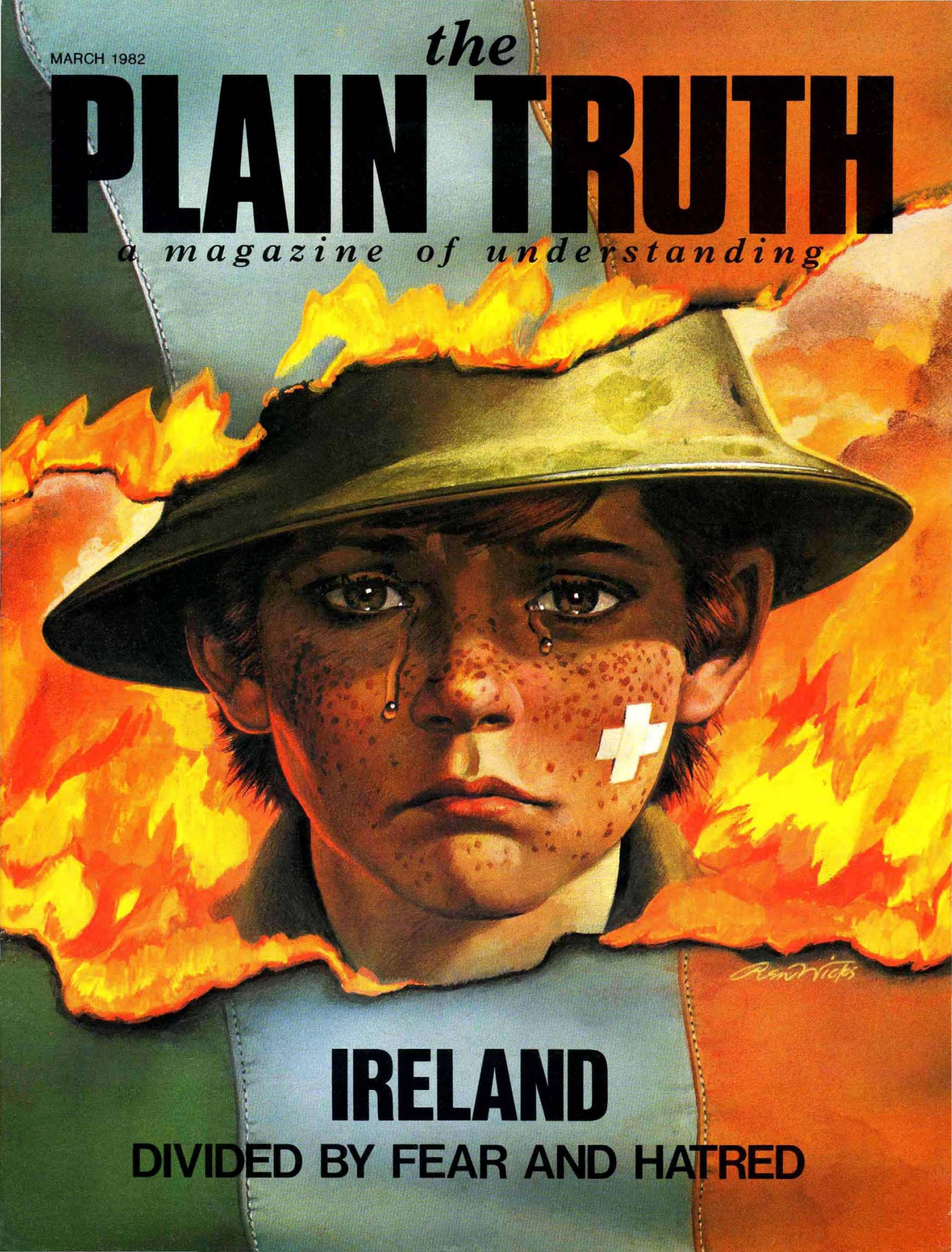


MARCH 1982

the

PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding



IRELAND

DIVIDED BY FEAR AND HATRED

the
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Vol. 47, No. 3

ISSN 0032-0420

March 1982

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ABOUT OUR COVER

An artist's portrayal of Ireland's tragedy. Revealed in the burning flag torn asunder is the tragic face of a youth forced at so young an age to live the meaning of fear and hatred.

Illustration by Ren Wicks

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Personal from...

Why Churches Are Divided

WHY are the churches *divided*? Have the churches *failed*? Do we *really* understand what is the real **PURPOSE**—the divine **MISSION**—of the Church Jesus Christ founded?

Did Jesus Christ intend his Church to become divided?

Did Jesus Christ give his Church the commission to work actively in this world's governments, its society, its commerce and industry, *to make this world a better world*?

Is the divine mission of the Church of God to make this a **BETTER** world? If so, it has failed abysmally.

Should you *join* a church—and if so, *which one*?

WHERE is the original *true* Church that Jesus Christ founded? That is the question that haunted me, back in 1926 and 1927. I had been challenged on a point of God's law in the Bible. I had been *angered* into an intensive, almost night-and-day study of the Bible.

My wife had taken up with a teaching she said she got out of the Bible—a teaching and practice utterly contrary to the **CHURCHES**. On this particular point all the churches appeared to be in agreement—except possibly one I had branded as fanatical.

Yes, I was angered. I was indignant! I was plain **MAD**! My wife taking up with religious fanaticism? Surely *no* advertising man could tolerate *that*! She said it was Bible teaching.

"LOOK!" I exclaimed, "you can't tell me all these churches can be wrong!" I firmly believed that. I believed these churches—at least the Protestant churches—were **CHRIST'S** churches, firmly based on the **BIBLE**!

Haven't YOU believed it?

So I was goaded into opening the Bible. I was going to *prove* to my wife that "all these churches can't be wrong." Desperately I searched for biblical

evidence to refute my wife's fanaticism. But I couldn't find that evidence. What I *did* find staggered me!

I had been reared in one of the smaller, but older and respected Protestant denominations. From birth I had been taken to Sunday School. I had taken for granted and assumed the usual teaching of the immortality of the soul, the going to heaven or hell at death and the idea that I was "saved" from birth, since I had a "birthright membership" in the church.

When I read Romans 6:23, I stared at that verse in my Bible in shocked, incredible disbelief! It said, "For the wages of sin is **DEATH**; but the *gift* of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." I had always believed the wages we earn for **SIN** was *just the opposite* of **DEATH**. I had been taught that what we get paid for **SIN** was **ETERNAL LIFE**—in hell fire! This verse says eternal life is something we can only receive **AS A GIFT** from God.

But **NO**! Surely no! We already *have* eternal life—so I supposed—we are immortal souls! I learned that many Protestants **INTERPRET** that verse—that is, they **PUT A DIFFERENT MEANING INTO IT**. They *change* the meaning of the words. They manufacture a new definition of the word *death*. They define *death* to mean "separation from God." I looked at this verse again. On the one hand, for sin, we get **DEATH**. On the other hand, the *opposite* of that penalty is **ETERNAL LIFE**. Now, it certainly was clear, if **ETERNAL LIFE** is the very *opposite* of **DEATH**, then **DEATH** cannot mean eternal life!

I was confused! My head was swimming!

But there it was, in plain language. Then I read that **SOULS** can *die*! "The soul that sinneth, it shall die" (Ezek. 18:4, 20). Then my startled eyes read, in Revelation 16:3: "and every living *soul* **DIED** in the sea." That said **SOULS** can **DIE**. Then I saw where Jesus said souls can be **DESTROYED**! "... but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell" (Matt. 10:28).

It began to look like some of the churches *were*

wrong, after all! But did not Jesus Christ found his CHURCH? He surely did, and I found where he said the gates of the grave would never prevail against it—IT WOULD EN-DURE—IT COULD NOT BE DE-STROYED! I found where Jesus Christ said he would never leave nor forsake it—where he would always be “in the midst” of it. I found where he was the living HEAD of it! Jesus Christ was resurrected from the grave. HE IS STILL ALIVE!

So WHERE was the Church HE was guiding, directing and using?

I was perplexed. But I kept searching. I continued studying.

I found where Jesus Christ came to DO THE WORK OF GOD. He came to bring mankind the GOSPEL, from GOD. Yet he said that of himself—as a human—by his own human power, he could do nothing—he was utterly powerless, of himself, for this divine spiritual MISSION. The Father that dwelt within him—by the power of his Holy Spirit—did the work.

So it was really GOD doing it, by his Holy Spirit, using the individual human body of Jesus as his instrument. GOD carried on his WORK of revealing HIS MESSAGE through the individual human BODY of Jesus Christ.

I saw where God’s true CHURCH is called “THE BODY OF CHRIST” (I Cor. 12:27, 13; Rom. 12:5). How could the CHURCH be the BODY OF CHRIST? I searched. I studied. God’s Word made the truth PLAIN. God started his Gospel WORK—proclaiming the Gospel (Good News) of his KINGDOM through the individual human BODY of Jesus. But after his resurrection, Jesus sent the same HOLY SPIRIT to enter, on the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, and thereafter, into the COLLECTIVE BODY of those in GOD’S CHURCH.

The CHURCH, then, is the COLLECTIVE BODY Christ uses as HIS INSTRUMENT, empowered by God’s Spirit, to carry on GOD’S WORK. Jesus Christ heads and directs it from heaven!

How does one get into this ONE BODY? By receiving God’s Holy Spirit. “For by one Spirit are we all baptized [immersed] into ONE

BODY.” To baptize is to immerse—to plunge into. It is God’s Holy Spirit that PUTS ONE INTO the only true Church!

But are there MANY churches? No, everywhere the New Testament speaks of the ONE Body—ONE CHURCH. Christ is NOT divided (I Cor. 1:13). There is ONE true Church. All in it “speak the same thing” (I Cor. 1:10) and there is NO DIVISION!

But WHAT is the divine MISSION of that Church? What is its PURPOSE? The answer is to do the WORK OF GOD, which Jesus started, and now continues through his Church. And what did Jesus start DOING?

Mark tells us. “The beginning of



“
The Church, then, is
the collective body
Christ uses as his
instrument,
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God’s Work.
”

the gospel of Jesus Christ, the Son of God” (Mark 1:1). Then, beginning verse 2, Mark records how John the Baptist prepared the way before him. Coming, then, directly to the BEGINNING of the WORK Christ did, Mark says: “Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee . . .”—DOING WHAT? “. . . preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).

Two things Jesus commanded his hearers to do: 1) REPENT, and 2) BELIEVE. But believe WHAT? Believe JESUS! Believe his message—his GOSPEL. You have to believe that Gospel—that Good News of the KINGDOM OF GOD, to be saved! JESUS SAID SO!

The KINGDOM OF GOD is the GOVERNMENT of God. It is also the divine FAMILY of God, into which we may be born. It is the UNIVERSE-RULING family! You repent of—WHAT? Your rebellion against that GOVERNMENT of God. God governs by his LAW, summed up by the Ten Commandments. Some will say, we must repent of SIN! Yes, SURELY! For sin IS the transgression of THE LAW (I John 3:4). It means unconditional SURRENDER to the GOVERNMENT of God—to yield to let God RULE your life, according to HIS laws—it means to live by EVERY WORD IN THE BIBLE (Matt. 4:4).

What is the divine MISSION of God’s true CHURCH? Jesus commissioned his Church: “Go ye into all the world, and PREACH THE GOSPEL to every creature.” Not just any gospel. Not a gospel merely about the Person of Christ—but HIS Gospel of the Kingdom of God—the Gospel he said we have to BELIEVE in order to be converted and saved!

Again, Matthew records his Great Commission: “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in [into] the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy [Spirit]: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have COMMANDED you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world” (Matt. 28:19-20). In proclaiming his GOSPEL, Jesus specifically said, teach them to OBEY God’s COMMANDMENTS!

Jesus gave a prophecy for our time—just before the END of this world. The SIGN of his coming and the end of this age is this: “And this gospel of the KINGDOM [the same Gospel he taught the original apostles] shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and THEN shall the END come” (Matt. 24:14).

That Gospel was not preached after A.D. 70 to all the world. In every generation it has been preached—to a FEW, but not TO ALL THE WORLD—ON ALL CONTINENTS!

Wherever God’s one true Church is—the ONE Church that
(Continued on page 42)

A SERIOUS—perhaps unbridgeable—split has developed between the United States and its allies in Western Europe over reaction to the crisis in Poland.

When the Polish government cracked down on its internal critics on December 13, 1981, a stage was set for a most serious squabble within NATO.

At stake is the survival of this key Western defense structure formed in 1949 to thwart further Soviet inroads in Europe.

Opposing Views to Soviet Threat

The crisis revealed more than ever before two fundamental and contrasting viewpoints among NATO powers regarding the Soviet Union.

America on the one hand, especially the Reagan administration, tends to view the Soviet Union as a singleminded expansionist power. It must be checkmated at all points around the globe. According to this viewpoint, the Soviets are involved, at least indirectly, in every world trouble spot. And they play a big role in worldwide terrorism.

To Western Europeans, living in much closer proximity to the Soviet Union, their giant communist neighbor is seen more as a fumbling giant, grappling with difficult political and economic problems in its own "empire." One special problem area is Poland, which is struggling with massive economic difficulties its Marxist-oriented bureaucracy is incapable of solving.

But Western Europeans, at the same time, have a healthy respect—in many cases, fear—of Russian *military* might. As the Soviet Union increases its military power, its political weight and leverage on its Western European neighbors grows.

Bonn-Washington Rift

Above all, the crisis is threatening to divide the United States and West Germany, the two leading NATO partners.

March 1982

CRISIS IN POLAND FORESHADOWS END OF NATO

by Gene H. Hogberg

1982 promises to be the most critical year for the Free World since the end of World War II.



De Wildenberg—Gamma/Liaison

In the aftermath of the crack-down in Poland, President Ronald Reagan levied a series of unilateral U.S. sanctions against both Moscow and the new martial law government in Poland. Given this hard-line stand against Soviet policies, this was the very least he felt he could do.

Mr. Reagan's moves were shrilly denounced in Moscow ("interference in Poland's internal affairs") and coolly received by Western Europe, with the notable exception of Great Britain.

The fact is, ever since detente has been in vogue, trade between capitalist Western Europe and communist Eastern Europe, including the Soviet Union, has mushroomed. According to one source, Moscow's trade with the capitalist world expanded from approximately \$6.5 billion in 1970 to \$44 billion in 1980.

The trade stakes of West Germany—and all of Western Europe—with Eastern Europe are at least seven times as high as that of the United States with the same region. Keeping this trade lifeline open is considered politically critical in these recessionary times.

Nearly a half million jobs in West Germany alone are dependent upon East bloc exports. The big steel firm of Mannesman, for example, sells almost 60 percent of its steel tubing to the East—and this percentage will increase if the massive \$15 billion Soviet-Western Europe gas deal goes through.

The Reagan administration has restricted the participation of American firms in the proposed 3,000-mile Siberian-Western European pipeline. However, it has not been able to persuade its European allies to back out of the deal.

According to an American government trade official the project "throws an energy noose around the economies of Western Europe that can gradually be tightened as the U.S.S.R. attempts to gain greater control over the energy resources of the globe."

"We need the gas," countered a top French official bluntly. In late



To Western Europeans, living in much closer proximity to the Soviet Union, their giant communist neighbor is seen more as a fumbling giant, grappling with difficult political and economic problems . . .

January France moved ahead on the project.

Crisis in Soviet Bloc

The Soviets, for their part, will be doing their best to hold onto their Western European trade partners. Without continual trade, financing and technological transfers from the capitalist world, the Soviet Union and its East bloc Comecon partners face an extremely bleak economic picture—perhaps even a breaking point—in the mid-to-late 1980s.

Recently a Czechoslovak economist admitted, with uncharacteristic frankness: "It is becoming clear that for a full 30 years we have been unable to solve problems associated with production under

socialism, either in theory or in practice."

East Germany, Czechoslovakia, even the Soviet Union itself, have started to introduce more profit-incentive economic policies, especially in agriculture. Hungary is already far advanced with its own partially privatized, so-called "goulash communism."

However, after the experience with the Solidarity labor union movement in Poland, there is a definite limit to how far authorities in the Soviet sphere will permit decentralized rule. Hence, the economic door to the West must remain open.

Now is the time, say some influential Americans, to take advantage of the impending eco-

nomics crisis in the communist world. The time is ripe, they say, to either cut off trade and aid or to extract political concessions in return for its continuance.

Western Europeans, however, are generally in no mood to rock the boat. They don't wish to disturb stability in Europe, even though this stability results from Europe being divided into two superpower spheres of interest.

"Americans," noted one U.S. observer, "cheer news of Polish resistance to martial law. Europeans are made nervous by the cheering. They prefer a Polish army in Poland to a Russian army."

Cut Loose "Ungrateful Europe"?

The blossoming transatlantic crisis regarding trade with the East bloc nations is far more serious than superficial differences of view among NATO partners. Down deep, something extremely serious is developing on both sides of the ocean.

The summer of 1981 saw widespread demonstrations throughout Western Europe over the proposal to upgrade, by 1983, NATO's European forces with new U.S.-made nuclear weapons.

Underlying the demonstrations was a definite tone of anti-Americanism. The United States was portrayed as a principal threat to world peace.

Speakers at rallies in West Germany demanded an end to the "master-slave" relationship with the Americans, calling instead for an "alternative security policy"—meaning a neutralized Germany between East and West.

Public opinion polls in West Germany have revealed startling perceptions among the country's youths. Fifty-six percent of the 16-to-29-year-olds questioned in one survey, for example, claimed they wanted to avoid a war at all costs, even if it meant that the Soviet Union would take over Western Europe.

The growing acceptance of the "better Red than dead" concept in Europe has fostered a dangerous "better cut Europe loose" counter philosophy in America. For the past half year the editorial pages of lead-

ing American newspapers and newsmagazines have rung out with major opinion pieces on this theme.

"There is a growing U.S. unilateralism, feeding on European neutralism," wrote columnist William Pfaff, an American living in Paris. "The collapse of the alliance is no longer unthinkable."

"The most urgent crisis is the impending crisis of NATO," wrote Irving Kristol in *The Wall Street Journal*. "It is not a spasm. It is a tidal wave that will sweep all before it, leaving NATO in ruins."

"The alliance is at a turning point," stated another leading American columnist, Joseph Kraft. "Even NATO-firsters must now wonder whether it wouldn't be better for the United States and Europe to drift apart."

Accept the inevitable, counseled another piece of advice in *The Wall Street Journal*, this time written by an American businessman with ties to Asia. "The time has come for the U.S. to sever its ties to NATO," wrote this author, who further expressed the belief that neither the conquest of Western Europe by the Soviets (after American troops had supposedly withdrawn) nor "Finlandization" of the continent "would make little strategic difference to the U.S." but would only "add to Soviet burdens."

The author said that the United States should, in effect, turn its back on the special relationship with Europe and instead look to Asia where "the vast Pacific basin lies at America's other shore." Compared to the 1.5 billion to two billion people of the Pacific basin, he said, "Europe seems a puny affair."

Hints—and Threats—of Change

On both sides of the Atlantic, "but especially in the U.S.," observed Morton M. Kondrake in yet another *Journal* article, "we are talking ourselves into the breakup of the alliance . . . ignoring the vital interests we have in common."

What started on the international conference circuit, noted Mr. Kondrake, who is also executive editor of *The New Republic* magazine, "has moved to the [opinion and editorial] pages and it soon may translate into policy. We have



Photos by Henning—PT

America on the other hand, especially the Reagan administration, tends to view the Soviet Union as a singleminded expansionist power. It must be checkmated at all points around the globe.

gone from warnings about weaknesses in the alliance to outright calls for U.S. withdrawal from NATO."

Indeed, hints of policy change at the governmental level are being dropped.

Arthur Burns, U.S. ambassador to West Germany, said recently that "the nuclear debate is becoming a battle for the soul of Europe." U.S. troops, he went on to say, "will not stay here if they are not welcome."

Mr. Burns also quoted Mike Mansfield, former U.S. senator, now U.S. envoy to Japan, as having said that America's future lies in the Pacific, not the Atlantic.

Interestingly enough, Mr. Mansfield was the author of the "Mans-

field Amendment," introduced in the U.S. Senate in 1971, calling for American troops to be withdrawn from Europe. The Senate rejected the Mansfield Amendment. But now, Senate majority leader Howard Baker says he is not sure a repeat proposal would not sail through.

The *Times* of London, in a major year-end editorial December 31, 1981, said that critics of the alliance on both sides of the ocean are taking extremely shortsighted positions and that "it is time to worry" over NATO's future.

Europe, the *Times* reminded its readers, needs the military power of the United States to defend its territory and to protect its economic lifelines around the world. By the

same token, the *Times* wisely editorialized: "Americans who talk of abandoning the decadent and ungrateful Europeans to their fate are retreating into an old American dream world. *The United States could not afford to let an area as rich and strategically vulnerable as Europe slip under Soviet hegemony.*"

What we are witnessing is the generation gap in full bloom on both sides of the Atlantic. On the eastern shore, youthful Europeans are unaware of the importance of America's contemporary commitment to their freedom and security. On the western shore, a "new crop" of U.S. legislators has grown to adulthood without realizing how critical a free allied Europe is to the very survivability of America itself.

The current generation also overlooks the fact that without NATO, the age-old "German Question" in the heart of Europe would rise once again to the surface.

West German sovereignty is uniquely limited. Upon joining NATO, the West Germans renounced having their own national army, instead placing the *Bundeswehr* under NATO—meaning ultimately U.S.—command. The Bonn government also foreswore production and ownership of atomic weapons, in return for protection under America's nuclear umbrella.

To tamper with this arrangement is to open a potential Pandora's box.

Which Way Europe?

The stage is being set for a crisis-filled Western world—especially Western Europe—in this decisive decade of the 1980s.

The threat of U.S. military withdrawal from the Continent could become a reality by 1983 if European governments—succumbing to public pressure—do not permit the new generation of NATO nuclear missiles to be deployed on European soil.

Were this to occur, it is now believed that the United States would pull its 300,000 troops and dependents back home, rather than having them subjected as underprotected "hostages" to the

Western Europeans have a healthy respect—in many cases, fear—of Russian military might.

There is a growing U.S. unilateralism, feeding on European neutralism.

What we are witnessing is the generation gap in full bloom on both sides of the Atlantic.

The stage is being set for a crisis-filled Western world—especially Western Europe—in this decisive decade of the 1980s.

"The most urgent crisis is the impending crisis of NATO."

ever-increasing Soviet military might.

Western Europe, in turn, would be neutralized by intense Soviet political pressure. The word used today is *Finlandization*.

The future is therefore either compromised neutrality, leading to eventual Soviet domination of Europe—or *Western Europe must wake up to the specter of becoming a powerful nuclear third force on its own.*

Bible prophecy clearly indicates the latter alternative!

Prophecy foretells that there is yet to come the final end-time restoration of the Roman Empire. It will be composed of "ten horns"—meaning 10 nations or ruling entities (Rev. 17:12).

This resurrected Roman Empire will be able to stand up to the Soviet Union—perhaps even demand a release of some of its satellite European nations in return for a promise of trade and nonaggression.

A "Sweeping Design" for Europe

The coming configuration in Europe, according to Bible prophecy, will be a *church-state* combine. In this light, it is interesting to note a little reported event that took place in the Vatican last November.

More than 200 participants from 20 countries gathered in a conference to deal with the subject of the "common Christian roots" of the nations of Europe. The event, organized by Pope John Paul II's old University of Lublin in Poland and the Lateran University in Rome, was, according to the *Times* of London, "the first attempt on an international scale to look at the weight to be attached to Eastern and Western Europe as a whole. From the Vatican's point of view, the change is sweeping."

Pope Paul VI, according to *Times* reporter Peter Nichols, was inclined to see Europe as the West, the noncommunist countries. He regarded the East as mainly a diplomatic problem.

Pope John Paul's design on the other hand, noted Mr. Nichols, "is sweeping, perhaps romantic, yet felt with the extraordinary intensity of the first Pope from the East. There is something messianic in the expression of his feelings about 'how deeply fixed in the ground of history are the roots' of his origin."

The Pope, says Mr. Nichols, sees Poland as an example for Europe. Poland, even when partitioned in the past, never lost *its* identity. Europe, divided by the Yalta Conference in 1945, no longer feels itself to be Europe, but appendages of the United States and Russia. Europe, according to the Pope, must rediscover *its* common roots, based on religion and culture.

The Plain Truth will continue to keep its readers abreast of critically important events and trends in Europe throughout this "Decade of Decision." □

Now Some Want CREATION Taught As “SCIENTIFIC THEORY”!

by Sidney M. Hegvold

IN THE UNITED STATES a major new confrontation between creationists and the scientific establishment has exploded in the press.

Balanced Treatment?

Two states have enacted controversial legislation on whether creation should be taught, together with evolution, as a scientific theory. This legislation requires that: “When creation or evolution is taught, each shall be taught as a theory, rather than as a proven scientific fact” (*Science*, 7 August, 1981, article, “Louisiana Puts God into Biology Lessons”).

By the 1982-83 school year a bill called “The Balanced Treatment for Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Act” is expected to be in effect in Louisiana.

A similar bill has already been approved by the legislature of Arkansas. It was signed into law by Governor Frank White. The constitutionality of the Arkansas bill has been successfully challenged in Federal Court by the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU). The grounds? That creation-science is nothing more than religion masquerading as science.

The creationists’ drive is receiv-

ing national attention in the press and media. Similar bills are expected to be introduced in up to 20 state legislatures in the near future.

A new draft of the “Balanced Treatment” bill attempts to eliminate any last vestige of religion — to avoid legal challenges in the courts. It will be known as the “Unbiased Presentation of Creation-Science and Evolution-Science Bill.” This draft requires *both* creation and evolution to be treated as *scientific theories*. Careful attention is given to the wording of these bills to eliminate any words or phrases that even sound religious. Thus, “evidences that indicate creation of the universe, matter and energy suddenly” is used for creation rather than the traditional “from nothing.” No reference is made to a worldwide Flood. The proponents of these bills hope in this way to avoid the constitutional conflict of separation of church and state.

Most scientists would agree that the subject of origins, from an evolutionary point of view, is a legitimate scientific issue and ought to be discussed in the science classroom. Thus we read:

“There are many legitimate scientific issues relating to origins and ends: What is the origin of the

human species? Where did plants and animals come from? How did life arise? the earth, the planets, the sun, the stars? Does the universe have an origin, and if so, what? And finally a still more fundamental and exotic question, which many scientists would say is essentially untestable and therefore meaningless: Why are the laws of nature the way they are?” (*Broca’s Brain*, Carl Sagan, page 285).

Rightly or wrongly evolutionary models of origins are being taught in the science classrooms *as science*. The legal debate now going on is to determine whether or not a creation model of origins should also be taught in the science classrooms *as science*.

Who determines what is and what is not science? The scientists! Science is not just an abstract set of laws and concepts. “Science is a way of thinking more than it is a body of knowledge” (*Broca’s Brain*, Carl Sagan, page 13). And again, rightly or wrongly, that “way of thinking” by the vast majority of scientists who consider origins at all, is evolutionary.

The question remains: Is the equal treatment of the two basic accounts as *scientific theory* good or bad? Christian fundamentalists have long been deeply disturbed by the way evolution has been taught

to their children as dogma rather than theory.

But will requiring that creation be taught *as a theory* on a par with evolution *as a theory* be any better? And what about the fact that creationists themselves are divided into several schools of thought as are evolutionists? How many theories are going to be taught?

And by whom?

What Is Scientific Theory?

Just what is scientific theory anyway?

All scientific theories are inventions of the creative imagination or insight of scientists. This does not mean that theories are evil. A theory is an essential and valid tool of the scientist. It provides a method for organizing otherwise unrelated information about our physical world and provides a convenient basis for making predictions.

no matter how impressive they may be, can prove absolutely that one particular scientific theory is true—other scientific explanations are *always* possible!

“Scientific theories, like social reforms, have to meet philosophic preconceptions in the minds of scientists and others” (*Physical Science, Its Structure and Development*, Edwin C. Kemble, page 101). The philosophic preconceptions accepted today by the majority of scientists is that no explanation for origins be allowed to include God or the supernatural. “A scientific theory must therefore not contain any elements of metaphysics or mythology” (*Worlds-Antiworlds*, Hannes Alfvén, page 3).

The concept that scientists are completely unbiased and objective in their thinking is false. Most scientists *try* to be objective and unbiased but they—and theologians,

Science teachers should be teaching their students these well-established essentials of scientific theory. But do they?

All too often the old, discarded scientific theories of the past are treated as if they were myths and that now scientists have become more objective and employ the so-called scientific method in a sure march toward truth. James Conant makes this pointed statement concerning the alleged scientific method: “There is no such thing as *the* scientific method. If there were, surely an examination of the history of physics, chemistry and biology would reveal it” (*Science and Common Sense*, James Conant, page 45).

The Ptolemaic Theory of astronomy served the ancient world quite well as a guide to navigation, planting seasons, etc., for more than 1,000 years and only became outmoded when more detailed and accurate measurements became available. Even then, it took a long time for the theories of Copernicus and Kepler to displace it because of the philosophic preconceptions held by scientists, civic and religious leaders at that time.

All theories past and present, either have been altered, are being altered or have been displaced by newer (and usually) more accurate theories. Every student of science should be taught this most important and fundamental principle about scientific theory. “Looking back from the mid-twentieth century over the wreckage of once-valuable scientific theories that are no longer adequate expressions of our advancing knowledge, the scientist can hardly avoid questioning the permanence of *any* scientific theory. Clearly, a theory whose value is temporary, or one of limited scope, cannot be regarded as a correct description of reality, or final truth” (*Physical Science, Its Structure and Development*, Edwin C. Kemble, page 98).

Since scientific theories are continually changing and cannot provide absolute final truth, should creation be considered and treated as just another scientific THEORY?

The concept that scientists are completely unbiased and objective in their thinking is false. Most scientists try to be . . . but they—and theologians, too—are as human and subject to bias as anybody.

One important requirement for a good scientific theory, in the eyes of scientists, is that it should be vulnerable, i.e., it should have specifically stated consequences that can be tested with the possibility of being proved wrong. “Falsifiability” is the term used for this requirement by both evolutionists and creationists. In this sense neither evolution nor creation fall in the proper realm of science because origins cannot be scientifically tested.

More than one theory can be derived from the same set of data. “Philosophers of science have repeatedly demonstrated that more than one theoretical construction can always be placed upon a given collection of data” (*The Structure of Scientific Revolutions*, Thomas S. Kuhn, page 76). No set of facts,

gians, too—are as human and subject to bias as anybody.

As an example: “*Less faith* is required to believe in this explanation [evolution] for the origin of life than in the more *subjective* explanations” (*Earth, Moon and Planets*, Fred L. Whipple, page 240. Italics ours.). What did author Whipple mean? Less faith is required for him to believe in spontaneous generation of life than for what to him is a more subjective explanation—God as life-giver.

Finally, scientific theories, which are temporary and limited in scope, cannot be regarded as *correct* descriptions of ultimate reality or final truth. Scientists do not claim to be in search of absolute final truth. As a matter of fact, they do not believe absolute final truth can be found.

Creation—Bible View

When God describes himself as Creator, no alternate construction is possible—just the one! “I have made the earth, and created man upon it: I, even my hands, have stretched out the heavens, and all their host have I commanded” (Isa. 45:12).

Then in verse 7 this Creator God states: “I form the light, and create darkness: I make peace and create evil: I the Lord do all these things.” There is no allowance for any other theoretical construction from those strong statements: just *one*—God IS THE CREATOR.

Scientific theories are the creative inventions of the imagination of men. Could God’s creation even be considered a “scientific theory” in the light of this strong statement, for example, in Isaiah 55:8-9, “For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts”?

Those who propose theories of creation, whether they be creationists or theistic evolutionists, are chided by God, “Who hath ascended up into the heaven, or descended? who hath gathered the wind in his fists? who hath bound the waters in a garment? who hath established all the ends of the earth? what is his name, and what is his son’s name, if thou canst tell?” (Prov. 30:4.)

Even Job, who was an accomplished engineer and scientist of his day, was told that he could not understand God’s methods because he was not present at the time. “Where wast thou when I laid the foundations of the earth? declare if thou hast understanding. . . . Knowest thou it, because thou wast then born? or because the number of thy days is great?” (Job 38:4, 21.)

The physical creation surely proves to the reflective mind God’s existence (see Romans 1), but that does not prove how God made it. No human can understand the method by which the environment

came into being because no human was present at that time. This is why it is necessary for scientists, whether they are evolutionists or creationists, in proposing scientific theories of origins, to assume the principle of uniformitarianism to

ation be considered a scientific *theory* (as distinct from *scientific*)? Clearly it cannot!

Creation must require a Creator and the only possible Creator is the God who has *revealed* himself in the Bible. He changes not—“... with

Because evolutionary scientists insist on treating their theories as dogma should not cause those who understand the revealed knowledge of creation to treat creation as a mere scientific theory.

make their imaginative excursions into the past.

God even tells us that this kind of research into origins is destined to be fruitless no matter how intelligent or wise the researcher: “. . . he hath set the world in their heart, [yet] so that no man can find out the work that God maketh from the beginning to the end” (Ecc. 3:11).

And, “Then I beheld all the work of God . . . that is done under the sun: because though a man labour to seek it out, yet he shall not find it; yea further; though a wise man think to know it, yet shall he not be able to find it” (Eccl. 8:11). Obviously this is part of the “secret things” that were not going to become part of the fund of man’s physical knowledge: “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are *revealed* belong unto us and to our children for ever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29).

Theories Change—God Does Not!

Scientific theories are always changing as new evidence dictates—or they should, at least. Any scientific theory of creation—as distinct from theories of spontaneous generation—would then be subject to the same possibility of change. But God says in Malachi 3:6, “For I am the Lord, I change not. . . .” and in Hebrews 13:8, “Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and today, and forever.” No possibility of change there. So then can cre-

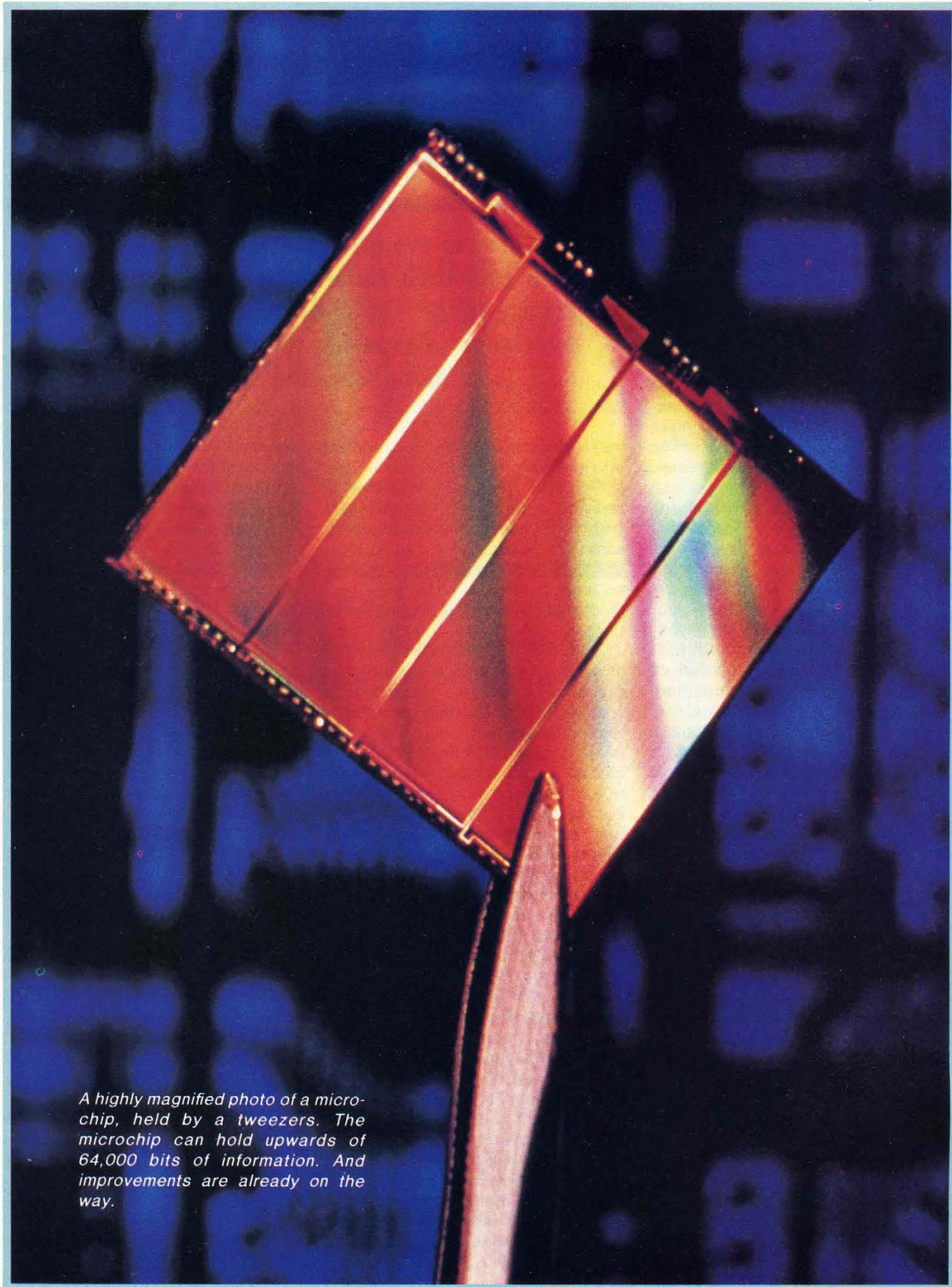
whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning” (Jas. 1:17).

Clearly *scientific theory* and creation belong in completely different disciplines. The subject of origins and the *how* of creation belong properly to the discipline of theology; evolution belongs to the discipline of *scientific theory*. Evolution, of course, is *not* scientific but it has gained acceptance as such. Rather it is a philosophy that has acquired the dogmatism usually associated only with religion. Because evolutionary scientists insist on treating their theories as dogma should not cause those who understand the revealed knowledge of creation to treat creation as a mere scientific theory.

It is a tragedy that evolutionary scientists have gotten the foothold they have in today’s education system. But it would be a greater tragedy if now, to counteract that, creationists should be given an equal foothold to treat their personal ideas of creation as a nonreligious scientific theory!

Much as it galls some to admit it, it is nevertheless true, as Moses summarized it, that “The secret things belong unto the Lord our God: but those things which are revealed belong unto us and to our children forever, that we may do all the words of this law” (Deut. 29:29). □

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A highly magnified photo of a microchip, held by a tweezers. The microchip can hold upwards of 64,000 bits of information. And improvements are already on the way.

COMPUTER WIZARDRY

where is it leading us?

by Donald D. Schroeder

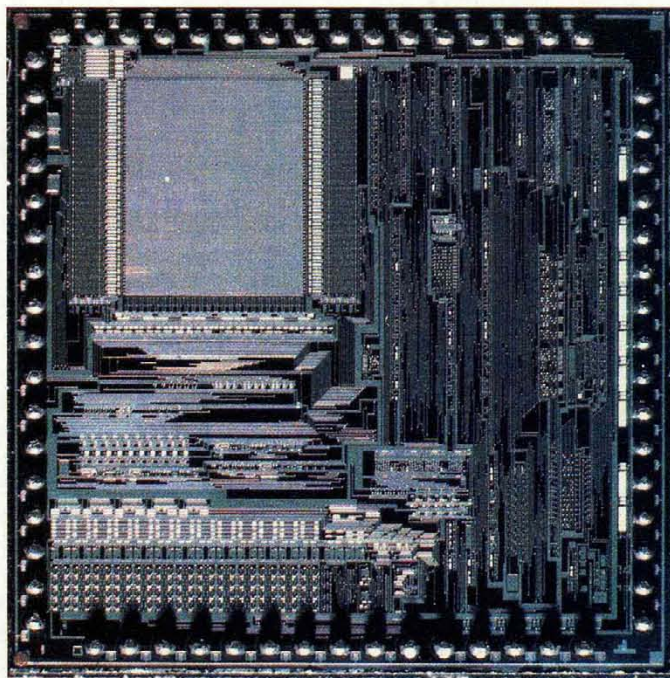
It is time we understood the kind of age we live in!

MORE AND MORE, nations are becoming dependent on computers and microcircuitry. And in that dependence resides frightening vulnerability—and, potentially, enormous social problems.

Without computers—and the microchip, left, highly magnified—the banking system of modern nations would already have broken down under a blizzard of billions of checks and financial transactions.

Jumbo jets could not fly smoothly in the air without computers. Nor could you reliably reserve a seat on one. Computers are used to navigate ships, military spacecraft and missiles. They are utilized to design and cut out complex swaths of metal and fabrics in industry, speeding up production while reducing wastage.

Also, computers assist in developing weather forecasts, directing complex city traffic light systems, setting newspaper and magazine



Pierce—Sigma

engineers and artists need only to type in or draw a rough idea of what they conceive on a computer terminal. An aeronautical engineer, for example, can instruct a computer to immediately display and rotate the rough design idea of an airplane wing or plane body from any angle. He can then make further refinements with the computer.

Long distance telephone dialing would be impossible without computer routing. Without computers it would consume in the United States the labor of all employed women over 18 years of age to do this telephone operation alone.

type—even for *The Plain Truth!*

Modern oil refineries, steel and glass-making plants are run by computers. Dams often open and shut by computers. Modern business and industrial needs for efficiency are so great that businessmen must use computers or micro-electronic technology to cut labor costs, cut waste and fight inflation—or die because their competition uses computers.

In more and more industries,

Far Out?

And more startling developments lie in the years ahead, computer developers promise.

Computer developers say we are at the dawn of the supersmart machine with “artificial intelligence.” Already industrial robots are taking over dangerous, emotionally boring or highly repetitive assembly line jobs. Whole factories are run by them.

One engine factory in a suburb of Tokyo employs a small crew of human workmen during the day. At the end of the day robots take over the work and toil tirelessly throughout the night under the supervision of a lone overseer.

And for Education, Too!

The pocket teaching computer will soon be upon us in full force. Computer developers are starting to pump major sums of money into investigating the nature of the teaching process. The avowed purpose is to develop powerful computer programs for education at all levels. Computers can be programmed in any subject to allow remedial work for slower learners and allow fast learners to proceed at their own pace. Computers can allow science teachers, for instance, to present in a classroom knowledge or experiments that would otherwise be too expensive, or dangerous.

Fierce competition by computer developers worldwide, along with mass microchip production, is rapidly cutting small computer costs. For the first time in history the microcomputer offers the average middle-class person in developed nations the opportunity to reach beyond their limited experience and education and link into massive data and information bases.

The United States and Japan are working on microchips for computers that will each hold a million words, something like the contents of a small encyclopedia.

The information being squeezed onto computer chips is so rapidly developing that some developers say whole books or libraries could be placed on a chip or two.

Already developed is a machine that uses an electronic scanner and a speech synthesizer. It can satisfactorily read aloud 200 different type faces of printed material—books, magazines, letters—at 250 words per minute. While yet fairly costly (around \$30,000), this development makes it possible for a blind person to read in privacy almost anything desired.

Translating languages is another area of attempted computer application. So far the nuances and

idioms of human languages and dialects have proven full of pitfalls for computers. However, concepts and terminology used in the scientific world are more precise and universally understood by scientists. It is envisioned that international communications satellites (computer controlled) could allow more rapid translation and communications at least between scientists of different nations.

Yet Other Trends

The small computer has important economic advantages. First, small computers consume insignificant

Computer developers say we are at the dawn of the supersmart machine. . . . Already industrial robots are taking over dangerous, emotionally boring or highly repetitive assembly line jobs. Whole factories are run by them.

amounts of cheap raw materials (silicon comes from sand). They consume minute amounts of power (they can run on small dry batteries) and they require inches instead of miles of electric wires as in older computers. Mass production and fierce competition make them cheaper and cheaper. Lastly, they are extremely portable and can be put to endless uses.

Computer developers realize if computer markets are to grow, computers must be "friendly," easy to use instead of seeming complex. There is a new thrust to more "user friendly" languages—words familiar to the average person that can be typed in to initiate computer

responses.

Already some white collar employees work out of their homes with home computer terminals. They write and communicate to central offices or to other employees across the nation almost instantaneously. This trend by itself could revolutionize the way much business is handled.

Another application could find students opting for home learning by computer, instead of going into an unsavory or costly school environment. But the computer, here, treats only the effect. Computer technology cannot change the bad classroom environment because it cannot be programmed to resolve moral and spiritual problems.

One computer specialist foresees that, given the incentive of 100 million or more customers, the price of rooftop satellite communications dishes and antennas for computers could drop to \$100, making them as common as television antennas today.

Medical Advances?

There seems almost no limit to the application by the human mind of computer technology. In the medical field it is predicted computers will increasingly be used to help doctors quickly compute diagnoses and treatment of human ailments.

Some foresee implantable microprocessors controlling artificial organs such as pancreas, or kidneys; or micropumps controlled by microprocessors regulating faulty heart or circulatory valves. This, of course, is only treating effect, not the causes of diseases.

Some developers predict that all electrical signals produced in the body will soon be collected and analyzed by doctors in the same hand-held computer. "Someday we will attach a computer directly to the nervous system. . . . That is the clear direction of research and development," reported *Computers '82* (Mechanix Illustrated Home Service Series, Number 3, p. 23).

What's also contemplated by medical science is a pea-sized computer implanted in the flesh of a doctor. This miniscule computer
(Continued on page 35)

COMPUTERS THAT THINK?

by Donald D. Schroeder

Scientists hope new computers will provide solutions to our greatest problems.
Read here what *will* solve our problems.

WE HUMANS are being thrust almost uncontrollably into the computer age! What does today's computer revolution mean?

It means this: just as the industrial revolution dramatically expanded the strength of man's muscles, so the computer allows man to magnify the power of the human brain—whether for good or evil!

The computer allows human beings to store, retrieve, compile and experiment with a virtually inexhaustible supply of *human* knowledge and data. Man can now wade through formidable calculations and come up with answers at enormous—near instantaneous—speeds.

But can computers provide humanity with the additional skills to discover the solutions to our greatest problems? Many leaders, scientists and computer developers hope so. But do computers have that capacity—that quality?

Cause of Latest Revolution

Electronic computers have been with us since the early 1940s. But what has happened in computer development in only the last 15 years is staggering.

Scientists and engineers feel the most sensational technological breakthrough yet developed by

man is the microchip, or integrated circuit. The microchip was significantly developed by the mid-1960s. It is sometimes also called the microprocessor or microcomputer. It is a silicon chip less than half a fingernail in size with a virtually invisible spiderlike network of electronic circuits etched on it.

This tiny chip has enormously increased the power and information capacity of computers even as it greatly shrunk them in size. The first electronic relay computers developed during World War II filled a large room. Computers with microchips today may be many times more powerful and some can be held in the hand. The next generation of computers will be smaller yet and will be composed of numerous laminations and combinations of microchips with endless technological applications.

Such technological developments are the result of the capacity of the mind of man! No animal brain has—or anywhere near approaches—this capacity!

Computers greatly aid law enforcement agencies in fighting crime. They can quickly aid man in tracking down stolen cars by license plate numbers. They can match fingerprints picked up at the scene of a crime with those of criminals on vast data banks. Computers also may be used to deploy the patrolman closest to the scene of a crime. Yet despite such fantas-

tic tools, criminal problems soar. Why? Can you explain this paradox?

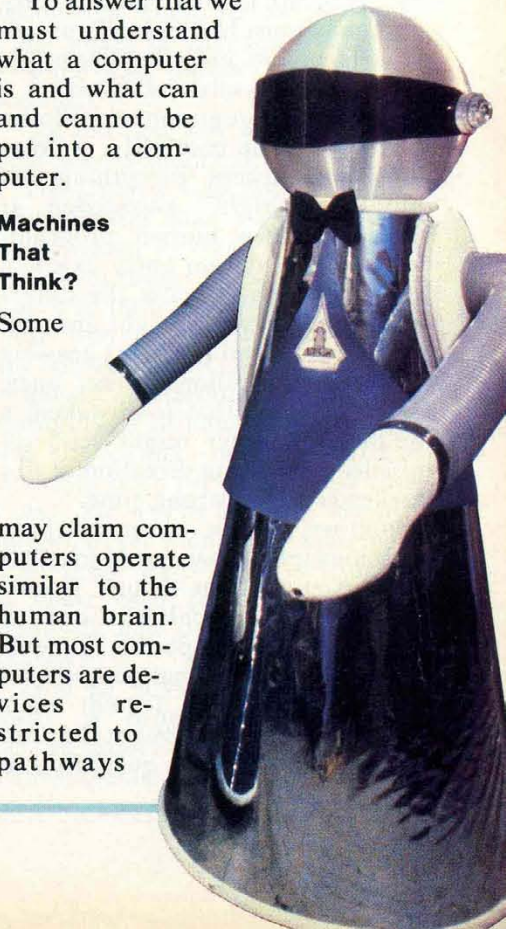
Why can computers assist man in making giant technological and material changes, but fail to help solve the really big problems among human beings or between nations? Why can't computers help man find the cause of juvenile delinquency? Or of mental illness or marital breakdowns? Or alcoholism or drug addiction?

To answer that we must understand what a computer is and what can and cannot be put into a computer.

Machines That Think?

Some

may claim computers operate similar to the human brain. But most computers are devices restricted to pathways



J.P. Laffont—Sygma

that work *one step at a time*. Man, however, is now for the first time building a few supercomputers that allow multiple steps to be executed simultaneously. What makes computers so astounding is that they operate so much faster—millions of times faster—than the human brain.

Nevertheless, brain researchers now seem forced to admit that the human brain is a far more complex parallel processor. The human brain is designed to handle many tasks, perhaps thousands simultaneously instead of one step at a time. Moreover, human brain researchers don't understand what causes humanity's enormously superior intellect—man's vast creative MIND compared with instinctual animal brain. The surprising answer that distinguishes man's mind from mere brain power is found in our free booklet titled *Never Before Understood—Why Humanity Cannot Solve Its Evils*. Write for your free copy.

Although a computer is extremely fast, it is incapable of doing anything but carrying out the instructions (program) written out for it and placed into it by human beings. Human beings therefore must exercise great care in programming. Programming must be absolutely unambiguous, precise and complete to the last detail to be safe and reliable.

If it's been programmed to do so, intentionally or carelessly, a computer will accept everything fed into it as "right" knowledge. If some unknown human programming flaw or datum entry exists, a computer doesn't know the difference. It accepts it as right and will produce a million incorrect answers as fast as a million correct ones. Fed a program that is mistaken, a military computer might send off missiles in a wrong direction or fire warheads at the wrong time.

Neither does a computer have consciousness. It has no choice. It is a dumb automaton though it performs amazing calculations at incomprehensible speeds. A computer has no personal judgments, no personal values. It will work uncaringly, nonjudgmentally, on anything one feeds it, according to

its program. It is only a tool, whether for good or evil.

Remember, too, a computer fed factually accurate information—whether physical, mathematical or chemical—can use that information for either beneficial or harmful uses!

For instance, accurate human knowledge can be put into a computer to maneuver a manned spaceship to land precisely on a certain spot on the moon. The same technology can also be used to pinpoint a nuclear warhead on a city and annihilate every human being in it. What makes computers' function right or wrong is their *use!*

True Cause of Man's Problems

Computers may be used to discover the correct aeronautical design for a new kind of airplane wing, or the atomic structure of a needed industrial chemical, but can they be used to discover the true causes of juvenile delinquency? Or mental illness? Or hate or war?

The natural human mind only comprehends knowledge man can learn through the five senses. That's the knowledge and data he puts into his computers. He may learn there are certain emotional-physical relationships in human affairs. But he doesn't comprehend that there are spiritual laws governing them that, when broken, produce such tragic problems.

No computer program with materialistic data or natural humanly discoverable knowledge will cause man to understand that he is breaking these spiritual laws!

Cut Off from Spiritual Knowledge

But wouldn't a loving God make known to man the critically essential knowledge of his spiritual laws so necessary to solve human problems?

The answer is, he did—and still does! God revealed to the first human couple, Adam and Eve, the way to perfect peace, prosperity and happiness. God revealed to them the way to every good blessing humans could want in life, including eternal life.

But the first human couple rejected knowledge from their Creator. They listened to Satan (Gen.

3). By their act of disobedience they chose to rebel against God's revealed spiritual knowledge and in its place they decided to determine for themselves what they thought was right and wrong.

Later, God chose a special nation—ancient Israel—and revealed to them the way man ought to live, and the consequences for failing to live that way. Through specially chosen human instruments in ancient Israel, God inspired the Bible to be written so man could know, if he wanted to, the right way to live. But most of mankind has rejected that revealed knowledge. Mankind as a consequence still doesn't understand the spiritual cause of his problems.

Computers Comprehend the Spiritual?

How then can man understand the spiritual laws and get in harmony with them? How does a person comprehend his proper relationship to his Creator, or to his neighbor, mate or children?

It is by *revealed* spiritual knowledge!

Spiritual understanding comes from God's Spirit when one, in a humble, obedient frame of mind, reads God's holy written word—the Bible.

The love that fulfills God's law, explains your Bible, is spiritual love, spiritual faith, spiritual strength. It is the "love of God . . . shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy [Spirit]" (Rom. 5:5).

This spiritual love and power is what man needs to solve his spiritual problems. Data from a computer alone won't reveal it, because man does not know how to formulate a computer program that reveals spiritual knowledge and truths.

Neither can a computer impart to you the strength to apply spiritual laws. That comes only directly from God's Holy Spirit into human minds that repent of sins, that beseech God for help and power to walk in his spiritual laws.

Is it any wonder that human technologists armed only with human reasoning and physical data cannot eliminate crime, mental ill-

(Continued on page 34)

HOW THE U.S. CAN END THE FEAR OF NUCLEAR WAR... NOW!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

There is no end in sight to wars. The only visible prospect is accelerating escalation. Yet there is a SURE way the West could end the fear of nuclear war IMMEDIATELY! This surprising article is the conclusion of the article "1982—THE YEAR OF VIOLENCE?" in the previous number.

MANY ASK, "If there be a God, WHY does God allow wars?"

They argue: "If God is LOVE, He surely wouldn't want all this suffering. And if God is ALL-POWERFUL, He could prevent wars! So why doesn't He?"

The answer is, certainly God could stop it—and in very few years will!

But, why in the future? Why did he ever allow it?

Because a PURPOSE is being worked out here below! Man was put here on earth to develop righteous CHARACTER! That purpose necessitates free moral agency in man. It is absolutely necessary that man be given both the prerogative and the ability to make his own choice, and exercise his own will! Otherwise,—NO CHARACTER!

WHY Must There Be WARS?

There is a way that will prevent WAR and produce PEACE—a way to happiness and abundant well-being for everybody!

The ETERNAL God offered mankind that way—and let mankind choose! The ETERNAL created and set in motion inexorable laws that

work—not only laws of chemistry and physics—but also a basic SPIRITUAL LAW, which is the way to peace, happiness, abundant well-being! That LAW is the basic CAUSE of peace. Its violation is the CAUSE of war!

Yes, it's just that simple!

But a rebellious humanity—priding itself on its rational processes of "intellect"—willingly blinds its minds to simple TRUTH, and embarks on a system of complicated and nonsensical ERROR—MUCH OF IT IN THE NAME OF HIGHER EDUCATION.

Human nature is basically rebellious against God and the inexorable laws of God (Rom. 8:7).

The Creator laid before man the KNOWLEDGE of his Law—the knowledge of HOW TO AVOID WARS! But yielding to human nature—vanity, greed, self-centeredness—rebellion against God's Law of PEACE—that is the CAUSE of WARS!

Nations Never Needed Go to War!

In respect to war, the basic point of God's Spiritual Law is the Sixth Commandment. It says, simply, "Thou shalt not kill."

If all nations OBEYED that command of God, and followed the way of LOVE and PEACE there would be no war!

But, an objector argues, "That's a pretty platitude—but it's not practical. It would never work! Any nation that would follow that command would be attacked and beaten by some other nation that was more practical!"

Oh, but that way WOULD WORK! That way is practical!

The Creator understands human nature better than we humans do! He provided for that!

Do you think the Almighty Creator is so impractical that he leaves those who OBEY HIM—who accept HIS GOVERNMENT over them—helpless? Understand this! God Almighty is SUPREME! He created the UNIVERSE—and he RULES SUPREME over the entire vast UNIVERSE. He RULES over the earth—and whatever men do in their politics—their wars—their setting up of their own forms of government—is done ONLY BECAUSE GOD ALLOWS IT!

God is SUPREME in GOVERNMENT! A prime responsibility of GOVERNMENT is to PROTECT its own subjects! So, open your eyes,

now, to the FACTS!

God did take a people—a family of some two million SLAVES, children of God's friend Abraham—and offered to set them up as a special nation UNDER HIS GOVERNMENT!

To any people—whether an individual, a nation, or even all nations—who will voluntarily subject themselves under God's GOVERNMENT, God says the SAME THING—he is no respecter of persons! What he said to these Israelites, he says to ALL:

He said, “. . . if thou shalt indeed obey his voice, and do all that I speak; then I will be an enemy unto thine enemies, and an adversary unto thine adversaries . . . and I will cut them off” (Ex. 23:22-23).

God promised supernaturally to fight any invading enemy to protect the nation and people under HIS government. God, ONLY, has *the right* to take human life! He *created* human life. All lives BELONG to him.

But, did you notice? There were CONDITIONS to God's promise of divine and supernatural protection. During the first 6,000 years of man's sojourn on earth, it is not in God's Master Plan to *force* any nation, or individual, to come under his GOVERNMENT. That is left to man's free CHOICE!

Man must choose which way he will go—the way of give and of submission to God's law and government, or the way of get, of self, of rebellion against the law and government of God.

But these freed slaves—the Israelites—accepted God's offer, and became his nation. They AGREED to obey him and his laws—his government—and he agreed to give them PEACE, *as long as they obeyed and trusted him*.

But human nature is human nature—and facts are facts.

Human Nature at Work

And HUMAN NATURE? Yes, these Israelites were full of it!

These Israelites, even while being blessed and delivered by God with MIRACLES, still were rebellious. After the MIRACLES God had performed in FREEING them from slavery in Egypt, these people began to gripe, grumble, complain and DISOBEY God.

These people—600,000 men, besides women and children—came to the Red Sea. There were no ships, no bridges. They could not swim such a distance. They could not walk on the water. They were STOPPED by this obstacle beyond their own power.

They looked, and within eyesight, Pharaoh's ARMY was coming after them.

Right here, God *demonstrated* he would preserve his people from having to undergo military service, or fighting war, or taking human life!

In spite of their faithless complaining in this initial EXAMPLE of God's faithfulness, he was determined to fight *this* battle and save them.

“And Moses said unto the people, Fear ye not, stand still, and see the salvation of the Lord which HE WILL SHEW YOU to day. . . . *The Lord shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace*” (Ex. 14:13-14).

The Israelites were not to fight—but STAND STILL! God would fight their wars for them! They were to remain at PEACE!

How GOD Fights for Us!

“Moses stretched his hand out over the sea; Then the Eternal swept the sea along by a strong east wind, all night, till the bed of the sea was dry, and the Israelites marched through the sea on dry ground, the waters forming a wall to right and left. Thus did the Eternal save Israel that day from the Egyptians. Israel saw the mighty act of the Eternal against the Egyptians. . . .” (Ex. 14:21, 22, 30-31, Moffatt).

After this miraculous delivery from disaster—from a WAR—a whole army of a then great nation destroyed—those Israelites murmured against Moses and Aaron . . . and said “. . . would to God we had died by the hand of the Lord in the land of Egypt . . .” (Ex. 16:3).

Again and again, “. . . they tempted the Lord, saying, Is the Lord among us, or not?” (Ex. 17:7.)

Repeatedly, God had given these people awe-inspiring and miraculous demonstrations of his intention to *fight their battles for them*.

After all of this OVERWHELMING PROOF, these people DOUBTED God's faithfulness—DOUBTED his power—even DOUBTED his very existence. They disobeyed. They went *the way of SIN!*

Moses was distraught, his nerves shattered, his patience about exhausted. After all, Moses was only human!

“What shall I do unto this people?” Moses appealed to God, “they be almost ready to stone me” (Ex. 17:4).

At this juncture, Amalek came against the Israelites in great strength with an invading army. This time God ALLOWED the Israelites to *write the lesson of experience*. He allowed them to SIN. God does not forcibly prevent humans from sinning.

Moses, at the end of his patience trying to induce these stubborn, rebellious people to believe in and TRUST God, said to Joshua, “Choose us out men, and go out, FIGHT with Amalek” (Ex. 17:9).

It was altogether unnecessary for these Israelites to arm themselves and wage WAR. It was WRONG! It was SIN. But God let the decision be theirs!

This incident was the *turning point*.

God's PURPOSE Stands!

Even though God ALLOWS humans to make their own decisions—nevertheless God's PURPOSE must stand! His PURPOSE was to settle these descendants of Abraham in the land he had promised Abraham—“the PROMISED LAND.”

God's faithfulness demanded that he plant these people in that land, regardless of their conduct!

These descendants of Abraham had *made their decision* to be a fighting, war-waging nation. That decision was theirs to make. And since they had made it, God used *them* to do the fighting in driving out the inhabitants illegally possessing the land God had allotted to Abraham's descendants. Consequently God gave orders for *them* to do what fighting—and killing—was necessary to accomplish God's PURPOSE of putting them in the land of Promise!

But that did not make war RIGHT. Whether to DO right or

wrong—that is MAN'S decision! These Israelites did not need to fight.

God ALLOWED them to SIN by taking up arms.

Now you know WHY the nation Israel went to war—WHY God himself even *commanded* them to go to war, driving out the pagan nations from the Promised Land.

Many people have wondered WHY, if God's teaching is that WAR IS WRONG, he actually commanded his own nation to fight in war.

The answer is that God made man with FREE MORAL AGENCY—God not only *allows* humans to have a CHOICE—he compels us to choose!

God alone determines WHAT is sin. God *does not allow* MAN to decide WHAT is sin, or WHAT is righteousness. But he does allow man—he actually *compels* man to decide WHETHER to sin.

God made it PLAIN to ancient Israel that they need never go to war. He guaranteed complete protection from outside enemies. He guaranteed PEACE—if they would trust him and obey the laws of his government! He demonstrated his ability—and his POWER! But the Israelites chose WAR. Just as ALL nations have chosen WAR! Just as our nations do—needlessly—today!

Case History No. 2

The preceding article gave the first actual case history showing, in detail, how the ETERNAL God, by supernatural miracles, did deliver the Israelites at the Red Sea from the army of the then greatest nation on earth, the Egyptians.

Notice Case History No. 2.

This concerns King Asa of the kingdom of Judah. The king of Ethiopia came against the Jews with 300 chariots and an army of ONE MILLION soldiers. They had major size armies in those days, strange as that may seem.

In those days the Jews also had a sizable army—but not nearly large enough to withstand an invasion of a force of a million troops.

Perhaps, had the Ethiopians come with a smaller army, Asa might have gone to war with them relying wholly on his armed force,

instead of on God. But, regardless, the FACT is that in this instance this king *did* rely on God for his defense!

“And Asa cried unto the Lord his God, and said, O Lord, it is nothing with thee to help, whether with many, or with them that have NO POWER: help us, O Lord our God; for we rest on thee, and in thy name we go against this multitude. O Lord, thou art our God; let not man prevail against THEE! So THE LORD smote the Ethiopians before Asa, and before Judah; *and the Ethiopians fled*” (II Chron. 14:11-12).

But there is an unhappy sequel to this tremendous event—where reliance on GOD put a MILLION ARMED MEN TO FLIGHT!

The king of ISRAEL, Baasha, came with an armed force against the Jews. Incidentally, note carefully, the kingdom of ISRAEL was here fighting against the JEWS of the kingdom of JUDAH! They were two altogether *different nations!* The people of the northern kingdom of ISRAEL *never* were called Jews!

This time Asa neglected to rely on God to fight off the attacking military force! This time he did PRECISELY WHAT THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN ARE DOING TODAY! He *hired* an ALLY—the kingdom of Syria (II Chron. 16:1-3).

“And at that time Hanani the seer came to Asa, king of Judah, and said unto him, Because thou hast relied on the king of Syria, and *not* relied on the Lord thy God, therefore is the host of the king of Syria escaped out of thine hand. Were not the Ethiopians and the Lubims a huge host, with very many chariots and horsemen? yet, because thou didst rely on the Lord, he delivered them into thine hand. For the eyes of the Lord run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to shew himself STRONG in the behalf of them whose heart is perfect toward him. Herein thou hast done foolishly:”—JUST LIKE THE UNITED STATES AND ALL NATIONS TODAY!—“therefore from henceforth THOU SHALT HAVE WARS” (II Chron. 16:7-9).

If you wonder why OUR NATIONS

are continually having WARS, *there is your answer!*

Case History No. 3

The next case history involves Asa's son, Jehoshaphat, the next king of Judah.

Three allied armies came against Judah, with a mighty military force.

“And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the Lord. . . .

“And Jehoshaphat stood in the congregation of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, and said, O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and RULEST NOT THOU OVER ALL THE KINGDOMS OF THE HEATHEN?”—that is, over all gentile nations, as well as Israelitish.

Continue: “and in thine hand is there not POWER and MIGHT, so that none is able to withstand thee? Art not thou our GOD, who didst drive out the inhabitants of this land before thy people Israel . . . ? And now, behold, the children of Ammon and Moab and mount Seir, whom thou wouldst not let Israel invade. . . . Behold, I say, how they reward us, to come to cast us out of thy possession, which thou hast given to us to inherit. O our GOD, wilt thou not judge them? for WE HAVE NO MIGHT AGAINST THIS GREAT COMPANY that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: BUT OUR EYES ARE UPON THEE” (II Chron. 20:3-7, 10-12).

Could God *be* GOD, and fail to heed a heartrending prayer like that—coming from helpless people who were obeying and TRUSTING him?

Immediately God answered through one of his prophets:

“Thus saith the Lord unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; *for the battle is NOT YOUR'S, BUT GOD'S. . . .*

“Ye shall *not need to fight* in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the Lord. . . . And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground: and all Judah and the

inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.

“... Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah... *Believe in the Lord your God, so shall ye be established; believe his prophets, so shall ye prosper.* And... he appointed SINGERS unto the Lord, and that should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army, and to say, Praise the Lord; for His mercy endureth forever.

“And when they began to sing and to praise, the Lord set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten. For the children [soldiers] of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of mount Seir, utterly to slay and destroy them: and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, every one helped to destroy another. And when Judah came toward the watch tower in the wilderness, they looked unto the multitude, and, behold, they were dead bodies fallen to the earth, and none escaped” (II Chron. 20:15, 17-18, 20-24).

But would not most Americans hoot and jeer in sarcasm, if one suggested that “the great and powerful United States” TODAY humble itself—and trust in the INVISIBLE God—and WORSHIP him, bowing our heads to the ground? Couldn't you just hear the snorts and raucous ridicule of stiffnecked proud Britons at the suggestion that they send before an armed enemy an army of SINGERS, saying, “PRAISE THE ETERNAL!”—instead of relying on the nation's MILITARY strength?

Yes, WOULD'N'T it seem RIDICULOUS to suggest that OUR proud nations do this—and march to war SINGING praises “to the beauty of holiness”?

Well perhaps so! But that kind of “foolishness” turned out to be *mighty* PRACTICAL for Jehoshaphat and those Jews!

Someday—and in the next few years—America and Britain will be forced to *WAKE UP* to the sobering REALIZATION of *which* way is *truly* the “foolish” way! And God's true Minister is *telling you*, as you read this, that *you'd* better make the right choice NOW, before it's

too late! For indeed it *is* later than you think!

Case History No. 4

Several years later, “Sennacherib king of Assyria came and invaded Judah... And when Hezekiah [king of Judah] saw that Sennacherib had come and intended to fight against Jerusalem, ... he ... gathered [the people] ... together to him in the square at the gate of the city and spoke encouragingly to them, saying, ‘Be strong and of good courage. Do not be afraid or dismayed before the king of Assyria and all the horde that is with him; for there is one greater with us than with him. With him is an arm of flesh; but with us is the Lord our God, to help us and to *fight our battles.*’ And the people took confidence from the words of Hezekiah king of Judah” (II Chron. 32:1-2, 6-8 RSV).

Supposing, in the event of a threat of nuclear war, Western leaders broadcast words like those to all the people in America and Britain—saying we would RELY ON THE ETERNAL OUR GOD to fight this battle FOR US!

Have our EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS so deceived and drugged the minds of our people with rationalism—with agnosticism, atheism and the entire evolutionary philosophy—that people would ridicule our leaders as cowardly molycoddles, and would our military leaders instantly give the signal to unleash the full all-out NUCLEAR destruction of our vast arsenals?

This is just a hypothetical question. But YOU answer it!—and I think you'll realize that OUR PEOPLES have gone SO FAR away from the ETERNAL our God that, in most minds today, he seems nonexistent! Yet he is *just as REAL*—and as POWERFUL—as in Hezekiah's day!

Continue: “After this Sennacherib, king of Assyria... sent his servants to Jerusalem to Hezekiah king of Judah and to all the people of Judah that were in Jerusalem, saying, ‘Thus says Sennacherib king of Assyria, “On what are you relying, that you stand siege in Jerusalem? Is not Hezekiah misleading you, that he may give you over to die by famine and by thirst,

when he tells you, ‘The Lord our God will deliver us from the hand of the king of Assyria?’... Do you not know what I and my fathers have done to all the peoples of other lands? Were the gods of the nations of those lands at all able to deliver their lands out of my hand?... How much less will your God deliver you out of my hand!”

“Then Hezekiah the king and Isaiah the prophet, the son of Amoz, prayed because of this and cried to heaven. AND THE LORD SENT AN ANGEL, who cut off all the mighty warriors and commanders and officers in the camp of the king of Assyria. So *he returned with shame of face* to his own land. And when he came into the house of his god, some of his own sons struck him down there with the sword. SO THE LORD SAVED HEZEKIAH AND THE INHABITANTS OF JERUSALEM from the hand of Sennacherib king of Assyria and from the hand OF ALL HIS ENEMIES; and HE GAVE THEM REST [PEACE] ON EVERY SIDE” (II Chron. 32:9-11, 13, 15, 20-22 RSV).

War is *so needless!*

War is WRONG!

Yes, the United States *could* put an END to the threat of nuclear war IMMEDIATELY—*IF* not only leaders in Washington, but ALSO the PEOPLE AS A WHOLE, could recognize *REALITY*—could understand that God is *REAL*—and would *humble themselves* before him, BELIEVE him—RELY ON him!

But, if our people WILL NOT, then *it is decreed*, we shall, in fewer years than you will believe, see OUR CITIES DESTROYED, along with a full third of our populations by a foreign invasion!

The God who is *REAL* says of OUR PEOPLES: “. . . Prophecy against the prophets of Israel. . . O Israel, thy prophets are like foxes in the deserts. Ye have not gone up into the gaps, neither made up the hedge for the house of Israel TO STAND in the BATTLE IN THE DAY OF THE LORD” (Ezek. 13:2, 4-5).

That is NOT a message to ancient Israel—but to the English-speaking world of *TODAY*. The “DAY OF THE LORD—a time foretold in

(Continued on page 30)

“WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR?”

by John Ross Schroeder

NATALIE WOOD dead at 43! It hardly seems possible. I remember her well as the gifted child star of the more tasteful movies of World War II vintage.

In due time the schoolchild in pigtails grew into a successful professional actress. The fame and riches of this world were hers. Her marriage to Robert Wagner was one of Hollywood's most noted.

From a professional standpoint her roles were consistently good throughout her near 40-year career. She was one of the very few to make the transition from a famous child star to full stardom as an adult actress.

Natalie Wood leaves a bereaved husband and two young daughters behind. And all because of an apparent boating accident in a Catalina Island harbor, off the coast of southern California.

The Shock of Sudden Happenings!

It is difficult to digest a sudden death—especially if the deceased is a well-known personality or a loved one. Death stops our mouths for just a little while. We are immediately confronted with the stark fact that there are limits to human life. At least temporarily we are forced to stop and think about the possible meaning of our existence.

Too soon the shock and the sad-

ness wear off and we all too quickly return to the settled routines of daily life. We don't allow the mourning experience to cause us to reflect more deeply on our own ways of living.

But think for a moment. If we were to allow our minds to follow up those initial thoughts after such a shock to the system, we would soon start to examine our own ways of living and as a direct consequence take a changed look at our spiritual priorities.

Biblical revelation is not without good advice in this regard—if we would heed the warning. The apostle James said: “Come now, you who say, ‘Today or tomorrow we will go into such and such a town and spend a year there and trade and get gain’; whereas *you do not know about tomorrow*. What is your life? For you are a mist that appears for a little time and then vanishes. Instead you ought to say ‘If the Lord wills, we shall live, and we shall do this or that’” (Jas. 4:13-15, RSV).

People live their lives as if they had all the time in the world. We humans are too often great procrastinators. We are going to write that letter or visit that friend or make a real effort to quit smoking. But it's always tomorrow. We never seem to *do it now!*

That Most Important Decision

We not only put off normal obligations of various courtesies to others, but we also procrastinate about *the*

most important decision that we shall take in our entire lifetimes.

Reconciliation with the Creator God is the first priority of any *thinking* human being. Individually, we are only going to be alive for a limited period of human history. We do *not* have forever to procrastinate. To give routine matters of living first place in our lives would be a tragic error of incredible dimensions.

So how do we go about implementing a reconciliation with God?

First of all we must make an about-face. The Bible speaks of it as *repentance* of our sins.

What is sin? The Bible definition of sin is “the transgression of the law” (I John 3:4). That is, God's law. Sin is not what you think is wrong, but what *God* says is wrong.

Then we are asked to be baptized in water. Baptism as practiced in the New Testament is simply a rite confirming repentance. The two go hand in hand.

The most noted Christian of the first century was once confronted with the urgent need for water baptism. “. . . ‘*what are you waiting for?*’” said Ananias to Saul. “‘*Get up, be baptized and wash your sins away . . .*’” (Acts 22:16, NIV).

Now why would one say a thing like that to Saul of Tarsus? Only three days before, Saul had been struck down by Jesus of Nazareth on his way to Damascus to torture Christians. He had spent the three

days totally unseeing—blinded by the brightness of Jesus Christ's appearance. That unprecedented experience began the transformation of Saul from a self-righteous religionist into perhaps the most publicized Christian of his time.

Saul's future lifework was outlined rather immediately after his total about-face. But before he could become the famous Paul, or even begin to commence to fulfill his Christ-given commission, Jesus inducted him into God's Church through the deeply symbolic ceremony of baptism.

But why was such a ceremony necessary? Would not Paul's obvious repentance be sufficient? Why go to the trouble of being plunged under water? How could the baptismal ceremony wash Paul's sins away?

To begin to give an answer to these questions, it is necessary to understand that the cleansing concept of baptism is richly rooted in the pages of the Old Testament.

Old Testament Antecedents

Water baptism is prefigured by a number of graphic accounts in the Old Testament. Perhaps the most poignant example is the symbolic baptism of all of ancient Israel in the Red Sea—leaving the old, corrupt way of life and emerging into the prospect of living their lives anew through the vehicle of the freshly revealed righteousness of God's law.

The apostle Paul really grasped the Old Testament role of baptism and was deeply moved to teach its meaning to the Greeks in the Corinthian church. He wrote: "I want you to know, brethren, that our fathers were all under the cloud, and all passed through the sea, and all were baptized into Moses in the cloud and in the sea" (I Cor. 10:1, 2, RSV).

Accounts of ceremonial cleansing by water in ancient Israel are too numerous to fully document. The high priest Aaron was not allowed to enter the Holy Place without first bathing his flesh in water (Lev. 16:1-4). Naaman, chief general of the Syrian army and afflicted by leprosy in the time of

Elisha, approached God's prophet to solicit total recovery. Elisha's instructions? "Go and wash in the Jordan seven times." That seemed silly to this dignified, perhaps even pompous, general of the army. Naaman just didn't want to do it according to Elisha's explicit directions. His reply: "'Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of



Natalie Wood 1938-1981

Peter Borsari—Liaison

It is difficult to digest a sudden death—especially if the deceased is a well-known personality or a loved one. . . . We are immediately confronted with the stark fact that there are limits to human life. At least temporarily we are forced to stop and think about the possible meaning of our existence.

Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?" So he turned and went away in a rage" (II Kings 5:12, RSV).

His aides later persuaded Naaman to cool off and put aside his vanity. He followed Elisha's seemingly stupid instructions and was totally healed of a terminal skin condition.

The point is that the bathing of

the flesh and the clothing that touched the flesh was the prescribed formula for symbolically ridding the Israelites (and willing gentiles) of a whole host of physical and sometimes spiritual problems. God has always wanted humanity to be clean: physically, mentally and spiritually.

These water-based ceremonies in the Old Testament were a type of the New Testament spiritual cleansing that finds its fulfillment in Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. These pre-Christian antecedents could not really cleanse sinners of spiritual defilement and make them eligible candidates for God's Kingdom.

Jeremiah put his finger directly on the problem: "Though you wash yourself with lye [a harsh cleansing agent] and use much soap [in water], the stain of your guilt is still before me, says the Lord God" (Jer. 2:22, RSV).

The apostle Paul puts the Old Testament ceremonial washings into even sharper focus: "... According to this arrangement, gifts and sacrifices are offered which cannot perfect the conscience of the worshiper, but deal only with food and drink and various ablutions [washings], regulations for the body imposed until the time of reformation [Christ's blood sacrifice on the cross]" (Heb. 9:9-10, RSV). Those ablutions were only a sign. They could never really cleanse the mind itself.

Jesus Christ did what all of the offerings, sacrifices and ceremonial washings combined could not do. The shedding of His life's blood broke the barrier between God and man forever.

The Baptismal Bridge

Man's repentance followed by Christ's ministration to man of the Holy Spirit actually changes the mind. All of those Old Testament washings did symbolically prefigure important New Testament principles—not the least of which is water baptism.

John the Baptist built a bridge between Old Testament rituals and Christ. It added more clarity to the picture of God's plan of salvation.

John recognized that the proper spiritual approach—repentance—must precede baptism. He sharply rebuked the “religious” types of his day, saying: “Bear fruit that befits repentance” (Matt. 3:8, RSV). John would have no part of baptizing those whose attitudes were wedded to sin.

John the Baptist also set the example for the Christian ceremonial form—total immersion in water. “John also was baptizing in Aenon near Salim, because there was much water there . . .” (John 3:23).

As many other New Testament examples affirm, the only valid form of baptism is total immersion in a symbolic watery grave. Only a complete submerging could properly picture the death and burial of the “old” man (Rom. 6:3-6). The word *baptism* itself is merely a transliteration of the Greek word *baptizo* whose primary meaning is to dip, submerge or plunge beneath the surface (*Translator's New Testament*, page 555). Any other method is merely man-made tradition and contrary to God's inspired New Testament teaching.

Important New Testament Symbolism

Of course, total immersion of and by itself is no more effective, spiritually speaking, than the scrupulous washing of pots and pans. Water has no mystical or magical effects on the person immersed. But the symbolism is so profound in God's sight that the candidate must demonstrate his repentance and faith by literally observing the baptismal ceremony.

So much is this true that even after the Roman gentile Cornelius and his household had received the Holy Spirit before water baptism—a very rare exception to normal procedure—the apostle Peter said to them: “‘Can anyone forbid water for baptizing these people who have received the Holy Spirit just as we have?’ And he commanded them to be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ . . .” (Acts 10:47-48, RSV).

The simple rite of water baptism is meant to mark publicly a miraculous change in the repentant sinner.

It is an embarking on a new, clean, right way of life that will end up in great reward and ultimate happiness. Its symbolism is meant to instill a permanent change of direction, with spiritual cleansing throughout the remainder of one's natural life.

Through continual repentance, prayer, faith and habitual Bible study, the true Christian moves steadily in the direction of a mature perfection.

Baptism Without Repentance?

But it is worse than useless to go through the baptismal ceremony without really repenting of your sins first. God repudiates such a baptism. Peter, in his first sermon following the inauguration of the first-century Church of God on the day of Pentecost, gives the baptismal candidate the correct order of events: “Repent [first], and [then] be baptized every one of you . . .” (Acts 2:38).

Once you have really repented there is no longer any reason to delay water baptism. Six months' probation as some require, or some such other stipulation, is simply not biblically required.

Water baptism is imperative—a vital link in the chain of events in reconciling yourself with God. Baptism symbolically cleanses and purifies the repentant sinner from all his or her past.

“What are you waiting for?” Get up and make an about-face in your life, and then be baptized and wash your sins away. □

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**Does God
Exist?**

IRE DIVIDED BY FEAR AND HATRED LAND

by Robert C. Boraker

Why do Catholics and Protestants in Northern Ireland fight each other? Is there any genuine hope for a peaceful solution to the Irish problem?

NORTHERN IRELAND is now at the crisis point of her history. After 12 years of sickening bloodshed and turmoil, a peaceful solution to the "Irish Question" defies solution.

Since the beginning of the present troubles in 1969, more than 2,200 have been killed. There also have been 7,000 explosions and 27,000 shooting incidents.

Where will it all end? After several visits to this beautiful island, talking to people from both the North and South, I can only conclude that the Irish problem is impossible for man to solve—so long as humans defy that great spiritual law, "You shall love your neighbor as yourself."

An Island Divided

Ireland is an island divided in many ways. Not only is it divided by a border between 26 counties in the South and six counties in the North, it is also divided between Ulster Scots and Irish natives, Protestants and Catholics, Unionist and Nationalist parties.

The southern Irish are mostly descendants of the original Goidelic natives who have been Roman Catholic since the coming of Patrick in A.D. 432. The majority in the North are descendants of English and Scottish settlers, most-

ly staunch Presbyterians. They are the Ulster Scots or Scots-Irish, as the Americans call them.

Ireland is also divided by personal opinions. Every Irishman has his own interpretation of current and past events, the cause and solution of Irish problems.

In Galway, one man expressed to me the view of his Catholic father in these words: "The English have always ruled Ireland with a strong hand, denying us our rights and trying to take our religion away. They sent over the army to murder and kill. They took our land away and gave it to landlords who were Protestant settlers from England.

"If the Irish couldn't pay their rent, they starved to death. The Protestant majority in the North did not give fair play to the Catholic minority. This created the civil rights' movements. This then developed and moved into violence and murder."

View of Ulster Scots

Ulstermen also gave me their viewpoint. They have had a "siege mentality" since the 17th century. It is a fear of being besieged by Catholics out to destroy their civil and religious liberty won by the Protestant Reformation.

Since 1830 they have felt compelled to discriminate against Catholics to safeguard Protestant freedom. They have a fear of being absorbed into Roman Catholicism by being outbred by Catholics who would take over their jobs. And especially a

fear of a repetition of the 1641 massacres, which they also remind themselves of every July 12th.

Many Ulster-Scot Protestants detest the very idea of coming under the political rule of Dublin. They simply refuse to become part of what they regard as an authoritarian Catholic state. To them that means being under the religious control of the Vatican. Under such a Catholic government, it would no longer be easy for them to divorce or practice birth control.

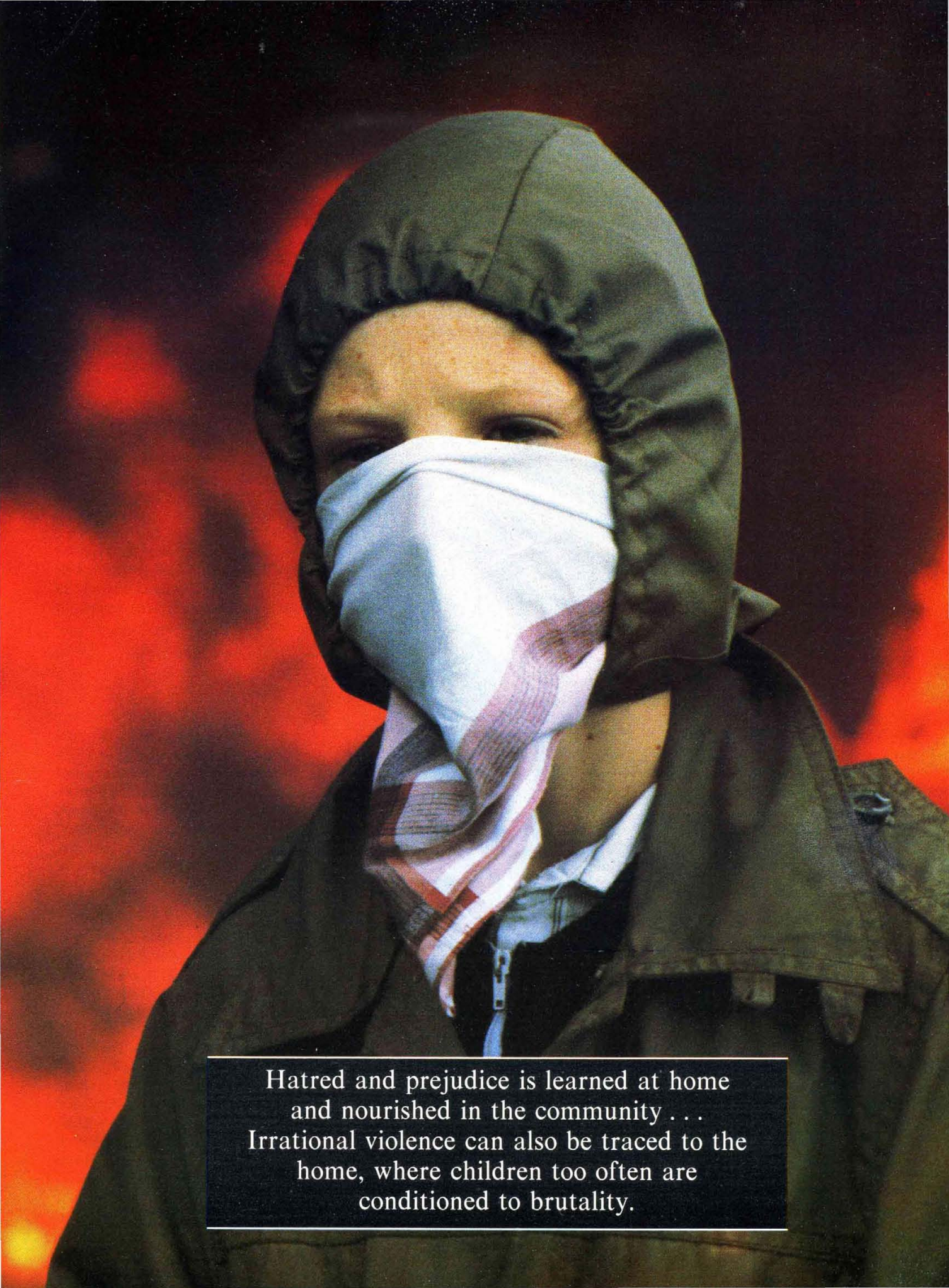
There would be three million Catholics to only one million Protestants if Ireland were ever to be reunited as 32 counties. Instead of being a powerful majority, Ulster Protestants would then be in the minority—outvoted and dominated by Catholic politics. That's why they resist any forced reunion of the two Irish territories.

How Irish Strife Began

Protestants and Catholics in Ireland distrust each other today because of what happened in the past. "The Irish have long memories," one man told me. To really understand why there is strife in Ulster today, we must understand Irish history.

Ireland has a complex history that involves cultural, racial, economic, political, temperamental and social differences. These differences go back 800 years into the history of the island.

It's a history filled with conflict between the native Irish and the



Hatred and prejudice is learned at home
and nourished in the community . . .
Irrational violence can also be traced to the
home, where children too often are
conditioned to brutality.

foreign colonizers—whether they were Danes, Normans, English or Scottish. The Irish also fought among themselves. There were feuds between families, battles between tribes and wars between provinces.

After the time of Nial the Great, Irish people called themselves “Hy-Nials.” During the fifth century, the Hy-Nials of the North attacked the Hy-Nials of the South. Today there is another conflict between the North and South. History has a way of repeating itself in Ireland even if for different reasons.

The current conflict has developed after centuries of trouble because of racial and religious prejudice. Ireland, in the reign of Edward II, was divided between the Irish and English who had different languages, habits and laws. Their deep and deadly hatred toward each other was evident even then. The discrimination that developed between the English and Irish systems of land tenure, property and inheritance increased the resentment and bitterness between the two factions. The religious conflict developed later.

In the 12th century, Pope Adrian appealed to King Henry II for help in reforming Ireland by establishing full papal authority. Pope Adrian’s document to the king said, “You shall enter that island and execute whatever may tend to the honour of God and the welfare of the land; and also that the people of that land shall receive you with honour and revere you as their lord . . .” (Text of *Laudabiliter in Irish Historical Documents*, edited by Curtiss and McDowell, pages 17, 18).

The Irish Question

But England never fully conquered Ireland until the time of Elizabeth I. During the reign of Henry VIII, “The Irish question rose before English statesmen, Was England to hold Ireland, and if so, how? Long the Tudor princes shrunk from looking this difficulty in the face; they temporised, vacillated, and sought some middle course, some compromise.

“But the Irish question became at length (amid the complications of the sixteenth century) the ques-

tion of English politics. England found that she must either conquer Ireland, or herself succumb in the struggle” (page 397, vol. XXI, *The Historians’ History of the World*).

King Henry VIII abolished papal authority by declaring himself the head of the Irish church. But the Catholic friars were beyond Henry’s power. They continued to preach everywhere among the people. Later toward the end of Henry’s reign, the Jesuits came to Ireland under the protection of Con O’Neill, “prince of the Irish of Ulster.” Because they helped keep Roman Catholic traditions alive, most of Ireland remained faithful to Rome.

In 1541, the English Parliament declared Henry VIII “King of this land of Ireland, annexed and knit forever to the imperial crown of the realm of England.” This paved the way for the effective conquest of Ireland by Queen Elizabeth I.

After the queen’s army conquered Ireland and routed Catholic forces, the O’Connor tribe near Dublin supported the rebellion in favor of the Catholic church. Queen Elizabeth embarked on a deliberate program of colonization to subdue the Catholic Irish who were in rebellion.

The land in O’Connor territory was confiscated and placed under crown control. Tribal rights along with Celtic laws, language and manners were to disappear under the influence of loyal English colonists “planted” there. This was the first English settlement or plantation.

The Ulster Plantations

Ulster was the next area to demand the immediate attention of Queen Elizabeth. It was here that the Earl of Tyrone led the last pocket of Gaelic Irish resistance against English conquest and colonization. After his army was defeated at Kinsdale in 1601, his lands—comprising six of the nine counties of Ulster—were settled with Scottish Protestants.

Later, under James I, massive tracts of land were seized from the native settlers and granted to Scottish and English colonizers. By 1640, Protestants owned three million out of 3.5 million acres.

These “Ulster Plantations” divided Ireland into two antagonistic communities. The conquered Catholic natives remained side by side with the Protestant settlers. When Sir George Carew reported on the plantation in 1611, he clearly foresaw that the Irish would rebel again.

Since that time in history, there was an automatic conflict between the Scots and Irish. The Scots who settled in Ulster were considered by the native Irish as being proud and haughty aliens. To the Scots, the Irish were barbaric in manners and customs. Thus the scorn of the Scot was met by the curse of the Celt—“the wild Irish” as they appeared to the eyes of the Scots.

In many parts of Ireland, English colonists became absorbed by the native population. But in Ulster, Presbyterian Scots didn’t intermarry with the native Irish because of their intense hatred of Catholicism—a characteristic of the Scottish mind during that period of time. The result is the racial and religious conflict we see in Northern Ireland today.

The Religious Conflict

From that time on, bitterness and resentment began to mount up in the minds of the Irish Catholics. They resented being ruled by persons of a different religion. To them, it was the Protestant monarchs in England who had exploited and oppressed them for hundreds of years. They felt discriminated against in respect to land tenure, housing, employment and political opportunity. This discrimination led to the uprisings in 1641, 1798, 1916, 1922 and 1968.

The Ulster Presbyterians became involved in politics as early as 1820. Sir John Peck, former British Ambassador to Dublin, described the history of this period: “After an internal power struggle among the Presbyterians, the victor, Henry Cooke, a rigid disciplinarian from a Calvinist and strongly anti-Catholic family, devoted himself to two main aims: as a clergyman, to preaching the gospel of hatred against all men and things Catholic and promoting violence by incitement from the pulpit; and as a

(Continued on page 44)

The Battle of the Sexes...

IT'S KILLING US ALL

by Sheila Graham

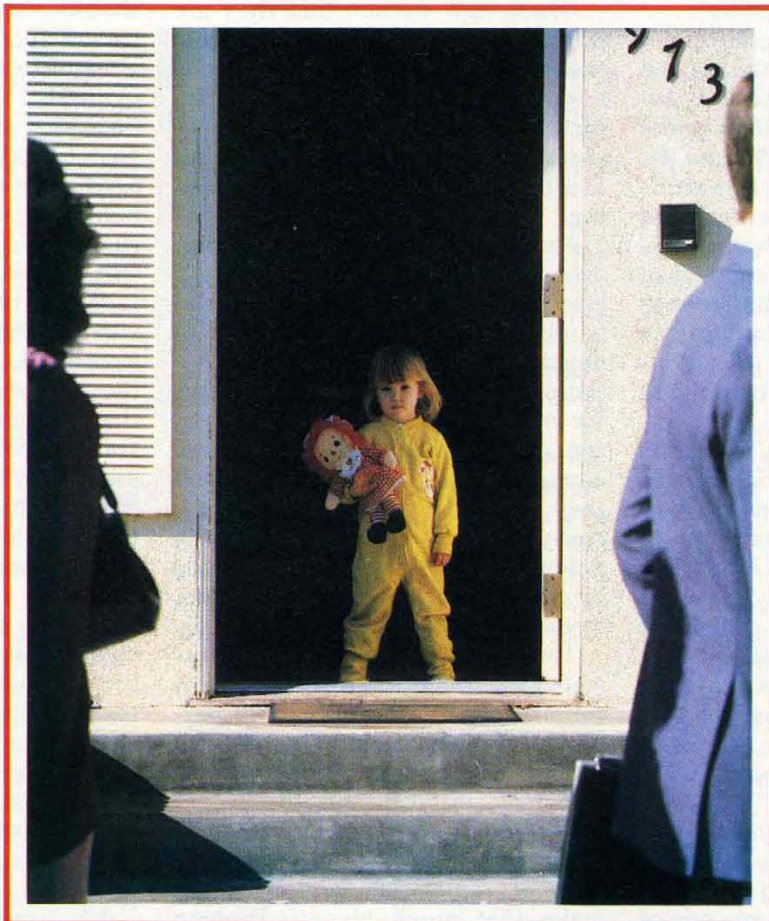
The so-called battle of the sexes is killing us.
It's not win or lose—we're all losing.

MORE AND MORE of today's women feel that life—real life—is passing them by.

Single working women now want marriage and children. Married working women are beginning to realize it's now or never as far as their child-bearing capabilities. Having children is more important to them than they thought. The trend since the mid to late '70s is toward more children, families again.

In America, for example, the U.S. Census Bureau expects that by the mid '80s births will again surpass the four-million-a-year mark. Of course, these figures reflect that more women in the United States are reaching childbearing age. But these statistics also include those women in their 30s who have postponed having children.

Does this mean the traditional family with father as provider and



once sent eager disciples toward the magical goal of "fulfillment." Now, almost two decades later, women find they are no closer to true, satisfying fulfillment than before.

Of course, many women, and more men, were immediately repelled by the extreme rhetoric of the more radical feminists, who pitted the values of family life and motherhood against female careers. Few in the Western world, however, have escaped the influence of the upsurge of female feminist demands.

Now, Betty Friedan, the American author in 1963 of *The Feminine Mystique*—the book that is said to have inspired the women's liberation move-

ment—is admitting she was wrong to create the impression that career superseded family life and motherhood. She's calling for new directions, or, as per the title of her latest book, *The Second Stage*. She claims the first stage of the women's movement is over and admits, "But I hear now what I

Change in Directions

Leaders of the feminist movement

ment—is admitting she was wrong to create the impression that career superseded family life and motherhood. She's calling for new directions, or, as per the title of her latest book, *The Second Stage*. She claims the first stage of the women's movement is over and admits, "But I hear now what I

Roland Rees—PT

would not let myself hear before—the fears and feelings of some who have fought our movement.”

Mrs. Friedan, the mother of three, is being criticized by other feminists for her turnabout, but insists:

“The so-called radical feminists developed a lot of rhetoric against the family and against the role of woman as defined in the family... but a lot of it was twisted somehow and began to be repudiation [of the family], throwing the baby out with the bath water. They seemed to create the impression that the all-important thing was career and profession, and... downplayed the part of woman that is defined in terms of love and nurturing” (*The Christian Science Monitor*, December 10, 1981).

Some new women's groups say they have gone beyond the second stage to stage three. Babette Francis, founder of an Australian group called “Women Who Want to Be Women,” was quoted in England's *Daily Telegraph*: “Women will not truly be free until motherhood is given the status of a viable career in its own right—with all the feelings of self-worth and independence that such status implies” (*The Daily Telegraph*, December 11, 1981).

Also from *The Daily Telegraph*: “In Canada, Mrs. Catherine Bolger has launched a similar crusade with the publication of a series of newspaper criticisms of the ‘Genderless Society,’ calling for a renewed appreciation of the value of the differences between the sexes.”

But even though Mrs. Friedan and other women's groups are saying they never meant for the feminist movement to deny family or to label men “the enemy,” it happened nevertheless. Alienation between the sexes, varying from the strident to the unspoken and spoken suspicions, has been only one of many unwelcomed fruits of the so-called liberation movement. Men and women have gone through such a tumultuous alteration of traditional thinking and values that both sexes appear confused.

How Do You Treat a Woman?

Men in today's world are often perplexed. How do you treat these

“new” women? Some women are offended at chivalrous conduct while others bemoan the demise of chivalry. Is it Miss, Ms. or Mrs.? Career or family or both? What do women really want?

Women aren't sure anymore. They too are often confused. Especially those who embraced the more radical elements of the women's liberation movement.

Also entering the picture is human nature. Women who once felt sorry for those women of past generations who were “trapped at home” now find themselves also without a choice—forced out of the home by social and economic pressures unexperienced by the majority of their mothers and grandmothers.

These new women find they are expected to have a career outside the home, not only by their friends and neighbors, but in many instances by their husbands. In such circumstances, home and hearth can look a lot more appealing.

Having time to enjoy their children and to get involved in their interests, time to spend with husbands, time to exercise, time to develop an interesting hobby—these are, tragically, luxury items for most working women. Women are complaining they don't have enough time to themselves—and they don't. Women are trapped, really trapped this time, locked into a demanding, stress-filled life-style by economic pressures, many times beyond their control.

Even middle-income families who look to the traditional rule of thumb—that no more than 25 percent of monthly income be allotted to pay for rent or for mortgage principal, interest and taxes—are virtually cut off from any hope of home ownership. Seventy-five percent of American families don't make that much money. Women are feeling the pressure to stay in the job market.

Most couples go into marriage today assuming both members will work, even after children come along. Their bright dreams for the future are predicated on it.

And, of course, some couples' dreams are brighter than others. They want success and all the

material trappings that go along with it. And they don't want to wait around forever to have and enjoy those things.

Attaining the heights defined in this world as success exacts a high cost, and too often too much compromise of principles. There's something wrong with a system that pressures men, and women, to become workaholics, climbing over their co-workers to succeed, leaving broken families in their wake. No one, man or woman, should bow to the forces of greed in this competitive, materialistic world we live in.

Needing One Another

The incredibly sad part of this whole issue is that men and women need each other so badly. No one should have to face today's fast-paced, nerve-jangling world all alone. Most everyone needs a close intimate someone, who can be depended upon to provoke one to push a little harder when discouraged, to comfort when down, to be honest about a fault. Someone to share life's joys and trials and who will be around to reminisce about them afterward.

Men need women and women need men. And both need to know they're needed. The recognition of that mutual need should be constantly reinforced. One of the major divisive points of the so-called liberation movement has been the disregard for those very human needs between men and women.

Human beings need to be loved, comforted, appreciated. Most of the misunderstandings between the sexes could be avoided and eliminated by admitting and expressing those needs. Such admissions and expressions would lead to mutual appreciation and respect, and go a long way toward healing past wounds.

It's time to call a truce in this foolish no-win war. Time to regroup and reevaluate, time for peaceful negotiations, time to go forward toward reconstruction and building for the future. None of which will be possible without giving up the selfish way of get and cultivating the way of give—of love and outgoing concern for another.

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WHY CHRIST DIED AND ROSE AGAIN

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT IS revealed that Jesus was "Emmanuel"—that is, "God with us"—GOD in the human flesh. Can God die? Was Jesus really dead, or did only his body die? Here is a brief, pointed answer.

THIS is a question that has perplexed millions. It is an enigma that has never been made clear and plain to many minds.

Yet the Scriptures give us a clear revelation, in plain, simple words—if we can *believe* the Scriptures—which is to believe they mean *exactly what they say*.

We read: "Christ *died* for our sins according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3).

"Christ" means "Anointed," or "Messiah"; and while the name *Jesus* may be used to denote the human man, the title *Christ* certainly refers to the Divine One—the One who was GOD with us. This scripture says he died, and was buried. And it was he—the CHRIST—the Divine One—who ROSE FROM THE DEAD. He did not rise from *life* or a living state, but from DEATH!

"For to this end *Christ both died, and rose, and revived, that he might be Lord* both of the dead and living" (Rom. 14:9). There is the answer. Through his death and resurrection Christ became Lord of

the dead as well as the living. He paid the penalty for our past sins. He made possible the *way* so that both the dead and those now living might have life eternal—not mere temporary existence, but life everlasting.

When Christ rose, he was *revived*. When a boxer is knocked unconscious, the attendants work over him to *revive* him. The expression "He was revived" indicates Christ had been unconscious—that he was dead—not that he rose from a state of conscious mental activity.

"For when we were yet without strength, in due time Christ *died* for the ungodly . . . while we were yet sinners, Christ *died* for us" (Rom. 5:6, 8).

God in the Flesh

Notice again: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word *was God*" (John 1:1).

The Greek word is *Logos*. It means "Word" or "Spokesman." This is referring to the One who coexisted with the Father from eternity—who always existed—who is one with the Father, yet, as he himself said, his Father is greater than he.

Always he referred to himself as One *sent* by the Father. He said that the words he spoke were not spoken of himself, but the Father who sent him gave him a commandment what he should say and speak.

The one who gives the orders and sends another is in a position superior to the one sent and who obeys the orders. A husband is set by God in a position, superior, in the family relationship, to that of the wife. Yet they are both human—both on the same level—and they are ONE. Not one God, but *one flesh*.

In the Church, or local congregation, an elder is in authority during a service that all things may be done decently and in order, and he has the rule over the congregation. Yet Christ prayed that the Church would be kept as ONE, *even as* he and the Father are One. The Church is composed of many members, yet ONE BODY. And its members, more than one, are to be kept ONE in the sense of harmony and unity in love and purpose, as Christ and the Father are One—and they form ONE CHURCH, even as the Father and Christ form ONE GOD—yet more

than one member in the God Family.

Christ the Everliving

In the Old Testament the *Logos* is called by different names. God calls people and beings *what they are*.

There was an archangel, perfect in beauty, full of knowledge. He was named what he actually was—LUCIFER, which in English means “Shining Star of the Dawn”—or Lightbringer. But when through pride he decided to compete against God for supremacy of the universe, and to take possession and rule from God, his name was changed to what he now was—Satan, which in English means “Adversary,” or rival or competitor.

Therefore the names of Christ have always been—whether names or titles—words which describe *what he is*. Most frequently he was called *Yahweh*, erroneously translated in the American Standard Version “Jehovah.” In the King James it is rendered “LORD.”

Today we do not know either the correct spelling or pronunciation of this name. It was regarded as so sacred it was never pronounced in ancient Judah, any more than a son who properly honors his father would call him by his first name. Yet we know its MEANING—it means “The Eternal”—or the One in whom is inherent LIFE. *It signifies One who possesses life inherent from eternity to eternity—life source!* He also was called *Yahveh—rophehcha*—God your healer. He gave his name to Moses as “I AM.” That is, the One who IS—who EXISTS—who has life inherent in himself!

He also is the Word or Spokesman. God is Creator—but the Father created all things by, and through, Christ the WORD.

He (Christ) is the One who “SPOKE, and it was done.” He is the One who said, “Let there be light”—and the Holy Spirit (the spiritual essence or power that emanates from both Father and Son) moving upon the face of the water performed the command, and “there was light.”

Yet Jesus spoke, or commanded, only what the Father had commanded him. Father, Word and Holy Spirit combined in perfect harmony in Creation!

Now, the *Logos*—the WORD—was God. “The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him. . . . In him was LIFE. . . . And the Word *was made flesh*, and dwelt among us” (John 1:2-4, 14).

Christ Was CONVERTED Into Flesh

Notice, the “WORD,” who was the ETERNAL—the EVERLIVING—in whom was LIFE—eternal life—by whom all things were made and created—the very God himself—HE WAS MADE FLESH.

Notice, he did not merely enter into some mortal fleshly body—the body of another. He was not separate from the flesh, as One inside the flesh. It says in plain language—IF we believe the scripture—IF we believe it means what it says—it says *he was made flesh!*

That is, he who had existed from eternity—he by whom God created the worlds and all things therein, he who *was* and *is* LIFE, he who was GOD—he *was made flesh*—converted INTO flesh, until he *became* flesh; and then he WAS flesh!

And, being flesh—being human—he divested himself of inherent immortality for the time being. He gave up immortality for us—that he might *die* for us—pay the penalty of our sins in our stead.

But, though human, he did have from birth, what we *may* receive as God’s GIFT, by GRACE, the indwelling of God’s Spirit—that he, even as we, might be resurrected from the DEAD, and given by the Father immortal life—that is, *converted* back into spiritual immortality so that he by the resurrection once again *became* divine Spirit—or very GOD! Thus he made the same resurrection possible for us—that *we* may also become divine Sons of God.

Yes, Jesus was a fleshly MAN. He was God come in human flesh. And, when converted into human flesh, the LIFE that kept him alive resided IN THE BLOOD, as in all who are *flesh* (Lev. 17:11). The breath oxidizes the blood and is called the “breath of life”—of animal or human life.

Jesus was also GOD—he was both human and divine. But he was not GOD inside of, yet separate from, the body of flesh—he, God,

WAS MADE FLESH, until he, still GOD—God *with us*—became God IN (*not* inside of) the human flesh—God manifest IN THE FLESH (I Tim. 3:16)—“Forasmuch then as the children are partakers of flesh and blood, he also himself likewise took part of the same” (Heb. 2:14).

That is, as we humans are partakers of flesh and blood, Jesus Christ, also, in exactly the same manner, was partaker of flesh and blood.

And why? Why, in order that he *might* DIE!—“that through *death* he might destroy [annul] him who had the power of death, that is, the devil. . . . for verily he took not on him the nature of angels; but he took on him the seed of Abraham. . . . made LIKE unto his brethren” (verses 14, 16, 17).

Jesus came NOT in the nature of angels—that is, spirit nature. He was a human being. He was MADE FLESH—made HUMAN. He took on, at birth, HUMAN NATURE. He was tempted in all points like we are. He suffered as we do. He was forced to resist the pull of human nature, even as you and I. He, God, BECAME MAN—man so that he COULD DIE for us, that our sins might be erased and forgiven!

It Was CHRIST Who Died

Jesus DIED! Jesus WAS DEAD!

And for three days and three nights the Second Person of the Godhead—EMMANUEL—GOD with us—GOD *made* human flesh—was DEAD!

And dead matter cannot impart life. Life can come only FROM life. As a human, Jesus was the Son of God the Father. God was his only Father. Mary was his mother. He became the SON OF man at his human birth. And now he was DEAD—yes, DEAD! If he was not DEAD, then the penalty of *your* sins is not yet paid. You are yet in your sins. You are without hope! But Jesus was DEAD!

If there were no other Person in the Godhead, then the Giver of all life was dead and all hope was at an end!

If there were no FATHER in heaven while Jesus Christ lay dead—his blood in which resided his LIFE, shed from his veins, given for you

and for me—then all human life everywhere had come to its doom.

But the Father still reigned in high heaven! And the FATHER had LIFE INHERENT IN HIMSELF!

Life can only come *from* life! And Christ Jesus was now DEAD! His life had gone from him—poured out on Calvary's cross—poured out from his veins! That's where his life resided—in his BLOOD, not in spirit! He did not shed a *spirit* to save us from our sins; He shed his BLOOD, and in so doing GAVE HIS LIFE.

But, "as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself" (John 5:26). *God the Father raised Jesus from the dead!*

Not Resurrected in Same Body

Now notice carefully. God the Father did not cause Jesus Christ to get back into the body that had died.

Some seem to believe that it was only the *body* that died—that Jesus Christ never died—that Christ was alive, and preached to "spirits in prison" during the three days and nights his BODY was dead. What they believe is that a BODY Christ lived in died, but CHRIST HIMSELF never died. Christ was God, and, they argue, God could not die!

They do not realize that Christ had given up his immortal life inherent in divine glory and been converted into human mortality for the purpose of DEATH.

If they are right, they are lost and doomed to eternal punishment! *If Christ* did not die for their sins—if it was only a mortal *body* that died—then we have no Savior, and we are LOST.

What happened is that the *Logos*—the WORD—the Eternal—was MADE FLESH. He was converted into, CHANGED INTO, *flesh*. Now he was FLESH AND BLOOD, exactly as you and I.

His *life* was in his blood, and he gave his LIFE by the fact his blood

poured out while he was on the cross! He had taken on a HUMAN nature. He was God—but now God changed INTO flesh and blood—God WITH US—Emmanuel!

Yes, the Word was MADE FLESH, and he WAS flesh and blood, not just an immortal spirit in a body of flesh and blood.

We may argue that God is immortal and could not die. But the Scriptures reveal that GOD SO LOVED US *that while* we were yet sinners, The Eternal, the *Logos*, who was with God and who *was* God in the Second Person, permitted himself voluntarily to be CHANGED INTO a flesh-and-blood

Jesus came not in the nature of angels—that is, spirit nature. He was a human being. He was made flesh—made human. He took on, at birth, human nature. He, God, became man—man so that he could die for us, that our sins might be erased and forgiven!

MAN, until he BECAME a human who could and did DIE. But God the Father—God in the First Person—still reigned in High Heaven; and he RAISED JESUS FROM THE DEAD, not from life.

It was CHRIST HIMSELF who was DEAD. He was REVIVED. Nowhere does the Scripture say he was alive and active, or that God had him get back into the human BODY that had died and was now resurrected.

Jesus Christ was DEAD. He was as much out as a boxer knocked senseless—much *more*, for the boxer usually is not dead but only unconscious. Jesus was DEAD—but was REVIVED!

And the resurrected body was no longer human—it was the Christ

resurrected IMMORTAL, once *again* CHANGED! As he had been changed, converted INTO mortal human flesh and blood, subject to death, and for the PURPOSE of DYING FOR OUR SINS, now by a RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD, HE WAS AGAIN CHANGED, CONVERTED, INTO IMMORTALITY—and he is alive forevermore! Now a LIVING Savior, not a DEAD Savior. He *was* dead—but only for three days and three nights.

Now, How About YOU?

Do you realize WHAT a tremendous price was paid that you might be released from the death penalty of YOUR SINS? The very Eternal—the Spokesman of the Godhead, and very GOD himself—permitted himself to be changed into a mortal human—stepped down, descended to the human plane, suffered, was tempted, persecuted, despised, rejected of men, crucified!

If Jesus had been *only* human, his death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human being who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Rom. 6:23). Since God the Father created all things by Jesus Christ (Col. 1:16), and since all things, including man, were made by Jesus Christ, he is our Maker

and therefore God; and his life that he gave was of *greater value* than the total of all human beings (John 1:1-3).

He died and for three days and nights WAS DEAD! He who was IN THE BEGINNING, and WAS GOD! He stooped to human level, submitted to DEATH—trusted the Father to restore him to life! *That* is the PRICE paid for you and for me. He GAVE himself for YOU—and in so doing bought and paid for you! And therefore, *you* BELONG TO HIM! Will *you* GIVE YOURSELF to him?

That is the only way of salvation—the only way this GREATEST PRICE EVER PAID IN THE UNIVERSE FROM ETERNITY can save you.

You must GIVE YOURSELF up!—

GIVE yourself TO HIM! Give him your life—yourSELF. Let HIM come into your mind and heart, through his Holy Spirit, and live HIS LIFE IN YOU!

It means full, complete, utter, unconditional SURRENDER. You are no longer your own, you are HIS. Give your life to HIM, and see what great usefulness and accomplishment he will put it to! See what great joys will be yours as a result of the great GOOD he can and will do through you—IF you are his, wholly IN HIS POWER, wholly subjected to HIS WILL.

Yes, Jesus Christ died and was dead! But God the Father RAISED HIM FROM THE DEAD. HE LIVES FOREVERMORE!

You are already dead in trespasses and sins unless, or until, you REPENT of sins, surrender to God, GIVE YOURSELF to the LIVING SAVIOR who died for you, but was RAISED to become your High Priest and coming King! We have to DIE in order to LIVE. Give YOURSELF to Christ and he will give you ETERNAL LIFE!

“And this is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this LIFE is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life”! (I John 5:11-12.) □

NUCLEAR WAR...

(Continued from page 18)

more than thirty prophecies—is going to strike sooner than you may think! You will know, then, how REAL it is. You will wish, then, you had heeded. I am not writing foolishly, but very soberly, ON AUTHORITY of the living CHRIST!

Continue this WARNING to OUR nations TODAY: “They have seen vanity and lying divination, saying, The Lord saith: and the Lord hath not sent them: . . . Because, even because they have seduced my people, saying, Peace; and there was no peace” (verses 6, 10).

Perhaps you need to read the free booklet, *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*, and then read this whole chapter seriously! It is a last WARNING from the ETERNAL GOD!

God says to US, TODAY: “Cast away from you all your transgressions, whereby ye have transgressed; and make you a new heart and a new spirit: For WHY WILL YE DIE, O house of Israel? For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the Lord God: wherefore, TURN YOURSELVES, and LIVE YE” (EZEK. 18:31-32). □

Battle of the Sexes...

(Continued from page 26)

It won't be easy. For some it's going to take bold decisions, for others unheard-of changes in lifestyles, a lot of deep discussion between husbands and wives, which will include some long-range planning and in-depth introspection and understanding. What does each really want out of life, and what do both want to achieve together as a family unit.

Instead of flying off in separate directions, pulling families apart, two working together, giving each of their individual strengths and talents to gain a common purpose, would be almost certain of attaining the right goals.

The Delusion of Self-fulfillment

As for self-fulfillment, forget self-fulfillment. Self-fulfillment has become an obsession in this age. Chasing after that elusive goal is the key to the problem. How frustrating to ask—morning, noon and night: Am I happy? Am I fulfilled?

Male or female, single or married, if you have no more purpose to your life than self-satisfaction, you will be the most miserable of human beings.

Why are you here? What is the purpose of your existence? Is it only to become married and have children? Is it to become professionally trained through years of education and experience just to sacrifice health and principles to reach the top in some profession?

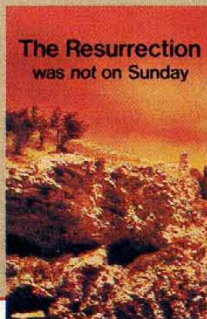
If you're looking to these temporary goals to make your life worth living, to make you happy, you are ensnared in the same trap most in our society have fallen prey to.

Women, the answer is not battling men. We're all in this together, male and female. We need each other to make it. Find out your purpose for being. Write for Herbert W. Armstrong's free booklet *Why Were You Born?* It will open your mind to an understanding of your reason for being that you have not had before, an understanding that comes to you free, but that is priceless. □

Jesus Didn't Rise on Easter Sunday!

He didn't die on Friday, either.

Can you figure three days and three nights between sunset Good Friday and sunrise Easter Sunday? Even theologians have wrestled with this problem. In Matthew 12:40 Jesus said he would be “three days and three nights in the heart of the earth.” He also said, in verse 39, that this was the only sign he would give that he was the Messiah. Now either Jesus was an impostor or the “Good Friday-Easter” tradition is in error. An enlightening and controversial booklet titled *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday* makes plain the biblical truth. Why not request this important booklet today and see for yourself? It's absolutely free. To request your free copy, just write to the Plain Truth office nearest you or use the handy literature request card in this issue.



Just What Do You Mean...

“ARMAGEDDON”?

by Keith W. Stump

Few understand the *real* meaning of this much-misused biblical term.

THE WORD *Armageddon* is familiar to just about everyone.

Statesmen, scientists and generals warn of the dire prospects of a “nuclear Armageddon” that could annihilate mankind from the face of the earth.

Many believed that World War I—and later World War II—would end with Armageddon. Some today believe that Armageddon will be the last battle between the democratic West and communist East.

But did you know that *nowhere* in the Bible—from Genesis to Revelation—is there any mention of a future “Battle of Armageddon”?

The Bible, of course, does reveal a great military confrontation to occur at the end of this age! But it is not called the Battle of Armageddon.

Hill of Megiddo

The word *Armageddon* is found only once in all the Bible—in Revelation 16:16. That scripture reads:

“And he gathered them [the kings of the earth and their armies—see preceding verses] together into a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon.”

We see here that Armageddon is

described in the Bible as a *place*, not an event. It is a place where armies *gather*. But notice that there is no mention of Armageddon being a battlefield, an actual scene of fighting.

Where is this place called Armageddon?



Orient Press Photo

The word *Armageddon* is a Greek form of the Hebrew name *Har Megiddon*. It means “hill (or mountain) of Megiddo.” Megiddo is an ancient town of Palestine. It is in the modern state of Israel on the southern rim of the large flat expanse of the plain of Esdraelon (also called the valley of Jezreel).

Megiddo lies about 55 miles north of Jerusalem, and about 15 miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea.

From the huge mound of Megiddo that today marks the site of the ancient city, one enjoys a commanding view of the valley of Jezreel stretching out to the northwest far

into the distance (see photos). Jezreel is Israel’s largest and most fertile valley and is often referred to simply as *Ha’emek*, “The Valley.”

Ancient Battlefield

In ancient times, Megiddo was a city of great importance. It lay at the strategic crossing of important military and caravan routes. The Via Maris, the old coastal route linking Egypt with Damascus and the east, traversed the Jezreel Valley by Megiddo.

In view of the strategic nature of the area, it comes as no surprise that the valley of Megiddo has been the scene of famous battles since the dawn of history. It is one of history’s bloodiest battlefields. Some historians believe that more battles have been fought there throughout time than at any other place in the world!

Megiddo is first mentioned in the Bible in Joshua 12:12. It was one of the cities of the Canaanite kings defeated by Joshua and the Israelites at the end of the 15th century B.C.

Some two centuries later the plain by Megiddo was the site of a major engagement between the Canaanite captain Sisera and Israelite forces under Deborah and Barak (Judges 4 and 5). This ancient confrontation, which might

accurately be called a “battle of Armageddon,” ended with a total rout of the Canaanites.

King Solomon fortified the city in the 10th century B.C. as a military center and chariot town (I Kings 9:15). An estimated 450 horses could be stabled there. Three centuries later, King Josiah of ancient Judah was slain in the valley of Megiddo, unintentionally, at the hands of the Egyptians (II Kings 23:29).

These battles and others mentioned both in the Bible and in secular sources gave the valley of Megiddo an infamous reputation. It became a very symbol of war itself.

Even in post-biblical times—including this century—the strategic expanse has been the scene for large-scale confrontations.

Near the end of World War I, the British general Viscount Allenby won a crucial victory over the Turks at the Battle of Megiddo on September 19, 1918. Journalist Lowell Thomas, in his book *With Allenby in the Holy Land*, refers to the engagement as the “Battle of Armageddon,” while implying no biblical fulfillment of prophecy. “Allenby was a master-strategist,” Lowell Thomas quotes a participant in the fighting, in reference to Megiddo’s strategic location.

Seven Last Plagues

Now see what prophecy has in store for this ancient battlefield.

The book of Revelation describes

a dramatic series of catastrophic events to precede the return of Jesus Christ to this earth to restore the government of God and to bring world peace. (Request our free booklet *The Book of Revelation Unveiled At Last* for full details.)

Among these events is the sounding of seven prophetic trumpets (Rev. 8-10), symbolizing God’s direct intervention in human affairs.

The seventh and last of these trumpets will announce the Second Coming of Jesus Christ to establish his rule on earth (Rev. 11:15; I Cor. 15:52; I Thess. 4:16). This trumpet will also initiate on a rebellious world a series of divine punishments known as the “seven last plagues” (Rev. 15 and 16).

These seven last plagues, designed to bring humanity to repentance, are pictured symbolically as seven vials, or small vessels holding liquids. These vials are “poured out” upon a corrupted earth by seven angels. Tragically, mankind as a whole will still refuse to repent of sin!

The sixth of these vials or plagues is described in Revelation 16:12 and introduces us to Armageddon:

“And the sixth angel poured out his vial upon the great river Euphrates; and the water thereof was dried up, that the way of the kings of the east might be prepared.”

It is important to understand the geography involved here. The Euphrates River rises in Turkey and flows southeastward for some 1,700 miles through Syria and Iraq, ultimately emptying into the Arabian or Persian Gulf.

Across this river bed will come the “kings of the east” and their armies—a prophesied communist-dominated Eurasian confederacy.

This confederacy will have certain geopolitical goals motivating their military offensive. But an unperceived, behind-the-scenes influence will be the ultimate motivation underlying their actions. Notice:

Revelation 16:14 reveals that it will be *demonic spirits* that will influence “the kings of the earth and of the whole world” to gather for battle. These spirits are fallen angels who followed Lucifer (Satan) in his rebellion against God



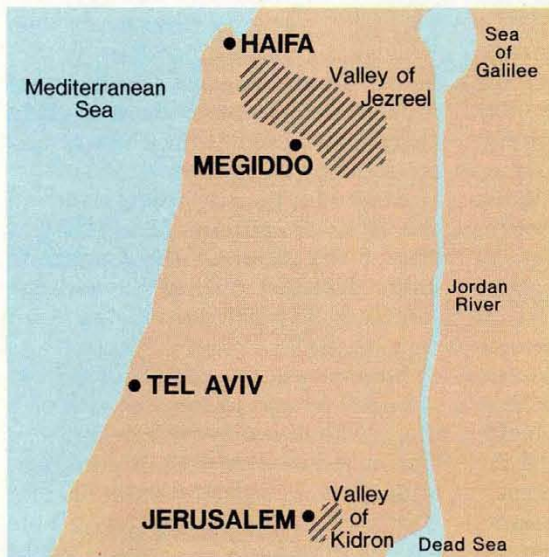
(Isa. 14:12-14; Ezek. 28:12-17; Rev. 12:4). They will stir up this world’s leaders to prepare for war. The world’s armies will unknowingly become their pawns.

The God of heaven will allow these seducing demons to marshal the armies of the kings of the east and the whole world (the United Nations, too!) at Armageddon, as we earlier saw in Revelation 16:16.

But the battle will not be fought at Armageddon!

In the meantime, another great military power and its allies will be in force in the Middle East to oppose the oncoming “kings of the east.”

This power is referred to in the Bible as the “beast”—a powerful union of 10 European nations or groups of nations to arise in the closing days of this world’s civilizations (Rev. 17:12-14). This European power—led by a military superdictator also referred to in prophecy as the “beast”—will be the final, end-time revival of the medieval Holy Roman Empire.



PT map by Minette Smith



Photos by Sylvia Owen—PT

ARMAGEDDON—the hill of Megiddo—lies 55 miles north of Jerusalem and overlooks the expansive Valley of Jezreel (map, lower left). Here the world's armies will gather before the prophesied final battle. From the hill-top site of the ancient city of Megiddo one enjoys a commanding view of the valley, also called the Plain of Esdraelon (center photo). Many visit the archaeological excavations at Megiddo each year (left photo). Sign at Megiddo (lower right) details the long history of the ancient site. The Kidron Valley (top photo) at Jerusalem will be the site of the climactic battle against the returning Christ.

Working with the beast will be a great miracle-working religious figure called the false prophet (Rev. 13:13-14; 16:13; 19:20; II Thess. 2:3-4). This charismatic figure will preside over a great centuries-old false religious system labelled by the Bible "BABYLON THE GREAT" (Rev. 17:5).

Earlier, the beast will have con-

quered portions of the Middle East and established a foothold there (Dan. 11:40-43). The prophet Daniel refers to the endtime beast as "the king of the north."

"But," as Daniel continues, "tidings out of the east and out of the north shall trouble him [the beast] . . ." (Dan. 11:44). The beast will be challenged by the might of the communist East!

The result?

" . . . therefore he [the beast] shall go forth with great fury to destroy, and utterly to make away many" (end of verse 44).

The beast and his allies will move to confront the oncoming armies of the "kings of the east." The stage will be set for a desperate battle to determine who will *rule the world!*

(For the answer to why the armies of the United States will not be involved, write for *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*.)

The world will stand at the brink of the most terrible battle in all of history! Were the enormous power of the world's armies actually to be

unleashed, *global annihilation* would be the result! *No flesh* would be saved alive (Matt. 24:22)!

Satan's goal of erasing all life from this earth would become reality!

Battle of the Great Day of God Almighty!

But *no battle* will be fought at Armageddon!

The seventh trumpet that set the stage for the confrontation at Megiddo also announces the Second Coming of Jesus Christ! He—Jesus Christ—will descend from heaven to the Mount of Olives at Jerusalem (Zech. 14:4; Acts 1:11-12).

Notice Revelation 11:15: "And the seventh angel sounded; and there were great voices in heaven, saying, The kingdoms of this world are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign for ever and ever."

This world's two great military

powers—ready to fight each other for world domination—will be suddenly confronted by what they conceive to be, in their deceived minds, a common "enemy"—the returning Jesus Christ! Jesus, in Jerusalem, will proclaim *his* dominion over the world!

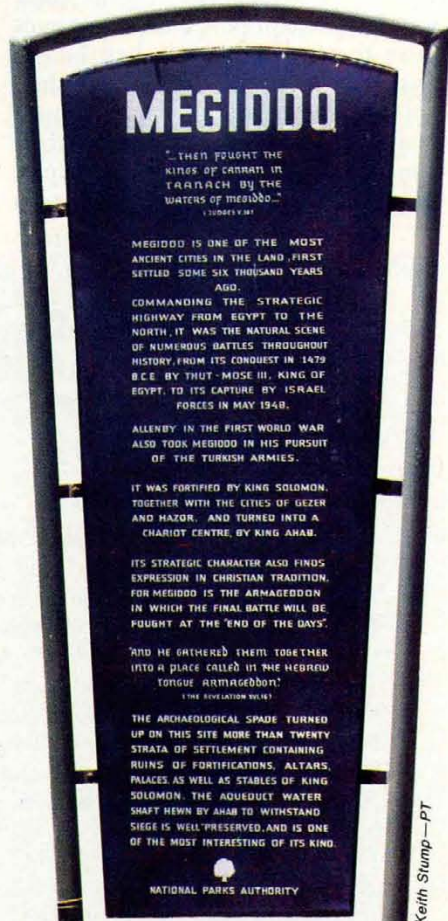
How will the assembled forces at Megiddo react?

"And the nations were *angry* . . ." declares Revelation 11:18. Men will not want to submit to God's rule! Instead, they will seek to destroy Jesus Christ—whom they will regard, falsely, as the Antichrist—and his angelic armies from heaven who accompany him to Jerusalem.

Instead of fighting each other, the Beast and the kings of the east will *join forces*—to "make war with the Lamb" (Rev. 17:14).

From the staging ground or mustering area of Armageddon the world's armies will move to confront Jesus Christ himself.

Where will that climactic battle be fought? The prophet Joel pro-



vides the answer. Read it in Joel 3:1-2, 9-14.

The battle, involving "all nations," will take place in the *valley of Jehoshaphat!* This deep valley or ravine borders Jerusalem on the east, between the city and the Mount of Olives (see photo). Today it is more commonly known as the Kidron Valley.

Jehoshaphat means "judgment of the Eternal." The rebellious and unrepentant nations of this world will be *judged* there by God for their disobedience!

The world's armies will converge on *Jerusalem* to fight Jesus Christ. He will not go north to Armageddon to fight them; they will march south to engage him!

The ensuing confrontation is called in the Bible "the battle of that great day of God Almighty" (Rev. 16:14). It is not the "battle of Armageddon" simply because it will *not take place* at Armageddon!

Zechariah 14:12-13 graphically describes this supernatural confrontation at Jerusalem with the world's armies. They will turn against each other in mistrust and fear as their very flesh decomposes and their eyes cease to see! "And this shall be the plague wherewith the Lord shall smite all the people that have fought against Jerusalem; Their flesh shall consume away while they stand upon their feet, and their eyes shall con-

sume away in their holes, and their tongue shall consume away in their mouth."

Read Revelation 19:11-21 for a further description of the climactic events to occur on that day.

The rebellious armies of this world will be utterly *vanquished!*

Then, Good News!

Jesus Christ, now returned in *power* and *glory* as KING OF KINGS AND LORD OF LORDS (Rev. 19:16), will intervene mightily to save a God-rejecting world from self-destruction. He will destroy those who would have destroyed the earth through nuclear war.

These climactic times lie *just ahead!*

But beyond the chaos and war at the close of this age is *good news!* Having decisively put down rebellion, Jesus Christ will establish his Kingdom on this earth—a millennial kingdom of peace and prosperity for all peoples!

From the destruction of war, the world will erupt into *global peace!*

For an in-depth look at this coming new age, request your free copy of *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*. Discover what lies ahead for you personally in days just ahead—and your potential in the utopian World Tomorrow! □

COMPUTERS THINK?

(Continued from page 14)

ness, marital discord, strife, war and lust? Spiritual attitudes such as love, joy, peace, patience, gentleness, goodness, faith and self-control are not available through computer science (Gal. 5:22-23).

Knowledge/Ignorance Explosion

Thousands of years ago the Bible foretold today's amazing developments in human knowledge—and ignorance.

More than 2,500 years ago the prophet Daniel was told by a messenger from God to write that at "the time of the end, many shall run to and fro, and *knowledge* shall be increased" (Dan. 12:4). But God also said "none of the wicked [those who disobey God] shall understand; but the wise [the obedient to God's laws] shall understand" (verse 10).

You're living in the precise time when the Bible prophesied the world would be flooded with physical knowledge, but most still wouldn't understand the *why* of human problems. Wouldn't understand what? They wouldn't understand essential *spiritual* knowledge that explains the *why* of today's evils. They wouldn't understand the real *cause* of their problems—broken spiritual law! They wouldn't understand the *way* to peace among nations and individuals. They wouldn't know how to treat fellow man, or mates or children. They wouldn't know right spiritual values!

What has this to do with the computer or microelectronics revolution? Simply this: computers are no better than the uses, the ideas, the concepts and values programmed into them.

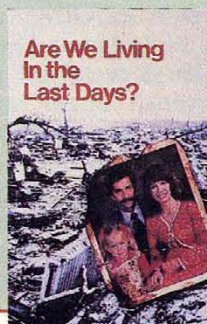
Knowledge being programmed into computers today is man's material knowledge. Some of this knowledge may be put to right uses. But so much of man's knowledge, however accurate, is put to wrong uses. No wonder the most sophisticated computers are not the answer to man's greatest problem. What is needed is God's revealed spiritual knowledge and his divine government to bring peace and to put man on the right track. □

Will Mankind Survive the 1980s?

Look at the facts:

- Proliferation of nuclear weapons, even among small, unstable nations
- Worldwide economic strangulation
- Shrinking resources: too little food, oil, fertilizer . . .
- World population expected to double in 30 years—14 billion people on earth by 2035!

The handwriting is on the wall. World leaders are alarmed. Is there an alternative to global holocaust? For the surprising good news, write for our free booklet, *Are We Living in the Last Days?* Use the literature request card in this issue or write to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.



WIZARDRY

(Continued from page 12)

will allow, for example, computer information to be synchronized with the doctor's brain waves and put computer information into his or her mind whenever spare mental capacity is available. "Don't imagine that this evolution can be outlawed. The first brain surgeon able to engage a tight instantaneous link with his medical library and other surgeons *while he is operating* will lead the way for all other surgeons to follow" (ibid.).

That's what the new technology is leading men of science to anticipate—but the computer cannot prevent the need of the surgeon to operate since computers cannot force people to stay healthy!

New Entertainment Craze

In the area of entertainment, computer driven games are already being programmed to provide ever more scintillating—and temporary—heights of realism and excitement. Whereas television is largely passive entertainment, new computer entertainment allows a person to interact with and affect the outcome of programmed stories—such as a moon-landing, or a famous war battle, or a love scene. For many people such entertainment is becoming a major hobby and a consuming passion.

One can already purchase programmed novels where after the program presents the major part of the novel, you join in, talking by computer with the other characters. Your responses and answers determine how characters in the novel react and how the novel ends. Imagine the involvement of those who would immerse themselves in the plot and outcome of famous movies like *King Kong*, or in a detective mystery with Sherlock Holmes. Or in some grossly perverted use, such as a lurid sex scene where viewers experiment with all kinds of possible outcomes. (Don't think the latter won't happen. Pornographic tapes already constitute a big share of the present videotape market!)

No Computer Millennium!

Now consider the social disloca-

tions produced by the Computer Revolution—especially in jobs. On this matter, science has no sure answers. On one hand, new technology produced by computers could create an enormous variety of new products and jobs. But the catch is the job openings would only be available to those willing to make rapid changes in employment and learning. Such a transformation carries the seeds of economic dislocation and social unrest for those who won't or can't adapt.

"For those who are informed [about computers] employment opportunities will be prodigal, while those who remain ignorant,

By 1985, according to one estimate, 75 percent of jobs in the United States will involve computers in some way. People who don't know how to use them will be at a major disadvantage.

resistant or unwilling to learn will find the world an alarmingly alien place" (*The Micro Millennium*, by Christopher Evans, page 104).

By 1985, according to one estimate, 75 percent of jobs in the United States will involve computers in some way. People who don't know how to use them will be at a major disadvantage.

Others worry about computer criminals. Already computer thieves rip off millions of dollars by breaking computer codes. The average computer theft involves around a half million dollars, making ordinary theft seem petty.

Computers also open the way for serious intrusion by others into matters of privacy. Already many

transactions and details of individuals' personal lives are stored in various public or government data banks.

"We're fooling around with things so new that we can't even predict what they might be used for," said one microelectronics physicist recently.

Microelectronic Armageddon

One avenue scientists are now involved in is building supercooled semiconductors that can conduct electricity 30 times faster than today's silicon chips. That permits pushing computers to higher speeds. Faster electrons mean higher frequencies. The military hopes to develop satellites and communications with frequencies so high that no earthbound or enemy forces could listen in to military planning.

Today's modern armies are extensively electronic armies. Weapons designers are pushing the outer limits of all microelectronic technology. They are producing more and more sophisticated "smart" bombs, missiles, planes, tanks, guns and lasers.

The Soviet Union and the United States are locked in an electronics warfare superiority race. The Soviets are known to be stealing much advanced Western microelectronics technology. A major breakthrough in this race could be decisive in any future war.

As modern nations move more and more into dependence on microcircuitry, human life support systems can more easily be knocked out by strategically targeted nuclear blasts.

Jesus Christ foresaw these consequences when he prophesied, "...except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved [alive]" (Matthew 24:22). But God will not allow this to happen. He will send Jesus Christ with power to intervene in world affairs to prevent mankind from using its incredible technology to totally annihilate all humanity!

We shall have peace at last, and prosperity. And the incredible potential of the human mind will be redirected into the way of love and give, instead of today's way of competition and selfishness. What a wonderful world that will be. □

What Our Readers Say

Swaziland

Thank you very much for being so kind as to send me a copy of your *Plain Truth* magazine that has an article on Swaziland. Indeed your magazine does admit, "it is not often that you present this kind of article." I wish to express my country's appreciation for this excellent article on our King and country. It is not often that we read such good positive reporting about our King; and one could not fail to see that your magazine was not after sensational journalism but after plain truth.

Long may your magazine live and prosper and propagate plain truth to the whole world.

G.M. Mamba
High Commissioner

Television

Please send me the booklet *What Do You Mean... Born Again?* as advertised through your program that I had the opportunity to view on our station, BCTV, of which I am a technical employee involved in the airing of *The World Tomorrow* this day. I have enjoyed your radio broadcasts for years and look forward to assisting in your on-air ministry.

P.J. MacKintosh
Aldergrove, B.C.

When I was watching your television show I saw you offered the *Plain Truth* magazine. I am not, as of yet, a subscriber but would like to be. And I would like to have the book entitled *The United States and Britain in Prophecy*. I enjoy your show every week and I haven't missed you

yet. In my house you are a Sunday regular.

Cindy Currie
Fredericton, New Brunswick

This morning, for the first time, I watched (with great interest and admiration) your program concentrating on affairs in the Middle East and, in particular, profiling that wonderful peacemaker, President Sadat. His death is a monumental loss to this world. I would very much now like to take advantage of your offer and request a copy of *The United States and Britain in Prophecy* and I look forward to receiving this in due course.

Wendy Kearns
Toronto, Ontario

Tithing Pays

Please find a cheque enclosed in payment of our tithes. I was recently interviewed for a job in Ontario and it has been offered to me with a 30 percent increase over my present salary. God does keep his promises regarding tithing and has given us 30 percent in return for 10 percent. We didn't plan on moving approximately 2,500 miles but we are, and at no cost to us and a job that is a lot better.

Raymond King
Bell Island, Newfoundland

Tragedy of Suicide

You write that 1,000 people commit suicide every day worldwide. Or in a legalistic sense, self-murder. I am a train driver and it is a fact that we do from time to time have the problem to deal with. A short time past a lady sat on my running line and waited for me to

pass over her with my 720 ton express train.

G.R. Caulfield
Seaford, East Sussex

The Give Way

Many thanks for your articles on the "way of giving." I agree that this is our best economic answer. I'm a professional genealogist and find that as I offer consultation services by donation, rather than by a fee, then many more people respond to my ads. Most of the questions are simple and the "chicken feed" donations sure add up fast. More volume is indeed the way to expand income, but you have to give to get more.

Loren V. Fay
Albany, N.Y.

Destroying Land that Feeds Us

I am an exchange student here in USA studying in the field of Agriculture. I came from the Philippines. I would like to express my appreciation to Donald Schroeder for his article "We Are Destroying the Land That Feeds Us." I have found that soil is more essential than oil. When soils flourish, nations and civilization flourish. When soils die, civilization dies with them.

Ednar C. Padro
Fresno, California

Neglected Key to Prosperity

In reference to your recent issue, I took particular interest in Jeff Calkin's rendition of "The Neglected Key to Personal Prosperity." I can appreciate such frankness, for indeed a happy family life broadens the

chances of success in every sense of the word. I come from a broken home and I followed that by breaking a home myself. It has been pure hell since. Watching my son being raised by his mother and him having to deal with his father being in and out of prison, I'm sure it has a profound impact on his young mind. If it is not too late for me as an individual, my next chance at freedom will produce a fruitful situation. Your fine magazine will indeed deserve most of the credit, as I will definitely be reading it. Thank you for enlightening me on the right way that Christ intended.

Edward T. Sirils II
Huntsville (Walls) Prison,
Texas

As the Postal Rates Rise

If the postal rates are going up 60%, we will just have to give more. Hope the enclosed cheque will help.

Mr. & Mrs. G. Schopp
N. Vancouver, B.C.

New Readers Speak

I have never read the Bible in my life before I started reading the *Plain Truth* magazine. You seem to make sense to me—something other religious programs didn't do. Whoever initiated the *Plain Truth* magazine, on my behalf, I thank them.

E. Bryan
Willowdale, Ont.

I'm so glad that finally I can find something to read. There's truth in what you write. Everything else was something different, uncertain, untrue. It's like a food.

Tom Leppke
Mississauga, Ont.

WHY CELEBRATE EASTER?

by Eugene M. Walter

Does Easter Sunday really commemorate the resurrection of Christ? Where, in the Bible, are Christians commanded to keep Easter? We strip bare the FACTS of history in this article!

ON ONE Sunday morning each spring, a strange and bewildering phenomenon takes place in cities, towns and countrysides around the world.

Instead of sleeping late as usual, many thousands are going to get up early on this day—very early. They must be at their destination well before sunrise.

The occasion? A game of golf? A fishing trip? No, not on this particular morning.

It's Easter—But Why?

Instead, they will meet with friends and, of all things, watch the sun rise! And as if this were not strange enough, this is all part of a *religious service!*

On this very same day, millions of others will be preparing to do something unusual, too. This will be one of the two or three times during the year when they will darken the door of a church! Or perhaps it would be better to say *decorate* the door of a church, for they will have purchased fashionable new clothes especially for the occasion.

Some, because their 40 days of

partial abstinence called Lent will be over, will once again freely indulge themselves. Others anticipate a family reunion, a big ham dinner or, perhaps, a fashion show or a parade.

And the children? They are absolutely delighted with the chocolate rabbits, the colored eggs and the prospect of exciting egg-hunting and egg-rolling games on the lawn!

This is Easter—one of the big holidays of the Western year!

But what is its purpose? What is it supposed to commemorate? And why all these incongruous activities? Why watch the sun rise on this day? Why purchase new clothes for it? Why eat ham for dinner?

Why rabbits? Why not a puppy or a kitten? They can lay just as many eggs as a rabbit. But then, *WHY eggs?* Wouldn't oranges or onions roll just as well?

To a world steeped in tradition, these customs seem normal. But when you stop to think about it, what real sense do the activities of this day we call Easter make anyway?

And why is Easter observed on a Sunday? Why not on a Tuesday, Thursday or Monday?

To this question many will

immediately reply that Sunday was the day on which Christ rose from the dead and that his resurrection is the very reason for observing Easter.

But is it?

Was Christ resurrected on a Sunday? Are you sure? Have you ever proved it from the Bible?

And what has the Easter rabbit to do with Christ's resurrection?

When Was Christ Resurrected?

Shocking though it may be, either the Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition is a fable—or you have no Savior! Jesus gave only one sign to prove that he was the Messiah. That sign was the length of time he would be dead and buried.

Notice Jesus' own words concerning this **ONLY SIGN** that would prove his Messiahship:

"An evil and adulterous generation seeketh after a sign; and there shall no sign be given to it, but the sign of the prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three days and three nights in the whale's belly; so shall the Son of man be three days and three nights in the heart of the earth" (Matt. 12:39-40).

Did Christ mean what he said? Did he really expect to be buried in the earth for three days and three nights—a full 72 hours?

Notice Mark 8:31: "And he began to teach them, that the Son of man must suffer many things, and be rejected of the elders, and of the chief priests, and scribes, and be killed, and **AFTER** three days rise again."

Did you grasp that? Jesus did not say "after a day and a half." He said "after **THREE DAYS.**"

Now consider! If Jesus were crucified and buried late on Good Friday, then one day after would be Saturday evening, and two days after would be Sunday evening, and three days after would be Monday evening.

But Jesus rose long before Monday evening! Either he was not crucified on Good Friday, or he did not fulfill his sign and he is therefore an impostor and not the Messiah!

Did Jesus fulfill his sign? In Matthew 28:6 we read this testimony of the angel at the tomb: "He [Jesus] is not here: for he is risen,

AS HE SAID"! Jesus did fulfill his sign! He is the Savior! Then he could not have been crucified on Good Friday!

What Day Was the Crucifixion?

Jesus was buried shortly before sunset on the day of the crucifixion (Luke 23:53-54). Since Jesus said that he would "rise the third day" after his crucifixion, it is obvious that the resurrection must have occurred precisely at the completion of the third day following his burial and the closing of the tomb. That moment would be near sunset three days later.

When the women came to the tomb early Sunday morning, Jesus was already risen! The angel said, "He is risen; he is not here" (Mark 16:6). He was not at the sepulcher Sunday morning. Therefore Jesus could not have risen later than Saturday evening—three days after his burial.

Three days before Saturday would place the crucifixion on Wednesday! That Wednesday was a preparation day—a preparation day for what? For the annual Feast of Unleavened Bread. The first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread is always an annual Sabbath. So Thursday that year was an annual Sabbath.

So that we would know that that Sabbath which followed the crucifixion was not the weekly Sabbath, John was inspired to call it a "high day" (John 19:31). According to Jewish usage this expression means an annual Sabbath or Holy Day that may occur any day during the week.

Now look at your Bible again.

Mark picks up John's account by adding that after that Sabbath—the high day of the first day of the Feast of Unleavened Bread—the women bought sweet spices to use in anointing the body of Jesus (Mark 16:1). This purchasing of the spices could not have been on Thursday, the annual Sabbath. It had to be on the following day, Friday.

Having made their purchases and prepared these ointments on Friday, the women then "rested the sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:56). This was a different day—the weekly

Sabbath, the seventh day of the week. Upon its close Jesus was raised from the dead exactly three days and three nights after he was buried and the tomb closed.

Could anything be plainer?

Your Bible proves that the resurrection was not on Sunday. The crucifixion was not on Friday. Rather, Christ was crucified on Wednesday and was resurrected on Saturday, three days and three nights later. (This is all explained in much greater detail in the booklet *The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday*. Write for it. It is free.)

But then where did the Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition come from? How did it find its way into the professing Christian Church? Why is it observed throughout the entire Western world today?

Where Easter Came From

Believe it or not, Easter was observed thousands of years before the time of Christ and the beginning of the Christian era!

Easter is merely the slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess, Ishtar. It was pronounced by the Assyrians exactly as we pronounce *Easter* today.

Hislop says in *The Two Babylons* that Easter "bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than Astarte, one of the titles of Beltis, the 'queen of heaven,' whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use in this country" (page 103).

In the Bible, God condemns the worship of Astarte, the "queen of heaven," as the most abominable of all pagan idolatries. In connection with the Easter celebration, God specifically condemns sunrise services (Ezek. 8:13-18) and the making of "hot cross buns" (Jer. 7:18-20; 44:19).

How did this pagan celebration ever become one of the two most important holidays of the professing Christian Church?

Easter a Counterfeit of God's Passover

Now read the facts for yourself. The *Encyclopaedia Britannica*,

11th edition, article "Easter," says: "There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. . . . The first Christians [the original TRUE Church of Jesus and the apostles] continued to observe the Jewish [that is GOD'S] festivals, though in a new spirit, as commemorations of events which those festivals had foreshadowed. Thus the passover, with a new conception added to it, of Christ as the true Paschal Lamb and the first fruits from the dead, continued to be observed."

Of course! The Passover and all of God's Holy Days were ordained by God to picture God's PLAN of salvation.

Christ, the apostles and the New Testament Church—both Jewish and gentile-born Christians—kept these festivals. Read it for yourself in Acts 2:1; 18:21; 20:6; and 27:9. Then open your Bible to these instructions of Paul to the gentiles in I Corinthians 5:7-8; 11:20-34 and 16:8.

These scriptures prove that the New Testament Church continued to observe the days God made holy, including the Passover, long after Christ had ascended into heaven.

Hislop states: "The festival, of which we read in church history, under the name of Easter, in the third and fourth centuries . . . at that time was not known by any such name as Easter. It was called Passover. . . . That festival agreed originally with the time of the Jewish Passover, when Christ was crucified. . . . That festival was not idolatrous, and was preceded by no Lent" (page 104).

God's Passover pictured Christ's death.

Contrast this with Easter. It falsely claims to commemorate Christ's resurrection—not his death.

When did this clever counterfeit creep into the professing Christian Church?

How a Pagan Easter Became "Christian"

Easter was a pagan festival long before Christianity and the New Testament Church ever existed. It anciently commemorated the Fri-

day death and supposed Sunday resurrection of Nimrod, the false pagan savior.

In the great apostasy that swept through the New Testament world in the latter part of the first century, this pagan Good Friday-Easter Sunday tradition was falsely applied to the death and resurrection of the true Savior, Jesus Christ. It was made to appear Christian.

This teaching became especially popular in the area around Rome. But in Asia Minor, where the apostle Paul had established churches, the New Testament Passover continued to be observed on Nisan 14.

The *Britannica* article "Easter" states: "Generally speaking, the Western Churches [Catholic] kept Easter on the first day of the week, while the Eastern Churches [containing most of those who remained as part of the TRUE Christian Church] followed the Jewish rule [observing Passover on 14 Nisan, the first month of the sacred Hebrew calendar]."

This difference soon led to serious controversy. Gradually the Greek and Asian churches began to succumb to the pagan tradition. This same article in *Britannica* states: "Polycarp, the disciple of John the Evangelist, and bishop of Smyrna, visited Rome in 159 to confer with Anicetus, the bishop of that See, on the subject, and urged the tradition which he had received from the apostle of observing the 14th day. Anicetus, however, declined."

The story doesn't end here! "About forty years later [A.D. 197] the question was discussed in a very different spirit between Victor, bishop of Rome, and Polycrates, metropolitan of proconsular Asia [the territory of the churches established by the apostle Paul]. That province was the only portion of Christendom which still adhered to the Jewish [the writer should have said "true Christian"] usage.

"Victor demanded that all should adopt the usage prevailing at Rome. This Polycrates firmly refused to agree to, and urged many weighty reasons to the contrary, whereupon Victor proceeded to excommunicate Polycrates and

the Christians who continued the Easter usage [that is, GOD's way]. He was however, restrained [by other bishops] from actually proceeding to enforce the decree of excommunication . . . and the Asiatic Churches retained their usage unmolested. We find the Jewish [the true Christian] usage from time to time reasserting itself after this, but it never prevailed to any large extent."

It did, however, crop up from time to time as an irksome and annoying issue that caused disunity in the professing Christian Church. When the pagan Roman Emperor

“
Was Christ resurrected on a Sunday?
Have you ever proved it from the Bible? And what has the Easter rabbit to do with Christ's resurrection?
”

Constantine convoked the Council of Nicea in A.D. 325 he ordered the bishops to settle the matter once and for all. It was one of the two big issues of the council.

Council Confirms Roman Usage

At the time of the Nicean Council, the Syrians and the Antiochenes were the only defenders of the observance of the 14th day. They stood little chance!

"The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter was to be kept on Sunday, and on the same Sunday throughout the world, and that 'none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews'" (*ibid.*).

In the spiritually darkened minds of those at the council, anything that was biblical—anything that God commanded—was "Jewish."

The bishops at Nicea so abhorred anything they thought to be Jewish that they "decided that Easter Day should always be on a Sunday, but never at the same time as

the feast of the Jews. If the 14th Nisan fell on a Sunday, Easter Day was transferred to the following Sunday" (Burns, *The Council of Nicea*, page 46).

"For how," explains Constantine, "could we who are Christians possibly keep the same day as those wicked Jews?" (*Arian Controversy*, Gwatkin, page 38).

So strong was the anti-Jewish feeling that pork or ham—an abomination to the Jews—was deliberately eaten on Easter to show utter contempt for anything Jewish. In this case the Jewish way also happened to be God's way as revealed in the Bible.

Thus the Nicean Council—regarded by the world as one of the great milestones of Christianity—condemned observance of the New Testament Passover, one of God's most sacred memorials, without even looking into the Bible! And by "violence and bloodshed"—as history shows (Hislop, page 107)—the observance of the pagan Easter was enforced in its place.

Does It Make Any Difference?

But some will say: "Yes, I know that Easter has a pagan origin, and I can plainly see that Christ was not resurrected on a Sunday. But as long as we keep Easter in a Christian spirit as a kind of remembrance of Christ's resurrection, what difference does it make?"

The answer to this question depends purely and simply on whether or not God exists. If there is no God, then, of course, it makes absolutely no difference whatsoever.

But if there is a living God in heaven—and you can absolutely PROVE that there is—and if that God says it makes a difference to HIM, then it had better make a difference to you, too!

There is not a single word in the Bible telling us to observe Easter. Instead, God thunders, "LEARN NOT the way of the heathen" (Jer. 10:2). And any encyclopedia will tell you that Easter is a pagan festival, long antedating Christianity. More detailed proof is available in our surprising free booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*.

Are you going to obey God? □

Personal from...

(Continued from page 2)

is CHRIST'S—it will be preaching THAT GOSPEL to the whole world—over *all inhabited continents*—today. For we are *near* the END!

The Gospel of the *living* Christ is the GOOD NEWS of the *coming* KINGDOM OF GOD to *RULE THE WORLD!* It is the Gospel of the divine GOVERNMENT. It teaches people to REPENT of rebellion against GOD'S government—transgression of GOD'S LAWS. It teaches salvation through the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ—the remission of sins through Jesus' shed blood and reconciliation to God by Christ's DEATH; and salvation through his LIFE.

It has NO PART in this world's governments—its members are AMBASSADORS, as in a strange land, of THE KINGDOM OF GOD, soon to destroy and replace all human governments of the nations today. Jesus prayed for his Church: "... Holy Father, keep through *thine own name* those whom thou hast given me, that they may be ONE, as we are. While I was with them in the world, I kept them *in thy name*: ... And now come I to thee; ... I have given them thy word; and the world hath hated them, because *they are not OF the world*, even as I am not OF the world. I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil. *They are not OF the world*, even as I am not OF the world. Sanctify them through THY TRUTH: THY WORD IS TRUTH" (John 17:11-17).

Jesus said his true Church was to be KEPT *in the name* of the Father—GOD. *Twelve times* in the New Testament, the NAME of this one *true* Church is The CHURCH OF GOD! It is GOD'S Church, and Jesus Christ is its guiding, sustaining, directing HEAD!

In this world, churches are named after MEN, or after the SYSTEM men have devised, or the kind of church government MEN have thought out, CONTRARY to God's

Word—or after a significant doctrine they emphasize—or, what men hope to make it—all-encompassing, universal or catholic. But wherever that ONE *true* Church is, it will be named The CHURCH OF GOD. But that is not all. Many have appropriated God's name but are not proclaiming the KINGDOM OF GOD, as the GOVERNMENT of God, which we must OBEY—teaching obedience to God's Law (Ten Commandments) (including the fourth)—teaching REPENTANCE of rebellion and transgressing God's holy LAW—teaching that we may be now BEGOTTEN into the KINGDOM (Family) of God, and may, by the resurrection, be BORN into the GOD FAMILY!

“
Wherever God's one
true Church is . . . it
will be preaching
the good news of
the coming
Kingdom of God to
rule the world!

”

That true Church is preaching the imminency of the coming of CHRIST as KING of kings and LORD of lords, to RULE all nations for a thousand years on earth. Not up in heaven, but ON THIS EARTH (Rev. 5:10).

There is only ONE such Church! It is doing THE WORK OF GOD. It is, as Jesus said it would be, a “little flock,” persecuted, despised by the world. But it does have dedicated, consecrated, converted, fully instructed and trained, ordained MINISTERS in all parts of the world—available to call on you, visit you in your home, answer your questions, explain the Bible to you—*IF YOU REQUEST IT!* But none of them will EVER call on you, unless YOU of your own free will request it! Paul had visited the elders (ministers) at Ephesus from house to house—BUT, regarding the general public, Jesus said, “GO NOT from house to house” (Luke 10:7).

Neither Jesus, nor Peter, nor Paul, nor any of the original true apostles ever approached people and personally URGED conversion on them. God has made every human a FREE MORAL AGENT. God forces each to MAKE HIS OWN DECISION, and the true GOD will never force you to be converted.

But if you, of your own volition, want to know MORE about the *very* Church that Jesus Christ founded, and heads today—if you'd like to ask questions about it, why not write to the editor and request a personal visit? We might not be able to have one of God's own ministers call on you immediately—but if you'll make the request and be patient, I'm sure that before too long we can get one of these men GOD has called and trained, to visit you. And let me suggest that you JOT DOWN on paper the QUESTIONS you are going to want to ask. I've learned, personally, by more than 45 years' experience, that you'll forget them unless you do.

Hundreds and hundreds—yes, thousands upon thousands—are being *converted*—their lives CHANGED—by this WORK OF GOD, through *The World Tomorrow* broadcast worldwide; through *The Plain Truth*, the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course and other vital free literature we send upon request. Some, not realizing one of God's own called and consecrated ministers could call and explain and answer questions, have JOINED one of the churches of this world. You cannot JOIN the true Church of God—the Almighty GOD *puts you in*.

But if you have questions about fellowship, doctrines or practice—or ANY questions about the Church or the Bible or the Christian LIFE, write me. I cannot call and visit with you personally any more (as I used to do and wish I still could), but God has now given me many truly called and chosen men who CAN. DON'T go to the churches of this world, or join any, UNTIL you hear the full truth and weigh carefully the FACTS, according to your own BIBLE. *Then* make your decision and take what steps GOD shows you. □

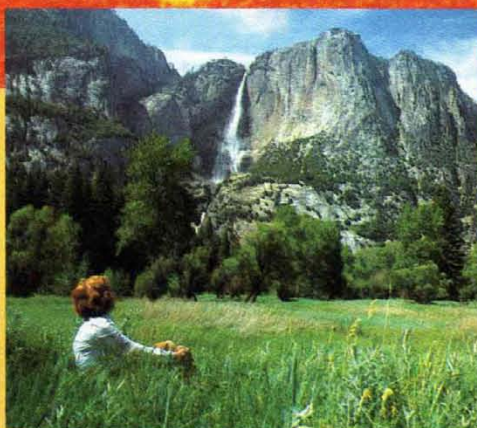
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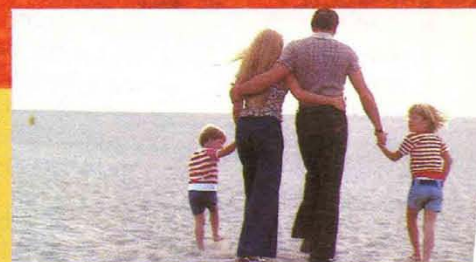
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IRELAND

(Continued from page 24)

politician, to promoting the interests of the great Protestant landlords" (page 202, *Dublin from Downing Street*).

Political and religious bigotry became mingled together, remaining so to this day. Although there have been economic and political aspects, the Ulster-Irish question has always been colored by religious conflict.

At the Battle of the Boyne in 1690, for example, it was a matter of a Protestant king (William III) being victorious over a Catholic one (James II). That battle is celebrated every year on the 12th of July by Ulster Protestants. To them it is a reminder of when the Protestant cause was victorious in the hour of triumph. But to the Catholics, it is a reminder of defeat. These yearly celebrations further inflame bitterness and hatred.

Why No Peace?

When I traveled through the Republic of Ireland, I saw a beautiful and peaceful country. Although there have been occasional riots in Dublin, the people are living in harmony with each other as a whole. In Galway, I saw young girls walking or cycling on the streets late at night without any fear.

But there is no peace in Northern Ireland. Why? The racial, religious and political differences are contributing factors. But the Bible reveals another, more important, reason.

When God chose ancient Israel to be his nation, he revealed a code of law as a basis for their way of life (Deut. 32:45-47). This special knowledge would make them an exceptionally wise and understanding nation. So much so that other nations would marvel and say, "'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' And what great nation is there, that has statutes and ordinances so righteous as all this law which I set before you this day?" (Deut. 4:6, 8, Revised Standard Version throughout article).

The many blessings ancient

Israel would receive as a result of obeying God's commandments are enumerated in Leviticus 26. Notice one blessing in verse 6, "And I will give peace in the land, and you shall lie down, and none shall make you afraid." If the nation were to go the way of selfishness and jealousy, God said curses would come as a penalty: "Cursed shall you be in the city, and cursed shall you be in the field" (Deut. 28:16).

That is happening in Northern Ireland today. People live in fear. The nation is under a curse for violating a spiritual law God set in motion at creation—to love your neighbor as yourself. Sir Thomas More aptly described the history of Ireland by saying, "The curse of discord has ever been on this land."

There is a cause for every effect. This "curse of discord" is the direct result of violating the spiritual law that regulates human relationships—and governs human conduct. This law shows how to live God's way. It shows how to live at peace with one's neighbor.

The apostle Paul's words describe Ireland's terrorists: "Their mouth is full of curses and bitterness. Their feet are swift to shed blood, in their paths are ruin and misery, and the way of peace they do not know" (Rom. 3:14-17).

The way of peace is revealed by God's law. "Great peace have those who love thy law," David prayed to his God (Ps. 119:165). Not only did he love and respect God's law, as the king with sovereign authority he enforced it in ancient Israel.

To have peace in any nation, there must be a constituted authority to state the law, state the punishment and then see that the law-breakers are punished justly, swiftly and consistently.

When the law is not enforced, crime and violence will increase. The painful result is anarchy and gun law. That has happened in Northern Ireland.

Respect for law and order—so fundamental to the English way of life—has not been a national characteristic of the Irish. That's the observation of Dervla Murphy in her book *A Place Apart*. She said her people are more individualistic

than the English. "It is not in our nature to obey any Authority simply because it is there" (page 19).

Irish history is filled with accounts of rebellion against the constituted authority of the day whether it was exercised by the Danish, English or Scottish lords. One man summed up the situation in a nutshell when he said: "Under our system, you can govern people only to the extent that they wish to be governed. And by now, big numbers in the North, on both sides, do not wish to be governed."

Rebellion Against Authority

Such an attitude was illustrated last November by the actions of Ian Paisley, a member of Parliament for Belfast and a Protestant minister. After Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed in the House of Commons the plan for organizing an Anglo-Irish council to include the prime minister of the Republic in Southern Ireland, Garret Fitzgerald, Mr. Paisley called her a liar and a traitor. He then stated he would embark on a program to make Northern Ireland "ungovernable."

The Bible commands both sides: "Strive for peace with all men" and "be at peace among yourselves" (Heb. 12:14 and I Thess. 5:13). Bombing a million Protestants into a United Ireland is not the way to peace. Neither is organizing Protestant murder-gangs to fight against Catholic murder-gangs. That's the way to sectarian civil war.

Reunification is not a magic cure-all for the Irish problem. The problem is how to share an island in conditions of peace and reasonable fairness. How can people of different ethnic origins, religions and political views live together with toleration toward one another?

Cooperation—rather than divisive antagonistic action—leads to social quietness. If reunification is out of the question, the North and South can at least develop the habit of working together on matters of common interest. Such matters as trade, security and the common use of energy resources. But are politicians willing to work together in these areas?

Both Catholics and Protestants

agree that a military solution won't work. A political solution has yet to be found that will satisfy everyone. Then what about a religious solution? Since there is a religious conflict, the only possible way to an enduring peace must involve religion. Are both parties willing to look in the Bible for a religious solution to their own attitudes and their mutual problems?

Prince of Peace

The Founder of true Christianity came to "guide our feet into the way of peace" (Luke 1:79). What then did he, as the "Prince of Peace," say about the way that brings peace?

In his "sermon on the Mount" Jesus said, "Blessed are the *peacemakers*, for they shall be called sons of God" (Matt. 5:9). A real Christian will make every effort to bring about peace in his family and community. He will not shelter or finance any illegal paramilitary organization. Neither will he support and follow leaders who stir up strife, bitterness and hatred.

Authoress Dervla Murphy observed that it is wrong to assume that only a tiny minority of Northern Irish are responsible for the troubles there. "No society could get itself into such a mess with a majority of its population not being involved—not through their deeds but through words and attitudes that create an atmosphere conducive to hatred, suspicion and revenge" (page 185, *A Place Apart*).

When Catholics and Protestants battle it out with stones, fire bombs, fists and even guns, can they do it "in Jesus' name"? A proverb for the wise says, "It is an honor for a man to keep aloof from strife; but every fool will be quarreling" (Prov. 20:3).

A true Christian will heed the words of Christ, "... every one who is *angry* with his brother shall be liable to judgment; whoever *insults* his brother shall be liable to the council..." (Matt. 5:22). Even if others are enemies who kill and bomb, hatred cannot be in the heart of one who obeys Christ's words.

He also said, "Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. 5:44). True love

is out-going concern shown to others. It is a sharing, helping and giving type of attitude. Where are the true Christians in Ireland who have this kind of love?

True Christianity is a way of life based on love, helpfulness, toleration and respect for other people and their property. Too many Irish are involved in a way of life that includes prejudice, hatred, discrimination, resentment



IAN PAISLEY, fiery Protestant minister and member of Parliament for Belfast, is a key political figure in war-torn Northern Ireland.

and in some cases, outright killing and murder.

Where Violence Begins

It has been truly said, "Ireland has too much religion and not enough Christianity." There is too much hatred and not enough love in Northern Ireland. Young children can often be seen with faces contorted by angry rage as they shout vile curses at British soldiers or those who have a different religion.

Sectarian hatred and prejudice are learned at home and nourished in the community. The attitudes of parents are passed on to their children. Irrational violence can also be traced to the home where children too often are conditioned

to brutality. What do we see in the home?

"Anybody... can testify to the absence of love in the average home; there is little physical affection, especially in large families. Arguments are seldom talked through to a resolution. More often than not disputes are resolved by beatings. Violence reaches a criminal level in hundreds, perhaps thousands of cases" (page 216, *The Irish* by Thomas J. O'Hanlon).

To solve the Irish problem will require changes in child training, the school system and religious instruction. Right education in all these areas is imperative before any peaceful solution can be implemented.

Most important of all, what's needed is a change in the human heart. James Callaghan, acting as attorney general to Ireland when still the former Home Secretary, said in the House of Commons, "It is the border in the hearts and minds of people in Northern Ireland to which we must address ourselves."

Peace Will Come

Although no peaceful solution appears to be on the horizon—because the way to peace is not practiced—there will come a peaceful world of tomorrow, the time when Christ's government will be enforced and *bring* peace. You can read about it in our free book *The Wonderful World Tomorrow—What It Will Be Like*.

The Irish dream of the day when ancient and horrible hatreds will be forgotten. They dream of the time when their country can live in unity and peace—living secure lives in happiness. The prophet Isaiah said that dream will come true when Christ is king:

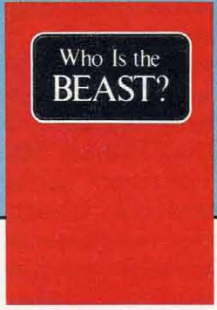
"Behold, a king will reign in... justice. Then justice will dwell in the wilderness and righteousness abide in the fruitful field. And the effect of righteousness *will be peace*, and the result of righteousness, quietness and trust forever. My people will abide in a peaceful habitation, in secure dwellings, and in quiet resting places" (Isa. 32:1, 16-18).

That truly will be the day "when Irish eyes are smiling." □



WHO IS THE "BEAST"?

Is the seven-headed "beast" of Revelation a mysterious, super world dictator yet to appear? Is he the Antichrist? Or a government? Or a church? The plagues of God's wrath, we are told, will be poured out, full strength, upon a God-defying world that follows this mysterious "beast," and upon a careless, indifferent Christianity! Our free booklet *Who Is the Beast?* unveils the biblical prophecies concerning the "beast" and the course of end-time events about to unfold. Send for your copy now! Just use the request card in this issue, or write to the *Plain Truth* office nearest you.



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