

The Good News of
**TOMORROW'S
WORLD**

Jan. 1970



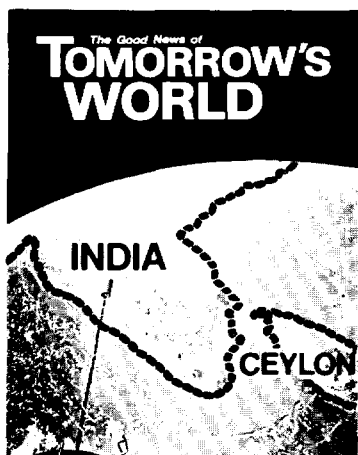
Thy Kingdom Come . . .

Contents

Personal from the Editor	3
What Is the True Gospel?	5
Holidays — Headaches and Hangovers — Why?	8
What Is a Real Christian?	12
Thy Kingdom Come!	15
The Story of Man	21
Theology in Chaos	27
Letters to the Editor	35

More About Our Cover:

INDIA — so serene from space! But tragically, as we draw closer, the filth, confusion and ultimate human misery become progressively more apparent. India today is an open sore of festering humanity — a sad example shared by all too many of the world's billions! Yet God created the Indian subcontinent to be a virtual paradise for the Indian people, as beautiful on close inspection as it is breathtaking from space. Thankfully India — and the whole world — will be soon restored to the beauty its Creator intended — in TOMORROW'S WORLD. That's why we pray, "Thy Kingdom Come" Read the electrifying story beginning on page 15.



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Personal from the Editor

A WOMAN IN LONDON, England, a radio listener and PLAIN TRUTH subscriber, writes, “We do not agree with a lot of your teaching.” Now there’s nothing unusual about that.

I would estimate that about 99.99 percent of you who read this column did not agree with a lot of our teaching when you first heard *The WORLD TOMORROW* program, or first began reading *The PLAIN TRUTH* or *TOMORROW’S WORLD*. THAT’S the *very reason* you should listen, and read! If we tell you only what you already know and believe, we’ve wasted your time — we have failed to give what will profit YOU!

No two people believe alike in all things. Nobody agrees with EVERYBODY else. Our purpose is to inform, to challenge, to stimulate THINKING, checking and PROVING what you believe. We always say, do not believe what we — or anyone else — say BECAUSE we say it. But listen without prejudice, check, verify, PROVE — and then believe what you find PROVED true. If you do, we think you’ll come to believe what you read here.

But this lady wrote more.

“At the end of your second letter,” she continued, “I noticed you said the Gospel message is an educational message. If this is so, it is not for us and for millions and millions of other people. And this statement is not Biblical. . . . The Bible was not written to inform man’s mind, but to change man’s heart.”

WHAT’S THAT? This statement of mine is not Biblical? The Bible was not written to inform the MIND?!!!

It is VERY IMPORTANT that our readers UNDERSTAND whether the Bible was written to inform the MIND! And whether the only TRUE Gospel is an educational message. Entirely too many have been DECEIVED into the false idea that the GOSPEL is an irrational, sentimental, ethereal superstition. THAT IS THE REASON, more than any other, that modern education, and educated people today, have utterly REJECTED the Bible, the true Gospel, and belief in GOD!

And my statement is NOT BIBLICAL? I will now show you — if your mind is open — precisely how COMPLETELY Biblical it is!

This lady in London put her finger on the very CRUX of *all this* world’s tragedies, its sorrows, pains and sufferings, its heartaches, its poverty, illiteracy, filth and squalor, its crime, broken marriages, violence and wars!

The CAUSE of all unhappiness and wretchedness is WRONG education, and LACK of the knowledge that can be received *only* from the revelation of the Creator — in His Word.

And WHY?

Simply because the world has thrown away the BASIC TEXTBOOK of true education — the Holy Bible! The world has gotten all mixed up. The world, like this lady in London, has not realized just WHAT the Bible IS! The Bible IS the FOUNDATION of ALL KNOWLEDGE — and the true APPROACH to the acquisition of all discoverable knowledge. It is our Maker’s INSTRUCTION BOOK of needed knowledge acquirable from no other source.

What is the very TRUNK of the tree of knowledge?

It is the PURPOSE for the very existence of human life here upon the earth! It is to know the MEANING of life. It is to discern the TRUE values from the false. It is to know THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, and eternal life; THE WAY to what fundamentalists call “salvation.” To know just what IS “salvation.” Is it a PLACE — a geographical location; is it a changed *condition*? Is it a change of *composition* — or WHAT? And HOW do we obtain it? Is that KNOWLEDGE important? Does the Bible teach it?

Is it rational? Does it make sense?

Nowhere but in the Bible can one obtain THIS BASIC NECESSARY KNOWLEDGE! Of course, there seems to be an almost endless amount of knowledge that MAN can learn, discover, or acquire by himself. God

gave man eyes that see, ears that hear, hands that feel. God gave man a MIND that can reason, feet to carry him about, hands that can design and make instruments. He can make telescopes and microscopes. He can build and equip laboratories, conduct experiments. He can travel and explore.

But he cannot discover, by himself, WHAT he himself IS, or WHY he is. Did he just *happen*, without intelligent design, by a purposeless process called "evolution"? Or was he CREATED, and put here FOR A PURPOSE? And *what* is that purpose?

True education must teach us the art of peaceful, happy, successful living. Yet our schools DO NOT teach our oncoming generations HOW to live happily! None of the rulers, the scientists, the educators knows THE WAY TO PEACE — whether in the home, between neighbors, or between NATIONS! True education must teach how to become physically, mentally, emotionally, and spiritually MATURE. Yet NO school, college or university on earth — save Ambassador College — so far as I know offers young people this FULL and COMPLETE and BALANCED education.

But the letter from this lady in London says "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind," and it is "not Biblical" to say that the Gospel is an EDUCATIONAL message!

THAT false supposition is a MAJOR CAUSE of all the world's unhappy ills!

WHY? How could that be?

Simply because that has been the common conception — since the so-called "old-fashioned gospel" of the evangelical fundamentalist Protestant denominations was first introduced as the "new-fangled" religion some 250 to 350 years ago.

This so-called "old-fashioned gospel" is NOT the true Gospel brought to mankind by Jesus Christ! It is NOT "the faith once delivered to the saints." Yet millions have SUPPOSED it is! They have SUPPOSED that the "Gospel" is a sentimental, nebulous, ethereal sort of EMOTION, irrational and UNrelated to the MIND.

They SUPPOSE that THIS false "gospel" came out of the Bible! Therefore they ASSUME that the Bible is an impractical book of maudlin sentimentality, utterly unrelated to rational KNOWLEDGE. Thus the Bible has come to be regarded as outmoded superstition — a book of fables — or, in the Old Testament,

the writings of an ancient race of Jews ignorantly searching for a national concept of a god.

SO THINKERS, *without* thinking, and *without* checking to SEE what the Bible is, or what it says, have relegated it to the scrap heap of outworn superstition. The "EDUCATED" have thrown it out the window, without searching to PROVE their biased assumption.

And, the followers of evangelic Protestantism — many of them, at least — have SUPPOSED that "the Bible was not written to inform man's mind, but to change man's heart." They have accepted a sanctimonious sentimentalism, in which they get to "feel" that they are spiritual, and that they are "saved," largely shutting up their minds against the rational teaching of the Bible.

A very "religious" woman of this category once exclaimed, in surprised amazement, "Why, you surely don't read the Bible to try to UNDERSTAND it, do you?"

"Why, *of course!*" I replied emphatically. "Don't you ever read the Bible?"

"Oh yes! I read it every day," she said in a sanctimonious tone.

"Well then, do you mean you read it, but you don't let it SPEAK to you — you don't get any meaning from what you read?"

"But we're not *supposed* to understand the Bible," she persisted. Like the lady in London, she thought it was not written to inform man's MIND.

"Then WHY do you read it," I asked.

"Why, just for INSPIRATION," she replied.

Entirely too many people are DECEIVED by this false idea. NO WONDER the men of Science, and the Educators of this world have ASSUMED that the Bible contains nothing RATIONAL — but only senseless, sentimental superstition, entirely irrational!

Well, *let's read a few words of it! It won't poison your mind!*

To the Gentile-born Thessalonians, Paul wrote: "But I would not have you to be IGNORANT, brethren, concerning them which are asleep . . ." (I Thes. 4:13). Was *this* written to inform man's MIND — prevent IGNORANCE? But of course MOST people today, *because* they embrace a sanctimonious superstition INSTEAD OF the MESSAGE OF THE BIBLE, do not understand this!

The woman in London says, "The Bible was not
(Continued on page 33)

What is the

TRUE GOSPEL?

What is the true Gospel that Jesus preached? Did Paul preach a different gospel to the Gentiles? Here, at last, is made plain the truth about the Kingdom of God.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY SHOULD there be such perplexity — such *confusion* — in every phase of life today? It should be the function of religion to point the way. Yet here, too, we find only confusion of tongues — hundreds of religious denominations and sects, in a Babylon of disagreement.

Even in the professing Christian religion of the Western World, we find different sects and denominations preaching a variety of different GOSPELS! Some designate their gospel as “The Gospel of Jesus Christ.” Others call *their* gospel “The Gospel of Salvation.” Still others profess “The Gospel of Grace,” some “The Gospel of the Kingdom.” And many now blossom out with a modern “Social Gospel,” while some call their gospel “The ISRAEL Message.”

WHY HAVE THEY LOST THE ONLY TRUE GOSPEL WHICH GOD SENT BY JESUS CHRIST? WHY?

How Many Gospels Are There?

Does it make any difference which Gospel we believe? Listen to the answer of the Eternal God as inspired in Paul's letter to the Galatians — the first chapter, the 8th and 9th verses:

“But though we, or an angel from heaven, preach any *other* gospel unto you than that which we have preached

unto you, *let him be accursed.*” And it is made a *double* curse! For the next verse says: “. . . So say I now *again*, if any man preach *any other* gospel unto you than that ye have received, *let him be accursed!*”

WHY, then, has the world lost sight of *that* Gospel? WHY do people believe *different* gospels today?

This is an astounding, incredible situation! It ought to shake you out of passive indifference. YOUR eternity is at stake! This is not a nonconsequential, unimportant matter!

Jesus Christ said it is necessary to BELIEVE THE GOSPEL to be saved! Yet the *many* — the hundreds of millions — today, do not know what *that Gospel is!* Again, His parting commission to His apostles, being sent out as His ministers to build His Church, was this: “Go ye into all the world, and preach *the Gospel.*” They were to preach THE GOSPEL.

Jesus then said: “He that BELIEVETH and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned” (Mark 16:16). Notice! Jesus said, “He that BELIEVETH.” Believeth *what?* Why, BELIEVETH that which they PREACHED, of course — THE GOSPEL! Not a gospel. Not *any* gospel. THE Gospel! *On the authority of Jesus Christ*, it is necessary to believe THAT PRECISE IDENTICAL GOSPEL in order to be saved! And to BE-

LIEVE the true Gospel, we must first come to KNOW what it is!

Now with whom, and from where, and to whom, did the true Gospel originate? With Christ? No, not with Christ!

The Message Sent from Heaven

God the Father had promised to send a messenger into this world from heaven, bearing a message from HIM — God the FATHER! God had promised that in Malachi 3:1, “Behold I will send my messenger, and he shall prepare the way before me [and *that* messenger, as explained in Mark 1:2, was John the Baptist, preparing the way before Jesus Christ] and the LORD, whom ye seek, shall suddenly come to His temple, EVEN THE MESSENGER OF THE COVENANT, whom ye delight in.”

The very first sermon by which God had the Gospel preached to Gentiles, when Peter was sent to the house of the Gentile Cornelius, recorded in the 10th chapter of the Book of Acts, gives us very explicit directions for locating the one and only TRUE GOSPEL. *Open your own Bible!* I want you to *read* this with your own eyes! This is what the inspired Peter said, as recorded in Acts 10:36-37: “The word which GOD *sent* unto the children of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ: (he is Lord of all:) That word, I say, ye know, which

was published throughout all Judaea, and began from Galilee, after the baptism which John preached."

Which Gospel Did Jesus Preach?

Notice carefully these points: 1) With whom did this Message — this Gospel — originate? Peter said: "The word which GOD sent." 2) TO WHOM did God send it? Peter said: "unto the children of Israel." Although now, ten years later, this same Gospel was being opened up to Gentiles of ALL nations, originally it was sent to the CHILDREN OF ISRAEL, and it was sent by GOD THE FATHER. It did not originate with Jesus Christ, nor with Peter, nor with the Apostle Paul. It *was sent* by GOD the Father of Jesus Christ! 3) BY WHOM was it sent? Who was the divine Messenger who brought and preached the message? Peter said: "by Jesus Christ." Jesus Christ was the divine MESSENGER. Malachi called Him the Messenger of the COVENANT. That message, then, is the NEW Covenant Message; for Moses was the mediator of the Old Covenant, and Jesus Christ of the NEW, as affirmed by many scriptures. This message, then, is the NEW TESTAMENT GOSPEL. Now, 4) WHERE was it first preached? To what geographical location shall we look for its beginning? Peter said: It "began from Galilee." Yes, GALILEE, then, is the place where it was first preached. Not Jerusalem! Galilee!

When did Jesus begin to preach this particular Gospel in Galilee? Peter said: "after the baptism which John preached." The true GOSPEL of the NEW Covenant, then, did not begin with John the Baptist. It began *after* John had completed his baptismal ministry.

Now these very *definite* directions lead us directly to the first chapter of Mark. The first verse tells us this is the record of the BEGINNING of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Then it relates the baptizing ministry of John, preaching, NOT the Gospel, but "the baptism of repentance," which prepares the way for the GOSPEL which the living God sent by Jesus Christ.

And then we come to verses 14 and 15: "Now *after* that John was put in prison" — there is the exact TIME for the beginning of the preaching of the TRUE GOSPEL — "JESUS" — there is

the divine Messenger BY whom God sent it — "came into GALILEE" — the precise geographical location. So we now have the TIME, the Israelites residing there TO WHOM God sent the Message, the PLACE, and the MESSENGER — so whatever we find Jesus preaching here IS THE ONE AND ONLY TRUE GOSPEL.

And what do we read? "Jesus came into Galilee 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."

Notice, Jesus said, "Believe *THE GOSPEL*."

WHAT Gospel? The one He was proclaiming — "the Gospel of the Kingdom of God."

But, one may ask, don't we need to believe on Jesus? Of course. Other scriptures teach that. But at *this* particular time Jesus said we must believe *Him* — believe what He said — believe the Gospel of the Kingdom of God!

Some believed *on* Jesus, but did not believe *Jesus* — did not believe *what He said* (John 7:31; 8:30, 31, 46).

What About the Gospel of Jesus Christ?

But if the one and only TRUE Gospel is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, what about the Gospel of Jesus Christ? Is that a false gospel?

Not at all. The Gospel of Jesus God's Messenger — the Gospel He proclaimed is the Gospel He brought as claimed is the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

The Gospel of Jesus Christ is NOT man's gospel ABOUT the PERSON of Christ. It is CHRIST'S Gospel — the Gospel Jesus PREACHED — the Gospel GOD SENT by Him, and therefore it is also called, in Scripture, the Gospel of God. The Gospel of God is God's Gospel — His Message — His Good News which He sent by Jesus.

Also the Gospel of Jesus Christ is Christ's Gospel — the Gospel Christ brought from God — the Gospel He proclaimed.

We hear a great deal today of the gospel of MEN about the PERSON of Jesus Christ — confining the message

solely to the things ABOUT Jesus. As a result, *millions* believe *on* Christ, *who do not BELIEVE CHRIST!* But Jesus' Gospel IS HIS MESSAGE!

And yet it was not only His, but His FATHER'S who sent Him, as He Himself said. In John 12:49-50, Jesus said: "I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which *sent me*, HE gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak. And I know that HIS commandment is life everlasting; whatsoever I speak therefore, even as the Father said unto me, *so* I speak."

Yes, the Father SENT Jesus bearing a Message, which is the Good News of THE KINGDOM OF GOD. Jesus is God's Spokesman — the WORD that was made flesh and lived, and taught, on this earth! In John 14:24 Jesus said, "The word which ye hear is NOT MINE, *but the Father's which sent me*."

And descriptive of the religion of the Old Testament, and the GOSPEL of the NEW, it is written in Luke 16:16, "The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN: *since* that time the KINGDOM OF GOD is preached."

What Is the Kingdom of God?

And yet there are some in *this* modern day of religious confusion who believe the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD is not for this age — this New Testament time of grace. They reject and therefore do not BELIEVE the true Gospel as Jesus commanded and thereby reject the very conditions to SALVATION, saying the Gospel of the KINGDOM is a gospel for some future age yet to come. But as the Apostle Paul said to the Thessalonians, I would not have you to be IGNORANT of the very Gospel which alone can bring us eternal life!

There was a definite TIME for the beginning of the Gospel — *since* John. The law and the prophets were UNTIL John. *Since* John's special preparatory ministry, THE KINGDOM OF GOD is preached. There was a definite TIME for this true New Testament Gospel to begin. And after John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, saying, "The TIME is fulfilled," and preaching the Gospel.

And so now, WHAT IS that Gospel?

The English word Gospel comes

from the word "Godspell," and means GOOD NEWS. Daily, we read the NEWS of world happenings — mostly BAD news! We live in a troubled, chaotic world. And the very BEST news you can hear in this day, or any other, is the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD.

But what *is* a KINGDOM? Primarily, it is a GOVERNMENT — a NATION and the GOVERNMENT which rules it. And especially in this Biblical sense, there is the DUAL sense of the NATION, including all its subjects or citizens, and the GOVERNMENT by which it is ruled. Again — in BIBLE usage, a Kingdom is often a family from a single parent grown into a NATION.

Four things are necessary to constitute a KINGDOM: 1) The TERRITORY, with its specific location and definite boundary lines, with 2) a KING or Supreme Ruler or governing agent, ruling over 3) SUBJECTS or citizens *within* that territorial jurisdiction, with 4) LAWS and a form of GOVERNMENT. If we leave out any one of these vital requisites, we do not have, and cannot BELIEVE, the true GOSPEL for this time. We must know whether the Kingdom of God is here NOW, or coming later; whether its territory is THE EARTH, or up in heaven; whether it is a literal kingdom of human mortals, or a kingdom of immortals; whether it is literal or figurative, real or unreal. And on many of these things, a great many people are ALL MIXED UP!

But now what about the Gospel of GRACE — the Gospel of SALVATION?

Born Into the Kingdom

Notice, when Nicodemus came to Jesus secretly, as recorded in John the 3rd chapter, Jesus said to him: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the KINGDOM OF GOD." Jesus was proclaiming the KINGDOM OF GOD — explaining a most important phase of it. As Paul wrote to the Church at Corinth in I Corinthians 15, flesh and blood — that is, a mortal human — cannot enter IN to the Kingdom of God. The Church, then, cannot be the Kingdom of God, for it is composed of flesh-and-blood mortals. It is *not*, either, an ethereal something "set up in the hearts of men."

Jesus went on to show Nicodemus that we who are born of the flesh ARE flesh — just mortal flesh and blood. We were BORN that way — HUMAN — MORTAL. But it is possible for us to be BORN AGAIN — next time, *not* as a mortal flesh-and-blood baby, but born of the SPIRIT. Then we shall *be* spirit — composed of spirit!

Now in the 4th chapter of John we read that GOD is a SPIRIT. The Kingdom of GOD is composed of those BORN of GOD. And as I have explained previously, GOD is not a single person, but the Hebrew word for God, *Elohim*, portrays God as a FAMILY of persons — a *single* family, or *kingdom*, but composed of MORE than one person.

We have the mineral *kingdom* — the plant *kingdom* — the animal *kingdom*. The Bible reveals an angel *kingdom*, created by God and composed of spirit, not matter. And then, high above all is the very CREATING Kingdom — the GOD Kingdom, or, in other words, THE KINGDOM OF GOD! God is REPRODUCING HIMSELF! God created man in GOD'S IMAGE, so that man may become impregnated, BEGOTTEN, and, by a resurrection, be BORN as an immortal, SPIRIT-COMPOSED person in the KINGDOM OF GOD.

The Apostle Paul made very plain to the Corinthians that while mortal flesh and blood cannot inherit, or enter into, the Kingdom of God, that through the resurrection of those BEGOTTEN BY THE HOLY SPIRIT OF GOD during this mortal life, this MORTAL then *puts on* IMMORTALITY, and we, like the very God Himself, become IMMORTAL, INCORRUPTIBLE, actually, literally, BORN of God's Spirit INTO the very GOD FAMILY.

Conditions of Entering

Now, HOW may we enter into that glorious KINGDOM? Jesus came preaching the Gospel of the Kingdom of God, and saying, "REPENT," and "BELIEVE THE GOSPEL."

Just TWO things *we* do — REPENT, and BELIEVE. We must BELIEVE the Gospel, and that means also believing on JESUS CHRIST, the KING of the Kingdom of God, and coming KING of kings over all the families of the earth.

It means believing in Him as personal SAVIOUR, as High Priest now, and as coming KING.

But to repent is to completely CHANGE THE MIND in respect to SIN, and "sin is the transgression of the LAW" (I John 3:4) — the Law of GOD by which God RULES the Kingdom.

It means a total, complete CHANGE OF MIND AND OF LIFE. It means we REPENT of transgressing the rule, the will, the laws, of GOD. What did Jesus say to the young man who asked Him HOW to inherit eternal life? He said, "IF thou wilt enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Matt. 19:17).

He went on to show that He referred to the TEN COMMANDMENTS, God's great SPIRITUAL LAW, summing up, in principle, the WHOLE duty of righteous living. It is a WAY OF LIFE, and a way *contrary* to human nature, and to the ways and customs of this world! It is the basic spiritual Law, and way of life, of the KINGDOM OF GOD — the WAY to peace of mind, to world peace, to happiness, prosperity and JOY — the WAY to eternal life.

Kingdom of God to Be Preached TODAY

Yes, JESUS proclaimed and taught the GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD. But did He command His ministers, in BUILDING HIS CHURCH, to preach this same Gospel? Quickly let us notice the Scriptures.

Luke 9:1-2: "Then He called His twelve disciples together... and He sent them to PREACH THE KINGDOM OF GOD."

Luke 10:1, 2, 9: "After these things, the Lord appointed other seventy also, and sent them two and two before His face into every city and place whither He himself would come. Therefore said He unto them... heal the sick that are therein, and say unto them, The KINGDOM OF GOD is come nigh unto you."

In Jesus' prayer, so commonly called "The Lord's Prayer," He prayed, "THY KINGDOM COME" — then it wasn't here yet, and it isn't here yet, today — but He taught us to pray for it to COME, for His KINGDOM and that ALONE shall
(Continued on Inside Back Cover)

HOLIDAYS

headaches and hangovers



More people are unhappy, miserable, depressed, discouraged, deep in debt, and violent during the holiday season than at any other time of the year. There is precious little peace on earth or goodwill among men. There doesn't seem to be much of Christ in the commercialized "Christmas" that began last September in the stores! Just how Christian are these holidays anyway? Where did we get all these customs? What does the Bible have to say about them?

by Eugene M. Walter

"MERRY CHRISTMAS, Happy New Year!" millions wished one another as the holiday season swung into high gear.

But what was *behind* the forced outward cheerfulness of these greetings? *Behind* the veneer of glittering lights, tinsel trees, sweet music, gaily wrapped gifts and all the other holiday paraphernalia?

Tension, frustration and disgust. Depression, violence and lawlessness. In short, the greatest mountain of misery, unhappiness and woe of the entire year!

The REAL Christmas Spirit

The *real* Christmas spirit is anything but one of "peace on earth, goodwill to men."

Policemen who draw Christmas duty see what the real Christmas spirit is like. One policeman said, "I have been an officer for over 19 years. We get more calls from neighbors to go out and settle family fights on Christmas Eve than on any other night of the year, including

New Year's. You walk into a house which is gaily decorated, the tree is aglow, beautifully wrapped gifts are under the tree and the husband and wife are throwing things at each other. The kids are crouched in the corners scared out of their wits."

At Christmas, the number of murders reaches its annual year-long peak. As the relatives gather, old irritations often flare up into outbursts of rage and violence.

"There certainly are more depressions, suicidal gestures and cries for help at Christmas than at any other time," says psychiatrist Edward T. Auer of the St. Louis University Medical School. Suicide Prevention Centers across the nation report that they have more calls in the week before Christmas than at any other time of the year.

Auto deaths also reach their annual peak on Christmas day — often because the drivers have imbibed too heavily in another kind of Christmas "spirit."

As a result of holiday revelry with such customs as "kissing under the mistletoe," private lie detector operators report that the week following Christmas is the busiest one of the year for them. Husbands are suspicious of their wives and wives of their husbands, and many want their mates to take the lie test to find out the truth about their total Yule activities.

At Christmas time personal debts skyrocket. Many stretch their credit to the limit and buy goods way beyond their means. Millions of other spend hard-earned money for junk merchandise and toys which are broken by New Year's. And to add insult to injury — the very gifts they'll be paying for on 18% revolving charge accounts for half the year to come — the gifts that weren't appreciated, and may have started a violent family argument — those gifts are on sale at one third to one half off come December 26!

The spirit of Christmas is also graphically illustrated by the fact that more shoplifting occurs during December than in any other month of the year. U. S. merchants lose more than 500 million dollars to shoplifters during the holiday season. It is estimated that 90 percent of these thefts are committed by "ordinary" people, as opposed to professionals. And 90 percent of these "ordinary" shoplifters are women!

"Christmas Neurosis"

People are so prone to emotional distress and violent outburst during the

Holidays Often Are Catast

Installment I

Christmas frequently is an emotional catastrophe. The "merry Christmas" season, just-to-the-world days, happy Chanukah time of the year bring many people to the brink of suicide, divorce and murder. The newspapers are filled with violence and there is an

aware that a dread of December isn't singular and out of key. Timeless and nearly universal. Dismay, to a mild degree is total. Sociologists

-Why?

holiday season that doctors and psychiatrists have been studying this tendency for more than 20 years. They call this malady "Christmas Neurosis" or the "Holiday Syndrome."

In a special study of the "Holiday Syndrome," two physicians and two psychiatric social workers from the University of Utah Medical School listed hives, overeating, crying jags, dishonesty, sexual deviation and just plain orneriness as some of the "Christmas reactions" people develop around Thanksgiving and carry with them until after the first of the year.

People who acted normally during the rest of the year were found to suddenly cash bad checks, join nudist colonies, become cruel to their families and do any number of strange things as the Christmas season approached.

What are the symptoms of "Christmas Neurosis"? Fatigue, anxiety, the desire to escape, regression to childhood, increased irritability, a wish for a magical solution to problems, temporarily casting aside restraint, and feelings of loneliness and insecurity all play a part. But the most common symptoms are "depression and deep anger, though victims may conceal them gallantly under the requisite degree of "ho-ho" heartiness. Reaction against the "pressure of having to be happy" is cited as the reason for this anger and depression.

The holiday season is idealized as the time when warmth, sweetness and joy permeate the air and all problems are

Father Held in Death After Yule Quarrel

A father allegedly killed his ex-wife, wounded his mother when he was told not see the Christmas

Employee Thefts of \$5,000,000 In Holiday Period Forecast

NEW YORK, Dec. 11 (UPI)—Statisticians estimate that retail stores will lose \$5,000,000 in the holiday season. There are others who are in some ideally motivated business thieves.

Sadness Is Most Prevalent At Christmas, Psychiatrists Say

Christmas is called the season to be jolly, but actually it is a time when people are more depressed than at any other time of the year, psychiatrists say.

Yule Syndrome: Tears, Tension Amid the Tinsel

People are feeling tense and a little depressed during the spirit of Christmas. Don't worry, you're perfectly practical every year. A Christmas new of its extreme feelings as the "bah, humbug."

Employees Admit Thefts

Yule Shoplifting to Cost Merchants \$500 Million

CHICAGO (AP)—Shoplifting is mostly obedience to an impulse by others. Many people of whom

PRECAUTIONS RECOMMENDED

Amidst Holiday Goodwill, Police Predict a Record Crime Spree

Ho! Ho! There are many people of whom... Fire officials also warn that naked flames should be shrouded near Christmas trees and storeowners will find "discovered" Greenwell, "that" rushed up

Psychoanalyst Gives Views

Christmas May Be Season To Be Jolly But Many People Just Grow Despondent

NEW YORK (AP)—Tis the season to be jolly, but not everybody is. He queried the professional groups he teaches and observed that many people usually they... "we had thrown off the old and it was going to be a new more and more"

“Peace on Earth”?



Wide World Photo

solved — or at least temporarily suspended.

The problem is that it doesn't work out that way!

People try to make sure that they get their full share of holiday pleasures by greedily indulging themselves in food, drink and sex. But few are able to enjoy to the full all the holiday pleasures they think they have coming to them. So they become resentful, depressed, moody and unpredictable.

Just because everyone is *supposed* to be happy at Christmas, they assume that everyone *is* happy — everyone, that is, except them! This makes them feel deprived and resentful of those whom *they think ARE happy*. Actually, the truth is, just about everyone feels as sour as they do — but most are struggling to hide it so they won't appear to be a “wet blanket” dampening the holiday mood.

People who have experienced a recent divorce, death in the family or a family brawl, or who have a loved one in Vietnam, often feel resentful because the idealized warmth and togetherness of their “perfect” Christmas has been wrecked.

Others feel deprived of holiday joy because of unpleasant memories of the

past. Or because of pleasant memories which can't be relived (hence the tendency of childhood regression). Or because of the nagging fear of holiday debts. Or the dread of having to put up with the in-laws again. Or the fear of not receiving many expensive gifts — *expensive* to prove that you are highly thought of, or *many* gifts to prove that a lot of people like you.

Some react to these pressures, fears and memories by going into a moody huff and becoming nasty. They feel, “If I can't be happy, I'm going to do all I can to make sure *you* aren't happy either.”

What an attitude!

The Incongruities of Christmas

Doesn't it seem paradoxical — and more than a little ironical — that at a time when millions mouth the words “Peace on earth, good will to men” there are more thefts, murders, drunken orgies, family brawls, suicides and violent deaths on the highway and in our homes than at any other time of the year?

Doesn't it seem a little strange that the mails are burdened down with billions of cards bearing the message “Merry

Christmas” — while the very ones sending these cards are decidedly UNmerry, frustrated, emotionally upset, “blue” and swearing that they'll never go through with this again!?

Isn't it a little odd that millions wish their friends a “Happy New Year” — while they are busily striving to make the beginning of their own new year as UNhappy as possible? Unhappy because of a heavy load of holiday debts. Unhappy because the new year will begin by paying the penalty for sins of excess, licentiousness, lust and greed.

Think further.

Isn't it a little hypocritical to teach our children a *fantastic package of lies* while we are supposedly honoring the One who said, “Thou shalt not bear false witness”? (Matt. 19:18.)

And isn't it a little contradictory that guns and other toys of *violence* should consistently be among the best sellers at Christmas — the time idealizing “peace on earth” and supposedly honoring the One who said “Thou shalt do no murder”? (Matt. 19:18.)

Isn't it somewhat *unusual* to spend more than \$200 per family (in the U.S.), with many spending as much as

ten percent of their annual income, to buy more than 30 gifts (on the average) to give to friends, instead of giving to the One whose birth they are supposedly honoring?

Further, Jesus said, "It is more blessed to give than to receive" (Acts 20:35). Yet what could possibly characterize the Christmas spirit more than *getting*?

From the small tots who tell department store Santas what to GET them for Christmas, to adults who push and shove in stores as they claw over the merchandise to GET what they want to buy so their gifts will GET the approbation of others, to merchants who hope to GET riches from the holiday commerce, to the crying jags and "blues" of inward-turned self-pity, to the spiteful attitude of deliberately making others UNhappy because that's the way *you* are — from one end of the spectrum to the other, the entire spirit of Christmas is one of GETTING FOR THE SELF. There are individual exceptions, but they are increasingly rare.

Yes, when you really stop to think about it, the incongruities of Christmas are truly overwhelming! Why *do* some keep such a day anyway? Where does it come from? Is Christmas really a Christian festival after all? What does God say about Christmas? Do you know?

If you haven't already done so, it's high time you took a penetrating X-ray view of Xmas and *dared* to ask a few questions about it.

When WAS Christ Born?

Millions believe that Christmas is the day on which Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem. Yet the encyclopedias and other reliable authorities — including the *Catholic Encyclopedia* — will frankly tell you that Christ was NOT born on this date.

Jesus was not even born in the winter *season*! When the Christ-child was born "there were in the same country shepherds *abiding* in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night" (Luke 2:8). This never could have occurred in Palestine in the month of December. The shepherds always brought their flocks from the mountainsides and fields



Wide World Photo

and corralled them not later than October 15 to protect them from the cold rainy season that followed that date.

It was an ancient custom among Jews of those days to send out their sheep to the fields and deserts about the Passover (early spring), and bring them home at the commencement of the *first rain* in about mid-October, according to the Adam Clarke commentary, vol. 5, page 370. (See notes on Luke 2:8.)

Continuing, this authority states: "As these shepherds had not *yet* brought home their flocks, it is a presumptive argument that October had not yet commenced, and that, consequently, our Lord was NOT born on the *25th of December*, when no flocks were out in the fields; nor could He have been born later than *September*, as the flocks were still in the fields *by night*. On this very ground, the nativity in December should be given up. The feeding of the

flocks by night in the fields is a chronological fact... See the quotations from the *Talmudists* in *Lightfoot*."

Though the exact date of Christ's birth is entirely UNKNOWN, Jesus could not possibly have been born on December 25! Our in-depth article "When Was Christ Born?" does, however, explain this particular subject much more thoroughly than room permits here. Write for your free copy.

Why then *do* some observe December 25th as the date of Christ's birth when He wasn't born anywhere near that day? For the answer to that question we have to go back to the *origin* of Christmas.

How Christmas Began

Did you know that thousands of years *before* Christ — before there ever was a CHRISTIAN — people, just as we do today, went out into the forests and cut down evergreen fir trees? They

(Continued on page 30)

Here, continued from the last issue, is the frank, straightforward answer — from your Bible!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

It's SHOCKING — but it's TRUE! Most professing "Christians" today are not really PRACTICING Christianity! Instead, hundreds of thousands are believing and practicing the same old *pagan* customs which Christ and the apostles vigorously *condemned* — and all the while *calling* it "Christianity"!

Your Bible said this present generation would be almost totally DECEIVED! Christ said, "Take heed that no man *deceive* you. For MANY shall come *in my name* [coming as IF they were the servants of Christ] SAYING, I am Christ, and shall deceive MANY"! (Matt. 24: 4, 5.)

Christ said only a very FEW — the very elect of God, who were being kept *from* the clever deceptions of Satan — would not be deceived. "For there shall arise false Christs, and false prophets, and shall shew great signs and wonders; insomuch that, IF it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect" (Matt. 24:24).

SATAN has deceived the world — and God has warned *repeatedly* through the New Testament that this would be so — in this age, NOW! In Revelation the twelfth chapter, the devil is described as a great dragon "which deceiveth the whole world!" (Verse 9.)

Either this world is *deceived*, or your Bible is not true!

But the Bible is true; and this world is in the grips of a tremendous deception! A deceived person doesn't KNOW he's deceived! He's *sincere*! But he's *sincerely* WRONG!

And so it is that scores, hundreds and thousands of SINCERE, well-meaning people — believing themselves to be in a "saved" condition, believing they are "Christian" — are actually in tacit disagreement with REAL Christianity!

The Sermon on the Mount

No simpler teachings, no clearer meanings can be found in the Bible than in the much-loved and often-quoted teachings of Jesus Christ in the

What is a REAL

"Sermon" on the Mount, found in Matthew's 5th, 6th and 7th chapters. In the last issue, we began with the very *first* of the "beatitudes" and began seeing the MANY direct OPPOSITES in these CLEAR teachings of Jesus from the commonly accepted "brands" of "Christianity" today.

Christ said the meek would inherit the EARTH, not heaven, as is supposed by millions. He pictured Himself as the young nobleman, who went into a far country to get for himself a kingdom and RETURN. He said the saints would rule on EARTH. His feet are to stand on the Mount of Olives — *on this earth*, at His return. Here, then is one of the very BASIC DOCTRINES of the vast majority of all professing "Christians" of today, which Christ refutes by very PLAIN statements, even in the Sermon on the Mount!

But let's continue!

Do You HUNGER for Righteousness?

Jesus said, in the next of the "beatitudes," "Blessed are they which do HUNGER AND THIRST after righteousness, for they shall be filled" (Matt. 5:6). Just what is righteousness? It is to be RIGHT rather than wrong. It is to follow the RIGHT way, rather than the wrong way, which *seems* "right" to a man.

But more than that — what is the Bible definition of "righteousness"?

It's this! "ALL THY COMMANDMENTS ARE RIGHTEOUSNESS!" (Psalm 119: 172.)

The perfect, holy Ten Commandments of God are RIGHTEOUSNESS!

In this same fifth chapter of Matthew, Christ said, "Think NOT that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets:

I am NOT come to destroy, but to fulfill" (verse 17). And yet, haven't you always heard the exact opposite? Haven't you always heard Jesus came to DO AWAY with the LAW?

WHY have you heard this? The Bible doesn't say so; rather, it says the EXACT OPPOSITE! Notice it! "Whosoever therefore shall break one of these *least* commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the *least* in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall DO AND TEACH them, the same shall be called GREAT in the kingdom of heaven" (verse 19).

Christ was talking about the LAW of God — and in the same breath, in the same thought, He explained He was talking about the WAY TO BE RIGHTEOUS! "For I say unto you, that except YOUR RIGHTEOUSNESS [DOING AND TEACHING GOD'S LAWS] shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven" (verse 20).

Christ said, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that *doeth the will* of my Father which is in heaven" (Matt. 7:21).

Jesus inspired Paul to write, "Circumcision is nothing and uncircumcision is nothing, but [on the other hand, that which is important] THE KEEPING OF THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD"! (I Cor. 7:19.) This does *not* say some supposed "new commandment" of Jesus Christ. There is no way around it. There is no "spiritualizing" this plain statement away.

Later, we read in I Corinthians 13 that without God's LOVE we are NOTHING! Unless we have real LOVE in our

CHRISTIAN?

hearts, *we are not Christians!* And it is LOVE that will LEAD US TO KEEP GOD'S TEN COMMANDMENTS — ALL OF THEM! "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor, therefore LOVE is the *fulfilling of the law*"! (Rom. 13:10.)

God inspired John to confirm this fact further, when he wrote, "For THIS IS the love of God [HERE IS THE BIBLE DEFINITION OF LOVE], that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, and His commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

To *hunger and thirst* for righteousness is to *yearn*, to *strive*, to STRUGGLE FERVENTLY TO BE OBEDIENT TO GOD! TO KEEP His laws, which are given in LOVE, for our GOOD.

Those who are truly hungering and thirsting for righteousness will be *studying* constantly for new light, being willing to *change* when they see they've been wrong, *admitting* their wrong beliefs, their mistakes, their sins. "Study to shew thyself approved unto God" (II Tim. 2:15), wrote Paul to Timothy. "Prove ALL THINGS" (I Thes. 5:21), Paul said to the Thessalonians.

Do modern Christians really KNOW their Bibles? Are MOST professing Christians YOU KNOW studying diligently, *searching* the scriptures daily, as the Bereans did (Acts 17:11), *hungering and thirsting* for God's righteousness? Are MOST professing Christians you know *praying, fasting*, getting closer to God *daily* by a constant contact with His word? "Thy word is TRUTH" (John 17:17), said Jesus. But most "modern" Christians DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT HIS WORD SAYS!

You would be *amazed* to realize a vast percentage of professing Christians

can't even name the four Gospels. They don't KNOW the Bible — they aren't *studying* the Bible — because they don't really HUNGER AND THIRST for it!

Do you? If you really *are* "hungering and thirsting" for righteousness, you'll be doing as the ones Jesus described in Matthew's 13th chapter. You'll be like the merchant who *sold all* to gain the one pearl of *great* price. You'll be like the man who found the treasure in the field, and sold everything to buy that one field!

ARE you like that? Most professing Christians today are not. If you *want* to really begin to UNDERSTAND your Bible better, to really see it made *gripping, INTERESTING* — then write for the *Ambassador College Correspondence Course*. It's free of tuition — no charge whatever. You can have it FREE, if you really *hunger* for it!

Yes — here is *another* great opposite!

Instead of hungering and thirsting for God's Word, most professing Christians hunger and thirst for *physical* things, for satisfaction of the physical senses. Instead of understanding the *truth* about God's law — that His perfect law is the *way* to righteousness, most believe His Holy law has been done away. Instead of believing the straightforward statement of Christ that He DID NOT come to destroy the law, most believe the exact opposite, that HE DID come to destroy it!

How utterly DIFFERENT is the real *truth* of your Bible!

"Blessed Are the Merciful . . ."

Surely you know what it means to be *merciful*. But WHEN do you ever really

SHOW MERCY? It's one thing to agree tacitly with Scripture, and another thing to put it into practice!

James said, "But be ye *doers* of the word, and not hearers only, deceiving your own selves" (James 1:22). He also wrote, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all!" (James 2:10.)

God says His mercies endure *forever!* But when do YOU ever have an opportunity to *show mercy*?

It is *merciful* to *give* instead of get! It is merciful to *say nothing at all* about someone, if you can't say something *good* about them. It is merciful to forgive a debt or obligation, rather than take a brother into court over it. It is *merciful* to treat all others as you want them to treat *you!*

Are *most* Christians merciful today? Is it showing MERCY to an enemy to send a bullet plunging into his vitals? Is it showing MERCY to envy, to hate, to kill?

Christ meant what He said! "BLESSED are the merciful, for they shall OBTAIN mercy" (Matt. 5:7). He shows further what He means when He gives an outline for prayer in the "Lord's prayer." "And forgive us our debts AS [AND ONLY AS — IN THE SAME MEASURE AS] we forgive our debtors" (Matt. 6:12).

"Blessed Are the Pure
in Heart . . ."

But there aren't many of those around today! Paul wrote, "Unto the pure *all things* are pure, but unto them that are defiled and unbelieving is nothing pure, but even their mind and

conscience is defiled" (Titus 1:15).

Nowhere, it seems, is there MORE debate, envy, ridicule, argument, deceit, hypocrisy and disagreement than among some who make a profession of religion. More wars have been fought in the name of RELIGION than for any other reason. More people have been BUTCHERED, *hanged, burned, wantonly slaughtered* in the name of religion than for any other reason.

Jeremiah reveals that "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked, who can know it?" (Jer. 17:9.) An individual with the natural, physical, *carnal* mind has a *defiled* mind. He sees EVIL motives rather than good ones, he sees *wrong* implications behind every action, he sees *suggestive* or *shabby* meanings behind others' words. Paul said, "Because the carnal mind is *enmity* against God, for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be" (Rom. 8:7). The carnal mind is a resentful, *defiant* mind — a mind which is *hostile* to God and His perfect laws, and a mind with a defiled conscience!

It's about time we began to WAKE UP and quit "kidding" ourselves we're converted when many who sincerely BELIEVE they're "Christians" have never even BEGUN on the road to *real Christianity!* (Write for our free reprint article, "False Conversion — A Mortal Danger!")

Paul wrote, "Charity . . . doth not behave itself unseemly, seeketh not her own, IS NOT EASILY PROVOKED, THINKETH NO EVIL . . ." (I Cor. 13:4-5). Yet it seems there are no more easily provoked people than those in various religious fields. A paradox? Or another *exact opposite* between the plain teachings of your Lord and Saviour and the common practices and habits of most professing "Christians" today?

"Blessed Are the Peacemakers . . ."

Western fans are familiar with the famous six-shooter produced by Colt in the "wild West" days, called the "peacemaker." Presumably, the name was taken from the Bible.

And herein is the philosophy of a "Christian" world. The way to peace, it

believes, is through WAR! If you go to WAR, you will have PEACE!

But THINK for a moment. The world has always known war. The world recently fought "the War to END all wars." But is WAR ENDED? Has man's way been PRACTICAL? Has man's way WORKED? Are ALL WARS over?

Think! Man has irrevocably marched, *step-by-step*, along the route he has chosen to stand on the brink of COSMOCIDE! Man *now* stands, in his superior, "enlightened" state, on the verge of WORLD SUICIDE!

Answer honestly! *Has* man been able to solve his problems through WAR?

Jokingly, some Westerners in the United States began to call a *gun* the "peacemaker." BUT HAVE GUNS BROUGHT PEACE?

Jesus said, "LOVE your enemies, bless them that curse you, DO GOOD to them that hate you, and PRAY for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you!" (Matt. 5:44.)

Do most "Christian" people BELIEVE this scripture? CERTAINLY!

BUT DO THEY PRACTICE IT?

Isn't it about time we quit "kidding" ourselves? YOU KNOW the professing "Christians" of today do not practice these things! When a REAL Christian gives this teaching of Christ as a REASON for His belief that he should not kill, others who are CHURCH MEMBERS will RIDICULE him. It seems RIDICULOUS to most "Christians" today to really FOLLOW the teachings of Christ. And yet, they still appropriate His name!

What Is a Real Christian?

During World War II, German mothers and fathers flocked to their churches and cathedrals to pray for their boys at the front. In England, France, or here in the United States, other parents went to *their* churches to pray for *their* boys at the *same* front.

In many cases the boys at the front, though of different races and speaking different languages, were of the SAME RELIGION! If in the same community — they would have gone to the SAME CHURCH! "Christians" everywhere use the same book. They use, preach from, write about, and read — once in a while — the Bible! And regardless of in which land you find it, or in which lan-

guage, the Bible says the same thing! Jesus said, LOVE your enemies! How many "Christians" BELIEVE THEY SHOULD LOVE THEIR ENEMIES? Let's stop "kidding" ourselves! You don't show LOVE to someone by sending a bullet ripping, tearing, gouging its way through his vitals, leaving him to die retching out his life's blood! You don't show "love" to your enemy by VAPORIZING him!

Yes, Jesus said, "BLESSED are the PEACEMAKERS!" And He DIDN'T mean blessed are those who take up GUNS and then DECEIVE themselves they're making PEACE!

Listen! If GUNS MAKE PEACE — WHERE, YES, *WHERE, OH WHERE ON THE FACE OF THIS EARTH TODAY IS THE PEACE THEY HAVE BROUGHT US?*

Yes — we call ourselves "Christian" but it would EMBARRASS US TO TEARS TO PROFESS OPENLY TO REALLY FOLLOW, TO LIVE BY, THE WORDS OF THE ONE WHOSE NAME WE APPROPRIATE!

Yes, BLESSED are the *real* PEACEMAKERS, for they shall be called the children of God! God is producing CHILDREN! John wrote, "Behold what manner of love the Father hath bestowed upon us, that we should be called the sons of God. Therefore the WORLD [the society, the age, the people around us] knoweth us not, because it knew Him not. Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be, but we know that, when He shall appear [NOT immediately at our death] we shall be LIKE HIM for we shall see Him as He is!" (I John 3:1-2.)

To be BORN of God is to become LIKE God, to become a member of the GOD FAMILY!

Paul wrote, "For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are *not worthy* to be COMPARED with the GLORY which shall be revealed in us" (Rom. 8:18). Jesus is called the FIRST-BORN of MANY BRETHREN! (I Cor. 15:20, 23; Col. 1:15, 18; Rom. 8:29.)

Those who *make peace* are promised inheritance of the very *family of God!*

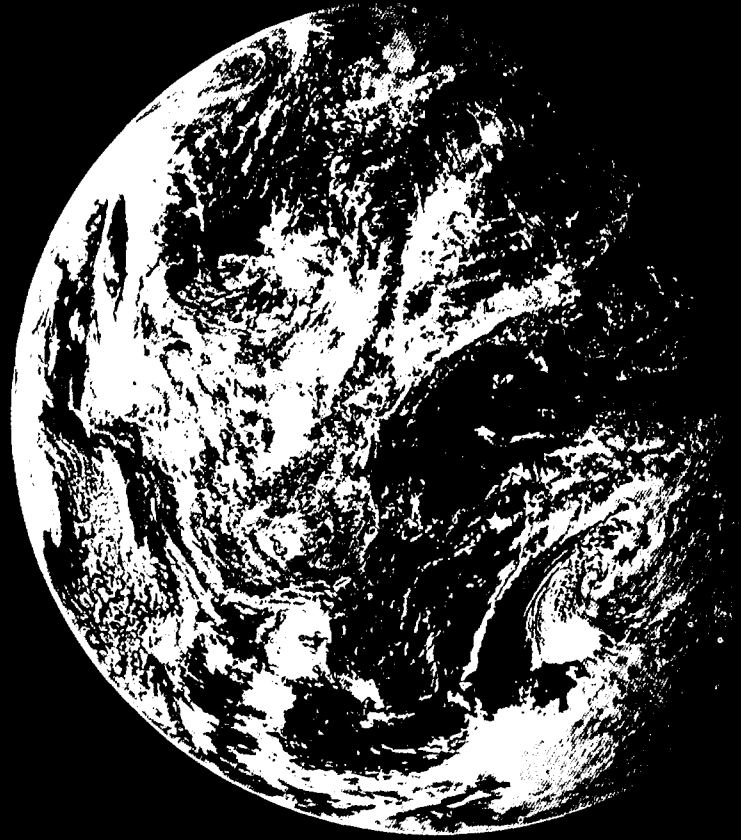
Are YOU Being Persecuted?

Jesus said, "Blessed are they which are *persecuted* FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS"

(Continued on page 34)

Are you able to love the world without having the love OF the world? Are you personally concerned for the multiple hapless millions lost without hope in this God-rejecting age?

by Leslie L. McCullough



THY KINGDOM COME!

NASA Photo

ON-THE-SPOT WORLD TOMORROW radio broadcasts have been beamed to you from India, Israel, Vietnam and Japan. Other eyewitness reports have been compiled for you from dozens of additional nations and published in *The PLAIN TRUTH* magazine. These broadcasts and reports have provided you with the most up-to-date information about world conditions. You have become familiar with the innermost thoughts, wishes, dreams and desires — the everyday problems — of the many peoples who share your world with you.

Survival — Prime Motive

Vastly different modes of life have been revealed to you. You have heard about the lives of average citizens the world over — how they work, live and *die*. Each nation has been different. Each has its own *particular* problems — compounding the already wearisome needs of survival which all peoples have in common. Yet, in spite of nationality or locality, in spite of the fears, disappointments and tragedies so characteristic of “modern” existence, every inhabitant of our troubled planet wails out in a unified chorus of emotion: “I

WANT TO LIVE, I LOVE LIFE — HELP ME.”

These people, sandwiched together on this minute orb, lovingly called “the Good Earth,” usually don’t agree with the politics of the nations around them — and in many cases they don’t agree with the politics of their *own* nation. Their physical circumstances are all too often in desperate need of improvement. Their only wish is for a *better* life. But no matter what the situation, **THEY DOGGEDLY CLING TO THIS LIFE!** It’s all they’ve got.

It’s the same the world over. People



THY KINGDOM COME!

realize that life, as they know it, doesn't have all the answers. But — sorry — politicians offer no alternative.

So most humans vaguely feel that their own personal existence *must* mean more than the confusion, trouble and strife which surrounds and envelops them. They know they need *something more* out of life than they're presently getting. But what? Man simply doesn't know; and tragically, he doesn't even care to find out. He stubbornly refuses to acknowledge what he really needs — **GOD'S KINGDOM HERE ON EARTH!**

This Is Your World

Recently I had the privilege of traveling through several nations of our sin-encrusted world. All were filled with dirt, disease, danger and death. And the cause of it all? **MISEDUCATION.**

India is probably the epitome of human misery. Why? Miseducation is her foremost natural resource. I have seen pictures, read books and talked to people *about* India. All have tried to describe her poverty-stricken masses. But neither pictures nor books nor talk can make you experience the sights, sounds, and smells of India. Depravity and poverty are everywhere. The air is thick with the dank, musty, damp odors which clearly bear the stench of human wastes.

You feel it here. Bony-eyed twigs — they should have been children — sit motionless in cow dung. That gets to you. The children. Not a chance in a million. If they ever get into their teens, it'll be luck — if they ever get out, it'll be a miracle. Babies purposely maimed to be better beggars. This is their one life. Never a decent meal — most dogs eat better. Home is the gutter; rain is their roof. And they'll never know any different. You feel them in the pit of your stomach. You feel guilty getting into a warm, clean bed. You feel rotten

for having eaten dinner. Those helpless children *out there are real!*

Of course I realize that conditions like this are not limited to India. Ghettos and slums are filled with poverty and dirt; whether they be in the United States or in some less blessed nation. But *being in* India, thousands of miles away from home, away from the familiar surroundings and sights, helped me see far greater depth of meaning in Jesus Christ's simple words, "*Thy Kingdom come.*"

In reading the account of how Jesus taught His disciples to pray, we often read His words without thinking at all (see Matt. 6:9-10). There's an enormous message here. There's a desperate urgency conveyed in this passage. Notice that "*Thy Kingdom come,*" following immediately after hallowing *God's* name, is the very *first* request which Christ commanded us to make! Significant? What do *you* think?

Jesus Christ, the Creator of the universe and Saviour of all mankind, **KNEW WHAT HE WAS TALKING ABOUT!** He *knew* what man needed. Who else could know better? Christ had formed man from dust (Gen. 2:7). He wept for man (John 11:35) and He wept for the world (Luke 19:41). But He was going to do more than feel sorry. He was qualifying to *change* the world. He meant it when He told His disciples — **OF ALL AGES — to pray for God's Kingdom to come.**

Jesus Christ knew man couldn't solve his multitudinous problems of living without help. He knew it would take the very Government of God to erase the heartaches of man. So He gave His life to make it all possible. Humanity is finally going to have all its ills cured. And Jesus Christ is going to be in charge.

BUT MAN DOESN'T WANT IT GOD'S WAY! Thank God man's likes and dislikes won't make one whit of difference.

Is There Another Way?

"There is a way that seems right to a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death" (Prov. 16:25). Carnal minds don't believe that scripture. But world

leaders have been echoing strange pronouncements in recent years. They now readily admit that suddenly, in the middle decades of the 20th century, it is now possible to *completely* wipe all life from the face of the earth. Cosmocide — the suicide of mankind — is possible by at least **FIVE DIFFERENT** means!

Mankind is shocked by the specter of imminent, instant disintegration. But a *true* Christian — one who believes *every word* written in the Bible — should not even be surprised. Jesus knew man would come to the place of self-extinction when He foretold just such an eventuality *more than* 1900 years ago. And Jesus *told* His disciples — *just as He is now telling us.* Why? *Because they were His friends* (John 15:15) — and so are *we!*

Your Bible has borne witness to this pivotal prophecy all these centuries: "Pray that you may not have to fly in the winter or on the Sabbath, for there will be sore misery then, *such as has never been*, from the beginning of the world till now — *no and never shall be.* Had not those days been cut short, **NOT A SOUL WOULD BE SAVED ALIVE;** however, for the sake of the elect those days will be cut short" (Matt. 24:20-22, Moffatt translation).

Read that again. "*Not a soul would be saved alive.*" Do you believe that? Bad question. *It doesn't matter whether you believe it!* It's a fact. World leaders have stated it. And we are proclaiming it!

Such a realization should make man's blood run cold. You would think that he would cover his head in fearful shame and screechingly cry out to his God for immediate help. But man is too "sophisticated" for that sort of "nonsense." Man wants to survive all right. But it's got to be on *his* terms. *Man* must be in charge. Fine. That's his choice. We won't argue. God won't interfere. **Quite yet!**

Man, enjoy yourself. Have all the "fun" you want. Play all your silly little games. You've still got a few more years to devise more misery and disaster. Go right ahead. Clutch *vainly* at the United

Nations. Try "peaceful coexistence." Perhaps NATO or SEATO will be your savior? Maybe the Grand Design will work?

Forget it.

Man, you've had it. It's almost over. All your futile efforts to save yourself are pitiful and pathetic.

But man continues to shut his mind from the grim reality of impending doom. Like the little child who closes his eyes just before a rampaging automobile hits his dog, man bombards his senses and blanks his mind. But just as the little child must eventually open his eyes, man will soon be forced to see his own vile self and the incredible mess which he has labored so long to produce.

Refuse the Facts

Carnal-minded man can't stand to admit that he NEEDS God. He refuses to accept the cold fact that the way which "seems right" — HIS WAY — *has failed!* He blindly rejects Isaiah 59:8, "*The way of peace they know not; and there is no judgment in their goings: they have made them crooked paths: whosoever goes therein shall not know peace.*"

That's a good verse for skeptics and agnostics. They should *memorize it.* It's a simple statement — real easy to refute. All these "intellects" would have to do — *to totally discredit the Bible* — is achieve lasting peace. (Don't hold your breath.)

No, man doesn't think he needs God to show him the right way of life. He'll find it by himself. Give him a chance. Okay — how about 6,000 years? Long enough? Well it's about up — and the results are in. The tabulation is ridiculously easy to make. Man has recorded nearly 6,000 years of war after war and failure after failure.

The ways of peace have strangely eluded him — like that big fish which got away. Who can doubt? The evidence is EVERYWHERE for all to see in the misery, poverty, sickness and wretchedness of this world. The daily newspapers scream it in bold print. The suffering BILLIONS plaintively ver-

ify it by their mournful looks and famished cries. Yet poor, blind, deceived man can't see or understand that HIS WAY HAS FLOPPED!

Why can't man see the plain evidence of his failure? Because it doesn't suit him and he can't explain it. And whatever man can't explain he ignores. So the decline in morals, the increase in "Cold Wars," the shrinking food supplies and the rising world population are all nonchalantly overlooked. "Ignore it and it will go away" is the philosophy. "If it doesn't affect me, it can't be too bad." But such isn't the case. It *is* bad! And it *does* affect you.

Ninety-nine out of every hundred of the people in underdeveloped countries will never, IN ALL THEIR LIVES, have what a North American family would consider a square meal. Children in Africa and India sit staring as if blind. Their arms and legs are like sticks of licorice. They neither laugh nor cry. They've degenerated just too far for any such displays of emotion — at two years of age they weigh only TEN POUNDS. Hard to believe — but true. Two-year-old children weighing the same as many a newborn baby. Imagine YOUR two-year-old child weighing only *ten pounds!* If *your* child were in such a condition, YOU WOULD BECOME INVOLVED QUICK!

That probably doesn't mean very much to Mr. Well-off Citizen. It's too abstract. And anyway, he has to worry about *his pressing problems.* Which second car would look the most sporty to his associates? It's a nerve-racking decision. What about those thousands of children who *starved to death* on the *very day* that Mr. Well-off Citizen made this "critical" decision? "Children? What children?"

Is There an Answer?

De Gaulle's plan didn't provide the answer. It was discarded *along with* De Gaulle. The "Great Society" created more questions than it answered. Where is the answer? Perhaps more aid for Vietnam? How about additional billions for space study or the war on poverty? What about more money lavished

on the underdeveloped countries of the world? Sure, you name it — America gives it! But is *money* the answer?

No!

In the first place, the people of the underdeveloped nations don't even know *how* to utilize their gifts and spend their money! Often the *rats* eat as much of the donated wheat as do the people. Some people spend their foreign-aid money for marijuana — while the rain gushes through the roofs of their houses and between the cracks in their walls, soaking their poorly clothed families. Other people can be seen wearing expensive wristwatches and indulging themselves in hard liquor and still more unsavory pursuits — yet they don't have the necessity of a sheltered, private place to meet nature's needs.

The mind-defying BILLIONS of dollars which we have poured into Vietnam haven't made the world more peaceful. But of course we *can* see *some* tangible results for our efforts: farms have been defoliated and villages have been burned out. This hasn't bettered the lot of the average Vietnamese citizen. Nor has it been appreciated. And then there's the inevitable Black Market. It flourishes in Saigon to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars annually. And the pockets and bank accounts of a select few *bulge* — while the misery and wretchedness of the people abound.

No, *money* isn't the answer! Yet man inflexibly stumbles on in the vain hope that the panacea for all his ills is, after all, just around the corner.

What About Science?

Can the burgeoning idol of science produce any solution? Will success in space solve the problem of our food shortage on earth? Will more technology eliminate the difficulties which precipitate wars? Will GETTING AWAY from this earth be the "Open, Sesame" mankind needs to extricate himself from all his entanglements?

NEVER!

Solomon knew the answer to these questions. "And further, by these, my son, be admonished: of making many books there is no end; and *much study*



THY KINGDOM COME!

is a weariness of the flesh" (Eccl. 12:12). "For in much wisdom is much grief: and he that increases knowledge increases sorrow" (Eccl. 1:18). The fact that ninety percent of all scientists who have ever lived are alive *today* hasn't made the world happier. On the contrary, it is *because* of this vast increase in scientific knowledge that the very existence of man is in jeopardy! Today the whole earth lies paralyzed under the continued and increasing threat of nuclear devastation!

Then take medicine. Not literally down your throat — but ponder the fact that in spite of the thousands of doctors and the multiplication of medical knowledge, the United States is *one of the most unhealthy nations on earth!* Furthermore, in spite of our thousands of philosophers, educators, and "do-gooders" — we have gigantic racial problems, which are getting worse.

Knowledge properly used is a boon to mankind. Knowledge *misused* is a boomerang. Guess which one science has bestowed on us!

We Need God's Kingdom

Man's time is just about up. He won't be allowed to run from his problems much longer. He is going to have to learn to *overcome* them — ON THIS EARTH. That's the very thing he has been trying so hard to avoid. Man is going to have to candidly face his shortcomings, his inabilities, his faults and his sins. Nobody says it's going to be fun. But it'll pay off in a rich, abundant society for everybody.

Man *CANNOT* do it alone. That's obvious. Real obvious. He needs help. He *desperately* needs help. Humanity's problems are *NOT* insoluble — but it will take some ONE far greater than puny man to prove that statement.

It will take God.

This mixed-up world *URGENTLY NEEDS* God's Kingdom. Try telling that

one to your friends. No, perhaps you *better not* — *not unless you enjoy being ridiculed and scorned.* And this itself proves the point — *mankind won't recognize his own needs!* He has been *blinded.* His eyes have been tightly sealed by the god of this world — *Satan* (II Cor. 4:4; Rev. 12:9).

This society is so deceived that it won't even seek *that way* of life which would immediately yield abundance and happiness (John 10:10). If you were to ask the average citizen of India, Thailand, Japan, Israel or any of the other nations if they would like to see God's Kingdom come to earth now, they would look at you in dumbfounded astonishment. If they bothered to reply at all — which most wouldn't — the answer would be a resounding "No!" Everybody thinks his *own* personal way is best.

We Need It NOW!

The small nations and minority groups in the world — whether in Africa, Ireland or the USA — are imbued with the chant of "Give us freedom NOW!" They want to be freed from the laws and regulations which have kept peace and order in their lands. They want the right to riot when they want, to steal when they want, to kill when they want. They want the right to do as they please regardless of the cost to others.

All want to be also freed from the laws of God which regulate and govern their lives. They, too, want the right to think, believe, do and teach exactly what *they* please in spite of its detrimental effect on others.

Nobody wants God's way. *Everybody* wants his own way. Yet man's way — be it politics or religion or whatever — has not, *is not* and *WILL NOT, ever,* give him happiness or relief from his problems.

Each person would be far better off far sooner if he would only desire God's Kingdom *as fervently* as he tries to justify his own miserable surroundings. Then we could all have *REAL FREEDOM:* freedom from hunger, freedom from poverty, freedom from sick-

ness, and freedom from *SIN* and death. *That's what God's Kingdom offers.*

What Is God's Kingdom Anyway?

The religions of this world softly drool about the "Gospel of Jesus." But what they don't teach — and probably don't know — is that the "Gospel" is simply the *advance news* of the Kingdom of God. Christ preached it (Mark 1:14), the apostles preached it (Acts 20:25), and *we* preach it.

Occasionally, the multitudinous religious denominations *do* mention the Kingdom of God. But neither Christ nor the apostles would ever recognize it. For good reason. Some say that "the Kingdom" is permanently located in heaven. Others say that "the Kingdom" will eventually be set up in the "hearts of men" once all mankind learns to work together in peace, harmony and good will. How long should we wait? Thank God *not* long! Because you won't find any of these "Kingdoms" in the Bible.

All right, we know what the Kingdom of God *isn't.* Now what *is* it? In one sentence, the Kingdom of God is the Government of Almighty God ruling over the entire earth.

It will indeed be *on earth* (Rev. 5:10; Prov. 10:30). Jesus Christ will be its King (Rev. 19:15-16). The *entire* human race — *all* nations — will be its citizens (Jer. 33:9). All men will finally learn to be at peace with one another and be fully obedient to God's laws (Micah 4:1-4). Its beginning is a thousand years (Rev. 20:3-5). *And it shall then increase forever* (Isaiah 9:7).

When Christ returns to earth He will throw down *every* existing government (Rev. 19:15) and give *His* Kings and Priests (Rev. 5:10) — those begotten Christians who kept the faith and endured to the end (II Tim. 4:7-8; Rev. 2:26) — *power* over the nations to rule them with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27). This is *reality!* And you're going to see it come to pass. For further information about the coming Kingdom of God, request our free booklets, *Just What Do*

*You Mean . . . Kingdom of God? and
The Wonderful World Tomorrow —
What It Will Be Like.*

How Badly Do You Want God's Kingdom?

You've already seen the mounting heap of depraved squalor called humanity. You've seen hapless human beings vainly try to eke out some remnant of a life. And you've also seen the Kingdom of God — the glorious solution to all man's problems. But does this concern *you*?

Most people want to keep God at arm's length. He's nice to speculate about so long as He is kept entirely out of your own personal life.

Give yourself a little test. Be sincere with yourself. Nobody's looking. Search deep into your own heart, beyond that semi-shaded area of self-deception of which Jeremiah 17:9 speaks. Now, just how earnestly do you desire to see God's Kingdom here on earth? Be honest. How willing are *you* to give up *everything* you have — RIGHT NOW — in order for God's Kingdom to be here?

Are there certain things you'd like to do FIRST? Would you younger people like to "live" a little more *first*? Would you rather get married, have *your* family and enjoy *your* life to the full — FIRST?

How about some of you more mature people? Do you longingly *yearn* to see God's Way of life instituted here on earth so that all human heartache can be eradicated? Or do you sometimes wish that *you* could have more time to prove that *you too* can be a great success in life?

Young and old alike, wouldn't you almost RESENT Jesus Christ interfering with your life by returning to earth? Wouldn't you feel deprived of something good — almost *cheated* — if this society were destroyed.

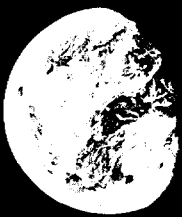
SURE YOU WOULD! HUMANLY!

You would like to indulge yourself



Orion Press Photo

*What are those eyes saying?
And what can you do about it?*



THY KINGDOM COME!

and experience "life." We *all* would. *But be circumspect* (Ex. 23:13 and Eph. 5:15). Look around you. Is what you see *good*? Obviously not. Then why would *anyone* want to hang on to it?

Those of you who *really* love this world will *not* love its ways or systems, but will care for its *people* — just as Jesus did. You will be earnestly looking forward to the return of Jesus Christ and His establishing of THE GOOD WAY OF LIFE FOR ALL MANKIND.

Thy Kingdom Come

We have seen that Jesus Christ, our elder brother in God's Family, admonishes us to pray zealously "Thy Kingdom come." It should usually be our very first request to God the Father immediately after opening our prayer by hallowing His Holy Name (Matt. 6:9-10).

But *how* do we pray "Thy Kingdom come"? Do we mumble and repeat those three words over and over again with sanctimonious rhythms and with tremulous modulations? Obviously not, but it's crucial for our personal salvation that we learn!

First of all, we must comprehend what the words "Thy Kingdom come" *literally* mean. So we paraphrase it into modern English: "I fervently desire, with my whole being, the return of Jesus Christ and the establishment of the Government of God on this earth."

To entirely grasp the significance of these concepts, we must experience true compassion because of all the abominations which are presently destroying our brothers on this planet (Ezra 9:4). Our world is utterly wretched, its people are miserable and doleful, and *we* **MUST care!**

So what if we "care"? What can we *do*? Simple. Yet incomprehensibly fantastic. We can — *no, we must* — beseech God to intervene in world affairs and straighten mankind out. Will

the Great God of Heaven and Earth listen to our feeble requests and speed His return?

Absolutely!

The Apostle James was inspired to write that "the effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much" (James 5:16).

Now read Rev. 8:3-4. The *prayers* of the saints *fill* God's Royal Throne Room! And *immediately* thereafter, *as a direct result of these prayers*, God *intervenes* in world affairs by pouring out His seven trumpet plagues (Rev. 8:6 to 11:15). These supernatural disasters culminate in the return of our Saviour and His conquering subjugation of the kingdoms of this world, transforming them into "the Kingdoms of our Lord and of His Christ: and he shall reign for ever and ever" (Rev. 11:15).

Do you realize what that means? Can you see *your* enormous responsibility? Don't just skim over these words as you pleasantly nod your head. This is reality! YOU ARE INVOLVED IN THE SALVATION OF HUMANITY! God is watching your personal reaction — right at this moment. That's not some religious scare-talk. It's a fact.

Prelude to God's Kingdom

This article is being read by the most select group in human history.

Nothing is more important. Because God must *first* give this world His powerful warning message — a witness so plain that it will be permanently imprinted in all human minds — only then will the end come (Matt. 24:14). God's worldwide witness must be completed *before* He intercedes to save man from himself.

God's Work must *precede* God's Kingdom. That's God's plan: the witness, man's near self-destruction, the Kingdom — in that inviolate order.

GOD'S WORK is preaching and publishing the critical warning witness *today* (Matt. 24:14; Mark 13:10).

That means *you*. You are *part of* God's Work. After this mammoth task is accomplished, then and *only* then, will God finally bring His Kingdom to

earth. So when *you* pray "Thy Kingdom come," you must at the same time be *wholeheartedly* dedicated to God's Work! How do you *prove* your sincere devotion to God's Work? Read on.

Recognize that you *are* involved. Realize that God has *already* called you. The fact that your eyes are reading *these* words is absolute proof that *you* are an integral part of God's Work — as incredible as that may sound.

This is the very Work of God! And you're in it.

But the question is: How will you respond? Even God doesn't know. He's anxiously awaiting your decision! Will your Creator be able to use you? Or will He be forced to call someone else to take your place?

You have been offered an awesomely stunning opportunity to participate in God's Work and to help save this world. And, as a bonus for your selfless humanitarianism, God will give you the gift of *Eternal Life* and the exalted position of a Ruling Son in His Royal Family.

But there are responsibilities. Here's what you *must* do! You must be totally engrossed in God's Work!

That means enthusiastically devoting *much* of your *prayers* to God's Work.

As many thousands of TOMORROW'S WORLD subscribers who are Co-Workers with Christ in this great Work realize, it also means cheerfully sending God's *tithes* and *offerings* to His Work!

No one who selfishly prays about himself all the time and no one who covetously lavishes all of his money on himself will ever gain eternal life. *Your personal salvation is directly related to how immersed you become in the Work of Almighty God.*

The more *we all* throw ourselves into God's Work — as a vibrantly united TEAM — the sooner God will fulfill His warning witness in the world today and the faster He can bring His Government — *the Kingdom of God* — to all mankind in the World Tomorrow.

And finally, we look forward to the time when the whole world will thankfully pray in unison "Thy Kingdom **CAME!**" □

The STORY of MAN

for children five to one hundred five

Everyone should know the true story of mankind. In the guise of scholarship, fables have been substituted for fact. A few have researched the truth. The evolutionary approach has been disproved, and the Biblical record proved true. Basil Wolverton has made a significant contribution to the literature of our time by faithfully sifting out the story of mankind in continuity, putting the thrilling story in simple and beautiful style for people of all ages.

by Basil Wolverton

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED THIRTY-FOUR

FACE TO FACE — WITH REALITY

KING Hazael of Syria was approaching Jerusalem with his army, intending to attack the city, when he received very valuable gifts sent by Jehoash, king of Judah. Hazael was sure that the gifts were either to pay him to leave Judah or were to lure him to Jerusalem for more wealth — and into some kind of ambush. He had to decide at once which course to take.

A Temporary Lull

“Why should we risk anything by going against Jerusalem, whose high walls are probably crawling with many thousands of defenders?” Hazael asked his officers. “If these gifts are meant to pay us to return home, we can do well to accept them without losing even one man. Then we can always return another time to see how matters will develop.” (II Kings 12:17-18.)

Jehoash was almost delirious with relief when he heard what had happened. He had been spared from certain disaster, for which he had given up most of the valuable objects in his palace that were portable. But the greatest part of what he had paid had come from another source. The king had ruthlessly stripped the temple of its hallowed treasures to buy his way out of an enemy attack!

Jehoash's first surge of elation, shared by thousands later when they heard about it, subsided considerably after he became troubled with the notion that Hazael might swing his army around and come to Jerusalem after all. He felt safe only after reports were brought to him that the Syrians had crossed the Jordan and were well on their way up the east side of the river.

But security didn't last very long. About a year

later Jehoash received the staggering news that Syrian soldiers were streaming westward across the Jordan river and were marching directly toward Jerusalem. The king fell into a greater state of frenzy than he had gone through the previous year. This time he didn't have enough left to pay his way out of a war. While he hastily made defense plans with his officers, another report came that the Syrians numbered only a few hundred.

Everyone's mood, especially that of Jehoash, abruptly changed. Filled with confidence, the king told his officers to forget about defending Jerusalem and go out and slaughter the intruders.

The two armies came within view of each other only a few miles north of the capital. The sight of thousands of oncoming soldiers didn't deter the Syrians, who soon came face to face with the men of Judah.

"Which of you is Hazeal?" Jehoash asked through an interpreter.

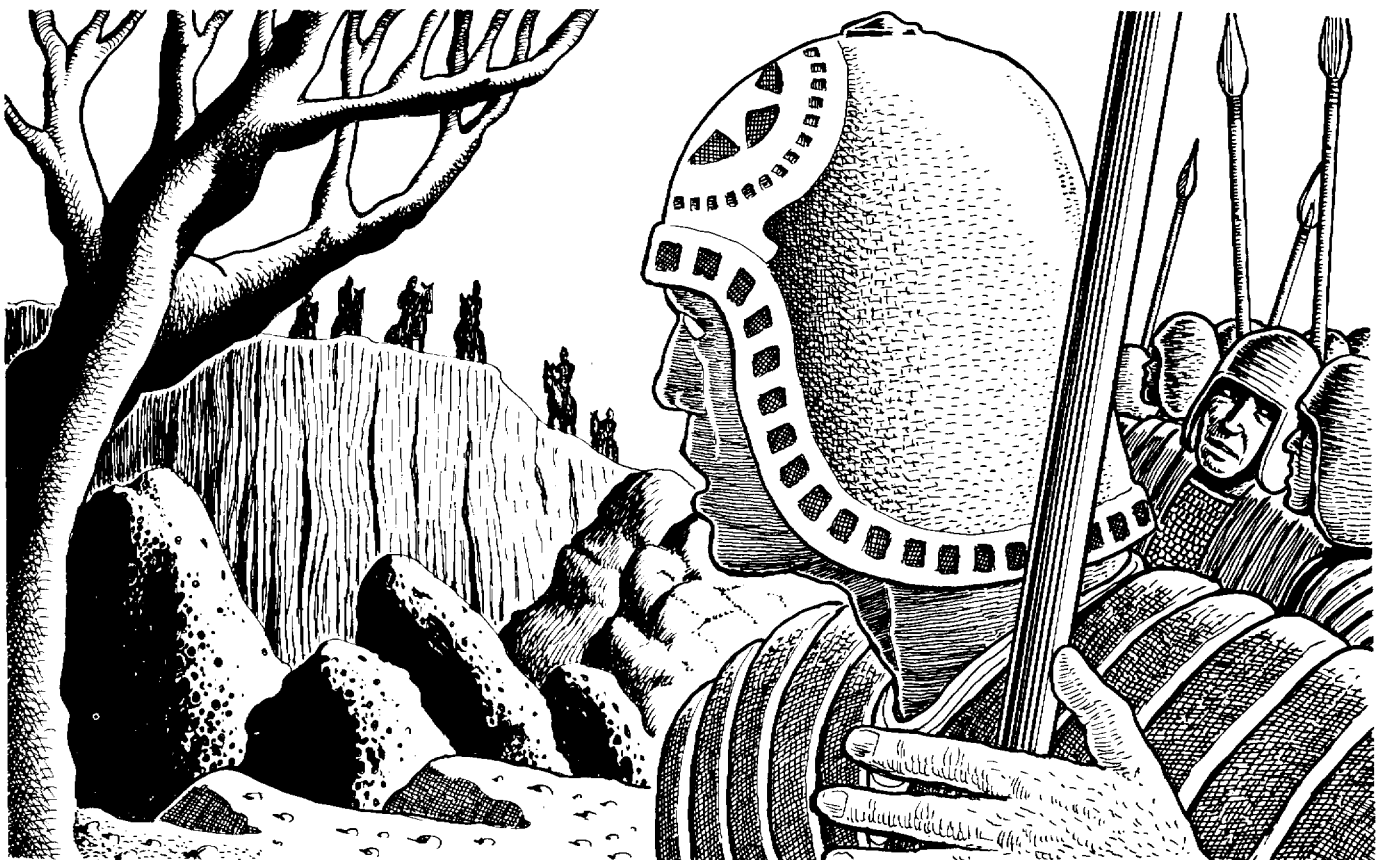
"King Hazeal is not with us," a Syrian officer replied. "I am the commander of these men."

"How can your king be so foolish as to believe you can war against us with so few soldiers?" Jehoash inquired, staring disdainfully at the Syrian troops.

Payoff Multiplies Greed

"We're not here to fight," the Syrian commander explained. "A year ago king Hazeal accepted tribute from you for not invading Judah. He expects tribute every year. We have come to collect it."

"This is ridiculous!" Jehoash barked angrily. "There was no such understanding! None of you will return to take anything back to your king!"



Jehoash, king of Judah, was startled and fearful when he saw distant mounted Syrian messengers. He knew they could bring the whole Syrian army against Judah if Jehoash's soldiers harmed the Syrians who had come to demand tribute.

"See the men on horses on that north rise?" the Syrian officer asked, pointing. "At least they'll take news back to king Hazael. If we are destroyed, so will you be when the whole army of Syria comes to ravage Judah!"

In his anger Jehoash was more inclined toward action than caution. Minutes later a battle was in progress. It didn't go the way Jehoash was sure it would. Perhaps the soldiers of Judah were troubled by the notion that the rest of the Syrian army was just over the horizon. Whatever the problem, they were in no mood to fight. Their desire was to hastily retreat.

It was incredible, but Hazael's hundreds triumphed over Jehoash's thousands. God permitted the Syrians to punish Judah for idolatry. (II Chronicles 24:23-24.)

Jehoash fled to his palace, but there was no safety there. The victorious Syrians came on to Jerusalem, forced their way inside the walls and seized many things of value that they could carry, including objects from the king's palace. When the invaders finally left, days later, the army of Judah was almost nonexistent and Jehoash had become very ill from the pressures and distress of his worrisome situation. He was forced to spend days in bed, during which he was attended, among others, by two servants who had been in his service for a considerable time.

They had overheard Jehoash give the order to have the priest Zechariah stoned, and they hated their master for it. Now that he was at their mercy, they saw to it, in their misguided sense of justice, that the king didn't leave his bed until he was lifeless.

Jehoash was buried in Jerusalem, but because he hadn't earned much respect as a ruler, he wasn't buried in the tombs of the kings of Judah. (II Kings 12:19-21; II Chronicles 24:25-27.)

Amaziah, Jehoash's son, became the next king of Judah. He was only twenty-five years of age at the time, but he used more wisdom as king than his father had used in the latter years of his reign. He

didn't manage to stop his people from false worship at various places, but he reestablished greater worship at the temple. Meanwhile, he tracked down the murderers of his father, and had them executed. (II Kings 14:1-6; II Chronicles 25:1-4.)

One of Amaziah's ambitions was to organize a new, large army to replace the one that had been devastated by the Syrians. The king succeeded by building it of choice young men of twenty years and up from the nation of Judah. It reached three hundred thousand.

But Amaziah wasn't satisfied with that figure. He wanted a larger army so that he could go to Edom and be certain of exacting the tribute the Edomites had refused to pay since King Jehoram's time.

Amaziah couldn't find more men in his kingdom who could be developed into superior fighting men, but he managed to draw a hundred thousand men of Ephraim out of the ten-tribed nation of Israel by offering a thousand pounds of silver in payment.

No Mercenaries Needed

With a well-trained force of four hundred thousand men, Amaziah felt that he was ready for certain victory over the Edomites. Just as he was about to take his army on the planned conquest, a man of God came to talk to him.

"God has sent me to warn you not to use the hundred thousand men you bought into your army. They are not the kind of men to fight your battles. If you take them with you, you will be defeated by the Edomites. It is God who determines the outcome of a battle, and not the number of men involved."

"But I've already paid a fortune to these men to be a part of my army," Amaziah pointed out, irritated by the man of God's intrusion into his affairs.

"If you're concerned about a loss, God can more than make up for it by giving you great spoils," the prophet said.

Amaziah was troubled. To relinquish a fourth of his army seemed a mad thing to do. At first he was determined not to do it, but his fear of losing to

the Edomites changed his mind. Reluctantly he gave orders to his astonished top officers to separate the Ephraimite mercenaries from Israel from the army of Judah.

When the men from the northern tribes were told to return to their homes, they made little effort to hide their anger. To them, mostly experienced soldiers, it was an insult to learn that they were unwanted in a war venture. There was nothing to be gained by telling them why they were being discharged. They would not have understood. (II Chronicles 25:5-10.)

Amaziah departed with his three hundred thousand men to the south, regretting that he was leaving behind a hundred thousand soldiers in an ugly mood. As soon as the army of Judah was well on its way, that hundred thousand decided to take from Judah what they might have earned if they could have stayed in Amaziah's army. And at the same time to take back several towns a former king of Judah had taken from Israel in battle. (II Chronicles 13:13-20.) So, on their way to the north they vengefully attacked those towns now in northern Judah, killing three thousand men and taking everything of value they could carry. (II Chronicles 25:13.)

The arrival of the army of Judah didn't surprise the Edomites, whose spies and lookouts kept them posted. They were ready for battle in the Valley of Salt, directly south of the Dead Sea. When the fighting was over, ten thousand Edomite soldiers were dead and ten thousand more had been captured. From there Amaziah moved southward to conquer the fortress city of Selah — later known as Petra — the Edomite capital built in a rocky area in the Mt. Seir range. There, from one of the many high cliffs, the ten thousand captives were thrown into a gorge. (II Kings 14:7; II Chronicles 25:11-12.)

Having whipped Edom into a state of subjection, Amaziah and his army returned home in triumph. But when the king learned what the hundred thousand discharged soldiers had done, he was infuriated.

"That king at Samaria is protecting those murderers!" Amaziah, king of Judah, stormed. "I must go up there and demand that they be punished or turned over to me!"

Meanwhile, in Israel . . .

The king in Samaria to whom Amaziah referred was the son of Jehoahaz, the ruler the Syrians had left with such a small army. (II Kings 13:1-7.) After King Jehoahaz was slain, his son Joash had become king of the ten tribes. He wasn't any more obedient to God than was his father, although when he heard that Elisha was seriously ill he went to visit him because he believed that Elisha could prevail upon God to help Israel. By that time Joash had built up a much larger army by which he hoped to release Israel from obeisance to the Syrians. Elisha told him that he would triumph over the Syrians in three battles. (II Kings 13:14-19.) Israel's freedom from the Syrians would thus be accomplished to fulfill the promise God had made to king Jehoahaz years previously. (II Kings 13:4.) That was the aging prophet's last prediction. Joash saw to it that the prophet Elisha was honorably entombed in a crypt not far from Samaria.

Later, when another body was brought to the crypt for burial, the bearers saw a mounted band of Moabite marauders coming across the plain. Eager to get the burial over so that they could get out of sight, they jerked the crypt door back and dumped the corpse inside. As they crouched behind some boulders out of sight of the Moabites, they were terrified to see the one whom they threw into the crypt crawl out of the crypt and gaze around in bewilderment. It was no longer a corpse but a living man. The body had come in contact with the swathed remains of Elisha, and life had been restored to the man who was dropped into the tomb. Fifteen major recorded miracles had been performed through the prophet while he lived. The sixteenth occurred even after his death, to help Israel learn the lesson of what God's power can do. (II Kings 13:20-21.)

Elisha's prediction that Joash would triumph over the Syrians was fulfilled not long after the

prophet's death. The Israelites won the three battles Elisha mentioned and regained the towns the Syrians had captured. By this time King Hazael had died. His son, Ben-hadad, led the Syrian troops against Joash's army without success. Israel's victory wasn't because of the obedience of the Israelites. It came about because of Jehoahaz' prayer and because God had promised Abraham that He would not entirely cast away his people Israel. (Genesis 13:15; 28:13-15.)

An Idolater Warned

Meanwhile, Amaziah, king of Judah, had increasingly vengeful feelings about what the soldiers from Israel had done to so many people in Judah. At first he was intent on going up to Samaria with his army and demanding that King Joash round up the hundred thousand offenders for punishment. Before he could get around to making this rash move, he was visited again by the same man of God who had told him that if he used that hundred thousand men in his army, the Edomites would defeat him.

"If you take your army to Samaria, you will end up in a battle in which you will be ingloriously routed," the man of God warned Amaziah.

"Why must you always bring bad news to me?" Amaziah asked irritably.

"You can hardly expect good news under the circumstances," the man of God replied. "God is not pleased because you have brought back images of pagan gods from Edom. He is even less pleased because you have been worshipping those same images." (II Chronicles 25:14-15.)

Amaziah was embarrassed and angered by this accusation. The images had some strange fascination for him. He had gone so far as to burn incense before some of them and ask for protection and triumph in future battles — despite the fact that he knew those gods didn't save Edom when he himself conquered them!

"I hire a staff of advisers," Amaziah indignantly informed the man of God, "but I don't recall that you are among them. Keep your advice to yourself or you could find yourself on the sharp end of a spear."

"I won't say more than to repeat that God will

destroy you because you have turned to idolatry," the man of God said, walking away and shaking his head. "The course of events could be different if you would do what is right." (II Chronicles 25:16.)

Amaziah was again troubled. He feared that the man of God was right, but at the same time he wanted satisfaction from King Joash. Finally, after conferring with advisers, he decided that instead of making a lightning thrust at Samaria, he would send a challenge to the king of the ten tribes of Israel. A few hours later, riders from Jerusalem brought a message to Joash.

Face to Face

"You are aware of what men of your nation



Amaziah was riled and embarrassed when a prophet of God accused him of secretly indulging in idol worship.

have done to Judah, and yet you have remained strangely silent about it," the message read. "It's your responsibility to seek out and punish the offenders. If you refuse or fail, I shall come up with my army to meet you face to face to settle the matter." (II Chronicles 25:17.)

The messengers returned to Judah with a stinging reply from Joash that caused Amaziah to regret that he had wasted time with a letter to the ruler of the ten tribes. The letter began by comparing Amaziah to a thistle and Joash to a cedar tree. Out of the forest in which the cedar grew came a fierce animal. The animal trampled the thistle because it made a ridiculous demand of the cedar.

"I have heard that you are boasting of how you conquered the Edomites," Joash's reply went on. "That victory has obviously swelled both your confidence and your head. At the same time your wisdom has shrunk, or you would have the good sense to remain in Jerusalem. Why should you

meddle in something that will result in harm to you, your army and your nation?"

These words sent Amaziah into a rage. He summoned his top officers to prepare for an immediate invasion of the territory north of Judah. This was all in accordance with God's plan. The infuriating letter roused the king of Judah to unwise action because he had become a follower of Edomite idols and had advocated their worship to many in Judah. Amaziah had had his opportunity to give up idolatry and spare himself when the prophet had warned him.

Led by Amaziah, thousands of Judah's warriors marched out from Jerusalem, bound for a showdown at Samaria. After moving about ten miles, the king and his army came to an unexpected obstruction. That obstruction consisted of Joash and his troops, who had already reached Judah. (II Chronicles 25:18-21.)

As Amaziah had requested, the two kings were now face to face. *(To be continued next issue)*



Enraged because of a taunting letter from Joash, king of Israel, Amaziah led his army out of Jerusalem, intending to march to Samaria and settle the matter by force. To his surprise, he met Joash and his army only a few miles outside the city.

CHRISTIANITY today is in great confusion! At no time in history has theological thought flowed in so many diverse directions — and all at the same time.

Professor H. H. Rowley of the Victoria University of Manchester said of modern Biblical studies:

In contrast to the large measure of unity that prevailed a generation ago, there is today an almost bewildering diversity of view on many questions. . . . On a number of subjects contrary tendencies have appeared in various quarters leading to a greater fluidity in the field as a whole than has been known for a long time (H. H. Rowley, *The Old Testament and Modern Study*, pp. xviii-xix).

George Mendenhall of the University of Michigan put it more bluntly:

The "fluidity" in this field referred to by Rowley may with perhaps less courtesy but with more accuracy be called chaos (G. E. Mendenhall, "Biblical History in Transition," *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*, p. 33).

We are witnessing the most powerful movement toward Christian unity in modern times. Yet we are simultaneously faced with the greatest-ever turmoil of theological disagreement. Isn't that a contradiction? What happened to the "unity that prevailed a generation ago"?

We are going to find out. But first we must come to see the foundation upon which this "large measure of unity" was built.

Challenging the Old Assumptions

How did the critics of the Bible begin their insidious work? By *challenging the assumptions* upon which the *traditional ideas about the Bible* were based. There was *no reason*, the critics thought, why *they* shouldn't *check up* on the archaic assumptions of bygone centuries — and see *if* they were true.

That's fair enough. We agree. After all, the Apostle Paul exhorted the Thessalonians to "prove all things," and *not* merely to *assume* that they were true.

Unfortunately however, too many of the critics sabotaged their own work right from the start by fabricating new false assumptions of their own!

Assumptions come and go, of course, but a generation ago one stood head and shoulders above them all. This presupposition — almost universally accepted by the self-appointed Biblical

THEOLOGY IN CHAOS

There used to be a measure of unity among the critics of the Bible. Now we find confusion, disagreement, chaos. What was the tie that bound them all together, and who untied it? In this second of a series we get right down to the foundations of Bible criticism.

by Ronald L. Dart

scholars at the time — was the platform from which they chose to view the very small amount of evidence they had. It was the foundation of all Biblical criticism — and is best expressed by a critic named Kuenen in his book, *Prophets and Prophecy*:

So soon as we derive a separate part of Israel's religious life directly from God, and allow the supernatural or immediate revelation to intervene even in one single point, so long also our view of the whole continues to be incorrect. . . . *It is the supposition of a natural development alone which accounts for all the phenomena.*

Kuenen's "natural development" is merely the application of the *philosophy of evolution* to the study of the Bible.

Evolution!

That's the heart of Biblical criticism.

Kuenen, Wellhausen, and others first ruled out any possibility of the miraculous. The supernatural was ridiculed. And a direct revelation from God? Well that was so absurd, it was treated as humorous. (Write for our article, "Did Jesus' Miracles Really Happen?") The next step was to apply the philosophy of a *natural development of religion* to Israel's history.

Most Biblical scholars, having planted their feet firmly on the evolutionary platform, had little difficulty maintaining a semblance of unity.

As Mendenhall and Rowley point out, however, something happened to shatter that unity! In the last generation the field of Biblical studies has been absolutely inundated with new evidence — *evidence which has cut the ground from under the evolutionary concept!*

Could Moses Write?

One of the best illustrations of this is seen in the once commonly held belief that *Moses could not have written the Pentateuch because writing was unknown in his day*. When we look for evidence upon which such a belief could have been founded, we are left empty-handed. The only evidence at hand was the Bible. And the Bible *clearly and flatly* contradicted any such belief.

Not only did *Moses* write down God's Law (Exodus 24:4, Deuteronomy 31:9), along with a detailed account of the travels of the children of Israel after they left Egypt (Numbers 33:2), but *all the Israelites* were commanded to write God's Commandments upon the posts of their houses (Deuteronomy 6:9). The Bible tells us that not only did *Moses* write, but that the *entire* population of Israel was literate.

Looking back from our vantage point, the very idea that *Moses* couldn't write seems a bit ludicrous. Since the time this theory was in vogue, *whole libraries* have emerged from the sands of *Babylonia, Assyria, Palestine and Egypt*. Many of these not only go back to *Moses' time*, but all the way back to *Abraham's day and before*.

The theory that *Moses* couldn't write has been so thoroughly exploded that we are led to wonder how any intelligent person could have developed such an idea in the first place.

"But Not Israel!"

Naturally, in spite of all the evidence, some were still unwilling to believe

that a "tribe of Semitic nomads" (the Israelites who invaded Palestine) would have been literate enough to have produced the Pentateuch. They admitted that writing was known in Egypt — no one could deny that — *but they refused to admit that it was known among the Israelites!*

They refused to admit it, that is, until about 1904 when Flinders Petrie began to decipher some ancient tablets found at Serabit el-Khadem, in the Sinai Peninsula. This was near the route the children of Israel took in coming out of Egypt. After careful examination of the tablets, he concluded that:

Workmen from Retenu, who were employed by the Egyptians and are often mentioned, had this system of linear writing. The inference that follows from that is extremely significant, mainly that about 1500 B.C. these *simple workmen* from Canaan were able to write and that the type of writing is independent both of hieroglyphics and cuneiform. Further, *it invalidates once and for all the hypothesis that the Israelites that came through this area from Egypt were at that stage still illiterate* (Werner Keller, *The Bible as History*, p. 134, emphasis mine).

This provides proof positive that literacy in the time of Moses was *not* the exclusive property of a group of privileged scribes. These were *working-class individuals* — men who must have taken some of their *spare* time to prepare tablets and carve inscriptions in their own script.

Also of interest are the discoveries at Ras Shamra. Over a thousand tablets written in an old cuneiform alphabet have been discovered. The language is an old Northwest Semitic dialect "which was very closely related to the Hebrew of the time of Moses" (W. F. Albright, *New Horizons in Biblical Research*, p. 6).

Notice that Dr. Albright — the leading authority in archaeology today — refers to the Hebrew language at the time of Moses. Not only was writing known in the time of Moses, but the Hebrew language was already a separate, recognized tongue.

Still another authority tells us that during the time Moses was in exile from Egypt, "the Canaanites were familiar with at least eight languages recorded in five completely different sys-

tems of writing" (G. E. Mendenhall, "Biblical History in Transition," *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*, p. 50).

Proof Moses Wrote

Not only is there no obstacle to believing that Moses could have written the bulk of the Pentateuch, there is *every* reason to believe that he did.

First and foremost, in Exodus 24:4 we read that Moses *wrote* all the words of the Lord that he had received on Mount Sinai, and later (verse 7), he took the book or scroll in which he had written God's Law and *read* it in the audience of the people.

Why argue with Exodus? It's only making a simple statement of fact. Moses, having been reared in Pharaoh's court, was obviously a literate man living in a literate age — an age prolific with written records. It is *totally* illogical to assume that Moses would not have recorded the Law of God as it was given to him, or that he would not have written a *history* of the Exodus and the wilderness wanderings of the children of Israel! And this is *precisely* what he did: "And Moses wrote their goings out according to their journeys by the commandment of the Lord: and these are their journeys according to their goings out" (Numbers 33:2).

Literary Style

Even in the face of mounting evidence and wholly consistent logic, some critics still maintain that the first five books of the Old Testament were composed (*from oral traditions*) as late as 700-800 B.C. — that's 600 to 800 years *after* Moses. Why? Their intellectual reason is that the *literary style* is too highly advanced for any earlier stage in Israel's history. Their *real* reason is more diabolical: they must destroy the Bible *to remove its authority*.

Contradicting themselves, even such higher critics as Kautzsch, Ewald, and Delitzsch place some of the "best of the poetry" from Genesis, Exodus and Judges back to 1250 B.C. *and earlier* — within 200 years of Israel's conquest of Jericho (See James Orr, *The Problem of the Old Testament*, p. 76).

Dr. Kautzsch calls the Song of Debo-

rah in Judges 5 "a poem of priceless worth," "genuine, splendid poetry."

The Hebrew language, then, was a *fully developed, highly expressive language* when the Song of Deborah was written. Such a highly developed poetic style does not spring up overnight. What man, having never seen a poem, and writing in a primitive language, is instantaneously going to become an accomplished poet?

In the opinion of some, the works of Shakespeare represent a high-water mark in the development of the English language and in the power of poetic portrayal — but they came after a *long period of literary development*.

The point is this: Since it is an established fact that the literary style of the Old Testament represents a very highly developed language, then there *must* have been a foundation of *earlier Hebrew literature*. Consequently, why *assume* that the Pentateuch was composed quite *late* from *ORAL traditions*?

It is an *absolute certainty* that *written Hebraic records pre-dated the Pentateuch*. Any other conclusion denies the evidence, flouts the logic and displays an ignorance of the highly developed culture which flourished in the Fertile Crescent *prior* to the time of Moses!

Of course, the evidence is *so* conclusive that no competent scholar today bases his conclusions on the misconception that there was no writing in Moses' time.

Yet, the fundamental premise which *led* to this mistaken idea is the very concept which underlies most of *today's* Biblical criticism — *the concept of the evolution of culture and religion*.

Which Came First?

Long-cherished ideas die hard. So it has been with evolution. Having assumed that man evolved, it was *not* illogical to also assume that Moses could not write. However, once it was proved that Moses could have written, the theory that spawned the idea still did not die. It continued to form the basis of Biblical criticism for nearly one hundred years.

Having assumed a *natural* development for the religion of Israel, a plausible theory was needed to account for the

development of that religion. Fertile minds evolved one quickly.

The philosophers looked at the religions extant in the world and drew their conclusions — conclusions, remember, based upon the *assumption* that all religions had evolved. This assumption stated that the development of religion gradually progressed from the primitive to the highly developed.

Primitive man supposedly observed the forces of nature around him — wind, fire, rain, thunder, etc. — and attributed these powers to spirit beings. In the passage of time he thought that certain of his actions had either pleased or irritated these gods — since favorable or unfavorable events had seemed to follow as a direct result. Worship involving propitiation of the spirits was the natural reaction.

From this early beginning, it is theorized that religion slowly “matured” to polytheism, and from there to monotheism — monotheism, apparently, being the highest plane of religious development.

It all seemed fairly logical — and so ethnologists, anthropologists and archaeologists mutually congratulated one another.

But what about the facts?

If this theory were true, one would expect to find absolutely no monotheism in the earliest religions. And upon finding polytheism existing at a certain time in a tribe's history, we would not expect to find monotheism *preceding* it.

Belief in a Supreme Being

As a result of the exhaustive efforts of an army of scientists, the question is no longer in doubt.

Even among *the most primitive peoples on the face of the earth* — including the Bushmen of South Africa, most of the aboriginal tribes of Australia, all of the Arctic cultures except one, and virtually all of the primitive peoples of North America — we find a belief in a Supreme Being! (Short, *Modern Discovery and the Bible*, p. 23.)

In fact, it is precisely among the three *oldest* primitive peoples in North America that “we find the religion of a high God established with the greatest clearness and in quite characteristic

forms” (W. Schmidt, *High Gods in North America*, p. 22).

A comparison of the beliefs of these very old tribes with the Bible is eye-opening. Going to *the* oldest section of *the* oldest tribe, we find that they believe in a “Supreme Being” who is *invisible* (ibid., p. 28). Compare this with Paul's first epistle to Timothy: “Now unto the King eternal, immortal, *invisible*, the only wise God . . .” (I Timothy 1:17).

Schmidt goes on to say of this Supreme Being of the Yuki religion:

He existed before all other beings and possesses unlimited powers. The highest of these is the power of creation by which He creates heaven and earth and all that it contains, especially men. One of their creation myths states formally that He created everything merely by His own will . . . Before creation He meditates and plans His work; and after it He expresses loudly His joyful satisfaction in its greatness and beauty (W. Schmidt, *High Gods in North America*, p. 28).

A student of the Bible immediately hearkens back to the first chapter of Genesis: “And God saw everything that He had made, and, behold, it was *very good*” (Genesis 1:31).

Beliefs of Early Tribes

Turning to another of the early tribes (the Kato), Schmidt gives us the contents of their creation myth.

In this myth the culture hero is present at the same time with the Supreme Being. But the Supreme Being alone commands and directs everything, including the culture hero. Together they make the wide stretched vault of the sky and support it on four great pillars at the cardinal points; they make a way for the sun, openings for rain and mist. The body of man is molded out of clay. Wind and rain, sun and moon are not created until after man. Then comes a narrative of a great flood in which all men and animals perish (W. Schmidt, *High Gods in North America*, p. 29).

Remember that all this forms a part of the religions of the two *oldest* tribes of *North America* — religions and people who had *no* contact with the Bible! It is remarkable that a *purely oral tradition* would stay so close to the written record of the Hebrews.

However, these tribes did not *retain* this monotheistic form of religion. As time passed — and their religion “developed” — their concept of God

degenerated into polytheism and animism.

This picture is repeated in other parts of the world as well.

Dr. John Ross wrote that scholars could *not* have hypothesized a “long process of evolution from an original image worship” if “the story of the original religion of China [had] been generally known”:

We fail to find a hint anywhere as to the manner or the time when the idea of God originated in China, or by what process it came into common use. The name bursts suddenly upon us from the first page of history without a note of warning. At this point, the very threshold of what the Chinese critics accept as the beginning of their authentic history, the name of God and other religious matters present themselves with the completeness of a Minerva (John Ross, *Primitive Monotheism in China*, pp. 18, 23, 25).

A noted Assyriologist claims that the Sumerians were probably the first people to “emerge from barbarism” some time before 4000 B.C. What was their religion? Some of the oldest writings in the world have been found in the ruins of Sumerian cities, and “the facts point unmistakably to monotheism, and a sky god as the first deity, from whom descended the vast Sumerian pantheon” (A. Rendle Short, *Modern Discovery and the Bible*, p. 26).

One thing becomes abundantly clear: The very *oldest* religious concepts known to man were *monotheistic* — but then, *consistently greater corruption and degeneracy* set in, and monotheism was perverted to polytheism.

Evolution No Longer Accepted

Until shortly after the beginning of the twentieth century, it was commonly held that the culture (which includes the religion) of man had followed certain evolutionary lines. This was held not only by theologians, but by anthropologists, ethnologists, etc.

A change in thinking, however, began to be evident almost immediately after the turn of the century. By 1920 we are told: “The voice of evolutionism is muted to the work of a few die-hards” (Felix M. Keesing, *Culture Change*, p. 20).

As more evidence was assimilated into the study of anthropology, the role

of *evolution* in cultural changes faded even further. By 1930 we are told:

Writings in the evolutionist tradition are thinned to a trickle, and are marginal to professional work in anthropology. The vocabulary and assumptions involved in the evolutionary concept continue to make anthropologists unhappy by having some vogue in works by occasional *students*, especially in other fields as religion, when they write on so-called primitives of cultural origins and early development. . . . By this time, however, use of the term "evolution," shorn of its old unilinear framework, occasionally creeps back into the vocabulary of some anthropologists to express the larger perspectives of culture process (Felix M. Keesing, *Culture Change*, p. 25, emphasis mine).

By 1940 so much change had taken place that the concept of evolution was referred to as having been "long since dead so far as professional anthropologists were concerned."

Yet "social evolution" is *still* highly respected by many Biblical critics. It is strange how such speculations survive even when they have conclusively been rejected by competent scholars on the basis of evidence.

Could it possibly be because no one wants to face the alternative?

Unity Gone

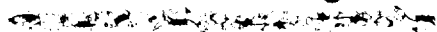
Now we can begin to see what happened to the unity theologians enjoyed a generation ago. Since that time literally floods of information have absolutely *destroyed* the foundation upon which the majority of critics had built their theories. The result has been a complete reshuffling of virtually every idea that they ever held.

But why no unity today? The reason is simple. The most recent evidence, now becoming available, universally points to the fact that *the Bible is what it says it is*. But most critics have simply not been willing to accept this—and the result is that there are almost as many half-baked theories today as there are self-styled critics to put them forward.

Small wonder that G. Ernest Wright was moved to say: "It must now be admitted that a science of Biblical studies does not exist" (G. E. Wright, "Biblical History in Transition," *The Bible and the Ancient Near East*, p. 32, emphasis mine). □

(To be continued)

HOLIDAYS headaches and hangovers



(Continued from page 11)

trimmed the branches, brought the trees into their homes, nailed them down and decorated them with gold and silver ornaments. They exchanged gifts, sent greeting cards, played games, sang songs and feasted in a gala festive season.

And this was all done on the same day of the year — the equivalent of our December 25.

But Jesus Christ wasn't the central figure of the festival. Rather, it was the pagan god Sol — the SUN-GOD! It was HIS BIRTHDAY. The Romans celebrated December 25 as the Brumalia or birthday of the new sun.

In most any public library you can get proof of this in a book entitled *4000 Years of Christmas*, by Earl Wendel Count. The very name of this book proves that the Christmas holiday isn't Christian. It was celebrated 2000 years *before* the birth of Christ in honor of pagan gods!

Christmas originated in the original Babylon of ancient Nimrod! It stems from roots whose beginning was shortly this side of the Flood!

Nimrod, grandson of Ham, son of Noah, was the real founder of the Babylonish system that has gripped the world ever since — the system of organized competition — of man-ruled governments and empires, based upon the competitive and profit-making economic system. Nimrod built the tower of Babel, the original Babylon, ancient Nineveh and many other cities. He organized this world's first kingdom — a kingdom in opposition to the government and the rule of God. The very name Nimrod, in Hebrew, is derived from "Marad," meaning "he rebelled."

From many ancient writings, a considerable amount is learned of this man, who started the great organized worldly apostasy from God that has dominated this world until now. Nimrod was so evil, it is said he married his own mother, whose name was Semiramis. After Nimrod's untimely death, his so-

called mother-wife, Semiramis, propagated the evil doctrine of the survival of Nimrod as a spirit being. She claimed a full-grown evergreen tree sprang overnight from a dead tree stump, which symbolized the springing forth unto new life of the dead Nimrod. On each anniversary of his birth, which was December 25, she claimed that Nimrod would visit the evergreen tree and leave gifts upon it. This is the real origin of the Christmas tree!

Through her scheming and designing, Semiramis became the Babylonian "Queen of Heaven," and Nimrod, under various names, became the "divine son of heaven." Through the generations, in this idolatrous worship, Nimrod also became the false messiah, son of Baal, the sun-god. In this false Babylonish system, the "Mother and Child" (Semiramis and Nimrod reborn) became chief objects of worship. This worship of "Mother and Child" spread over the world. The names varied in different countries and languages. In Egypt it was Isis and Osiris. In Asia, Cybele and Deoious. In Pagan Rome, Fortuna and Jupiterpuer. Even in Greece, China, Japan, and Tibet are to be found these "Mother and Child" counterparts, *long before the birth of Christ!*

Christmas honors the birthday of the pagan sun-god!

No wonder there is not a single word in the New Testament, or anywhere in the Bible, telling us to observe Christmas. No wonder Christians of the first century, under the inspired teachings of Peter and Paul and the other apostles, never observed it. No wonder there is *no Bible authority whatsoever* for its observance.

But HOW did this pagan custom come to be called "Christian" — and WHEN?

How WE Got Christmas

As true Christianity began to spread in the first century, false pagan teachers quickly began to emerge. They taught a counterfeit Christianity which *blended* the truth of God with pagan fables which were so popular in the Roman world.

Notice Paul's warning of this very thing: "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine,

but after their own LUSTS [desire for pleasure] shall they heap to themselves teachers, having itching ears; and they shall TURN AWAY their ears from the truth and shall be turned UNTO FABLES" (II Tim. 4:3, 4).

Paul said people would reject the truth and begin to follow myths — and they did just that! Instead of continuing to observe the days God sanctified, as the first Christians did, the apostatizing majority, who called themselves "Christians," soon began to invent their own traditions and to "Christianize" their former pagan practices.

One of the most widespread of these practices was the observance of the *Saturnalia* which was celebrated from December 17th to the 22nd. All governmental offices and schools were closed.

Then on December 25th, the *ancient Brumalia* was celebrated in honor of the birthday of the sun-god — just as it had been done for thousands of years before.

Greeting cards were traded, gifts were exchanged — there was feasting and celebrating beginning on the "eve" before — just like our "Christmas Eve" today. (See *4000 Years of Christmas*.)

Bishops in the West, and especially at Rome, saw that by allowing converts to retain this and other pagan holidays, they could induce many thousands to enter the church. Tertullian lamented this trend when he said in 230 A.D. that instead of observing "... festivals, once acceptable to God, the Saturnalia, the feasts of January, the Brumalia (December 24) the Matronalia, are now frequented; gifts are carried to and from, new year's day presents are made with din, and sports and banquets are celebrated with uproar" (from *De Idolatria*, chapter 14).

In less than two centuries after Christ's death, *professing* "Christians" were following their former pagan practices — including the observance of December 25, the birthday of Sol the sun-god.

Tertullian's testimony is one of the earliest indications that Christians were mislabeling the birthday of the physical s-u-n as the birthday of the S-o-n of God.



"Joy to the World"?

Camera Press Photo

This adoption of idolatrous heathen festivals proceeded slowly until "Christianity" — aptly termed by some authorities as "baptized paganism" — became the state religion of the Roman Empire under Emperor Constantine. Then the pagans flocked to the churches bringing ever more of their customs with them. Within forty years the celebration of the 25th of December as the birthday of Christ became widespread, as is fully explained in the *Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, by James Hastings, article "Christmas."

The *Catholic Encyclopedia* also states that by 354 A.D. Christmas celebration on the 25th of December had begun. This source further freely admits:

"Christmas was not among the earliest festivals of the Church. . . . The first evidence of the feast is from Egypt." "Pagan customs centering around the January calends gravitated to Christmas."

Encyclopaedia Britannica makes the same admission: "Christmas (i.e., the Mass of Christ) was not among the earliest festivals of the church. . . ."

And the *Encyclopedia Americana* says: "Christmas . . . was, according to many authorities, not celebrated in the first centuries of the Christian church, as the Christian usage in general was to celebrate the death of remarkable persons rather than their birth. . . (but) a feast was established in memory of

HOLIDAYS

headaches and hangovers

this event [Christ's birth] in the fourth century. In the fifth century the Western Church *ordered it to be celebrated forever* on the day of the old Roman feast of the birth of Sol, as no certain knowledge of the day of Christ's birth existed."

Notice! These recognized historic authorities show Christmas was not observed by Christians for the first two or three hundred years — a period longer than the entire history of the United States as a nation! Though it got into the Western or Roman Church by the fourth century A.D., it was not until the fifth century that the Roman Church ordered it to be celebrated as an official "Christian" festival!

Now read what the *Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia* says in its article on "CHRISTMAS": "How much the date of the festival depended upon the Pagan Brumalia (Dec. 25) following the Saturnalia (Dec. 17-24), and celebrating the shortest day of the year and the 'new sun' . . . cannot be accurately determined. The pagan Saturnalia and Brumalia were too deeply entrenched in popular custom to be set aside by Christian influence. . . . The pagan festival with its riot and merrymaking was so popular that Christians were glad of an excuse to continue its celebration with little change in spirit and in manner. Christian preachers of the West and the Near East protested against the unseemly frivolity with which Christ's birthday was celebrated, while Christians of Mesopotamia accused their Western brethren of idolatry and sun-worship for adopting as Christian this pagan festival. . . . Yet the festival rapidly gained acceptance and became at last so firmly established that even the Protestant revolution of the sixteenth century was not able to dislodge it."

And that is how we came to have Christmas! Many details could be added about the origin of the yule log, the mistletoe, Santa Claus, and a host of other customs which surround the

Christmas celebration. But these are explained in our booklet, *The Plain Truth About Christmas*, which is free for the asking, for those who would like to pursue the subject further. Only one other custom will be mentioned here.

Is Exchanging Gifts Scriptural?

Many ask, "Isn't giving gifts at Christmas scriptural? Didn't the wise men give gifts at the birth of Christ? But here is the surprising answer:

"The custom of giving presents was a feature of the Romans during their winter festival, the Saturnalia," says John Then in his book, *Christmas*, page 91. Professing "Christians made presents to their children on Christmas morning, under the pretense that they were the gift of the Christ child. . . . This age-old custom can be traced to the dawn of history" — to paganism!

Did trading gifts at Christmas come from Scripture? No! It came from pagan tradition and was falsely labeled "Christian" — a deception to fool little children practiced by millions today.

Millions of *sincere* but deceived people spend precious dollars they can't afford just to give unappreciated gifts to friends on a day that doesn't honor Christ. How silly to claim to honor Christ, when giving gifts to one another on a day that isn't His birthday at all.

The wise men didn't give gifts to *one another*. "Opening their treasures, they offered *Him* gifts, gold and frankincense and myrrh" (Matt. 2:1-11 R.S.V.). Why? Because it was Christ's birthday? No!

Jesus had been born many days before. Rather, the wise men were coming to worship Jesus because he was a *King*; and in the East it was unthinkable to come into the presence of a *King* without a gift.

Does It Make Any Difference?

But *so what?* Aren't the facts in this article more or less *common knowledge*?

Sure they are! They are published in newspapers, and cheerfully admitted by religious editors each year.

Then does it make any difference?

Not if there isn't any God.

But there is a God. And that God says the observance of pagan customs and holidays makes a great deal of difference to *Him*. He warns:

"Take heed to thyself that thou be not snared by following them [pagan peoples] . . . and that thou enquire not after their gods saying, How did these nations serve their gods? even so will I do likewise. THOU SHALT NOT DO SO UNTO THE LORD THY GOD: for every abomination to the Lord, which he hateth, have they done unto their gods. . ." (Deut. 12:30-31).

God gives us in His Word — the Bible — the way to worship Him. And He condemns our attempt to worship Him through the invented lies of pagan peoples.

Now notice what God says about the Christmas tree: "Thus saith the Lord, Learn not the way of the heathen, and be not dismayed at the signs of heaven [being concerned when the sun shines for so short a time in December] . . . for the customs of the people are vain: for one cutteth a tree out of the forest, the work of the hands of the workman, with the axe. They deck it with silver and with gold, they fasten it with nails and with hammers, that it move not" (Jer. 10:2-4).

Could anything be plainer? God condemns pagan, heathen practices — including the Christmas tree.

Yet many who know Christmas is pagan to the core still refuse to give it up. Some give the weak excuse that it means so much to the children. But what does it mean to your children? Lies. Deceit. Paganism.

Do you know what happens when children find out the truth about the Santa Claus lie? Two New York educators found out when they interviewed about 50 pupils of the age where the break with fantasy usually occurs.

"Mom and Daddy are liars," one child told them. "Christmas doesn't mean anything now," said a second disillusioned child. "Next they'll tell us there ain't no God, neither," snapped a third. "Things just don't add up," said a fourth confused youngster. And so it went.

Is that the way you want *your*

children to feel about you — and about God? Of course not!

What You Can Do

God warns His people concerning this world and its false, counterfeit, Babylonish ways: "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues" (Rev. 18:4).

God's plagues are about to fall on this world for its many sins — including the worship of pagan deities and days which God condemns.

So what should YOU do about Christmas? You should *obey God!*

Wouldn't you really be *glad* to escape the debt, the frustration, the rat race of commercialism?! You've got plenty of time to explain to your children — *before* this season descends on you again! You'll be surprised and impressed at how gladly your children and relatives will respond — and how truly *thankful* they'll be.

And more than that, you can determine NOW that you are going to get deeply involved with the REAL, *living* Christ and His Work of warning the world of what is ahead.

It is ironic — and another one of the amazing incongruities of Christmas — that most people are robbing Christ at the very time they claim to be honoring Him. While spending every available dime on gifts for friends and relatives in this commercialized season, they are forgetting Christ. They take — steal — the very money that belongs to Him.

Notice what Malachi says in his prophecy for us today: "Will a man rob God? Yet you are robbing me. But you say, 'How are we robbing thee?' In your tithes and offerings. You are cursed with a curse, for you are robbing me, the *whole nation* of you" (Malachi 3:8, 9, RSV).

Many have been robbing God of His tithes and offerings by spending God's own money on Christmas gifts instead of giving Him what is due. Yet this, too, is an important part of obeying God and coming out of the ways of this world.

Yes, God condemns Christmas and its pagan counterfeit customs. But only you can decide whether or not you will obey — and cut yourself *free* from the frustrations of today's world and its way! □

Personal from the Editor

(Continued from page 4)

written to inform the mind, but to change man's heart." If the Bible was written to *change* man's heart (AND IT WAS INDEED!) pray tell me HOW it can change man's HEART, if it is never understood by the MIND?

Just what does the Bible *mean* when it speaks of man's "heart"? The word "heart" is used, in this sense, to imply the ATTITUDE of MIND! The BIBLE says: "The heart is deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked..." (Jer. 17:9). It is not referring to the organ that pumps blood under man's chest. It is referring to man's NATURE — his attitude, or spirit, or tendency of MIND. It is referring to his natural CHARACTER!

But HOW does God go about *changing* this deceitful, wicked NATURE — this "heart" — this attitude of MIND?

Only the Holy Spirit of God can do this. So *how* does one receive God's Spirit?

Jesus began His Gospel Ministry and teaching saying, "... The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the GOSPEL" (Mark 1:1, 14, 15). Two conditions He said WE must perform: REPENT and BELIEVE!

On the great day of Pentecost when Peter had received God's Holy Spirit, he explained the WAY of salvation: "REPENT, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Again, same teaching: Two conditions — REPENT and BELIEVE. To "be baptized" is the outward ceremony of the inward BELIEVING. Example: The eunuch said to Philip, "See here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou BELIEVEST with all thine heart, thou mayest..." (Acts 8:36, 37).

Yes, TWO conditions. That, WE must do. Then GOD does the "saving" — the converting. God GIVES His Holy Spirit.

But now HOW does one REPENT?

What does the word "repent" MEAN? The dictionary definition is, "To change one's MIND." "Godly sorrow worketh repentance..." (II Cor. 7:10). This is done in and by the MIND!

Paul was concerned about the MIND. He said: "Let this MIND be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

How does one BELIEVE, in order to be "saved"? One must BELIEVE with the MIND.

The very last words of the Apostle Peter's letter were: "But grow in grace, and in the KNOWLEDGE of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ..." (II Peter 3:18).

What is the FOUNDATION of knowledge — the *starting approach* to wisdom? "The fear of the ETERNAL is the beginning of wisdom: a good UNDERSTANDING have all they that do His commandments: His praise endureth forever" (Psalm 111:10).

Speaking of the spiritual GIFTS — which God gives to His begotten children — to the heirs of salvation — we read this INSTRUCTION to the MIND:

"Now concerning spiritual gifts, brethren, I would not have you ignorant." Through Paul, GOD says He does not want us to be IGNORANT — but UNDERSTANDING and KNOWLEDGEABLE of MIND! Continue: "Wherefore I give you to UNDERSTAND... Now there are diversities of gifts, but the same Spirit... For to one is given by the Spirit the word of WISDOM; to another the word of KNOWLEDGE by the same Spirit; to another FAITH by the same Spirit..." (I Cor. 12:1, 3, 4, 8, 9). The MOST IMPORTANT of all the spiritual gifts which God gives His people are, first of all, WISDOM; second in importance, KNOWLEDGE; third, FAITH. These all are imparted to the MIND!

Jesus Christ said that we should actually LIVE BY "every Word of God" — that is, every word in the Bible (Luke 4:4). How may we do that, unless we allow God's Word to speak to, and instruct our MINDS?

What does STUDY mean? Do we "STUDY" with our MINDS — or our hearts? We find this INSTRUCTION and

TEACHING: "STUDY to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (II Tim. 2:15). That is a COMMAND! One can STUDY, and *rightly* divide the Word of God *only with his MIND!*

God teaches — yes, COMMANDS! — that the Scriptures are to be STUDIED — with the MIND. Otherwise, how could we know God's WILL for us? So we find *this* command: "Wherefore be ye not unwise, but UNDERSTANDING what the will of the Lord is" (Eph. 5:17).

What a tragedy that so much of this world is DECEIVED.

MILLIONS have been deceived into a FALSE "salvation," inoculated with the spiritual poison that "salvation" and the "Gospel" are concerned only with a sanctimonious mental anesthetic, shutting up the MIND to God's real TRUTH, accepting the counterfeit of a sentimental "feeling" of piety.

And other MILLIONS have been conversely deceived into supposing that this ethereal, impractical, irrational superstition of these professing but deceived "Christians" constitutes the teaching of the Bible. So *these* millions, in vanity wanting to be considered rational, and educated — regarding themselves as *thinkers* — throw away the Bible without so much as an examination of its contents.

BOTH these "pious" sentimentalists and these "intellectuals" are DECEIVED! Going off in opposite directions, to the opposite extremes from the TRUTH, they are both headed for the same ultimate destination, unless there can be a mind-opening!

The Bible is the very SOURCE of TRUE RATIONALISM, of basic TRUTH. Also it is the very SOURCE of the only TRUE Gospel and genuine SALVATION. Surely it is the Book almost NOBODY knows!

What, then, IS the Holy BIBLE?

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge — knowledge which is otherwise utterly inaccessible to the mind of man — the knowledge of WHAT man is; of WHY man is; of the true values; of THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being, success; and of ETERNAL life.

It is the FOUNDATION of *all* knowledge — scientific, physical and spiritual. *Not* the sum-total of knowledge — far,

far from it! It is the *starting point* — the BASIS, providing the proper *approach* toward the acquisition of knowledge that *is* discoverable by man.

It contains history, prophecy, wisdom, spiritual knowledge, TRUTH.

No one can be properly EDUCATED except by and through it. No one can know the way to eternal life, except by what it contains.

Yes, I REPEAT! — "the Gospel Message IS an educational Message!" It is RATIONAL! It MAKES SENSE! And it is REAL! □

What is a REAL CHRISTIAN?

(Continued from page 14)

sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:10).

Remember, He said, "In the world, ye SHALL have tribulation . . ." and also prayed to His Father, saying, "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" (John 16:33 and John 17:14). Christ told His disciples to SEPARATE themselves from the society around them — to come out of the world, and to do, believe and practice DIFFERENT things!

Notice the *strong* language about this in God's Word!

"You adulterers and adulteresses, know ye not that the friendship of the world is enmity with God? whosoever therefore will be a friend of the world is the enemy of God"! (James 4:4.)

John commands TRUE Christians, "Love NOT the world, neither the things that are IN the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For *all* that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof, but he that DOETH THE WILL OF GOD [which will is expressed in His WORD] abideth for ever"! (I John 2:15-17.)

Do most "Christians" today really

COME OUT of the world, separating themselves from its customs, its habits and ways? Do most really become so strikingly DIFFERENT that their former business associates, their relatives, neighbors and friends are actually STARTLED by the great CHANGE in their lives?

Paul says, "I beseech you . . . that ye present your bodies a *living sacrifice* . . . and BE NOT CONFORMED TO THIS WORLD: but be ye transformed by the renewing of your mind, that ye may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God" (Rom. 12:1-2).

God thunders His warning through John, "COME OUT OF HER, my people, that ye be NOT partakers of her sins, and that ye receive NOT of her PLAGUES" (Rev. 18:4).

If you *really* come out of the world — you will suffer PERSECUTION!

Jesus SAID so!

Notice it! "Think NOT that I am come to send peace on earth: I came not to send peace, but a sword. For I am come to set a man at variance against his father, and the daughter against her mother, and the daughter in law against her mother in law. And a man's foes shall be they of his own household" (Matt. 10:34-36).

If you really begin to CHANGE — if you really SURRENDER your life to God — if you really begin to DO AS CHRIST DID, to LIVE AS HE LIVED — you will be persecuted!

And if YOU'RE NOT BEING PERSECUTED, *the chances are*, YOU ARE NOT A CHRISTIAN!

"BLESSED Are Ye"

Jesus goes on to describe how really converted ones will REJOICE when they receive this persecution that comes from living righteously, Godly, in this present evil world.

He says, "GREAT is your reward in heaven: for so persecuted they the prophets which were before you"! (Matt. 5:12).

Yes, GREAT, and INCOMPREHENSIBLE is the reward of God's *true* saints, reserved for them in heaven, which is to

(Continued on the following page)

Letters to the Editor

Enjoy Being a Girl!

"Thank you very much for your article in October's TOMORROW'S WORLD entitled 'Enjoy Being a Girl.' I am nearly seventeen years old, and am planning to apply for Ambassador College this spring. Your article has helped me very much in realizing the purpose of going to Ambassador. You are quite right when you say that if you try to follow the right way, you will be taunted and ridiculed. Many times the other kids have laughed at me and called me a 'grannie,' but at least I know that I am not alone.

Heather H.,
Willowdale, Ont.

That's right, Heather, it takes courage and character to be right — keep up the good work. We'll be most happy to receive your application to Ambassador College.

False Conversion

"Thank you for sending me TOMORROW'S WORLD. The article, 'False Conversion' really did help me — after

reading it I can clearly see that men do change the meaning of the words of God. Now I know I will have to read every word for myself, and with the help you give I am sure I will make it."

Mary S.,
Tacoma, Washington

You have embarked on a most fascinating adventure — God's Word says almost exactly the opposite from what most PEOPLE think it says. But with God's help, you are certain to "make it."

Famine

"Please cancel my subscription to *The PLAIN TRUTH* and TOMORROW'S WORLD. I don't like to read about people starving and stuff like that."

Linda B.,
Coldwater, Michigan

Famine isn't pleasant — but it is real. Starvation won't go away just because you don't want to read about it. In fact it'll just creep closer to you and your family — WITHOUT your knowing what

to do about it. Thank God there are growing millions of people who do want to learn, to know about the oppressing problems of today's world — and most important — the good news of the solutions in TOMORROW'S WORLD!

Tithing

"We want God as our partner. We have sent in offerings from time to time and a very few times paid tithes. Somehow, I just naturally look for added blessings from God when I give to His Work, and He has never failed this family. From now on, God's tenth will come first from this family's income. That's a promise I made God after reading the articles in last month's TOMORROW'S WORLD."

Mr. and Mrs. Charles T.,
Revelo, Kentucky

You are now on the right road. Read "Tithing Pays — Here's the Proof" in next month's TOMORROW'S WORLD — and see the documented evidence that you can't outgive God.

What Is a Real Christian?

(Continued from previous page)

come down OUT of heaven, to *this earth!*

Jesus tells us to PRAY, "THY KINGDOM COME [not that we'll go to IT]. THY WILL BE DONE, IN *EARTH* as it is in heaven!" (Matt. 6:10.)

How PLAIN are the true teachings of Christ!

And HOW DIFFERENT from what you've grown up believing and assuming!

Yes, right here in the BEATITUDES, the "Sermon on the Mount," you can see clearly the majority of professing Christians just DO NOT BELIEVE OR PRACTICE what Christ SAID!

Do you see how DIFFERENT the REAL Christianity of the BIBLE is from today's PROFESSING brands? May God help you to *really* see, and CHANGE before it's too late! □

What Is the True Gospel?

(Continued from page 7)

bring PEACE and HAPPINESS to this sin-sick, war-weary earth! "Thy Kingdom COME — THY WILL BE DONE *on earth*, as it is in heaven." The FATHER'S WILL.

What Gospel did the early evangelists preach, in first sending out the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED? How did the early Church carry out the commission?

Notice PHILIP preaching at Samaria! Acts 8:12, "But when they BELIEVED Philip, preaching the things concerning THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized, both men and women." Philip preached the things concerning THE KINGDOM OF GOD.

Paul? Acts 20:25, 21: "I have gone preaching THE KINGDOM OF GOD . . . testifying both to the Jews and

also to the Greeks, repentance toward God, and FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ."

And notice the Gospel Paul preached to GENTILES, *after* he had turned completely away from the Jews.

Acts 28:30-31: "And Paul dwelt two whole years in his own hired house, and received all that came in unto him, preaching THE KINGDOM OF GOD, and teaching those things which concern the Lord Jesus Christ."

And, lastly, WHAT GOSPEL did Jesus say should be preached TODAY?

Matthew 24:14, speaking of the PRESENT: "And this GOSPEL OF THE KINGDOM shall be preached in ALL THE WORLD *for a witness*" — *for a WITNESS* — "unto ALL NATIONS, and then shall the END come!" — the end of this AGE.

That is the true Gospel proclaimed in TOMORROW'S WORLD — proclaimed over the World Tomorrow on the air worldwide — "IN ALL THE WORLD." □

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