The man who once was condemned to zoo-like degradation developed an appreciation of drama and the theater. Special arrangements had to be made, of course—Merrick's presence would have created a scene if the other patrons saw him. A baroness donated her private box, and Merrick was taken in and out of West End theaters without notice.

When Treves first met Merrick, the Elephant Man was in

such a degraded and lonely condition that the poor "creature" certainly could not be aware of the miserableness of his existence. But he was. Merrick was conscious—throughout every painful moment—of his deformity.

Perhaps because of this, Merrick developed a great love and appreciation of beauty. When enough money had accumulated from visitors' gifts, Merrick had it spent on a gentleman's dressing case with silver fittings. The set included silver backed hair-brushes and comb, as well as a silver shoehorn and an ivory handled razor.

In front of his dressing case, the Elephant Man would imagine himself the elegant English gentleman, as he dressed in fine evening clothes. A show of vanity, no doubt. But a testimony at the same time that he was a human being.

Merrick's humanity also revealed itself in his one hobby. To all who showed him kindness, Merrick made small cardboard models of a nearby cathedral and presented them as gifts.

The Glorious Human Potential

The Elephant Man was a victim of a rare disease, which transformed his outward appearance into something barely recognizable as human. His face could show no expression, yet he displayed uniquely human qualities—intelligence, sensitivity, thankfulness.

If the recent interest in Merrick should tell us anything, it is that every human being has the spirit of man in him—and therefore has the glorious possibility of being born into the divine Family begotten by God the Father.

What a shame the general religious world does not understand the truth about the doctrine of the second resurrection presented in the Bible! Almost everyone who has ever lived will one day be resurrected and told, first hand, of God's way of life, without the corrupting influences present in this evil world (compare Revelation 20:5 and Isaiah 65:17-21).

At that point, they will have the opportunity to receive the Holy Spirit, which enlivens one to become part of God's very Family! Such an opportunity will be afforded Joseph Merrick. Given his gentleness of character, it is hard to imagine him not choosing the way of God.

We should also be reminded of the need for Christ to return to radically change the world. Merrick could not be cured. Even today, his disease can only be controlled. But in God's World Tomorrow, there will be no more neurofibromatosis. No more disfigurement. No more deformity.

There will be mercy. Joseph's life was made miserable by unthinking, gawking and staring people who taunted him in public, much as little children often make fun of those of them who are even in the slightest way different from the others. God's world will be made up of those who act more like Treves and less like the ugly crowd at Liverpool Street Station. One really cannot think of Joseph Merrick without thinking of how God's Government will judge people after Christ returns:

"... and he [the returned Christ] shall not judge after the sight of his eyes, neither reprove after the hearing of his ears: But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth..." (Isaiah 11:3-4).

Merrick wrote a short autobiography, giving sketchy details of his life. He concluded it with a stanza from a poem by Isaac Watts, a Nonconformist (non-Church of England) clergyman, which seemed to express all his hopes and aspirations:

If I could reach from pole to pole/
Or grasp the ocean with a span/
I would be measured by the soul/
The mind's the standard of the man.

The Elephant Man most of all wanted to be judged by his mind—his character—not his misshapen body. Someday, he will be. □

TIME CAPSULE

(Continued from page 14)

warning, he wrote it down—to preserve it through the centuries until it could be delivered.

You are now hearing that warning message! Ezekiel's message—along with the warnings and forecasts of other ancient prophets of God—are being broadcast daily around the world by way of "The World Tomorrow" radio program, and being read monthly in the pages of *The Plain Truth*. And the kings, presidents and prime ministers of this world are hearing them personally from Herbert W. Armstrong, editor in chief of *The Plain Truth* and apostle of Jesus Christ. Ezekiel's ancient commission is *now* being fulfilled!

A Rebellious Nation

Now notice some of the highlights of Ezekiel's message. No warning is more urgent or more timely for today.

"I send thee to the children of Israel, to a rebellious nation that hath rebelled against me," God tells Ezekiel. "They and their fathers have transgressed against me, even unto this very day" (Ezekiel 2:3).

God calls the people of Israel "impudent children and stiff-hearted" (2:4). He is not overly optimistic that they will respond to his warnings through Ezekiel. "The house of Israel will not hearken unto thee; for they will not hearken unto me," God observes (3:7).

Yet God encouraged Ezekiel to faithfully execute his commission nevertheless. Whether the people heed the warning or not, God says, "they shall know that there hath been a prophet among them" (2:5). They will be without excuse!

Ezekiel's message is not a pleasant one. It is one of "lamentations, and mourning, and woe" (2:10). It is one that many critics—oblivious to its real purpose and ultimate objective—have labeled a doomsday message.

In reality, it is the *only* mes-

sage that holds out any real hope for the world today!

Time of Jacob's Trouble

Consider the following: Bible prophecy reveals that in the years ahead, a great confederation of 10 nations will arise in Europe—an end-time revival of the ancient Roman Empire. This power will come under the leadership of a military dictator known as "the beast" (Revelation 17:12-13). The beast will ultimately invade Egypt, Palestine and other areas of the Middle East. Later he will confront the power of Soviet-led Asia and then of Jesus Christ himself at his Second Coming (Rev. 17:14).

But where are Britain and the United States in this prophetic picture?

The answer is Britain and the United States—the modern-day descendants of Joseph, leader of the house of Israel—will themselves be subjugated by the beast! This will occur at the beginning of a period of religious persecution called the Great Tribulation (Matthew 24:21). The prophet Jeremiah calls it "the time of Jacob's trouble" (Jeremiah 30:7). The American and British peoples are to become embroiled in a crisis that will pale the first two world wars into insignificance!

See what Ezekiel has to say of the impending fate of the 20th-century house of Israel:

"A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence [disease epidemics], and with famine shall they be consumed in the midst of thee; and a third part shall fall by the sword round about thee; and I will scatter a third part into all the winds, and I will draw out a sword after them" (Ezekiel 5:12).

One third of the peoples of America and Britain are—yet in the future—to die of famine and disease! Another third will perish in military attack! The remaining third will be taken captive as slaves into all parts of the earth! This is the terrifying future in store for the English-speaking peoples if events continue in the

direction they are now headed and if our peoples do not repent of their sins! Sin is the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4).

There will be *no escape* for those who refuse to heed the warning. There will be no safe haven of refuge—no hiding place from the sure punishment of God (Ezekiel 6:12; 7:15).

Hydrogen Warfare

The destruction wreaked upon the house of Israel will be unparalleled in history. "In all your dwelling places the cities shall be laid waste . . ." God declares (6:6). Cities will be completely destroyed—probably the result of hydrogen bomb warfare!

How, many have wondered, will the combined nuclear might of the United States and Britain ever succumb? Ezekiel provides the answer:

"They have blown the trumpet [of war], even to make all ready; but none goeth to the battle: for my wrath is upon all the multitude thereof. The sword is without, the pestilence and the famine within . . ." (7:14-15).

The United States and Britain will be so weakened by famine and disease that no one will be in any condition to resist!

Why this punishment?

Why will God bring these dire punishments upon the modern-day house of Israel? God himself answers:

" . . . for they have refused my judgments and my statutes, they have not walked in them" (5:6). And again: " . . . for all the evil abominations of the house of Israel . . ." (6:11).

Ephraim and Manasseh have refused to obey God. They have refused to live the way of life that produces peace and prosperity. They have turned their backs on the commandments of God and have committed abominations in his sight.

For these reasons God declares "they shall fall" (6:11). When Ezekiel wrote, the ancient house of Israel had long since fallen into Assyrian captivity. This prophecy therefore clearly refers to the fate of the modern-day house of

Israel. God is going to send it into captivity and slavery for the purpose of learning a great lesson!

Anciently, God chose the nation of Israel for a great purpose—a purpose it has stubbornly refused to fulfill to this day! Instead of becoming a positive example to other nations of God's right way of life, Israel has instead degenerated into a shameful illustration of the consequences of disobedience.

Peace and harmony—the fruits of obedience to God's laws—are nowhere to be found within Israel's borders. Instead, "the land is full of bloody crimes, and the city is full of violence" (7:23).

The British and American peoples and the gentiles who dwell among them have been blessed above all nations of the earth. But in their material prosperity they have abandoned true spiritual values. They have forgotten their God!

God is going to break their spirit of rebellion and disobedience! The result of that unprecedented punishment will be an eye-opening, spiritual realization of the true extent of national and personal sins—and a large-scale national repentance (6:8-9).

"They shall lothe themselves for the evils which they have committed in all their abominations," God declares. "And they shall know that I am the Lord, and that I have not said in vain that I would do this evil unto them" (6:9-10). Israel will at last yield to the will of God!

"And I will give them one heart, and I will put a new spirit within you . . .", God says. " . . . and they shall be my people, and I will be their God" (11:19-20).

You Can Escape!

Amid all his prophecies of war and captivity, Ezekiel has another message: No one need suffer these frightful calamities! Those individuals who yield to God now will be spared his corrective punishment in the days just ahead.

Notice: In a vision (recorded in chapter 9), Ezekiel saw six men

bearing weapons of slaughter in their hands. Another man held a writing implement. God instructed the man with the writing implement to go through the midst of Jerusalem—the fall of ancient Jerusalem is a type of the fall of the modern house of Israel—and "set a mark upon the foreheads of the men that sigh and that cry for all the abominations that be done in the midst thereof" (verse 4).

To the six armed men God instructed: "Go ye after him [the man with the writing implement] through the city, and smite: let not your eye spare, neither have ye pity . . . but come not near any man upon whom is the mark . . ." (verses 5-6). Compare this account with the seventh chapter of the book of Revelation.

Just as righteous Noah was divinely protected through the worldwide Flood that erased all life from the face of the land, God today promises to spare all those who individually turn from the evils of this present world—those who "sigh and cry" over its abominations.

Are you one of these individuals?

Global Punishment

The handwriting is on the wall! God is very soon to intervene mightily in world affairs!

Britain and America are not the only nations that will suffer God's corrective punishment. All mankind has rejected God and his ways! But modern Israel will be first to receive correction—and later the first to be delivered (Ezekiel 36:7-11).

In the end, all nations will learn the great lesson that God's way of life is the *only* way that will produce the peace and prosperity that all peoples seek. Then will begin the utopian World Tomorrow—with global peace and abundance at last.

But first must come a time of divine correction. The entire world is entering a time of chaos and calamity. The world as a whole will not heed the warning!

Will *you* take Ezekiel's warning seriously? □

MT. SINAI/JERUSALEM

(Continued from page 4)

estine to Babylon. Seventy years later a Jewish colony was sent back to build a second temple at Jerusalem. Solomon's temple had been destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar's forces. But most of Judah, the Jews, became scattered in many nations in the Middle East.

This Jewish colony, with its religion, Judaism, considerably altered from that which came through Moses by the rabbis after the time of Ezra and Nehemiah, was there at the time of Jesus. The temple had been repaired and enlarged by their ruler Herod, who served the Romans who then ruled the world.

In A.D. 70 Roman armies destroyed the temple and Jerusalem, and the remaining Jews were scattered. Some very few centuries later Arabs moved into that land.

The prophecies of the Bible affirm that the "Promised Land" shall be restored to "the HOUSE OF ISRAEL"—

not just Judah—at the Second Coming of Christ, and that Judah would be fighting there prior to that time—as they are now, believing they are "Israel."

So the whole world, including Israel and Judah, is confused and mixed up as to WHO is WHO between Israel and Judah!

The Seven Modern Events

The first of the seven modern events I want to cover is the establishment of the State of Israel in Palestine by the United Nations in 1948. I want to mention here that Britain was involved here. This event followed the British Balfour Declaration of 1917. And, of course, as

I have covered above, it was high-pressured by the Zionist movement.

The second of these modern world-news events in the Middle East was the four wars between Arabs and Israelis, starting with the war of Independence in 1948.

The third event I wish here to recount was my meeting with Prime Minister Golda Meir, following those four wars, the fourth of which was the Yom Kippur or October war of 1973. I had been making frequent visits to Israel since the fall of



WARM EMBRACE is shared by Herbert W. Armstrong and longtime Israeli Minister of Tourism Moshe Kol.

1968, and was involved in a number of projects there.

"I wish," said Mrs. Meir earnestly, "that heads of Arab states would sit across the table from me in friendship. We could do so much to help our Arab neighbors. Our scientists and technicians could help them into much increased prosperity for their peoples. Our musicians and leaders in the artistic field could take to them much uplifting and cultural life. We could mutually help each other."

That was a direct attitude from the top in Israel of the "GIVE" way, which must lead eventually to world peace—after Christ's coming. Since 1968 I have been personally involved in supporting the International Cultural Center for Youth (ICCY) in Jerusalem. It is working with success to bring cultural cooperation, instead of competition, between Israeli and Arab youth.

The Incredible "DECLARATION OF PEACE"

The fourth of these seven modern events was the most incredible peace overture of modern times.

After four bitter wars against Israel in thirty years, President Anwar el-Sadat did an unheard of thing. On November 20, 1977, he DECLARED PEACE, not war! At extreme personal danger and unprecedented political risk the Egyptian president braved a personal visit to Jerusalem to speak in peace to the Israeli Knesset.

It was the most sensational overture toward international peace made by any head of state in our

time! Consider Mr. Sadat's position at the time. Egypt was the acknowledged leader of the Arab world. Headquarters of the Arab League was in Cairo. Mr. Sadat held high political prestige—perhaps the highest—in the Arab world. He braved furious opposition from all other Arab nations and their leaders in making this trip.

It required vision, a sense of right against opposition, and extreme personal risk as well as political risk. How many would have had the courage?

Result? Prominent Egyptians and editors abroad were assassinated. President Sadat's life was threatened. He lost immediately



PT Photo

IN CAIRO, Dr. Abdul-Kader Hatem, close adviser to President Sadat, introduces Mr. Armstrong for an address at the Nile Hilton before the Egyptian-American Friendship Association. More than three hundred leading Egyptians were present.

his prestigious credibility in the Arab world outside Egypt. The headquarters of the Arab League was moved from Cairo to Tunis.

But President Sadat risked more than that. Egypt had been receiving military aid and military training for his army from the Soviet Union. Once the Soviet gains a foothold in any nation, they continue pressing on toward total domination, unless pushed back by superior force (of which there is none). Yet Anwar Sadat had the guts to reject further Soviet aid, and order their military officers and instructors out of Egypt! It left Egypt with only one possible national ally—the United States!

Still further, he was the only Arab leader in the Moslem world who had the kindheartedness and courage to let the Shah of Iran die in peace under his protection!

The fifth of this chain of events was the Camp David talks, bringing President Jimmy Carter and the United States directly into this chain of events, preliminary to world peace. The United States President used his office to bring the two Middle East leaders together in a very tough effort toward Middle East peace. The

leaders were faced with no easy task, in a world dedicated to the incentive of “GET” instead of “GIVE”—of war instead of peace.

The sixth of these seven events occurred when Prime Minister Begin and Israel “GAVE” back to Egypt large portions of the Sinai peninsula. Of course it still left to try to work out the tough questions of the West Bank, the violent PLO demands for a new separate Arab state, and the Gaza strip. Nevertheless this was another step in the direction of “GIVE.”

Finally, the seventh of these events, President Sadat’s planned PEACE CENTER at the foot of Mount Sinai. Both the center, and its Mount Sinai location are dually symbolic of PEACE. I’m honored to have a part in it.

This brings us to my most recent visit to the Middle East.

On the day before the United States’ national presidential election, November 4, 1980, I had a conference in his Jerusalem office with Prime Minister Menachem Begin. With me, as usual was Mr. Stanley Rader. Also with us was the mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek. Also our own TV camera crew.

Mr. Begin had been in a meeting with government officials in Tel Aviv. He interrupted that meeting, giving it a two and one-half hour recess to drive one hour to Jerusalem for this meeting, and then to return to the meeting in Tel Aviv.

When we arrived at the reception office outside Mr. Begin’s office, they told us we would not be able to see Mr. Begin—he was out of the city. Imagine their surprise when they saw him walk in for a warm handshake with us!

Inside his office I apologized for having caused the interruption in the Tel Aviv meeting, and he replied, “Mr. Armstrong, I would get out of bed at two in the morning to see you, if necessary!”

We had a most enjoyable meeting, which seemed to reflect a spirit of love. We asked Mr. Begin for any statement he would like to make to the American people. This will appear in a later issue of *The Plain Truth*. Our meeting ended in a bear hug, and his smiling approval for having his picture appear with Mr. Sadat on the front cover of this issue.

Mount Sinai Peace Center

Eight days later came the meeting with President Sadat at the Gaza Residential Palace in Cairo.

Mr. Sadat was giving an address on national television at a Teachers’ Association graduation ceremony. Mr. Stanley Rader, and Mr. Osamu Gotoh and I were first driven to the building where the ceremony was being held in an auditorium on the ground floor. It was a large office building of some twelve stories. We three were taken to a top story reception room adjacent to an executive office. There we viewed on television the president’s speech and the ceremony below.

As it was about to close, we were escorted down to a waiting car in a large parking way in front of the building. In front of our car was a Cadillac ambulance, immediately behind the presi-

dent's car. We waited for some little time. Then Dr. M. Abdul-Kader Hatem, our friend of some six or more years' standing, personal adviser to Mr. Sadat, joined us in our car. A siren pilot car led the procession ahead of the presidential car. We were speeded in this motorcade through crowded traffic to the palace. Crowds lined the street waving at their president. The ambulance, I learned, now follows the presidential car wherever it is driven—another price Mr. Sadat pays for his peace efforts with Israel.

At the palace Mr. Sadat had entered before we left our car. The First Lady was waiting for us on the front portico. We had met her before. She took my arm and walked with me inside, through a wide corridor, and into a reception room on the left. On the right, in another room, a group of U.S. congressmen had been waiting for the president. They knew we were Americans, and quizzically questioned our being there.

The reception room was all set up for TV lighting by both our own TV crew and the government's. President Sadat saw the congressmen for some twenty minutes first, while his wife entertained us. As he came in, she left. Madam Sadat is a very beautiful and charming lady.

After shaking hands and being photographed with TV cameras on us, we took seats prepared so that the president and I sat close in a corner, I on a sofa with Mr. Rader on my right and Mr. Gotoh on his right, and Dr. Hatem seated on a chair close to and on the left of Mr. Sadat. The TV cameras continued for a couple minutes, or so, then turned off the very bright lights and left.

That evening, on the TV evening news, in both English and Arabic, considerable coverage was given to our meeting, but none to the U.S. congressmen.

We discussed world conditions, causes of evils and of peace, and affirmed the building of "an iron bridge of peace" between Egypt and America.



IN JERUSALEM, Herbert W. Armstrong is presented with artwork drawn by young people of the International Cultural Center for Youth. From left, Stanley Rader, Mr. Armstrong, Moshe Kol and Yosef Aviram of the Israeli Exploration Society.

Then President Sadat showed me the architect's rendering of the projected \$70 million World Peace Center at the base of Mount Sinai. It portrayed a walled complex within which were a mosque, a synagogue and a church, symbolizing cooperation between religions and between nations. Adjoining is to be constructed a modern resort hotel.

It is especially significant that this World Peace Center is to be constructed at the base of Mount Sinai, for there it has a meaning it could not have anywhere else on earth. It was atop Mount Sinai that God gave to Israel and the world—written on tablets of stone with the finger of God—the **TEN BROAD PRINCIPLES OF PEACE AND UNIVERSAL WELL-BEING AND ABUNDANCE!**

There are, I repeat again and again and again, the **TWO** ways, broadly speaking, of life—the one I simplify as "GIVE," the other "GET."

The Ten Commandments sum up in ten points the spiritual **LAW OF GOD**—outflowing **LOVE** to God, and to neighbor. The first four summarize the principle of love to God, and the last six to man.

The whole world has grossly overlooked the whole purpose and

meaning of human life on the earth. The world has entirely mistaken the purpose and meaning of government, of religion, of science and technology, of education.

Humans were created and put on earth to **BUILD PERFECT CHARACTER**. To produce, to accomplish, to create abundance, and to do it in peace, happiness and joy.

It all boils down to *a way of life!* The way to peace, to happiness, to production, to accomplishment, to invigorating, satisfying, exhilarating achievement, to true success, is *the way of "GIVE."* That is the way of outflowing love to God and to man. The way of mutual serving, helping, sharing, cooperating. You help me produce and I help you. Together, both producing, we have more than when I try to "GET" by taking what you have produced, and you strive to take from me what I already have.

The purpose of government is to regulate the behavior and performance of people in this "give" way—to prevent the self-centered greedy or hostile from stepping on the true rights of others—to guide those subject to the government into *the way of "GIVE."*

The real purpose of education

is to educate the mind in *this way* of "GIVE" and all the tools needed for that purpose—the tools of reading, speaking, writing, figuring mathematically, the accumulation of needed knowledge to this same end. But how woefully educators have missed the mark! They educate, beginning with five- and six-year-olds, in false values, worthless goals, wrong incentives, all from an utterly false, materialistic approach.

The entire purpose and meaning of religion is to bring humanity into *the way* of "GIVE"—to rescue us from "GET," which is the way of SIN.

All our human troubles and evils have been *caused* by the "GET" motive. The ways of "GIVE" and "GET" are spiritual in nature. The way of "GIVE" is a SPIRITUAL LAW, set in relentless motion by the Creator, as inexorable as the law of gravity. Break that law and it will break you!

True religion—that of GOD the Creator and Jesus Christ the Savior-King and Ruler—is to rescue a suffering humanity from the cruel evils of the "GET" way—from SIN—and bring us, with the gift of eternal life, into *the happy way* of "GIVE."

In other words, to bring us to a REPENTANCE of sin, turn us from it, and into the way of GOD'S LOVE, for eternal joyous achievement!

But what do we find in the message of a supposed "Christianity" in this world, deceived and maneuvered by Satan?

We find a "Christian" religion based on the "GET" principle. They shout, "ACCEPT Christ!" "RECEIVE Christ!" "GET salvation!" They say this great overall spiritual law—the basic *way of life* to PEACE and everything desirable and good—is "DONE AWAY"!

They proclaim a *different Jesus* (II Corinthians 11:4)—a disagreeing Son who "did away with" His Father's Commandments.

The Gospel of Jesus is the MESSAGE Jesus brought from God

and proclaimed to man. But they proclaim their own message ABOUT the Person of Christ, not HIS message of the Kingdom of God.

They overlook God's LAW—His WAY OF LIFE. They have not made this a better world. They have not brought PEACE to the world. Rather, WARS have been largely fought over religious contentions and rivalries and hatreds.

The world's religions have been spawned by Satan the devil. The world has been deceived! But now in God's nations, Britain and the United States, we see moves toward peace. In Israel and Egypt, through their courageous two leaders, there is a turning toward THE WAY OF PEACE!

So what is the significance of the Peace Center at the base of Mount Sinai?

It was atop that mountain that the Creator-GOD handed down to Moses for all mankind the ten broad principles of *the way* to PEACE—to righteousness, to joyous accomplishment and invigorating eternal life in achievement!

Of course, that way had been shown to the first humans—Adam and Eve. That basic spiritual LAW had been in relentless effect since humanity began. It is an eternal law! But it was handed down visually and historically from Mount Sinai.

Now, at its base, as a result of Prime Minister Menachem Begin and Israel "GIVING" back this area to Egypt, and the courageous initiative of President Anwar el-Sadat of Egypt, this Peace Center at Mount Sinai's base will stand as a prelude to soon-coming WORLD PEACE! This Peace Center will not, of itself, bring that peace. The living Jesus Christ will! But this Peace Center is emblematic of it, and as a result of moving in the direction of peace instead of war by these two Middle East leaders, it foreshadows or becomes a prelude to the world peace that is as sure as the rising of tomorrow's sun! □

THE PLAIN TRUTH

Goals & Purposes

The Plain Truth is published in the public interest. It deals with matters of social, family and environmental concern. It includes articles on international news, politics, philosophy, religion and education especially where these have a bearing on the quality of life.

The magazine is not a political publication and is not backed by any political party or by any pressure group.

The publication rights of the magazine are owned by the Worldwide Church of God and the purpose of *The Plain Truth* is to inform and educate, putting world events into true perspective and creating an awareness of the seriousness of the times in which we live. Direct emphasis is placed on the values of Christian morality and the social results of the increasing rejection of these values. Space is at times given to controversial ideas, which may help clarify in the reader's mind the different aspects of essential issues.

The Plain Truth carries no subscription price. It is supported entirely by voluntary contributions from readers. The financial support of the magazine comes from readers who have become convinced of its value and who are concerned that *The Plain Truth* should be made available free of charge to an increasing number of readers. Your contributions are welcomed and gratefully received.

In a world continually confronted by problems and crises, *The Plain Truth* strives to give reasons for the *bad news* and answers to life's dilemmas which if applied could bring *good news* and right results.

It is also the policy of this magazine to point out the only option left to mankind if we are to survive. We announce the good news that when mankind fails to avert the ultimate disaster, it will take a divine plan to save this earth and establish a new order where all living will be able to enjoy lasting peace, happiness, security, and prosperity.

EASTERN EUROPE

(Continued from page 6)

droves to Hungary to take advantage of better quality merchandise at bargain prices.

By some yardsticks, Hungary is the most prosperous nation in Eastern Europe, surpassing East Germany (which in turn has passed Great Britain in per-capita income). The Budapest regime carefully allows a measure of free political expression to vent dissent.

On the other end of the scale, in Romania, authorities maintain the tightest political reins at home. By doing so, Moscow permits the Bucharest regime a wide latitude in foreign affairs, from extensive trade contacts with the West to even recognition of the state of Israel.

In nearly every case, Moscow has had to permit freedom in some major area—either comparative freedom on the home front or political latitude in international affairs. But never both at the same time.

A Way Out for Moscow?

Nowhere in this simmering caldron of Eastern Europe are either the Russians or the Soviet-backed national communist governments loved. A recent clandestine survey in Poland, conducted by a French magazine, revealed that only three percent of those questioned would vote for the Communist Party in free elections.

The Soviet empire is kept in line only by the threat of superior military force. But even this has its limits in the event of widespread civil unrest throughout the region.

"The hostility between these societies and the Soviet Union," notes political analyst William Pfaff, "poses a basic and lasting problem for the Soviet government. These states are never going to provide the totally reliable zone of security the Soviet Union wants. It is time this is recognized in the Kremlin."

There is an answer—"the only solution," says Mr. Pfaff, to the

Soviet dilemma—the "Finlandization" of Eastern Europe. Under such a process, the Soviets would be encouraged to release the Eastern European societies to enjoy their autonomy—within a controlled European framework guaranteeing Soviet security interests. (The term "Finlandization" derives from the somewhat restricted foreign policies that Finland, an otherwise free neighbor of the Soviet Union, can carry out.)

"This solution," adds Mr. Pfaff, "will be extremely difficult to achieve. It will require intelligence in the West as well as in Moscow, and self-discipline in Eastern Europe. But it is the only solution."

Bible prophecies clearly indi-



SHOPPERS CROWD STREETS in Warsaw, Poland's capital. Polish economy is under severe stress. Rationing of key food items began at end of 1980.

cate some such "solution"—which would radically redraw the political map of Europe.

Restored Roman Empire

Viewing the events unfolding in Eastern Europe, Editor in Chief Herbert W. Armstrong wrote in a co-worker letter dated August 27, 1980:

"Will Poland free itself from Soviet domination and join with Yugoslavia, Romania and possibly Czechoslovakia—and with Germany, Italy, France, Spain, Portugal and Austria—in a resurrected medieval 'Holy Roman Empire' to dominate Europe and

equal the U.S.S.R. and the U.S.A. in world power?"

The Bible clearly indicates that this final end-time restoration of the Roman Empire will be composed of "ten horns," meaning ten nations or ruling entities (Revelation 17:12). This system will exist at the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to establish the Kingdom of God.

The second chapter of the book of Daniel tells of the same time—not far in the future when the Kingdom of God, pictured as a great stone "cut out without (human) hands" will crush this final system of human government to dominate the world. Here this ten-nation system is pictured as having his feet "part of iron, and part of clay" (Daniel 2:33).

Note that the toes—obviously ten—correspond to the ten national units of Revelation 17.

The original Roman Empire was broken into two "legs"—the Eastern empire in Byzantium (later Constantinople, today Istanbul) and the empire in the West in Rome. Thus it is very possible that the restored end-time system will be composed of two distinct yet cooperative parts: the first comprising some of the present Common Market nations of Western Europe, the second from Central and Eastern Europe grouped around elements of the communist "Comecon" organization.

Watch Austria Too

What is transpiring in Poland today is the first concrete step in the refashioning of western, central and much of eastern Europe into a new arrangement.

Significantly, Mr. Armstrong mentions Austria as one of the nations to watch. Austria is a neutral nation on the eastern flank of noncommunist Europe. Even today it acts as the bridge between East and West Europe. But in a reconstituted Roman Empire, Austria—with its renowned capital, Vienna, the seat of authority for the Holy Roman Empire for hundreds of years—would be in the very center of things.

Kept on display in the Schatzkammer or Royal Treasury in the old

Imperial Palace (Hofburg) in Vienna is the crown of the Holy Roman Empire, dating back to the time of Otto the Great in the tenth century. It seems to be waiting for one final emplacement.

Perhaps for a reason, a massive governmental complex has recently been completed along the banks of the Danube River in Vienna. Called "U.N. City," it belongs to the government of Austria, but was leased in part to the United Nations as a third U.N. headquarters. Might it be used for other purposes in the future?

NATO Finished

The restored Roman system will radically change big power relations. NATO, as it presently exists would be finished.

Moscow, in return for granting limited freedom to the nations of Eastern Europe would insist that the new European system be politically independent from the United States.

The Soviets have further reason for such an arrangement. If they could pry Western Europe away from the United States, they would negate Washington's intention of stationing powerful new nuclear weapons in Europe, now scheduled for around 1985.

Such a Soviet-European arrangement would be coupled, no doubt, with a mutual nonaggression treaty and vastly increased trade. The chronically weak Soviet economy will need much help during the 1980s. Already, during the past decade of detente, East-West trade in Europe has increased dramatically. Soviet trade with West Germany now amounts to about \$7 billion a year, that with France around \$4 billion.

West European dependence upon East bloc energy sources are increasingly very important. By the mid-1980s the Soviets will be supplying thirty percent of the natural gas consumed in West Germany.

And now, a respectable petroleum research organization in Sweden reports that Soviet engineers have made the world's largest discovery of oil in Western Siberia. As a result, total

Soviet oil reserves are now estimated as high as 4.55 trillion barrels, many times greater than the combined reserves of all Middle East oil fields.

The nations of continental Western Europe are almost totally dependent upon Mideast and North Africa oil. What a "bargaining chip" the Soviets may have with energy-starved Western Europe if their reserves are proven out!

Britain, U.S. Isolated

The future Romanized Europe will not be good news for Britain and the United States. Britain, along with fellow Common Market member Denmark, will likely not be a part of a new arrangement.

Britain's relationship with the Continent is tenuous enough as it is. A very large portion of the British public has never quite approved of Britain's membership in the European Economic Community.

The opposition Labour Party, at its annual conference last October, actually approved a position calling for Britain's removal from the community, once it resumes office.

British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher is having an extremely difficult time trying to turn around the over-taxed, hyperinflated British economy, saddled for three decades with socialist spending programs.

For the past fifteen years the United States has been going in the same inward-oriented direction, causing great concern among knowledgeable continental Europeans. In an interview in the November 10-16 issue of *Le Point*, French sociologist Michel Crozier says that "today one sees [in America] what one saw in Britain in 1950-1955. If this tendency continues it will be a disaster."

After the war, war-torn Europe looked to the United States not only for its military protection, but for a societal model. Optimistic, prosperous America was the "Promised Land."

Now, Mr. Crozier admits, "for us there is no longer a model or a promised land," adding that "salvation is not across the ocean."

Writing in the *New Yorker* mag-

azine, William Pfaff stresses that for Europeans, "American moral authority has been seriously undermined, mainly as a consequence of the Vietnam War."

Mr. Pfaff also points out that America and Europe have steadily drifted apart over the past few years, "that on the two sides of the Atlantic we are societies rather remote from one another, and that the United States today has perhaps become even more distant from Western Europe than it was in the isolationist nineteen-twenties and thirties."

The United States no longer considers itself largely an outgrowth of European culture—the Old World transplanted into the New World. Much of this is due to the growth of non-European ethnic minorities within the United States.

"Europe today," says Mr. Pfaff, "doesn't interest Americans very much" and America "with its idealism and moral energy no longer interests Europeans as it did in the forties or at the time of Woodrow Wilson. . . . It means that Western Europe, released from its fear of itself, has become free again—whether we like it or not."

Stage Is Set

Conditions are ripe now, more than ever before since the close of the Second World War, for a massive end-time reshaping of the world's political systems.

Western Europe and the United States are drifting apart—leading to America's dangerous isolation. At the same time, the Soviet Union realizes it must solve its Eastern European enigma. Out of these twin developments will emerge a new—yet ancient—political alignment.

Continue to watch these developments unfold. Watch for the impact that the Polish Pope, John Paul II, will have on the largely Roman Catholic Eastern European nations as they come out from behind the Iron Curtain. Watch to see what role Austria—that unique bridge between East and West—will play.

Bible prophecy is racing on! □

What Our Readers Say

Silent Holocaust

Your article on abortion appearing in *The Plain Truth* was the most moving piece I've ever read on the subject.

It should be read by politicians, woman groups and any others who support abortions.

It certainly opened my eyes.

Joseph Sepulveda
Burbank, California

The article on the Silent Holocaust must be broadcast all over the world.

A. Jaworowski
Monrovia, California

Empire Strikes Back

The article on *Star Wars* and *The Empire Strikes Back* caught my eye. The author of the article brought out some interesting points, but there is one point he missed. I thought perhaps you might be interested that the name of Han Solo's ship is *Millennium Falcon*. That ship has also represented salvation for the good guys by being the means of escaping the clutches of Darth Vader many times. Maybe the author would like to use that point in another article.

Thomas E. Nelson Jr.
Clinton, South Carolina

Photography

As a freelance photographer I appreciate the fact that you give credit to each photographer right by his/her picture which appears in your fine magazine.

R.P. Dawson Jr.
Portland, Oregon

Race Riots

Your "Personal" in the November issue was very interesting. Also the article "Race Riots" by Rader and Calkins was very informative. Seldom

do we get the whole truth when things like this occur.

Mrs. Gerald Shireman
Richland Center, Wisconsin

On Wings of Song

Thank you, Clayton Steep, for writing a very fair article by *not* condemning just rock 'n' roll music in general. I agree with you when you said: "Not every song sung today is decadent or objectionable. Neither were all of the songs sung in the past ages wholesome and good."

Steve Walker
Waterloo, Iowa

I'm familiar with songs written from 1900 to today's disco, because I play a trumpet as a hobby. I've noticed that those songs that withstand the test of time and endure and become the standards are those with lyrics which are clean and wholesome.

The song I have in mind is titled "Don't Take Your Love From Me." I wish to write here some of the words in that song to show you what I mean: "Tear a star from out of the sky, and the sky feels blue. Tear a petal from a rose, and the rose weeps too. Would you take the wings from birds, so that they can't fly? Would you take the ocean's roar, and leave just a sigh? All this your heart won't let you do. This is all I ask of you, 'Don't take your love from me.'"

Chris Lambos
Chicago, Illinois

To Heal a Nation

As I was reading "To Heal a Nation" by John Halford, I looked at the pictures of the Haitian people. I felt such a strong compassion for them. I thought how wonderful it will be when we can help heal their and all the world's troubles.

Evelyn Nelsen
Council Bluffs, Iowa

New Readers

Where have you been all my life? When I pick up a *Plain Truth* magazine to read it, I find it hard to put down. Thank you for giving us hope for the future through God and Jesus Christ.

M. Kennard
Barrie, Ontario

I must say that this is a most excellent magazine apart from any "spiritual" articles as such. I find the very broad scope of affairs covered—and how important they are—of great interest. All is well-written, and the logic of your arguments I find quite acceptable (I have an analytical mind). Many of your arguments and explanations, which are quite new to me, I find convincing—and want to know more. When *The Plain Truth* arrives I read it from cover to cover the same day.

D.E.W.
Leicester, England

Television Programs

I have begun watching Herbert W. Armstrong recently on Sunday mornings, and am most interested and impressed with the information he offers. I would be very pleased to receive the booklets you have to offer: *Just What Do You Mean... Born Again?* and *Conversion*, etc. I would also be appreciative if you could put my name on your regular mailing list.

Lois Dawe
Oakville, Ontario

I am writing with regards to your free booklets advertised on television; mainly the one titled *Why Were You Born?* I happened to turn the TV on one day, and caught part of your program. I found it very interesting, and easy to relate to. I shall continue to listen to your program when possible.

Elaine Donofrio
Port Colborne, Ontario

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