

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

Feb. 1972



SIR WINSTON CHURCHILL

Letters to the Editor

Thanksgiving Day

I am writing to tell you how much I enjoyed your article about Thanksgiving Day. How true! People are forgetting God and forgetting to thank Him for many great blessings. In fact, I think people are trying to kick God out completely! More and more, people don't say: "Have a happy Thanksgiving." Now it's: "Have a happy turkey day."

Ralph M.,
Bakersfield, Calif.

Before I started reading your publications I hardly ever thought of the Bible seriously, let alone keeping the laws it described. An example is the law of tithing. Even after I had read about it, I still made excuses for not being able to afford to tithe. However, I now know what I must do. Kindly accept my small contribution to further this great and wonderful Work.

C. M.,
Birmingham, England

"Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery"

I certainly appreciate your article "Thou Shalt Not Commit Adultery!" in the December issue of *Tomorrow's World*. I am a marriage counselor, yet I would never advise, "A little adultery is good for your marriage." On the contrary, I have frequently said that marriage partners do not ordinarily have affairs with other people in a healthy marriage. When each one is doing his part in building a good relationship in marriage, ordinarily there is no thought of straying away on the part of either.

Jim H.,
Santa Ana, Calif.

• Glad you agree, Jim. We hope this article has strengthened your stand.

Tithing

I have finished the article about "The Man Who Couldn't Afford to Tithe." It fits me perfectly because my name is the same as his and with all my debts it seems almost impossible.

Ed S.,
Gray Summit, Mo.

I have just finished reading your articles in the November issue concerning tithing. Since I am very sure that God exists and He says He will bless me for paying tithes, I realize that I am not only doing an injustice to God, but also to myself. What a beautiful law! Here's my first tithe.

Michael Y.,
Boise, Idaho

Enclosed is my check for my most recent tithe — and I'm happy to add my voice to the thousands of others who have written you of their experiences which prove that tithing pays in so many ways! I never before dreamed that I could get so much out of what seemed to be such a small amount of income! How blessed we are if we will but heed our Creator's laws.

Beverly F.,
La Mesa, Calif.

Christmas

I really enjoyed your "Ten Reasons Why I Don't Keep Christmas!" I am 35; my husband, 41; and we have been brought up on the Santa Claus-Christmas tradition. This year, we are having no Christmas for the first time. Our 2- and 3-year-old girls are bombarded with Santa Claus and Christmas. Admittedly, we have occasional twinges that we are denying the little ones all the thrill and excitement we had as children. But, we realize that Christmas is nothing with its materialistic, paganistic hypocrisy. Our girls may have the chance to be in the real, not pseudo, "now generation" and be taught by the "King of kings and Lord of lords."

Bettie S.,
Stockton, Calif.

I have a message now, loud and clear, about Christmas. I certainly take my hat off to your writers who are able to exercise the family discipline needed to resist the temptations of this national holiday.

(Continued on back cover)

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Albert J. Portune, Business Manager

Circulation Managers: U. S. A.: John H. Wilson; U. K.: Charles F. Hunting; Canada: Dean Wilson; Australia: Gene R. Hughes; Philippines: Guy L. Ames; South Africa: Gordon R. Terblanche; Latin America: Louis Gutierrez.

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About our cover

The late Sir Winston Churchill. Britain's wartime Prime Minister was a moving example of the force of a sincere, dynamic, and powerful PERSONALITY. Read how you can "Build the Personality of a King!" beginning on page 9 of this issue.

Blau, Camera Press

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Personal from



The 19-Year Time Cycles — What HAPPENED January 7 — What My Commission IS!

SIGNIFICANT THINGS DID happen on January 7th! In this Personal I want to tell you what happened — but also to make PLAIN and CLEAR:

1) What our Commission *IS*, and what it is NOT!

2) What are the criteria for determining through whom God is carrying out that Commission which is His WORK on earth today.

Thousands know that I, personally, have been called and chosen for a very definite commission in God's service. But I have definitely NOT been called to be a PROPHET — except as that word, Biblically used, does sometimes refer to a minister or speaker — one who proclaims the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Emphatically I am NOT a prophet, in the sense of one to whom God speaks specially and directly, revealing personally a future event to happen or new truth, or new and special instruction direct from God — separate from, and apart from what is contained in the Bible. And I never have claimed to be.

There is no such human prophet living today!

The Bible is the written Word of God — and, for our time now, it is COMPLETE! Never have I believed or claimed that God reveals to me new truths not contained in the Bible — in addition to, or apart from the Bible.

In a special group festival held at Belknap Springs, in Oregon, in the autumn of 1951, I was shocked — and so were those there — to hear Herman L. Hoeh, then recently graduated from Ambassador

College, say with conviction, as if with authority, "Mr. Armstrong IS NOT A PROPHET — but a man called to the same kind of commission as the original evangelists and apostles of the first century Church of God — to proclaim the Message — the Announcement — the Good News of the Kingdom of God — the Message that Christ brought from God and taught His disciples."

I shook my head in astonishment that he would make that statement. I *knew well* I was not a prophet. I simply knew I had been called to proclaim Christ's Gospel of the Kingdom of God — to get a job done — but I had no illusions about being an evangelist, or an apostle, or anything more than my own part in proclaiming and publishing this Great NEWS, as a witness, to as many as I could reach. I had no vision then of a worldwide ministry.

Let's take a look at the Church of God of the first century, as we find it revealed in the Book of Acts, beginning from the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. The Bible was not fully written — only the Old Testament — in 31 A.D. God then was still communicating new truth, instruction and knowledge directly and personally to prophets. As the Church progressed, it was the function of a prophet to communicate to the apostles special messages which God had personally revealed to them. Others were inspired in the writing of the books of the New Testament.

So we read, in Acts 11:28 and 21:10-11, of the prophet Agabus. But today we have the COMPLETE Word of God, for our time, in the Bible. There are no such prophets — except false ones.

Now a word about what my Commission is NOT. It is *not* to become an infallible expert on, or to preach, chronology.

I feel at present that the whole question of chronology is in confusion, and no one can be positively SURE of dates.

As of the present I, and a majority of our historians in Ambassador College, and researchers in the School of Theology, feel that it is utterly unsafe to try to SET DATES in regard to future prophesied events, especially the return of the living Christ in supreme Power and Glory to rule all nations of the earth.

But we are only human, and it is natural that we should have been curious to know, as far as possible, how much time we had to GET THE JOB DONE. (More about that later.)

That, however, in fact, is not our *main purpose, or Commission* — which is to proclaim Christ's Announcement of the advance good NEWS of the coming

Kingdom of God to rule all nations — and the message commonly called salvation — the fact we may be born again through Jesus Christ — born into that Kingdom.

Our Commission is to GET THAT JOB DONE!

We have been GETTING IT DONE!

The question which Christ, the Head of God's Work, has *not* revealed in the Bible is, HOW THOROUGHLY He intends it to be done!

The prophecy of the proclaiming of this Message *in our time*, is in Matthew 24:14. Jesus said: "And this Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations; and then shall the end [of this age] come."

Let me say now, that in early July last year (1971), I could not have said that had as yet been done. But, in the literal Scriptural meaning of that commission, as of January 7, 1972, IT HAD BEEN ACCOMPLISHED! Six months before we had not yet gotten the Message into Japan, nor into the Scandinavian countries. Now we have!

There may, now, be a very few little countries virtually unheard of into which we have not penetrated. But I was mentioning three or four such tiny nations as an example before some of our executives the other day, when Mr. Ronald Dart, Vice President in charge of the foreign Work, grinned, on the mention of one of them, saying, "We are broadcasting regularly on the leading radio station in that country."

BUT — the unanswered question is — HOW INTENSIVELY *does* God intend ALL these countries to be reached? That is the question He has not answered — IN THE BIBLE. (Unless by one implication of which I will cover later.) But, by what HAPPENED on that very day, January 7th, and since, it appears He has now given us the answer — He intends the nations to be reached MORE INTENSIVELY than as of now!

More of that, later!

Go back, once again, to the beginning and founding of the Church. First, Jesus called His disciples, whom He taught and trained to START getting this job done. Whom did He call? The most highly educated, the leaders of the world? No, Peter and Andrew, brothers, fishermen by trade. Then next He called James and John, brothers, also fishermen. He chose Matthew, a publican (tax collector) — and tax collectors were held in no high regard in Judea.

After Christ's resurrection, Peter and John were brought before the high priest and chief rulers. They

were accused of benefitting and healing a man crippled from birth. It is recorded (Moffatt), "They were astonished to notice how outspoken Peter and John were, and to discover that they were uncultured persons and mere outsiders" (Acts 4:13). These apostles were from Galilee — outsiders in Jerusalem. The AV renders it, "... and perceived that they were unlearned and ignorant men," but that is misleading; as the Greek implies, *not* ignorant, and illiterate, in the ordinary sense but, as Moffatt renders it, uncultured in technical learning of Jewish scribes and rulers, and in their acquired mannerisms.

Again, speaking of true Christians, we read, in I Corinthians 1:26: "For you see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh [intellectually], not many mighty, not many noble, are called..."

The sophisticated churches of the world seek leaders who are intellectual, socially cultured, leaders in the community. But when GOD chooses His human instruments, He is more concerned about the sincere and honest of HEART. He calls imperfect (*all* men are, anyway) but sincere and dedicated human instruments. THEY ALL MAKE MISTAKES! This fact needs NO APOLOGY!

When I was first called — autumn 1926 — spring 1927 — I first looked for PROOF, one way or the other, as to whether GOD exists. I had had little or no religious interest previously. I did not *assume*, because of my Protestant ancestry and parentage. I wanted to *know* — to be SURE — I wanted PROOF one way or the other.

After much careful research, involving study of evolution — the writings of Darwin, Huxley, Haeckel, the earlier Lamarck, plus Spencer, Vogt, Chamberlain and other modern geologists and evolutionists — as well as a careful study of Genesis and other parts of the Bible — of all the scientific facts bearing on the subject I could find — I became SURE! I had PROVED that God IS!

Next I entered an intensive study to determine whether the Bible can be PROVED to be the inspired Word of God — the revelation of knowledge from the Creator to mankind. By many infallible proofs, this was PROVED!

After that, I had a SOLID FOUNDATION on which to start.

I began then to learn God's Truth, but not until after surrender to Him, repentance, believing, baptism, and receiving His Holy Spirit. This opened my mind

to UNDERSTANDING of the Bible. Never before could I understand it!

Now I began to learn, a truth, a subject, a teaching, or a doctrine at a time. Baptized in 1927 (late spring), I was not ordained to the Ministry until late May, or early June 1931. (Pentecost was May 25th). In my study, I did not receive everything perfectly all at once. There were instances where, having felt I had come to understand the true Biblical teaching on a certain subject, other Scriptures discovered later put a different light on it. *I had, on occasion, to confess I had been in error, and to correct it.*

The Apostle Paul, telling us under God's inspiration of how he came to KNOW God's Truth, said: "But I certify you, brethren, that the gospel which was preached of me is *not after man*. For I neither received it of man, neither was I taught it, but by the revelation of Jesus Christ." He received it, as he implies, from an appearance of the living Christ, in person, even after His resurrection and ascension.

I, too, received Christ's Gospel NOT from MAN. I, too, certify that the Gospel I have taught and proclaimed is *not after man*. I entered no theological seminary, where I would have received a particular denominational teaching and set of doctrines and practices. I was *not* taught by MAN. But I was taught, as was Paul, by the revelation of Jesus Christ — Paul from the living Christ *in person* — who is the Word of God in *person* — but I from the *written Word of God* — which is the SAME revelation, now set in print.

I did not get it all *perfectly* at the beginning. No one could. Most of God's truths, assuredly, were revealed perfectly and in truth from the beginning. But, as an example, even Peter says "... our beloved brother Paul also according to the wisdom given unto him hath written unto you; as also in all his epistles, speaking in them of these things; in which are some things hard to be understood, which they that are unlearned and unstable wrest, as they do also the other scriptures unto their own destruction" (II Peter 3:15-16). And sometimes, in the light of other Scriptures, I had to confess error *and correct it*.

There were at least two occasions when I was accused by hostile women, bent on discrediting me, of error. On more thorough research, in these two instances, I discovered I had unknowingly been in error — and they were correct. Humiliating or not, *I openly and publicly corrected these errors at once*.

Even the first century Church at Antioch was UNSURE about a truth, and when they appealed to the

Headquarters Church at Jerusalem, so were the apostles there — UNTIL THE HOLY SPIRIT corrected them, and revealed the real truth to them (Acts 15th chapter).

Let me ask you this question. Do you know of any large, established, well-recognized professing Christian denomination which has PUBLICLY confessed it had been WRONG in what it had been teaching, and which then CORRECTED the error, and turned to the TRUTH?

No, the big established churches and denominations feel they cannot afford to admit having had any error — having ever mis-taught the people.

But are they ALL perfect and correct in what they teach? If so why do not any two AGREE in all points of doctrine? The REASON is simply that they DO teach certain errors which they are afraid to confess, for fear they would lose members.

THUS THEY HAVE EDUCATED THE PEOPLE TO SUPPOSE THAT IF ANY LEADER, ANY CHURCH, AND WORK OF GOD CAN BE FOUND TO HAVE BEEN IN ERROR IN ANY POINT, THEY CANNOT BE TRUSTED. To confess and correct error is to be branded a false prophet!

Yet they are all HUMAN. They are ALL subject to error, and so are YOU — and so am I — and so is this Work of God. Even though it is God's Work, directed, empowered and blessed by Him, He carries it on through frail, weak HUMANS, and we humans are ALL of us subject to mistakes!

What are God's CONDITIONS for salvation? 1st, is REPENT. Repent means CONFESS YOUR SINS — your errors — your mistakes — where you have been WRONG! It means CHANGE from the wrong, and TURN TO the right! A church or a group activity, even such as ours, is made up of HUMANS. Such church or work is merely the *individual humans* that comprise it, COLLECTIVELY. If no one of the humans is infallible, NEITHER CAN THE ORGANIZED GROUP BE.

If I were looking for God's one true Church, I would assuredly *look for one that had confessed and corrected its errors! For all have had them* — even the early churches (Rev. 2:4, 14, 20).

Any criterion that assumes God's TRUE Work through humans is absolutely perfect, unable to be wrong or make mistakes or hold to any error, is a false measuring stick and will mislead you.

You may ask, do I, then, feel that we in this Work are full of errors, misleading the people? MOST EMPHATICALLY NO! We have not had to correct error many times. But each time we have corrected an error,

we have had one fewer error left. If we KNEW of any error still remaining, now, we would CHANGE it! If and when we find one in the future, we shall correct it! The one who follows that principle is THE MOST FREE FROM ERROR!

So, confessing such an error is one of the SUREST proofs to identify the people through whom the living Christ IS WORKING — and whom HE IS USING!

If you are looking for a leader who claims that he is PERFECT, and you think you have found him, and he is human, HE IS A FALSE LEADER. There is ONLY the ONE Leader who is perfect today — and He is the LIVING CHRIST! We follow HIM — and we trust *you*, with us, will do the same.

Peter made mistakes. He was openly rebuked by Paul (Gal. 2:11-14). All prophets and apostles were IMPERFECT — *all made mistakes*. All but Christ!

Now I want to tell you the TRUTH about the two 19-year time cycles, ending January 7, 1972, with a frank, straightforward explanation of where we were mistaken — and WHERE WE WERE RIGHT!

In a Co-Worker letter dated May 22nd, 1953, I wrote the following:

"Listen now to an ASTOUNDING fact! God has set time running in cycles of 19 years. Just once in every 19 years the *days*, divided by the sun; the *months*, marked by the new moon; and the *years*, divided by the revolution of the earth around the sun, all come into conjunction.

"It took just ONE COMPLETE CYCLE of 19 years for this Work to grow from nothing until it carried the very Gospel of Jesus all over the North American continent in mighty power! That 19-year time cycle ended, and the second 19-year cycle began, during the first week of the present year, 1953!

"The very start of the second 19-year cycle marked the beginning of proclaiming this Gospel to ALL EUROPE AND THE BRITISH ISLES! It must still go to Asia, Africa, South America, and Australia."

But MORE ASTOUNDING than I had noticed, or written then:

We started on the air on the little station in Eugene, Oregon, the first Sunday in January, 1934. That first

Sunday was January 7. For some time I talked of starting also on the air in Europe during the *first week* of 1953 — 19 years later — not the first Sunday, but the first Wednesday.

What I did not realize, then, is, that one year from today — or two, or 19 years from today will NOT be the same *day of the week* as today!

Let me add here, that *I did not have anything to do with* setting the DAY on which we started in Europe. I had negotiated to purchase time on that station two or three months earlier — late autumn, 1952. I sent over a transcribed or taped program, but for some reason the contents did not completely conform to technical station requirements. I re-recorded the program and sent over a second transcription. Because of language barriers, I had not understood their technical requirements. Again it was rejected.

The third time the program was okayed, as were all programs thereafter for years. The station put it on at the first open date thereafter — which happened (?) to be, the first *Wednesday* in January, 1953.

But, incredible as it may sound, when later I checked with calendars, that Wednesday was January 7, 1953! 19 years to the exact SAME DAY OF THE YEAR. I checked with the Hebrew calendar. January 7, 1934 was Sunday, Tebeth 20th. Also January 7th, 1953, was Wednesday, Tebeth 20, by the Hebrew calendar! So the door opened in Europe, *not only the first week* in 1953, but on the exact SAME DATE — 19 years TO THE VERY DAY!

That seemed SIGNIFICANT, to say the least!

Another possibly significant analogy: Jeremiah's calling as a prophet was from the 13th year of king Josiah (Jer. 1:2) — apparently 626 B.C. It seems unlikely Jeremiah would have entered his ministry without some training.

If he underwent a 3-year training, similar to the training of Christ's disciples, his actual ministry would have begun approximately 623 — (a date apparently not verifiable historically). The first phase of his ministry carried to the beginning of the siege by Nebuchadnezzar's forces on Jerusalem, 604 B.C. That was 19 years, assuming the pre-

ministry training period. His ministry then continued until the fall of Jerusalem, 585 B.C. — a SECOND 19-YEAR TIME CYCLE. However, there is ample reason to believe Jeremiah's ministry continued into, but probably not completely through, a 3rd 19-year period with his escaping from Jerusalem and, with one of King Zedekiah's daughters, migrating to northern Ireland, where this "King's seed" took root downward, and bore fruit upward.

If you will put yourself in my place — and in the place of my associates in God's Work — I think you may imagine how we felt! This was ASTOUNDING — yet it was FACT!

As God set the earth, the moon and the sun *to mark time here on earth*, each 19 years is a *definite cycle of time*. Granted, there was no prophecy in the Bible specifically saying THIS WORK would be given one 19-year time cycle, at which time God would open the door for us to get His Message into Europe.

BUT, we checked the early Church. It *started* on its mission from the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. (Acts 2). The Apostle Paul said a DOOR was opened for him to get the Message into EUROPE (II Cor. 2:12-13 and Acts 16:8-13). This was in 50 A.D. — after 19 years. And there is reason to believe that the "Sabbath" mentioned in Acts 16:13 was the *annual Sabbath* called the day of Pentecost — or 19 years to the day from the time the Gospel was first preached by the Church!

To us these FACTS and probable facts were truly ASTOUNDING!

There IS the definite time cycle, SET BY GOD in the earth, moon and sun, of 19 years. That is a FACT!

It *was*, to the very DAY, precisely 19 years from the start of this Work until the door was opened to proclaim the Message to EUROPE! That is not surmise, conjecture, or "probably" — that is FACT! *It happened!*

It appeared probable that Jeremiah had been given 19 years for the first portion of his ministry. It was definite that he was given another 19 years for the second phase of his ministry. It is established by prophecy that a third stage of his ministry carried INTO a third 19-year time-cycle — though probably

(Continued on page 30)

The "Tongues" Question

Is "speaking in tongues" the Bible evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? Just what IS the baptism with the Holy Spirit? What about "tarry meetings"? Are there people "speaking in tongues" today?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IS "SPEAKING in tongues" the BIBLE evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit? Is this "baptism" for us today? What is the Biblical teaching about "TARRY MEETINGS"?

The Most Important Business of This Life

The most important business of this life is the receiving of the true baptism with the Holy Spirit.

But how few, today, understand what that baptism really is! Your eternal salvation depends on it! Let us come very humbly, prayerfully, to a study of this all-important subject.

It is one fraught with prejudices on both sides. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit is, first of all, the Spirit of LOVE — of PATIENCE — of TOLERANCE. So let us, if possible, come to this study, each admitting that he may have been wrong, and very humbly, prayerfully, seeking instruction from GOD out of His Word. And let us see this study through to the end.

Salvation means, simply, the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit is the very LIFE of God. Jesus said: "That which is born of the flesh is FLESH Ye must be BORN AGAIN" — born of God's Spirit!

"But ye are not in the flesh, but in the Spirit, IF so be that the Spirit of God dwell IN YOU. *Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, HE IS NONE OF HIS. . . .* But IF the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall ALSO *quicken your mortal bodies* BY HIS SPIRIT THAT DWELLETH IN YOU" (Rom. 8:9, 11).

Unless, then, we have received the Holy Spirit, God's Spirit, God's LIFE, to dwell within us, we are LOST — utterly without hope of eternal life! Surely, then, the receiving of the Holy Spirit is the most important business of this life! But what is the difference between "receiving" and being "baptized by" the Holy Spirit?

Is PENTECOST Repeated in This Day?

Let us, then, look prayerfully and without prejudice into God's Word.

Are the accompanying MANIFESTATIONS that took place on the day of Pentecost — immediately following Jesus' ascension to heaven — for you and me today? Many people assume that they are — and that the method of receiving this experience or "blessing" is to attend modern "tarry meetings." And that the only "Bible evidence" of the "baptism of

the Holy Spirit" is "speaking in tongues." On this assumption many would stake their lives!

So let us EXAMINE the original manifestations of that day, as described in the Bible, and SEE whether they are being repeated today. Perhaps a real surprise awaits us. Let us not ASSUME — let us PROVE ALL THINGS as God's Word instructs.

The only record of that tremendous occasion is preserved in Acts 2:1-13. Let us carefully examine every incident that occurred that day.

1) "And when the day of Pentecost was fully come, they were all *with one accord* in one place." Are the "Pentecostal" people of today who believe in "speaking in tongues" in harmony and "one accord"? No, they are split up into many fragments and segments, over disputes among themselves.

2) "And SUDDENLY there came a SOUND from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind." Notice that on THAT day there was a SOUND. Not a sound made by the people, but this sound came FROM HEAVEN. It sounded like a violent windstorm. Have you ever seen THIS part of the manifestations repeated today? Then notice, too, that this sound — the Spirit which caused them to speak with tongues — came SUDDENLY. But

today we see these people start to "work it up" GRADUALLY. Sometimes they twist, and jerk, and chatter and mutter, repeating certain phrases over and over, until they work themselves into it. But on THAT day, the Spirit that filled those disciples came FROM HEAVEN, and SUDDENLY!

3) "And it [the sound] filled all the house where they were sitting." Do sounds coming, not from people's throats, but from heaven, fill THE WHOLE HOUSE where people are assembled today?

4) "And there appeared unto them CLOVEN TONGUES like as of fire, and it SAT UPON EACH OF THEM." Divided, flaming tongues APPEARED — they saw them! They came and sat upon each of the disciples! Has any man living witnessed such a manifestation in this day?

5) "And they were ALL filled with the Holy Spirit." Surely no one has ever heard of a modern "Pentecost" meeting where ALL were filled, all at once, at the same time, SUDDENLY, when the Spirit came with a great SOUND from heaven!

6) "And began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance." Ah! Here, at last, some will be sure to say, is a manifestation repeated today! But wait! On this original day of Pentecost, they began SUDDENLY to speak in these OTHER languages. Now *what kind* of tongue-speaking was this? Was it UNKNOWN tongues? Was it the kind that needed an interpreter? Was it like we see demonstrated today? Let us examine and see!

Verse 5 tells us there were dwelling in Jerusalem at that time devout Jews out of every nation on earth. Word of this momentous experience went like wildfire over the city. A multitude of these Jews came rushing to the place. They were amazed. They marvelled. Why? Because that:

7) "EVERY MAN HEARD THEM SPEAK IN HIS OWN LANGUAGE!" These Jews, from all nations, UNDERSTOOD what was said! Some were Parthians. Some Medes, Elamites, dwellers in Mesopotamia, Rome, Arabia, etc. And they said, "And how hear we every man in our own tongue, wherein we were born?"

Now notice carefully. Every man heard THEM (Acts 2:6) speak in HIS own language! These disciples were all speaking in tongues — OTHER languages — the languages of EVERY NATION under heaven. And EVERY MAN who came rushing in heard THEM — the disciples — speak in HIS OWN LANGUAGE! The Parthian heard THEM, ALL of them, speak the Parthian language. But the Mede heard the SAME

A Different Kind of Tongues!

Have you ever witnessed an experience like this? Have you ever heard THIS kind of "tongue-speaking"? Can you even find a description, in all the Bible, where this same kind of manifestation occurred at any other time?

True, they spoke with other tongues when the Holy Spirit first came upon the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius



Mangum Photo

Pentecostal tongues speakers supposedly "under the power of the Spirit." The real question is — which "spirit"? See I John 4:1-4.

disciples speak the language of the Medes. Those from Greece heard the entire number of THEM — speaking Greek. THEY UNDERSTOOD what was said! So the miracle was in the hearing as well as the speaking.

The gift of "tongues" spoken of in the Bible is the ability to speak of God in other languages — languages that are foreign and previously unknown to the speaker.

(Acts 10). And in telling the apostles of it, Peter said, "The Holy Spirit fell on them, as on us at the beginning," and, "God gave them *the like gift* as he did unto us" (Acts 11:15, 17).

But it is not recorded, nor did Peter say, that the Holy Spirit at that time came SUDDENLY *from* HEAVEN, like the SOUND of a windstorm, appearing as divided tongues of fire, or that men of different languages each understood all of them in HIS own language. Aside from being filled with the Spirit and speaking in tongues, the nature of which is not here described, *there is no similarity between these two experiences.*

It is true, too, that in one other recorded case, *and one ONLY*, men spoke with tongues upon being filled with the Holy Spirit. That was when Paul had baptized the Ephesian believers and laid his hands on them (Acts 19:6). But there is nothing to indicate similar accompanying manifestations as upon the original day of Pentecost.

So what must we conclude? The Pentecostal accompanying manifestations are *not* being repeated today?

But if not, WHY not?

Are they not available for us today? No, they surely are not! We have no word of condemnation for these "Pentecostal" people, as they call themselves, because they are unable to repeat the same accompanying manifestations as described for the day of Pentecost in 31 A.D. That will NEVER be repeated again! *It never occurred before, and it never will again!*

Unique in History

It was an EXPERIENCE unique in all history. It was the welcoming manifestation of the advent of the Holy Spirit — the "other Comforter" — to earth FROM HEAVEN.

During His ministry, Jesus said, "He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the Spirit, which they that believe on him should receive: for THE HOLY SPIRIT WAS NOT YET GIVEN; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:38, 39).

"The Holy Spirit was not yet given." How could men receive the GIFT before the GIFT had been GIVEN? The SPIRIT could not come until Jesus had been glorified. Speaking of the coming of the Holy Spirit, Jesus told His disciples, on the eve of His crucifixion: "If I go not away, the Comforter WILL NOT COME unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you. And WHEN he is come . . ." (John 16:7, 8).

The Holy Spirit had not yet been given! It had not yet come from heaven! Unless Jesus went to heaven, and was glorified, it could not come!

Again, that same memorable night, Jesus said: "He dwelleth WITH you, and shall be IN you" (John 14:17). He was

WITH them, in the person of Jesus, but was, after the day of Pentecost, to be IN them, through the Holy Spirit. And so, today, as the Scriptures say, "Christ IN us, the hope of glory."

What happened on the day of Pentecost was the fulfillment of Joel's prophecy (Joel 2:28-29) — the advent of the OTHER Comforter, the Holy Spirit to earth FROM HEAVEN, as Peter clearly and plainly explained on that very day (Acts 2:16-21).

And it was on that day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, eleven days after Jesus had ascended to heaven to be glorified, that the Holy Spirit, the "other Comforter," *came from heaven!*

AND THIS ADVENT FROM HEAVEN WAS ACCOMPANIED WITH MIGHTY MANIFESTATIONS! The Spirit of God came with a SOUND as of mighty rushing wind! It came with the APPEARANCE of divided tongues of fire! And on that occasion, it filled all the disciples, and spoke through them *in such manner that every man from every nation on earth HEARD in his own language! The miracle on that occasion was in the hearing, as well as the speaking!*

Let us realize the truth, and not try, in our human fleshly power, to COPY and imitate that one tremendous welcoming manifestation! For truly we shall produce only a counterfeit!

"Praying Down Pentecost"

Today we frequently hear those who do not understand speak of "praying down another Pentecost." They exclaim, "It took Peter and the apostles ten days to pray down Pentecost," and they urge us to "tarry," and to "seek," and to beg and to agonize, and to plead with God to send down ANOTHER Pentecost — to send His Holy Spirit from heaven again!

But the Holy Spirit CAME FROM HEAVEN to earth on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. and — let us understand this — HAS BEEN HERE EVER SINCE!

All we have to do now is to OPEN UP OUR HEARTS, and to let the blessed Holy Spirit in! Today you need not plead and beg and agonize for God to give you this greatest of all gifts. God needs no begging! The Holy Spirit is HERE — and God tells us in His Word

He is more WILLING to give us this Gift than we are to give bread to our hungry children (Luke 11:13). Today the Spirit of God is HERE — knocking on the door (Rev. 3:20), and the way to OPEN the door is to REPENT (Rev. 3:19), and it *will* come in, and abide with you forever!

The Great Mistake

Do you know the great mistake so many earnest people have been deceived into making? They are pleading with God to GIVE them something that He is pleading with them to RECEIVE!

This is their mistake:

THEY ARE TRYING TO COPY AND TO DEMONSTRATE THE PENTECOST MANIFESTATIONS, INSTEAD OF FOLLOWING THE TEACHINGS GIVEN THAT DAY!

The manifestations of that day were unique in all earth's history. The manifestations of that day were the welcoming manifestations of the advent of the "other Comforter" to this earth from heaven. But the inspired teaching of Peter on that day is the teaching for this whole church age.

And Peter said, "REPENT, and BE BAPTIZED!" and then, "ye SHALL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). Baptism in water is a demonstration of your repentance and belief. "REPENT and BELIEVE," are the two conditions — and the ONLY conditions, to receiving the great blessing of the baptism with the Holy Spirit! Paul went "testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, REPENTANCE toward God, and FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ." And all who repented, and received Christ in faith, being baptized, DID receive the gift of the Spirit! And so will we, today!

None can receive the precious Spirit of God without coming to that place of self-abasement, self-mortification, full and unconditional SURRENDER, entire willingness to give up ALL for Christ — to come ALL the way out of the world and its ways, customs, beliefs — *to be willing to keep ALL of God's Commandments* — to have the faith that will let the Holy Spirit in!

God gives His Holy Spirit ONLY to THEM THAT OBEY HIM! (Acts 5:32.)

No, we need not pray down another Pentecost! But we do need to SURREN-

DER, and that is where we fall down. We still want our own way!

This is not to say that no prayer at all is necessary, in order to receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit. On the contrary, MUCH PRAYER is usually necessary. But it must be the RIGHT KIND of prayer — not the persistent, nagging, pleading of a self-willed child to have his own way, but the earnest prayer of a broken and contrite and repentant heart, that confesses its own utter depravity, its own helplessness, its own deceit and wickedness, and, like David, pleads with God to "create in me a CLEAN heart, O God; and renew a RIGHT spirit within me" (Psalm 51:10), confessing that our heart is not clean, nor our spirit right.

It may take a great deal of prayer — of earnest supplication and prayer — to bring one to the place where he CAN surrender fully to God — to have revealed to him the things he must surrender, which perhaps, he himself does not fully realize — to be made thoroughly WILLING to give up ALL for the blessed gift of life eternal through the Holy Spirit of God.

The Devil's COUNTERFEIT

Much has been written — thousands of sermons preached — on the NEED for the baptism of the Holy Spirit. Much about "tongues," and "manifestations," and the "signs following."

BUT LITTLE IS EVER SAID ABOUT THE MANNER OR METHOD of receiving this gift!

That is because people have had their eyes on the MANIFESTATIONS, and not on the TEACHING of the day of Pentecost!

The method, unfortunately, has been taken for granted by thousands — a modern method that has not been questioned, or checked or proved according to the BIBLE teaching.

Is it not a self-evident fact that if we seek it a wrong way, we shall receive a wrong thing?

Do you suppose the devil would be content to *deceive* men on all other questions, and then neglect to deceive the many thousands of seekers after the baptism with the Holy Spirit into a clever, false, spurious MANNER and METHOD of receiving this most precious gift of all — and therefore into actually

receiving a COUNTERFEIT instead of the genuine?

God's Word WARNS you and me that Satan is going about, today, as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, KNOWING HE HAS BUT A SHORT TIME. Jesus warned us of false doctrines that would appear in these last days, and that would DECEIVE *many*.

"Oh, but Satan could never deceive ME," you say! Why, are YOU not seeking after the deeper SPIRITUAL experiences? Perhaps speaking in "tongues"? You think YOU could not be deceived — it is only those who are not "spiritual" that are deceived.

Can't we see that Satan is a SPIRITUAL being? (Eph. 2:2.) He does not come as a red demon with horns and tail, but as "AN ANGEL OF LIGHT." He appears as an ANGEL — a SPIRIT, and as bringing LIGHT. Those deceived THINK they have received marvelous new LIGHT. They THINK they have advanced and been elevated to a HIGHER SPIRITUAL PLANE.

And Satan has many MINISTERS. And they do not all come preaching modernism, or cold spiritless doctrines. They, too, come as SPIRITUAL ministers, and are "transformed as the ministers of RIGHTEOUSNESS" (II Cor. 11:14, 15).

It is those searching for "deeper SPIRITUAL experiences" whom Satan will tempt and try the most, and WHO ARE MOST SUSCEPTIBLE to his deceptions! That is, unless we are constantly ON GUARD, and unless we refuse to follow any but the TRUE SCRIPTURAL TEST.

You cannot trust your EXPERIENCES, because Satan, a spirit being, can give counterfeit spiritual experiences, and by them deceive human beings.

"Beloved, BELIEVE NOT every *spirit*, but TRY *the spirits whether they are of GOD*: because many false prophets are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

What is TRUTH? Jesus said, "THEY WORD is truth!" The BIBLE! So, when the Spirit of Truth is come, it merely guides us into a RIGHT understanding of the BIBLE! The BIBLE, and the Bible ALONE, is the test.

"And when they shall say unto you, SEEK unto them that have familiar *spirits*, and unto wizards that *peep, and that mutter*: should not a people seek unto their God? for the living to the

dead? TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: if they speak not according to THIS *word*, it is because there is *no light in them*"! (Isa. 8:19-20.)

The "Law and the Testimony" are the Old and the New Testaments — the Bible. TRY the *spirits*! By what standard? The BIBLE!

Satan today is misleading, fooling, and cleverly deceiving thousands by giving "impressions," or dreams or "visions," until people say, "The Lord told me" this or that, and call their impressions "leadings of the Spirit." Remember, Satan is a spirit who can lead, as well as God. We wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against WICKED SPIRITS in high places, and consequently God warns us that we need to put on the WHOLE ARMOR OF GOD that we may withstand the WILES OF THE DEVIL (Eph. 6:10-18). And that armor includes the shield of FAITH, and the sword of THE WORD OF GOD. Every *spirit* is not the HOLY Spirit. There are many false, seducing, unclean spirits.

What About "TARRY Meetings"?

Are "tarry meetings" Scriptural? Is this the BIBLE method?

It must be remembered that there are many different types of "Pentecostal" people. And so their ways differ.

But perhaps with the majority of these people, the method is as follows. The "seeker," as he is called, must attend a "tarry meeting" along with other "seekers" and with those, where possible, who already "have their baptism," as it is expressed. The seekers are told to say such phrases as "Glory! Glory!" over and over. Constantly they are urged to "say it a little faster." Variations of this phrase are "Hallelujah" or "Praise you Jesus!" Constantly the "seeker" is told to keep it up, faster and faster, not to become discouraged. Sometimes they are told to lift the arms above their heads, and hold them there. When they become so tired they are unable to hold them longer in the air, others will come and support their arms.

In other forms of the "tarry meeting" a group of seekers assemble together, with, where possible, some who already

(Continued on page 24)

BUILD THE PERSONALITY OF A KING!

The readers of this magazine should become LEADERS! Do you have the capacity to inspire — to influence — to lead others for good? Here are vital KEYS to building a powerful and effective personality — and to making your life more abundant!

by Roderick C. Meredith

SOME twenty years ago, my boss ordered me and a partner to make a long and grueling trip back to the head office — *immediately!* We were already tired and sleepy from the long and difficult road trip we had been making. But now, just when we hoped to slow down and rest a while, we were ordered to drive over a thousand miles within the next thirty-six hours.

An important meeting was to be held, and *we were to be there.*

All the way back, I became more conscious than ever of how tired we really were. As we groggily rolled over plain and desert, I began to feel more and more sorry for myself. Sure, he wanted us back for an important meeting — and I should have been flattered that he did — but all I could think about was how tired I felt, and how he had insisted that we start back “immediately.”

“Doesn’t he know how tired we are?” I muttered to myself. “Can’t he realize that an extra day or two wouldn’t make all that much difference — besides, we’re so tired we might get in a wreck and be KILLED!” I thought.

Exhausted, sweaty and with tousled hair and two nights’ growth of beard from our long “straight-through” drive, we stalked into the building to check in and to find out when and where the meeting was to be held that afternoon. I walked a little stiffly, with set jaw and a chip on my shoulder.

They said the boss was coming, so we waited for a few minutes in the hallway. Soon we heard him coming around the corner.

The Boss Appears

“Hi, fellows!” the familiar voice boomed out with resounding warmth and enthusiasm. “Boy! It’s good to see you guys here!” He gripped my hand warmly and put another friendly hand on my shoulder. “I know you’re tired, but you look great. This meeting would just not have been the same without you fellows being here. Say, I really *appreciate* your driving straight through the night to get here in time! I think I’ll line up a long weekend recuperation period over at a very *special* resort I know about as soon as this meeting is

over. It’ll all be on me. How about it?”

“Oh, that’s all right, sir,” I found myself saying, “It wasn’t so bad a trip, and we’re sure glad to be back here on the job again.”

The warmth in his voice and his smile, the sincere love and concern in his eyes and manner — it melted me like butter out under a tropical sun!

“Yes, *me,*” I thought to myself later as I was alternately puzzled and glad at the sudden, unforeseen shift in my entire mood upon encountering the boss. For — as a former Golden Gloves boxing champion — I had thought I was “tough.”

What changed my attitude so VIOLENTLY — so *suddenly?*

It was simply the force of a sincere, dynamic and *powerful* PERSONALITY. It was the *boss’s* personality. And, as I have realized more with each passing year, that personality is at least *one* of the important reasons why he became the “boss” over a large and growing organization!

Now, what about YOU? Do you know the “keys” or the *building blocks*

so that you can build this kind of personality?

What Kind of LEADER Are You?

A new age is coming. And the *right kind* of LEADERS are going to be needed. Those who have *proved* the Word of God — who know that the Bible *says what it means, and means what it says* — realize that Christians are now *in training* to be those leaders. Notice Revelation 2:26-27: "And he that overcometh, and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall RULE them with a rod of iron. . . ."

Again: "To him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me *in my throne*, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Rev. 3:21). And Jesus directly promised the twelve apostles: "I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones judging [RULING] the twelve tribes of Israel" (Luke 22:29-30).

But in the World Tomorrow, as today, you can either *lead* people, or you can *DRIVE* them. You can cause them to *want* to follow you, or you can *MAKE* them.

Which is it going to be?

When Jesus spoke, the people were *warmed* and *inspired*. The jealous, bickering religious leaders of His day were fearful lest the whole nation begin to follow Him (John 11:48). His teaching and His personality had *such* a profound effect on people that His disciples remarked: "Did not our heart *BURN* within us, while he talked with us by the way, and while he opened to us the scriptures?" (Luke 24:32.)

Here are those "keys" Jesus had — five of them — to help build a powerful personality — *the personality of a KING*.

I. Develop an Outgoing Interest and Warmth for Others

What is the thing that strikes you most about someone who easily wins your love and respect?

Chances are, it is the sincere warmth and affection he shows. It may be the light in his eyes or his smile. It will

often include the pleasant, friendly sound of his voice. For people who possess a great deal of personal charm *really like their fellow human beings and are genuinely interested in them*.

Learning to love and enjoy others — to *GIVE* of yourself to them in personal relations — is certainly the foremost key to building a radiant personality. Jesus Christ — the greatest personality of all times — stated this *universally applicable* spiritual principle: "It is more blessed to *GIVE* than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

If you can *sincerely* learn to share your warmth, your love, your plans, hopes and dreams with others — to *give* kindness, encouragement and a sense of being loved and appreciated to them — you will build bonds of *friendship that will endure many a trial*. And *you yourself* will be the one most blessed in the end.

All of us should learn to *SMILE* more! We should put more warmth and enthusiasm in our voices and in our handshakes. We should build a sincere feeling of empathy or "at-oneness" with our fellowmen — having *THEIR* welfare and *THEIR* happiness at heart as much as our own.

Sincere LOVE Is the Basis

Remember that sincere LOVE is one of the rarest of commodities in this fighting, squabbling, envious, fiercely competitive world of ours. Several years ago *Reader's Digest* magazine ran a magnificent article entitled "The Awesome Power of Human Love." It described case histories — based on *hundreds* of other similar cases — showing that only a half century ago the *MAJORITY* of infant children admitted to hospitals and children's institutions *never emerged alive!* Gradually, they found that if a young child were picked up, amused and "mothered" several times a day, his chances of survival were *dramatically* increased.

The article concludes: "Scientists are today discovering that to live as if *life* and *love* were one is an indispensable condition — because this is the way of life which the innate nature of man demands."

Yes, to *live* is to *LOVE!* And — within the guidelines expressed by the

Ten Commandments — *you can never give away too much love*.

The Proverbs state: "A *merry heart* doeth good like a medicine: but a broken spirit drieth the bones" (Prov. 17:22). This inspired statement shows the powerful effect of a happy, positive frame of mind not only on one's self, but *on others as well*.

"A man that hath friends must show himself friendly; and there is a friend that sticketh closer than a brother" (Prov. 18:24). To inspire love and loyalty in your friends and associates, *GIVE* of these qualities yourself in a spontaneous, wholehearted and sincere manner.

This quality of *outgoing interest* and *warmth* toward others is the *BASIS* for the type of personal charm and magnetism we all desire. It is, of course, based on sincere *LOVE* toward God and fellowman — the kind of love that cannot be mimicked or "put on." So *don't try to*. But *DO* exercise the faith and cheerfully *express* the love you do feel — and go to Almighty God and ask Him for more!

Learn to think of love and warmth as something you *GIVE*, not *get*. For, to quote a popular song, love is more real "when you *GIVE* it away."

II. Build Zest and Humor Into Your Life

One of the most endearing qualities in a man — especially a leader — is the ability to see the humorous side of things, even about himself. Mr. Armstrong has told about one of the great American bank presidents he knew many years ago who had a sign hung up on the wall behind his desk proclaiming: "Don't take yourself too seriously!"

This is excellent advice. For most men of ability are, alas, too busy building up and protecting their "image" or greatness and grandeur to maintain their childhood zest for small occasions and their ability to laugh at and enjoy many things in this temporal life — even themselves.

A number of this world's outstanding leaders and statesmen have maintained the hearty zest and humor of younger days — and it has even increased their stature as leaders.

Although many disagreed with his political theories, overwhelming millions of Americans were charmed and inspired by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's personality. When his rich, resonant voice came over the radio, "My fellow Americans . . .," millions of his insecure countrymen were warmed and reassured. His full, vibrant laughter and engaging smile made him a popular companion even apart from his political life.

One of his close associates and a counselor of many presidents, Bernard M. Baruch, describes his feelings after news came that President Roosevelt had died. "Now that the President was dead, I remembered with particular force his ZEST for living. He used to enjoy the pleasures of the children's hour . . . and the convivial conversation of his friends.

"His sense of HUMOUR was always evident. I recalled many of the amusing messages he had sent me, such as the one I received when I turned seventy-three. 'Keep right at it,' he wired. 'Someday you will grow up.'"

Churchill's Example

This flair for humor and occasional jokes also characterized Sir Winston Churchill. During the war, he wore a varied and obviously funny assortment of uniforms, hats and paraphernalia. Alan Moorehead wrote: "There was an immense love for Churchill in England through these years. The crowds knew every one of his uniforms and hats, his siren suits, the bow tie, the shoes with zip fasteners, the walking stick, the watch chain. Nothing apparently could ever weary them of the V-sign or the cigar, and the first sound of the grumpy, reassuring voice on the radio silenced all conversation in any pub or public place."

Once, at the White House, President Roosevelt was wheeled into Churchill's room and found him, surprisingly, still drying himself after a bath. Roosevelt began to apologize and started to leave. But Churchill protested it was quite all right: "The Prime Minister of Great Britain has nothing to conceal from the President of the United States."

So learn to laugh even at yourself — and at the many funny things that hap-

pen in life. Of course, always try to laugh *with* people, not *at* them. Learn also to preserve, or recapture, your youthful zest for the right kind of up-building fun and games — and for the new and different things and experiences that make life interesting!

III. Learn to Be Patient, Compassionate and Modest

Perhaps the thing that irks others most about many so-called "important" people is that they are so impressed with SELF that they seem blind to the needs and wishes of others. They are pompous and vain. They are impatient and demanding — cutting other people off in conversation and expecting super-human efforts of their subordinates that even they themselves would not be able to accomplish. They utterly lack real *compassion* — the ability to share in the plans, hopes, dreams and sufferings of others.

Like many a politician, they can put on a grand show in public — "demonstrating" by some pompous act or gesture that they care, after all, for the "common man."

But, sooner or later, they get found out. For, as Abraham Lincoln is reputed to have said: "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but you cannot fool all the people all the time."

Indeed, one of the characteristics which made Lincoln great was his *sincere* compassion for the slaves and downtrodden — plus his personal modesty and profound humility. Perhaps you have heard the story of the little old lady who was impatiently waiting outside her apartment house or hotel for a buggy to take her to the train station. Although the station was only a few blocks away, she had a large trunk too heavy even for an average man to want to carry for that distance. Finding her in distress — in fact almost at the point of tears over the prospect of missing her train — and with no buggy or help in sight, President Lincoln picked up the large trunk, placed it across his strong shoulders which had split so many rails back in Illinois, and said: "Follow me!"

The little old lady, and her trunk, were personally placed on board the passenger train by the President of the

United States — Abraham Lincoln!

For a far greater example yet, it is very enlightening to read the life story of the greatest Personality of all times — looking as you read for the word "compassion."

"And Jesus, moved with *compassion*, put forth his hand . . ." (Mark 1:41).

"And when the Lord saw her, he had *compassion* on her . . ." (Luke 7:13).

"But when he saw the multitudes, he was moved with *compassion* on them . . ." (Matt. 9:36).

Genuine *outgoing concern* for others — as Jesus had — will be expressed in hundreds of little ways. Tact, courtesy, consideration — we have many different names for such small attentions. Yet it is often through these acts of thoughtful kindness that we demonstrate to people the depth of our concern, our friendship and our love.

Again, learn to "give" yourself to others with sincere love and outgoing consideration for them. Have empathy — express compassion for them when they are suffering, or when they are down and out. Become more *patient* and *tolerant* of the mistakes of others — realizing your own human frailty. And be *loyal* to your friends and loved ones — not expediently "throwing them aside" when you think you have become "important."

Do *all this* — and you will inspire the love, confidence and personal devotion of others in a manner that will enrich your life beyond measure.

IV. Be Strong, Confident and Courageous

Strength of will and personality, infectious optimism and raw courage are qualities all of us admire. The greatest leaders and personalities of all time have had, at least in measure, these qualities.

To be this way, you must, of course, have a *purpose* in which you fervently believe — and *for which you are willing to die if necessary*.

Again, Churchill — the "Man of the Century" — is a moving example. In England's darkest days of the Second World War, he was constantly encouraging and uplifting the spirits of the British nation and the entire free world by his resolute conduct and his magnifi-

cent speeches. As President Kennedy stated: "He mobilized the English language and sent it into battle."

In the critical period just after Dunkirk — when invasion by Hitler's legions seemed imminent — Churchill's ringing voice proclaimed to Britain and the world: "*We shall not flag nor fail. We shall go on to the end. We shall fight in France, we shall fight in the seas and oceans . . . we shall defend our island whatever the cost may be. We shall fight on the beaches and landing grounds, we shall fight in the fields and in the streets, we shall fight in the hills . . . We shall NEVER surrender.*"

Courageous? Indeed it was, under the circumstances. But more, the weight of sincerity and truth, the infectious optimism and confident manner, the unbounded determination and WILL to win — all these things lifted and inspired the British people so that this was, indeed, "their finest hour."

Real Courage Involves FAITH

The greatest examples of faith and courage are found in the Bible. In Acts 5:17-42 we read the account of the apostles of God being put in prison and threatened by the Jewish hierarchy of the time. The Jews had almost decided to kill them until Gamaliel, a wise counselor, spoke. "And to him they agreed: and when they had called the apostles, and BEATEN them, they COMMANDED that they should not speak in the name of Jesus, and let them go" (verse 40).

After being threatened for their very lives — and their backs raw and bleeding from a cat-o'-nine-tails beating — you would certainly think they would at least slack off in their preaching, or perhaps go "underground."

Quite the contrary!

"And they departed from the presence of the council, REJOICING that they were counted worthy to suffer shame for his name. And DAILY in the temple, and in every house, they CEASED NOT to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (verses 41-42).

They had *absolute confidence* in the LIVING God, and plenty of RAW COURAGE to go through the terrible trials and sufferings often necessary in His service.

The man who has this type of courage and confidence, the man who is bold and SURE of his convictions, will inspire the admiration and respect of his friends and associates. Any real leader of men must have this bold *power of decision*, this sense of "captaincy" in storming the beaches of life, scaling the mountains and conquering all obstacles.

Learn to cultivate and build *courage* and *absolute confidence* into your life! Practice these qualities when the *little* trials and tests come along — then it will become second nature to exercise them on the great occasions. Most important of all, *surrender your life* to your Creator and to His PURPOSE — then you can in faith ask Him for *His* strength, confidence and courage!

V. Enthusiasm, Drive and PURPOSE

No matter what his other faults, a person or a public speaker will always capture at least our momentary attention and interest if he has an abundance of just one quality — ENTHUSIASM. For if the poorest speaker in the world is *on fire* — completely GIVEN to his message — he is going to speak, gesture and perhaps shout with such ringing conviction and force as to wake up even the sleepest audience.

But most people seem only HALF ALIVE. They have no goal or purpose. They have lost their youthful zest for living and doing. They are often dull, boring and uninteresting. But the interesting person is *lively* and *enthusiastic* — and he usually makes life more interesting for others.

Personal Examples

Discussing the colorful personality and zeal of Sir Winston Churchill, even in his private life, Bernard Baruch tells us: "I often wish people could look in on him as he walks through his garden with his dog, pausing to admire the beauty of a rose or to lecture the goldfish in the pond as he feeds them. I wish people could read the cables I have received from this master of English prose, cables in which he expressed his ENTHUSIASM over some development with a brisk 'O boy!'"

The very word "enthusiasm" comes

from the Greek *en theos*, or "God in us." We often speak of one as being "inspired" in his cause if he portrays great *enthusiasm*.

"Eloquence," said the great orator William Jennings Bryan, "may be defined as the speech of one who knows what he is talking about, and means what he says — *it is thought on fire* . . . Knowledge is of little use to the speaker without earnestness. *Persuasive speech is from HEART to HEART*, not from mind to mind."

Find the Real Goal

To sincerely be enthusiastic and driving ahead in all your activities, you must have a *goal*, or PURPOSE. So learn to set goals for yourself and cultivate enthusiastic DRIVE and ZEAL in all that you do. In your voice, your face and your actions, show that you are excited and thrilled about the opportunities and challenges of life.

God says: "Whatsoever thy hand findeth to do, *do it with thy might*; for there is no work, nor device, nor knowledge, nor wisdom, in the grave, whither thou goest" (Eccl. 9:10).

And in the New Testament, the Apostle Paul states: "And whatsoever ye do, *do it heartily*, as to the Lord . . ." (Colossians 3:23).

So be zealous for those things that are right and good in this life, and put your whole BEING into seeking your Creator and HIS PURPOSE in giving you life and breath. Then you will REALLY have something to be "ENTHUSIASTIC" about!

As *His* servant and *His* begotten son, become more outgoing and warm to all those about you; build zest and humor into your life; be patient, compassionate and modest toward your fellow human beings; with God's help become strong, confident and courageous; and finally, with God's supreme PURPOSE in mind, build *drive* and *enthusiasm* into all you think, say and do.

Do these things! — and you will have a richer and happier life. You will extend additional happiness and courage to others, and you will have made great progress toward fulfilling the *great purpose* of your loving Creator. □

The Origin of St. Valentine's Day

Decorative hearts, winged cupids, drawing lots, exchanging names — what's it all about? Read of the surprising origin of this day.

by Gerhard O. Marx

WHAT IS the true *origin* of St. Valentine's Day? What *significance* lies behind the date of February 14th? What purpose is there in keeping it?

Have you ever wondered why it is called SAINT Valentine's Day? *Why* do people become each other's valentine for this particular day? *Why* are cards decorated with hearts and figurines of small nude boys — cupids?

The Bible — presumably the guide-book of all Christians — is silent about keeping such a day. Then how did we begin celebrating St. Valentine's Day? What is the *source* of our beliefs and practices?

The First Valentine's Day

Centuries before the advent of Christianity, the pagan population of Rome observed a "Valentine's Day" (handed down from the EAST) beginning on the eve of February 14th — although under a different name. It was a "*love feast*," based — not on any Christian principle of true love — but on free sex. The Romans were well noted for their sexual immorality on their festive occasions, especially so on this particular night in February. It was a religious festival dedicated to the goddess of love. The Romans called it their *Lupercalia*.

The superstitions associated with this Roman love festival were numerous. The priests, the Luperci, would clothe themselves with strips of skin from sacrificed goats and run through the streets

in Rome. "They bore whips in their hand, made of strips of goatskin; with these they struck women who ran in their way, desirous to escape from the reproach of barrenness. The thongs bore the name of *februa*, a word connected . . . with purificatory ritual" (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, James Hastings, Vol. XII, p. 812).

Being one's valentine on this day was indulged in by all. "It was about the middle of the month that the names of willing young ladies were put in a box and well shaken up, so that each young blood could draw out one at random; the girl thus won was to remain his companion while the gaieties lasted" (*The English Festivals*, Whistler, p. 90).

This festival was dedicated to the goddess Venus and the feast was "characterized in the later Roman period by wanton raillery and unkindled freedom . . ." (*Encyclopedia of Religion and Ethics*, James Hastings, Vol. III, p. 226). In Roman mythology, this goddess of sexual immorality had sons, called "Cupids," who attended her on this festival. They were believed to cause love and also make it cease — a sort of love potion (*Roman Antiquities*, Alexander Adam, p. 279). This was done by shooting arrows at the hearts of the victims. Cupid was generally represented as a winged boy with bow and arrow, often shooting at a young man's or a young woman's heart. These cupids were naked, winged, and blinded, armed with a bow, arrows, and a torch.

Any resemblance to the little nude boys on Valentine's Day cards? The cupids are often used as decorative symbolism in theaters, cards, signs on inns, etc.

Who was this Cupid? In later Roman times he was only one of many Roman gods. The Greeks knew him as *Eros*. But his history goes farther back than Greek or Roman times. In Egypt "this infant divinity was frequently represented with a heart, or the heart-shaped fruit of the Persea, in one of his hands" (*The Two Babylons*, Alexander Hislop, p. 189). "Thus the boy-god came to be regarded as the 'god of the heart,' in other words, as Cupid, the god of love" (*ibid.*).

First "Christian" Valentine

Seeing that the Roman love feast of Lupercalia was outright pagan, *why* then did the Christian-professing church accept and keep such a day — of course under a different name? Whatever possessed the leaders of the church to approve of this heathen fertility feast and keep it as a "Christian" festival under the name of St. Valentine's Day?

It all began at the time of Constantine the Great in the fourth century. It was this emperor who, it will be remembered, accepted orthodox Christianity. No longer considering himself a pagan, Constantine was encouraged to break with his pagan past. And one of several heathen feasts that had to go was the Lupercalia. But this produced problems.

It was one thing for the Christianized emperor to forego what the church considered a purely pagan festival, but to get the Roman *populace at large* to cease observing this love feast was another matter. In fact, it proved impossible. The Roman populace wouldn't hear of it.

It was hoped by church circles that the pagan populace would *in due time* be willing to give up this festival, but this proved to be a false hope.

The Christian-professing church then decided that the only way this matter could be resolved was to let the great masses of the empire — now members of the church — keep the Lupercalia feast, but *by another name* and for another purpose.

It was the year A.D. 496 when Pope

Gelasius I "Christianized" the festival and renamed it "*St. Valentine's Day*." Here is why.

Church's Main Interest

Once the Roman emperors became Christians, the Orthodox church grew in numbers. Since her main concern was to convert the pagan populace within the empire as quickly as possible, she felt justified in making it easy on them. Church leaders "clearly perceived that if Christianity was to conquer the world it could do so only by relaxing the too rigid principles of its Founder" (*Studies in the History of Oriental Religions*, James Frazer, Book II, p. 202).

One way of gaining an ever-increasing influx of members was to blend and incorporate pagan beliefs and practices with Christian ones. "Thus at the first promulgation of Christianity to the Gentile nations... they could not be persuaded to relinquish many of their superstitions, which, rather than forego altogether, they chose to *blend and incorporate* with the new faith" (*Popular Antiquities of Great Britain*, John Brand, p. xi).

Thus "for almost every pagan ceremony, some Christian rite was introduced" (*Clavis Calendaria*, John Brady, Vol. I, p. 196).

So, beginning with A.D. 496, the Roman populace could still come to their love feast, no longer dedicated to Venus, the goddess of love, but to the Virgin Mary. They could still draw lots for their valentines, but with the names of saints written on them. The attention of the populace on each February 14th was now to be centered on Christian saints instead of pagan deities.

St. Valentine Chosen

The church, in deciding to slightly alter the festival by giving it an acceptable name, went back to the third century. There she came upon a tradition about a certain presbyter who had married couples secretly against the edict of Emperor Claudius II. He was caught and beheaded in A.D. 270. To honor this bishop, it was decided to call the February festival of love and purification after his name — Saint Valentine.

Later, the Protestant churches rejected

the Catholic concept of the Virgin Mary and the saints' association with St. Valentine's Day. Instead, the people went back to drawing the names of ordinary young men and women. It became a less religious ceremony — but *still retaining* all the pagan embellishments of the Romans, and then some.

All the pagan trappings were maintained — Cupid was still there, the decorative "hearts" continued to be displayed, lots were still drawn as chance directed, and the day was still the original Roman day. It was also believed that birds were said to mate on this day. It was further a widely held tradition that the first person of the opposite sex one encountered on the morning of St. Valentine's Day was to become the future spouse. And love potions were considered to be very potent on February 14th. People would let themselves go at parties, often disregarding the inevitable consequences of such revelry.

Both in England and Scotland, St. Valentine's Day was a welcome diversion from the otherwise dull, cold winter season. Referring to a traveler to these areas in the last century, we read, "On the eve of St. Valentine's Day," he says "the young folks in England and Scotland, by a very ancient custom, celebrate a little festival. An equal number of maids and bachelors get together; each writes their true or some feigned name upon separate billets, which they roll up and draw by way of lots... *Fortune* [the name of yet *another* pagan god!] having thus divided the company into so many couples, the valentines give balls and treats to their mistresses, wear their billets several days upon their bosoms or sleeves, and *this little sport often ends in love*" (*Book of Days*, Robert Chambers, Vol. I, part 1, p. 255).

No wonder that this "heathen, lewd, superstitious custom of boys drawing the names of girls, in honour of their goddess" (*Clavis Calendaria*, John Brady, p. 277) — as the Romans were wont to do — can easily lead to illicit love and dire consequences.

Why, then do we allow our children to keep a festival that is shrouded in superstition, founded on rank pagan ideals, and based on a corrupting

rather than an uplifting influence?

There *is* certainly a need to keep festive occasions and religious celebrations. In fact, God Almighty commands His people to observe festivals — *His festivals*.

Notice, however, what God says about Christians keeping religious festivals which do not emanate from His Word — the Bible. You read of it in the book of Deuteronomy.

Here God warns His people Israel *not* to use pagan means and ways to worship Him. "When the Lord thy God shall cut off the nations from before thee, whither thou goest to possess them, and thou succeedest them, and dwellest in their land; *take heed* to thyself that thou be not snared by following them, after that they be destroyed from before thee; 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*" (Deut. 12:29-31).

This warning is reiterated in Jeremiah 10, verses two to three. Here God commands, "*Learn not the way of the heathen... for the customs of the people are vain*"!

That is why God forbids keeping these pre-Christian festivals — they are vain, purposeless, and in the long run harmful. They *blind us* from the real purpose for mankind's existence. They prevent us from seeing God's Master Plan for His people.

It is not that God has left His people without meaningful festivals. On the contrary, instead of the traditional "Christian" festivals, which reveal very little if anything of God's Plan, God's people keep the genuine festival days of God. These are full of meaning. By keeping them we understand the entirety of God's purpose for us. Once we understand them — and keep them — we would not want to regress to the holidays the world offers.

These Holy Days are fully explained in our FREE booklet *Pagan Holidays — or God's Holy Days — Which?* After reading about these Biblical Holy Days, days like St. Valentine's Day become utterly meaningless. And more important — God tells His people to *observe the festivals He commands*. □

What Is the Place that Jesus Is Preparing?

Here is a thorough, revealing explanation of a greatly misunderstood text. Did Jesus say Christians go to heaven?

by Herman L. Hoeh

MANY today believe Jesus told His disciples that Christians will spend eternity in “mansions” in heaven. They quote His words in John 14:1-4.

Did Jesus really say that our reward is a mansion in heaven? Let’s see.

What Is the Father’s House?

In His Father’s house, Jesus said plainly, there were many “mansions.” If it had not been true, He said, He would have told us. The Greek word *move* translated “mansion” means in more modern English, “a room, a place of staying, an abode, a chamber.” So in the Father’s house there are a number of rooms or chambers.

But what is the Father’s house? What does the Bible declare the Father’s house to be?

When in the Temple, Jesus said to the Jews who were selling doves and cattle therein: “Make not my FATHER’S HOUSE an house of merchandise” (John 2:16).

Here is a simple Bible definition of the Father’s house.

The Temple at Jerusalem was an earthly type (Heb. 8:5) of the Father’s house in heaven. Luke 19:46 and Isaiah 56:7 also quote the Lord as saying of the Temple: “My house is a house of prayer. . . .” So the Temple at Jerusalem in Christ’s day was a type of the Father’s house in heaven.

But did the Temple have many “mansions” or rooms and chambers in it?

Certainly!

In turning to Jeremiah 35:2, we read

this: “Speak unto them, and bring them into the house of the Lord, *into one of the chambers.*” In the fourth verse of the same chapter, we notice that different chambers were for persons of different rank. Hanan, a man of God, had his chamber or room “*by the chamber of the princes . . . which was above the chamber of . . . the keeper of the door.*”

The various chambers or “mansions” corresponded to the ranks of the persons residing in them. Each room of the Temple — a type of the Father’s house — not only designated the *residence* of each official, but also indicated his *position or office*, whether he was a doorkeeper or prince.

It Is NOT Heaven

Nowhere does the Bible call “heaven” the Father’s house. The Father’s house *is being built* in heaven, but it is not heaven! Heaven is never said to have “mansions.”

The ancient tabernacle built under Moses had two compartments, the inner, called the Holy of Holies, being an exact picture of the throne of God — of heaven itself. *It had no mansions.* Read Hebrews 8:5 and 9:1-7 to see exactly what the pattern of heaven is like.

No, Jesus was not referring to heaven. He is referring to a place being prepared *in* heaven.

What Is the Place Prepared?

Now consider the remainder of Jesus’ conversation with the disciples.

Jesus said: “I go to prepare a place for you.” We learn from other scrip-

tures that Jesus did go to heaven, to the right hand of the Father, where He now acts as our “High Priest” (Heb. 9:11).

Do you grasp the significance?

A part of the function of the office of High Priest is the preparation of a place for each of us as Jesus promised the disciples. But notice this very carefully: the *preparation* of each place is occurring *in* heaven, but Jesus did not say that the places were *a part of* heaven. (A wife may *prepare* her meals *in* the kitchen, but the meals are not *a part of* the kitchen.)

Does the Bible give any texts telling us *what* is being prepared? Yes, it does.

There are *two texts* in the Bible which tell us what is being PREPARED.

The first is in Matthew 25:34. Here Christ said: “Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom *prepared* for you from the foundation of the world.” The other text is in Revelation 21:2, “And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down from God *OUT OF HEAVEN, prepared* as a bride adorned for her husband.”

The Temple of Jerusalem standing in Jesus’ day was a *type* of the Kingdom of God and the city New Jerusalem.

The Bible says the *only* places that are prepared are the Kingdom of God and the New Jerusalem. Since it is the Kingdom and the Holy City that are finally *prepared* for us *all*, then what Jesus is preparing for *each* of us must be individual positions *in the Kingdom and in the new city, Jerusalem.*

Now it’s plain why Christ alluded to the Temple as an example of the King-

dom of God and of the New Jerusalem. The Temple had rooms which served as offices for the various residents holding different ranks. In the same way, each of us will have his own personal place or office in the Holy City, in accordance with how well we use the talents God has given us in this life. The more we overcome in this life, the more honorable will be our places in the New Jerusalem and the greater will be our offices of responsibility in the Kingdom.

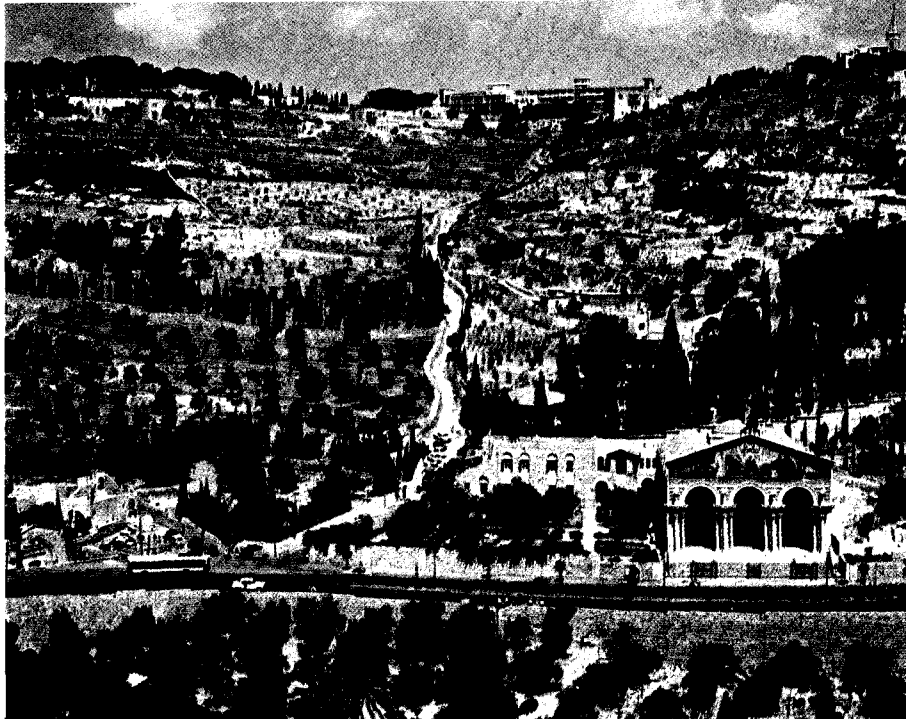
The Father's House Comes to Earth!

Revelation 21:2 plainly proves that the Holy City — the Father's house or home, *since He will make it His place of future residence* (Rev. 21:3 and 22:3) — is one of the two things that Jesus is preparing now in heaven. Both God the Father and His Son have been fashioning it, since whatever the Father does, *the Son does likewise* (John 5:19). Since the city comes down out of heaven fully prepared, then it must have been prepared in heaven, just as Jesus said He would do.

Notice, too, that the city comes out of heaven. *It does not say that we go to heaven.*

Now let's understand what the Bible says about the Kingdom which is in preparation in heaven, and which will come to earth. Jesus returned to heaven to receive the Kingdom (Luke 19:12). He must be preparing it while acting in the office of High Priest. Since the Kingdom is prepared for all of us to inherit, then the particular place Christ is preparing for each of us must be our own position or office in that Kingdom. *Place means position, office, rank, as well as geographical location.* Our places or positions in the government of God will depend on the office we hold. Christ has *first place*, as He is King of kings. We shall all have secondary places, lesser positions under Him.

The Kingdom of God is the government of God, the members of which are to be born of God. Being born of God makes the entire Kingdom, then, the *family* of God. "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God" (John 3:5). That is why Jesus used the ancient Temple as a physical type of the



Ambassador College Photo

The Mount of Olives — the setting for the most awesome, cataclysmic occurrence in the history of mankind, the Return of Jesus Christ as King of kings and Lord of lords. Today a modern hotel stands at its summit. Tomorrow the Feet of God! (Zechariah 14:4.)

spiritual *family* or *Kingdom of God*.

Now it is becoming obvious why our places or positions in God's government had to be prepared in heaven by Jesus. We could not receive the Holy Spirit, the only means by which we can enter the Kingdom, until Christ ascended (John 16:7). Christ prepares our places or positions in the Kingdom by being our High Priest, interceding for us and by giving us the Spirit of God. The places or positions — the responsibilities of office — are being prepared by training us to fill those offices. Jesus, as our High Priest, has been calling, justifying and perfecting each of us for His Kingdom so that when the Kingdom of God comes to this earth (Matt. 6:10), each position or place in it will be fully prepared by having one of us fill that particular office. If Christ were not High Priest in heaven, the Kingdom would not be prepared. It would have none to fill its offices.

"I Will Come Again"

Although Christ had to go to heaven, He said: "If I go and prepare a place for you, I WILL COME AGAIN, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." Here is Jesus' own promise that He is coming

again! Notice, it does not say anywhere in these verses that we go to heaven.

It says just the opposite. Jesus will come to earth!

Jesus will return from heaven in clouds. We are going to meet Him in the air (I Thes. 4:15-17). At that time Jesus will give us our places or positions in the Kingdom, according to how well we have done with what we have been given.

Having received our responsibilities, we shall descend *with Jesus* to the Mount of Olives that same day. It is that same day that Christ comes to earth, not returns to heaven (Zechariah 14:4). He is coming to set up the Kingdom on the earth! Since we inherit the Kingdom, we, too, will *be* on this earth, not heaven.

So Christians are not going to heaven after all. We are to be with Jesus here on this earth — "that where *I am*, there ye may be also." We shall be ruling with Christ on earth over the nations (Rev. 20:4). And after that, the New Jerusalem comes down out of heaven to the new earth. Even the Father Himself will dwell among us here on the new earth where we shall live and reign forever (Rev. 22:3-5).

No wonder Jesus said the meek shall *inherit the earth* (Matt. 5:5). □

THE STORY OF MAN

for children five to one hundred five

Written and Illustrated by Basil Wolverton

ADVISER TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FOUR

ANGERED BECAUSE the so-called "wise" men of Babylon failed to guess the content of the dream he had forgotten, King Nebuchadnezzar rashly ordered all of Babylon's magicians, sorcerers and philosophers to be slain.

The king even included the top scholars who had been rigorously educated over a period of three years. That meant that Daniel and his three close friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, were on the list to be executed, even though they hadn't been among those summoned to tell and interpret the king's dream. (Daniel 2:1-13.)

Daniel's Bold Chance

Daniel was naturally quite startled and dismayed when he was approached by Arioch, the captain of the king's guard, and was told that he and his three friends were to be taken to prison for execution because no one was wise enough to tell and explain Nebuchadnezzar's dream.

"This is incredible!" Daniel exclaimed. "We had no part in failing the king. If he had called on us to help, we would have given him the answers. If he still wants to know them and has the patience to postpone the executions he has ordered, I will make the matter known to him."

Arioch stared at Daniel, thankful that there might be a reason for Nebuchadnezzar to cancel or at least postpone the executions, which the captain of the guard deplored.

"If you can explain the king's dream, I'll take you to him," Arioch declared. "Meanwhile, I'll postpone your friends' arrest as long as I can."

Arioch then hastened to see the king, but soon returned to Daniel and told him:

"Nebuchadnezzar wants you to carry out your

claim to tell and interpret his dream," Arioch told Daniel. "He promised that he would hold off the executions until he hears what you have to say. Frankly, he doubts your ability. His anger will mount even higher if you fail!"

A little later Daniel stood before Nebuchadnezzar, who eyed him critically.

"This is the young man of the captives of Judah who can tell you about your dream," Arioch nervously introduced Daniel.

"Then tell me now!" the Babylonian king commanded, staring at Daniel. "If you fail, many heads will roll before this day is over!"

"But God hasn't yet told me about your dream," Daniel told the king. "I'll need time to contact Him."

"I'll give you one day," the king promised. (Daniel 2:14-16.)

Daniel went immediately to his three friends, Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah, to tell them what had happened and asked them to ask God to reveal Nebuchadnezzar's dream and its meaning so that they and all the others would be spared from execution.

The four men prayed fervently about the matter. God answered by causing Daniel to dream a very clear dream revealing the one that Nebuchadnezzar had forgotten and its meaning. Daniel was so thankful that he gave a special prayer of praise for their deliverance, though the four young Jews and the Babylonian "wise" men were still subject to death. Then Daniel hurried to Arioch, who was anxious to see him. Arioch took him directly to Nebuchadnezzar.

"The men you summoned to tell and interpret your dream were given an impossible task," Daniel began, noting that the king was visibly irritated by those first few words. "The task was impossible because they didn't have the help of the God of Israel, who wishes to make known to the king of Babylon

what will happen in the future. Your dream and its meaning haven't come to me through any special ability of my own, but only because my God has made these things known to me to pass on to you for your special benefit." (Daniel 2:17-28.)

Nebuchadnezzar Needs Daniel

"Then if you have this special knowledge from your God, disclose it!" Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed impatiently, leaning forward in expectation.

"You dreamed that there was a colossal human image before you," Daniel began. "It was bright and terrible. His head appeared to be made of polished gold. His chest and arms were like silver, his belly and thighs of brass, his legs of iron and his feet part of iron and part of clay."

Nebuchadnezzar's glum expression abruptly turned to one of intense interest.

"That was what I dreamed about!" he interrupted, getting to his feet. "Now I remember! Then something happened to the image, but I don't recall what it was."

"You dreamed that a large stone, symmetrical, yet uncut by human hands, fell from the sky and crashed with great impact on the feet of the image," Daniel continued. "It shattered the feet and pulverized the legs of iron. Then the thighs and belly of brass crumbled under the impact; the chest and arms of silver fell apart and the head of gold toppled over to smash into tiny fragments. A strong wind came up to blow away the pulverized pieces of the fallen image as though they were chaff from a threshing floor. Meanwhile, the stone that struck the image became larger and larger until it became a gigantic mountain that filled the whole earth." (Daniel 2:29-35.)

"That's exactly what I dreamed!" Nebuchadnezzar exclaimed. "I forgot it, even though it was clear at the time. It bothered me afterward because I believed it had some special meaning."

"Indeed it does," Daniel agreed. "The God of Israel wants you to know that He has given you your great power so that you are above all other rulers in the world. You have been given power over most men and your power extends even to the animals in the world because man is ruler over them. The head of gold on the image you dreamed about refers to you and your powerful kingdom. As the most powerful king in the world at this time, it is fitting, according to God's wish, that you should know what

the future holds. That was the reason for the dream.

"The chest and arms of silver mean that another kingdom, inferior to yours, will rise to power after your nation declines in strength. The belly and thighs of brass indicate that a third kingdom will replace the second kingdom in strength, and it will have rulership over other nations. The legs of iron mean that a fourth strong kingdom will eventually follow, but because iron and clay can't be fused together for lasting strength, that kingdom won't be well united.

"During the lifetime of that kingdom, the one and only true God will set up a kingdom that will replace all others and last forever. In your dream His Kingdom was the stone that struck the image on the feet, smashing the whole body, and growing swiftly into a mountain that encompassed the entire world. Now you know what will come to pass. This knowledge has come to me from my God, who is incapable of any untruth." (Daniel 2:36-45; Titus 1:2.)

Nebuchadnezzar was so impressed that he humbly prostrated himself before Daniel in a sincere, but awkward, attempt in the worship of God by bowing to a servant of God.

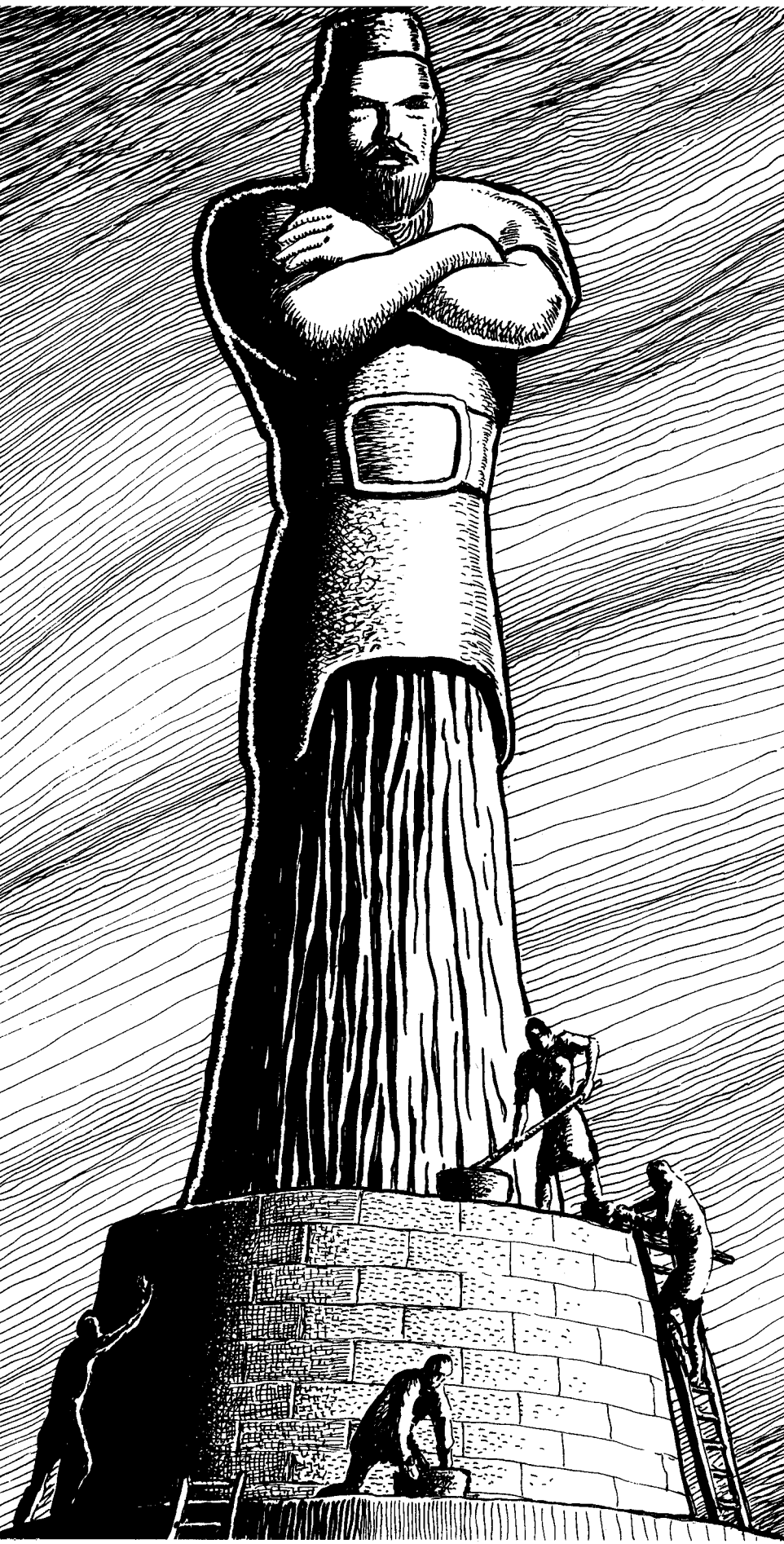
"The best way to worship God is to obey Him," Daniel pointed out. "Then you will receive the blessings and protection that can't possibly come from any other source."

Nebuchadnezzar's Image

Daniel's strong advice didn't dampen the king's enthusiasm. He loudly declared to all present that Daniel's God was the God of gods and the Head of all kings, and he made it known that he wanted the fact published abroad. Furthermore, he heaped gifts on Daniel and made him chief of the governors of the "wise" men of Babylon, an office of doubtful importance in Daniel's estimation.

On the more practical side, Daniel was made ruler of the province of Babylon, the city-state capital of Babylonia, where he would be one of the king's chief officials. Because Daniel's three close Jewish friends had great ability and knowledge and had helped him with their prayers, Daniel suggested that they also be given high positions. Nebuchadnezzar was pleased to place Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego (Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) in offices of high rank under Daniel in the province of Babylon. (Daniel 2:46-49.)

Nebuchadnezzar's recognition of God's great-



ness was a step in the right direction, but he still had a long way to go. The more Nebuchadnezzar thought about his power, the more he thought all the world's leaders should pay special honor to his kingdom. So he made plans for building a high statue. It was built on the Babylonian plain of Dura so that it could be surrounded by great throngs of people. Including the pedestal, the image towered nearly a hundred feet above the plain. On a sunny day its bright and shimmering golden surface could be seen from many miles away.

The king went to great lengths to inform people about the image. Dedication ceremonies were announced. Important men of Babylon were commanded to be present. Those included princes, governors, high army officers and all men in high positions in the government. (Daniel 3:1-3.)

On the chosen day of the dedication, a vast crowd assembled around the towering figure. The commanded dignitaries included only a small fraction of the throng, made up mostly of thousands of average Babylonians and many people of surrounding satellite nations. Some came merely from curiosity. Others felt it necessary to be present at an unusual event during which a king's idol would be dedicated.

There was the usual activity and excitement in a large crowd of those times. Following the throngs of people were yelling peddlers with carts or shoulder bags of food. Other hawkers

Nebuchadnezzar's gold image was a glittering, impressive object visible for many miles.

worked slyly to extract money from parents by promoting cheap merchandise made to appeal especially to small children. It was as good a day for thieves and pickpockets as it was a miserable day for mothers, who had no place to take their whimpering, bawling, needful offspring.

About noon heralds appeared on the base of the gold-plated image. There was much raucous horn-blowing to get the attention of the people. After ceremonies of a shallow nature, there was an announcement by a person with an exceptionally powerful voice.

"Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon and king over kings everywhere, wants you to know what is required of you who hear these words," the herald bellowed. "When you hear music from the orchestra that will soon play from the base of this pedestal, every one of you is to bow before this great image! Any who fail or refuse to do so will be seized by the king's guards and thrown into a large, roaring furnace prepared especially for criminals and those who fail to conform to the king's will!"

People hadn't expected to hear anything like that. Most of them had their favorite idols, for which they had varying degrees of loyalty. But because it was the custom to worship more than one idol — inasmuch as each was believed to give his special benefits — the edict from the herald posed no great problem for most of the hearers. And the special benefit of worshipping Nebuchadnezzar's idol was very plain. It was the difference between living or being burned to death!

When the large orchestra by the pedestal broke out into strains of music in the minor key, the crowd went to its knees. Many tried to demonstrate special deep humility by dropping their foreheads to the soil, hoping that these extreme actions would somehow win them special favor. (Daniel 3:4-7.)

Acres of bowed human backs shone in the noon-day sun. Some who didn't understand, such as small children, remained standing or simply sat down. (It must have been difficult for Nebuchadnezzar's guards to decide who the disobedient were, especially since they, too, had their foreheads pressed to the ground.) As for Daniel and his three close friends, they simply waited for the music finally to end and signal the close of the period of worship.

Nebuchadnezzar was pleased with the way matters turned out. He was even exuberant — until some high-ranking Babylonians appeared before him to

flatter him on his efforts to launch a new deity and then to inform him that there were those in his own government who had deliberately refused to bow down before his image.

"There must be some mistake," the king smiled indulgently, looking away to show indifference. "No sane, responsible person in my organization would dare defy my orders."

"The three foreigners, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego certainly did!" the envious Babylonians quickly informed him. "Besides refusing to bow when they were told to yesterday, we happen to know that they've never paid any respect to any of our gods! You have shown respect for their God. Should they not show deference for at least one of yours?" (Daniel 3:8-12.)

"I'll take care of the matter," the king muttered, irritably waving his informers away.

They triumphantly departed, convinced that action would be taken against the three Jews. They had carefully omitted Daniel from the charges because they knew that the king regarded him so highly that speaking against him might bring down royal wrath on their heads.

The Punishment

Nebuchadnezzar wasn't used to being disobeyed. The mere thought of anyone ignoring his wishes gave him great displeasure. So he called for Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah. By the time they had been brought before him, the king had developed his anger into full bloom.

"I have been told that you, Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego, failed to bow before my golden image," the king declared testily. "I have also been told that in all the years you have enjoyed the good things of my kingdom you have never shown your appreciation by thanking any of my gods. Are these things true?"

"They are," one of them answered. "We are thankful for many things, but we thank and worship only the one true God, the God of Israel."

Previously, Nebuchadnezzar had threatened to have anyone hacked into pieces who refused to regard the God of Israel as God above all gods. But the men's answer so infuriated him that he lost all regard he might have had for God.

"You were told that any who refused to bow down to my golden image would be thrown into a hot furnace!" the king shouted. "That's where you're



going from here! Who is the God who is going to step in and save you from *that*?"

"Our God is able to!" they answered. "But whether or not

He chooses to save us, we have no intention of worshiping other gods or bowing down before that lifeless image you have set up!" (Daniel 3:13-18.)

"Get men in here at once to bind these three!" Nebuchadnezzar bellowed, his face livid with rage. "And go tell the furnace foreman to get the furnace as hot as he can possibly get it!"

Servants scrambled to obey. Moments later powerful soldiers strode into the room to roughly seize and tie up the three Jews, who were soon prone and helpless on the floor.

"Now drag these infidels to the furnace and shove them into it when it's at its hottest!" the king roared.

Strong arms pulled Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah across the floor, down stone steps and through the courtyard. A little later at the smoke-belching furnace, they were propped up so that they could watch men feverishly tossing large pieces of pitchy wood into the massive metal and stone firebox,

Heat was so great from the Babylonian furnace that the soldiers who had thrust the three Jews into it almost instantly died before the roaring flames from the furnace door.

which began to glow dully when the roaring flames from the crackling wood were at their hottest. Great surges of painful heat billowed forth, reddening the skin of the suffering stokers.

Nebuchadnezzar was on hand to gloat over the event, as were the informers who had started it. While the heat was increasing, so was the crowd of curious, morbid onlookers. Some ventured so close to the furnace door that they were scorched by bursts of heat, and they ran howling for safety.

At a signal from the king, the three victims were grabbed by the men who had tied them and dragged them as close to the furnace door as their handlers could stand to go. They were then tossed through the door into the raging flames. (Daniel 3:19-23.)

This was the last act of the soldiers. Tongues of flame leaped at them. They collapsed the next instant and fell to the ground. Their clothing and skin broke into flames. They burned to death in the torrid gusts of air outside the range of the huge flames. None dared risk his life in an attempt to rescue them.

King Nebuchadnezzar quickly turned his glance back to the bottom of the flaming pit. What he saw shocked him. Never in his life had he seen such a thing.

(To be continued next issue)

ANSWERS to your Questions

● “I grew up to believe that a saint is a special kind of Christian. Is this true, and if so, how is he special?”

Indeed, the common teaching is that a saint is a very special kind of Christian — one who has usually died. In fact people have come to believe that a saint is an almost superhuman individual.

But is a saint perfect? Is he totally righteous and sinless? Are saints a special group of souls in heaven?

Few have ever checked into the Bible to discover whether they are, can be, or ever will be saints.

The word *saint* in the New Testament is translated exclusively from the Greek word *hagios*, which means *sacred, holy, or consecrated* — in other words, someone or something *set apart* or *called out* for God's service. It is used numerous times as a simple adjective modifying such words as: *city, prophets, scriptures, temple, and apostles*.

Paul used the term *saints* many times in addressing the Christians in various cities he had visited. “To all that be in Rome, beloved of God, called to be *saints* . . .” (Rom. 1:7). You'll notice the words “to be” are in italics (slanted letters) in most Bibles. This means they were not in the original text but have been added by the translators. It should simply read “called saints” as a check of the Greek text confirms. In writing to the Corinthians he began, “Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ by the will of God, and Timothy our brother, unto the church of God which is at Corinth, with all the *saints* which are in all Achaia” (II Cor. 1:1). Similar statements addressing Christians as *saints* appear in I Cor. 1:2; II Cor. 13:13; Eph. 1:1; Phil. 1:1 and Col. 1:2.

Writing to the Ephesians, Paul de-

clared, “Now therefore ye are no more strangers and foreigners, but *fellow citizens with the saints*, and of the household of God” (Eph. 2:19). And, Paul exhorted the Hebrew Christians, “Salute all them that have the rule over you, *and all the saints*. They of Italy salute you” (Heb. 13:24).

The saints were simply converted Christians — *called-out ones*, those begotten by God. They are *set apart* by the indwelling of God's Holy Spirit (Eph. 1:13, 14; Rom. 8:9). They were *living* people who were called saints while they were yet alive.

Paul stated that one of the responsibilities of the ministry was the “*perfecting of the saints*” (Eph. 4:12). Saints are *not* perfect — they are human beings *striving to become perfect!* They are *growing* constantly to become more like their perfect example — Jesus Christ. “Till we all come in the unity of the faith . . . unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ” (verse 13).

The saints are those who “earnestly contend for the faith which was once delivered” (Jude 3). They are also those who keep God's commandments: “Here is the *patience of the saints*: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus” (Rev. 14:12).

They are those to whom God is revealing the mystery of His plan. “Even the mystery which hath been hid from ages and from generations, but now is *made manifest to his saints*” (Col. 1:26). To the saints — true Christians — God's plan is *NOT* a mystery; they understand very precisely how God is working out His overall purpose.

And they are the very ones who will have a direct part in carrying out God's will — they are to *rule with Christ* over this earth. Speaking of the second com-

ing of Christ, John wrote, “And the nations were angry, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldest *give reward* unto thy servants the prophets, *and to the saints*, and them that fear thy name, small and great” (Rev. 11:18).

Saints are not dead Christians off in heaven, but the dead and the living *in Christ* who are yet to receive their reward.

Some five centuries B. C., Daniel wrote, “But the *saints* of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom for ever, even for ever and ever . . . and judgment was given to the *saints* of the most High; and the time came that the saints possessed the kingdom” (Dan. 7:18, 22).

How clear!

Saints are those *called out by God* — those who have repented, have been converted, and have become true Christians. The *saints*, both living and dead, *are yet awaiting their reward* — to live and rule with Christ.

● “How does one reconcile the following verses — II Samuel 24:1 and I Chronicles 21:1? In one account it says, ‘The anger of the Lord was kindled against Israel, and he moved David against them to say, Go, number Israel and Judah.’ In the other account (I Chron. 21:1) it says, ‘And Satan stood up against Israel, and provoked David to number Israel.’”

First of all, God is the supreme ruler of the entire universe. Since He is supreme ruler — NOTHING OCCURS that He does not at least allow to happen.

Now let's understand the context of the entire occurrence. God was angry with Israel (II Samuel 24:1). The only reason that God is ever angry with any people is because they are committing sins that are harming themselves — bringing on automatic penalties. To deter the whole of Israel from continuing in this law breaking, God decided to send corrective punishment upon these people for their own good. God did this from time to time in ancient Israel's history. The book of Judges — in particular — illustrates this principle.

But how and by what method in this

case? By *allowing* Satan to test or provoke David to number Israel and take a census of his soldiers. Of course, it is NOT wrong to take a census (witness the book of Numbers). But David's *purpose* for taking the census was to see how many soldiers he had for reasons of national security. David — at this particular juncture — was relying on numbers and not on God.

Even a cursory reading of the Psalms David wrote would tell you that the majority of the time David trusted in God alone for his protection. (See especially Psalm 33.)

But at this time David allowed Satan the devil to influence him to rely on mere numbers. Of course, he later repented and bounced back to trust in God more than ever.

God *allowed* Satan to test David and was ultimately responsible in that sense — though He did NOT force David to choose unwisely. If David had made the right decision, he could have been used of God to bring the nation back onto its spiritual feet, instead of having a plague bring the people to their senses.

● “I enjoy reading *Tomorrow's World*; most of the time I agree with the writers. However, in the July article ‘Why Christ Spoke in Parables,’ the statement was made ‘not one single individual was ever converted during the ministry of Christ.’ I read in Luke 19:9 where Jesus said to Zacchaeus that *today* salvation had come to his house. Also, the thief on the cross was promised eternal life (Luke 23:43). What about this?”

You probably have assumed that Jesus promised the thief that he would be with Him in Paradise *that day*. Nothing could be further from the truth. Remember the thief had asked earlier, “Lord, remember me WHEN thou comest into thy kingdom” (Luke 23:42). The plain fact is that Jesus has NOT yet come into His Kingdom (Luke 11:2; 19:11; I Thes. 4:13-17; I Cor. 15:23, 49-52). And after all, Christ died *that same day* and was in the *grave* — not Paradise — for a total of three days and three nights (Matt. 12:39-40; I Cor. 15:3, 4).

Rather, the correct wording of Luke 23:43 proves that Christ promised the thief (on the day of His crucifixion — that day) that the thief would eventually be (“shall . . . be”) in His Kingdom — Paradise — when it comes to the earth.

The inspired Greek word order with proper punctuation should read: “Verily I say to thee today, ‘With me shalt thou be in paradise.’” Notice that Christ’s use of the word “today” was stressing the time He made His promise, *not the time* of the fulfillment of the promise. The verse is not correctly punctuated in most English translations. Punctuation was added centuries after the original Greek was written.

[Editor’s Note: Our article “Did the ‘Thief on the Cross’ Enter Paradise Immediately?” completely explains this scripture. Write for your FREE copy.]

Now, what did Christ mean when He told Zacchaeus that “this day is salvation come to this house . . .”? (Luke 19:9.) Christ was the direct Emissary of the Kingdom of God. He is the “Captain” of our salvation (Heb. 2:10). The Author and Captain of our salvation, Jesus Christ, had come to Zacchaeus’ house.

But look further. Christ nowhere said that Zacchaeus was given God’s Spirit — or converted — that day. Unless a person has God’s Spirit he cannot be *truly converted* (Rom. 8:9). Zacchaeus was — *by Christ’s visit* — being offered an opportunity to learn about the Gospel which leads to salvation. But, being offered an opportunity to hear the ANNOUNCEMENT of God’s government is vastly different than actually *being begotten* and filled with God’s Spirit. Recall that Peter repeatedly heard that SAME ANNOUNCEMENT, but was *not* converted during Christ’s earthly ministry (Luke 22:32; John 7:39; 16:7).

There is, of course, little doubt that Zacchaeus was converted AFTER the Holy Spirit was made available in general to the common people on the day of Pentecost — 31 A.D. (Acts 2).

The fruits of Jesus’ ministry — and the results of His death and resurrection — have opened the door that will eventually lead mankind to the knowledge of, and opportunity for, salvation. But

Jesus during His earthly ministry did not come to convert the world.

● “Recently in one of your articles you quoted several verses from I and II Kings. When I looked them up in my Bible, the wording and even the context was entirely unrelated to your quote. Were these typographical errors? I have the Douay Version of the Bible.”

The answer lies in the fact that in our publications we generally quote from such Bible translations as the King James Version (KJV), Revised Standard Version, etc., most of which basically use the official Hebrew Masoretic Text for the Old Testament.

The Douay Version has been *mainly* translated from the Latin Vulgate Text. This version not only includes the additional books of the Apocrypha, but also has certain books of the King James Version with *different titles*. For example, I and II Samuel (KJV) are titled “I and II Kings” (Douay); I and II Kings are called “III and IV Kings”; I and II Chronicles are “I and II Paralipomenon”; the book of Nehemiah is “II Ezdras”; the Song of Solomon is called “Canticle of Canticles.”

Anyone using the Douay Version of the Bible should note these variations.

For further information on how the Bible was compiled and which books belong in it, request our FREE article “Do We Have the Complete Bible?”

● “Could you please explain what is meant in Ecclesiastes 4:5? It says ‘The fool folds his hands and eats his own flesh.’”

This verse describes a slothful *character* and shows the inevitable *fruit* of his indolence.

The fool sits back and does little or nothing to enrich the lives of others — or even to support himself. He lacks an indispensable quality for the full, successful life; he *won’t* DRIVE himself to produce — to *love* productive work! So, in a *figurative sense*, he “eats his own flesh.”

His slothful ways gnaw at the very foundations of his life. He destroys his own character and slights his family.

God wants us to be *diligent* — so we can prosper (Prov. 10:4; III John 2).

The "Tongues" Question

(Continued from page 8)

have "received their baptism." Children must be left at home. Only "seekers" are permitted. All pray aloud at once, begging God to give them the "blessing." For hours, often lasting until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, they continue to beg, plead, and agonize.

Occasionally, perhaps after many of these "tarry meetings," one or more of a company will begin to "speak in tongues," and are then acknowledged by all as having received "their baptism." Nothing but "speaking in tongues" will be accepted as the evidence of "the baptism."

Does the Bible Command the "TARRY Meetings"?

Is this modern "tarry meeting" the true scriptural way?

Those who defend the "tarry meeting" with, perhaps, a great deal of heat, will quote the scripture to the effect that Jesus COMMANDED us to "TARRY UNTIL ye be endued with power from on high."

This command of Jesus to "tarry" is found in Luke 24:49. Pentecostal people invariably read this text thus: "Tarry UNTIL ye be endued with power." Then they construe the word "tarry" to mean the kind of meeting described above.

But that is not what this text says at all!

RIGHTLY quoted, Jesus' command to His disciples was: "Tarry ye IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM, until ye be endued with power FROM on high."

Jesus told them to tarry, not in a certain MANNER, but in a definite PLACE — in the CITY OF JERUSALEM. Why do Pentecostal people always omit the words "YE," expressing TO WHOM this command was addressed, and the words "IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM" telling WHERE they were to "tarry"? And why did Jesus ask them to remain in the city of Jerusalem?

Because the "other Comforter" had not yet come FROM HEAVEN — from "on high." And Jesus knew that WHEN it came, it would come first to the city of Jerusalem. And so Jesus was merely

instructing His disciples to wait, or remain, in Jerusalem until the day of Pentecost, *when*, it had been ordained, the Holy Spirit was to come from heaven — "from on high" — to earth.

Now "tarry" is an English word, translated over 300 years ago. It is an old English word, formerly in popular usage, now seldom used. Today many mistake its meaning. What does it mean? It does not mean "pray." It does not mean "supplicate." It does not mean beg, or agonize, or repeat words over and over. It does not mean a prayer meeting.

The dictionary says "tarry" means "to put off going or coming; linger. To remain in the same place; abide; stay. To await; to delay; sojourn, stay."

The literal Greek, word for word, from the Interlinear Greek text is: "BUT REMAIN YE IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM, till ye be clothed with power from on high." How can we conceive the idea of these modern "tarry meetings" from the scriptural command: "REMAIN YE IN THE CITY OF JERUSALEM"?

But, protests the "tarry meeting" defender, it says in Acts 1:13 and 14 that the disciples "went into an upper room," and "these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." The assumption is that the disciples met at a certain house for this purpose — that they were holding a "tarry meeting" — that they begged and pleaded with God until He finally sent them the "blessing" from on high — and that we should do the same thing. Often the statement is made that "it took the disciples ten days to pray down Pentecost!"

The MEANING of "Pentecost"

One difficulty is that few know the meaning of the types of Leviticus 23. There we find instruction regarding the seven annual festivals, occurring at the three different times of the year.

The first is the Passover, on the 14th of Abib, the first month of the sacred year. On this day a lamb was always slain. And so the crucifixion *occurred on this very day*. It was upon the 14th of Abib, 31 A.D., that Christ, the Lamb of God, our Passover, was slain for us!

The second of these set feasts is the Festival of Unleavened Bread, seven

days beginning on the 15th of Abib. This pictures *obedience* to God — commandment keeping — putting sin *completely* out of our lives. The first and seventh of these days are Holy Days — annual Sabbaths of GOD.

The third festival is "the Feast of Firstfruits," known as the day of Pentecost. This always had typified the "Firstfruits" of the New Testament Church. And, accordingly, when the "other Comforter" came from heaven — from "on high" — to bring forth the FIRSTFRUITS of the New Testament Church, this tremendous event, *to occur but once in all eternity*, was ordained to take place ON THE VERY DAY OF PENTECOST, 31 A.D.!

Jesus well knew the Holy Spirit would come from heaven on that very day. So Jesus told His disciples they should be "baptized with the Holy Spirit not many days hence" (Acts 1:5). In the first chapter of Acts we find the same instruction of Jesus as recorded in Luke 24:49, this time in words more plainly to be understood: "And... commanded them that THEY SHOULD NOT DEPART FROM JERUSALEM, but WAIT for the promise of the Father" (Acts 1:4).

So the disciples did not "pray down Pentecost." "Pentecost" is a DAY, not an experience. And since it was ordained that the Holy Spirit was to come from heaven TO JERUSALEM, and *on that very day*, do you suppose that, if the disciples had prayed and begged just a little harder, they could have "prayed it down" a day or two sooner? Certainly not! Not even an hour sooner!

"But," argues the tarry-meeting advocate, "didn't the disciples all meet in an upper room, and continue there in prayer and supplication?"

Most assuredly. But WHY?

Notice the scriptures! "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room, WHERE ABODE both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Philip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication" (Acts 1:13-14), as they naturally would have done, at so solemn a time.

Is there even a hint, in this text, that

they were BEGGING or PLEADING with God to give them the promised Comforter? Rather, we know they were merely WAITING *there, as Jesus had commanded*, in complete FAITH that God would keep His promise! Is there so much as a HINT in this passage that they were saying words over and over, like the modern "glory, glory, glory"?

Now notice, WHEN the day of Pentecost was fully come (and let us remember Pentecost was a DAY, not an experience), did they have to plead and agonize? No, but rather when this DAY had arrived, "SUDDENLY there came a sound *from heaven* as of a rushing mighty wind," and instantly "they were all filled with the Holy Spirit."

Once the "other Comforter" had come *from heaven*, there was no waiting — they were all filled AT ONCE!

Experience AFTER Pentecost

Now that the Holy Spirit had COME to earth, did those who honestly repented, and believed, have to beg and plead and agonize, and "tarry" before

"For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." — II Tim. 1:7.

they could receive the full baptism here with the Holy Spirit?

There are just four other experiences recorded, subsequent to the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D., of receiving the baptism with the Spirit. Let us examine each. Let us see if there were any TARRY MEETINGS.

The next experience recorded is found in the 8th chapter of Acts. Philip had gone to Samaria. When they BELIEVED Philip's preaching of the things concerning the Kingdom of God, and the name of Jesus Christ, they were baptized (verse 12). Peter and John came to Samaria from Jerusalem (verse 14) and prayed for them, that they might receive the Holy Spirit (verse 15). Then they laid their hands on them AND THEY RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT (verse 17). There is no evidence of any "tarry meeting" here. No tongue-speaking mentioned. The people believed, were baptized, the apostles prayed for

them, laid their hands on them, and they received the Spirit.

In the 10th chapter of Acts we find the experience at the Gentile house of Cornelius. Peter was preaching to them. They already had repented, and merely wanted to be shown the way of God. Was there a "tarry meeting" here? No, while "Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word" (Acts 10:44). The Holy Spirit had come from heaven on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. Cornelius and his house did not have to "pray down another Pentecost." They did not have to beg or plead or agonize. They had surrendered fully and unconditionally. When Peter came to reveal to them the Truth, and the Way, they did not begin to argue, or try to refute God's Word. They accepted it. And so, their hearts being ready and subdued "while Peter yet spake," they received the baptism with the Holy Spirit!

And so can *you*, just as quickly and suddenly, IF, and WHEN, you are as surrendered as they were. There was surely no "tarry meeting" here. No repeating words over and over. Just real repentance and faith, the only TWO CONDITIONS.

The next experience is found in Acts 19:1-7. Paul came to Ephesus. He found a dozen disciples there. Paul asked them if they had received the Holy Spirit. The literal translation is not "since ye believed," but, "Did ye receive the Holy Spirit WHEN ye believed?" Paul well knew God had promised we should receive the Spirit WHEN we have yielded to the conditions.

They knew nothing of the Holy Spirit. What was wrong? Paul immediately determined to find out. Did he ask them how long they had "tarried"? Did he tell them the difficulty was that they had not "tarried" or agonized enough? No. Paul began at the very LAST condition, water baptism, to find out what was wrong. And there he found it! They had been baptized only with John's baptism. That was baptism into the FIRST condition, repentance. They had not been baptized INTO CHRIST *for the remission of sins*. And so Paul at once told them how to be baptized. When they heard this, they

did not argue or rebel. They humbly did as directed, and were baptized.

And WHEN they were baptized, and WHEN Paul had laid his hands upon them, the Holy Spirit came on them. WHEN the CONDITIONS of God's Word were fulfilled, they received God's Spirit! And in this case, they spoke with tongues, and prophesied. There was no tarry meeting here. No agonizing, or meaningless repeating of words. Just yielding to God, and conforming to GOD's conditions.

One other experience is mentioned — that of Paul. Read it in Acts 9:1-22. Again there is no hint of anything like a modern "tarry meeting," just complete surrender, self-abasement, a willing, submissive conforming to the CONDITIONS. The Bible makes no mention of speaking in tongues at this time, although later Paul told the Corinthians he spoke in more languages than any of them.

And so there is not one example in Holy Scripture of a modern "tarry meeting"! Let us have a BIBLE REASON for all that we do!

One time a "Pentecostal" preacher was urging someone to attend a series of these so-called "tarry meetings," where words were muttered repeatedly over and over, and where the people deliberately worked up their emotions, shouted, and went through all the usual formula. This person replied he could find no Bible teaching or example for such a formula or kind of meeting, and he wanted to do everything the BIBLE WAY.

"You'll never get 'your baptism' any other way, Brother," he asserted.

"Well," he replied, "whatever you people are getting in an unscriptural way contrary to the Bible is not the true Holy Spirit PROMISED in the Bible, but a counterfeit spirit I don't want."

Hear the warning through Isaiah: "When they shall say unto you, SEEK unto them that have familiar spirits [counterfeit spirits of demons], and unto wizards that peep, and that MUTTER. . . TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY [Old and New Testaments — the BIBLE]: if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them"! (Isa. 8:19-20.) Yes, be

sure you have a BIBLE reason for all you do!

What IS the "Baptism With the Holy Spirit"?

Just what is this "baptism"? The very crux of the whole question — the basis of the error so many have been led into — is a MISUNDERSTANDING of what the true "baptism with the Holy Spirit" really is!

The whole error comes from one erroneous idea which is generally ASSUMED — *carelessly taken for granted* — never so much as QUESTIONED, let alone being PROVED!

It is the general idea that one is first converted, through which he *receives* the Holy Spirit — actually has the Holy Spirit within. And then, AFTERWARD, as an entirely separate and later special act or blessing from God, if he "seeks" it diligently enough, he may then receive "the baptism" with the Holy Spirit.

This "baptism" is supposed to be a special endowment with POWER. This power is supposed to be "power to witness for Jesus." Actually it is regarded in practice as a sort of loosening of the tongue.

The teaching is that one *always* "speaks in tongues" — that is, unknown languages, at the time this "baptism" is received. Often thrills and sensations are felt surging in overpowering waves through the body. From that time all timidity and bashfulness in "witnessing for Christ" is gone. The tongue is loosened. The recipient now testifies in open meeting bodily, loudly, often in a jazzy manner and with a fluency and flippancy of speech never before possible.

Peter, James, John, and the other apostles, they believe, all were CONVERTED, and received the Holy Spirit either when first called by Jesus, or during His ministry and *before* "Pentecost." Then, having already received "the gift of the Holy Spirit," these disciples, so it is believed, had to "tarry," and "pray down Pentecost," until, finally on Pentecost, they "got their baptism." That's the common belief.

BUT THAT IS NOT THE TRUTH!

And this error causes thousands to SEEK and SEEK and SEEK *this* supposed ADDITIONAL experience called "the bap-

tism." Worse, it leads people by hundreds to become discouraged and to decide there is no hope for them, and to give up even trying to live a Christian life!

Was Peter Converted Before "Pentecost"?

Let's not ASSUME this idea. Let's not take it carelessly for granted. Let's look into the Scripture for the TRUTH!

The TRUTH is that neither Peter, James, John, nor any of the disciples of Jesus had ever so much as RECEIVED the Holy Spirit at all until that day of Pentecost!

Under the Old Covenant, God had a CHURCH. Israel was both a nation, called the "Kingdom of Israel," and a CHURCH, called "The Congregation of Israel." But that church was a FLESH-born church. It was wholly MATERIAL, fleshly, physical. It was not spiritual — one became a member by FLESH-birth.

Now here is the point so many have never realized. Under the Old Covenant THERE WAS NO SALVATION! The people of that church were NOT CONVERTED. *They did not have the Holy Spirit!* That is, none except the prophets specially called of God. David, Elijah, Jeremiah and other prophets had the Holy Spirit. They were called for very special missions.

But the rank-and-file members of the Old Testament Congregation NEVER HAD THE HOLY SPIRIT. You can't find any place where the Holy Spirit was promised Israel under the OLD COVENANT. Or where salvation and eternal life were promised. Their animal sacrifices did NOT take away their sins. "For *it is not possible* that the blood of bulls and of goats should take away SINS" (Heb. 10:4). But rather, as explained in Hebrews, the animal sacrifices of the Old Covenant were merely a *reminder* of sins! There was *no remission of sins*, and therefore no salvation *possible*, UNTIL the one and *only* great sacrifice was made by Christ!

During Jesus' ministry He told His disciples: "It is expedient for YOU that I go away: for if I go not away, the Comforter [Holy Spirit] will not come unto you; but *if I depart*, I will send him unto you" (John 16:7). Notice, it was expedient for THEM. He was talk-

ing to Peter and the other disciples on the very eve of His crucifixion, at the LAST SUPPER. If Peter and the other apostles already had the Holy Spirit, Jesus would not have told them, His very last night alive on earth with them before being crucified, it was needful for *them* that He depart and go to heaven, in order to *send* the Holy Spirit. And this was only some 50 days before Pentecost!

Again, Jesus said that same night: "But when the Comforter is come, whom *I will send unto you* from the Father [FROM HEAVEN]... he shall testify of me" (John 15:26). Again the same night He said: "If ye love me, KEEP MY COMMANDMENTS. And I will pray the Father, and he shall give you another Comforter, that he may abide with you for ever; EVEN THE SPIRIT of truth... for he [the Holy Spirit which the Father would send from heaven] dwelleth WITH you [in the person of Christ], and SHALL be *in you*" (John 14:15-17).

Notice it carefully! It wasn't the disciples who prayed down the Holy

Peter did not say "tarry" or "agonize," but he did say, "Repent, and be baptized," and "ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." — Acts 2:38.

Spirit. It was JESUS who prayed, and the Father sent them the Holy Spirit which was to be IN THEM — and the Spirit CAME on the day of Pentecost AFTER Jesus had GONE AWAY, to heaven!

Earlier, on the Last Great Day — the day after the Feast of Tabernacles, "Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me and drink. He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water. (But this spake he of the SPIRIT, which they that believe on him *should* [in the future] receive: for *the Holy Spirit was not yet given*; because that Jesus was not yet glorified)" (John 7:37-39).

Not Yet Given

Study that! The Holy Spirit was not yet given. Why? Jesus had not yet

GONE AWAY — ascended to heaven — BEEN GLORIFIED! It was expedient for them that He go away. Otherwise the *Holy Spirit would not have come!* Notice the *future tense* — out of his innermost being *shall flow* the Holy Spirit!

The Holy Spirit had never yet come from heaven to enter and dwell WITHIN converted Christians. The Holy Spirit had never been offered to the people during Old Testament times. But the Prophet Joel had prophesied: "*It shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out MY SPIRIT upon all flesh*" (Joel 2:28).

And Jesus gave them the PROMISE He would *send* the Holy Spirit from heaven, if and after He went to heaven. And, after His resurrection, on the very day and hour of His ascending to heaven, Jesus "commanded them that they should not depart from Jerusalem, BUT WAIT for the promise of the Father, which, saith he, ye have heard of me" (Acts 1:4). Yes, the promises quoted above, that unless He went to heaven they could not have or be filled with the Holy Spirit. The promise that He would pray the Father and the Father would SEND the Holy Spirit.

And then, on the day of Pentecost, THE HOLY SPIRIT CAME!

This was its *first coming from heaven!* And on that day, the newly inspired Peter said, "THIS is that which was spoken by the prophet Joel," quoting that prophecy. Now, at last, God had sent His Spirit, *as promised*, for all flesh — all who would repent, and accept Jesus as Saviour, in *faith* believing!

Before receiving the Holy Spirit, Peter was weak. He lacked faith to cast out a demon, or walk on the water. He denied Jesus three times. He went fishing instead of attending to God's Work. At the Last Supper Jesus told him, "WHEN thou art converted, strengthen thy brethren" (Luke 22:32).

Some believe Peter received the Holy Spirit when Jesus breathed on him. "And when he had said this, he *breathed* on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Spirit" (John 20:22). But He merely breathed the breath of *air* — wind. That's what *breath* is, always, in the Scriptures.

After breathing on them Jesus did not say, "You *have now received* the Holy Spirit."

If His *breathing* on them is what gave them the Holy Spirit, they would already have had the Holy Spirit in them when Jesus afterwards said, "RECEIVE YE the Holy Spirit" — but they did not. They were *yet* to receive the Spirit, *as He promised*, after He went away — after He was *glorified* (John 7:39) — after He went to heaven, and the FATHER sent the Spirit from heaven. And it was after this that Jesus told them to *wait in Jerusalem* for the Spirit to come.

The personal *experiences* of some have led many to accept this erroneous assumption that one first receives the Holy Spirit, and then, AFTERWARD, as an entirely separate experience, receives "the baptism of the Spirit." But experience is a poor guide, and these dear people are interpreting the WORD OF GOD by their experience. All such experiences should be explained by the *Scripture*, and not vice versa!

BIBLE DEFINITION of Spirit "Baptism"

There is only *one text* in all the Bible that actually defines this "baptism."

It is in I Corinthians 12:13: "For by one Spirit are we all BAPTIZED *into one body*" — the BODY OF CHRIST, the true Church of God.

Let us understand this. What is the meaning of the word "baptize"? It is a Greek word, untranslated, in our English Bibles. Had the translators rendered it into the English language, it would have read "IMMERSE." For the Greek word *baptiso* means "to immerse." To "plunge *into*." The person baptized is *plunged into* the thing he is baptized in. When baptized in water, the candidate is plunged into, or immersed, in water.

Consequently, the baptism with, or by, the Holy Spirit is not our immersion *into* the Holy Spirit; for the Scriptures tell us it is the entrance of the Spirit *into* us.

And in Romans 8:9, Paul tells us plainly that unless the Spirit of God *dwells in us*, we are none of Christ's! We become Christ's, then, *when the Holy Spirit comes INTO US!* And when we are Christ's, we are then in the BODY

OF CHRIST, the Church. Therefore, it is the receiving of the Holy Spirit which plunges us, immerses or puts us *into the Church*. And this immersion *into the Church* BY the Holy Spirit, the Scriptures call "the baptism with, or by, the Holy Spirit."

The term "baptism OF the Holy Spirit" as "*Pentecostal*" people say it, is not to be found in the BIBLE. It is the baptism with, or by, the Holy Spirit, INTO the Church.

And so "BY one Spirit are we all baptized *into one body*."

Thus, the RECEIVING of the Holy Spirit is the BAPTISM with the Spirit!

"Receiving" the Spirit, and the "Baptism" One and the Same

Let us carefully study this in the Word of God!

Before the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, Jesus said to His disciples, "Ye shall be *baptized* with the Holy Spirit not many days hence." Therefore we know that what the disciples received the day of Pentecost was the BAPTISM with the Holy Spirit.

Now let us notice the terms used to describe this baptism.

In Acts 2:4, we read, "And they were all *filled* with the Holy Spirit." And so being *filled* with the Holy Spirit is the *baptism* with the Holy Spirit.

The thousands who came running to hear the apostles, pricked in their hearts, asked what *they* should do to receive this same baptism with the Holy Spirit. Peter did not say "tarry," or "agonize," but he said, "*Repent, and be baptized,*" and "ye shall *receive the gift of the Holy Spirit*" (Acts 2:38). And so the *receiving* of the *gift of the Holy Spirit* is the baptism with the Holy Spirit. And three thousand received it that day! And there is no mention of their speaking in "tongues," and certainly there was no "tarrying"!

And *note it!* — this was their *first receiving* of the Holy Spirit! These Jews were not previously converted — had not previously received the Spirit. This was their *conversion*.

Ten years later, God, through a vision of the sheet and unclean animals, showed Peter he must go to preach Christ to the *Gentile* house of CORNELIUS. These people were Gentiles —

unconverted. Peter went to preach Christ — to show them the way of salvation. Cornelius was a devout man; he and his house feared God; he gave alms and prayed. But he did not know the way of salvation, and was not converted.

Peter went to his house and PREACHED CHRIST — His message, His crucifixion, resurrection; that “whosoever believeth in him shall receive *remission of sins*.” At that very point in his sermon, Cornelius and his house, already repentant and devout, *believed* — and “while Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard the word” (Acts 10:44).

After Peter returned to Jerusalem from the house of Cornelius, he was taken severely to task by the other apostles for associating with Gentiles. In explaining how God had led him to go, and of what had occurred at Caesarea, Peter explained how an angel had told Cornelius to send for Peter, “who shall tell thee words, *whereby thou and all thy house shall be saved*” (Acts 11:14). After hearing Peter’s report, the apostles exclaimed, “Then hath God also to the Gentiles *granted repentance unto life*” (verse 18). This conclusively shows that what Cornelius and his household experienced was their original CONVERSION — their first *receiving* of the Holy Spirit — not a subsequent “baptism” as some special endowment of power.

In explaining just *what* these Gentiles *received*, Peter said, “Then remembered I the word of the Lord, how that he said, John indeed baptized with water, but ye shall be *baptized with the Holy Spirit*. Forasmuch then as God gave them *the like gift* as he did unto us . . .” (Acts 11:16-17).

Peter plainly says that what the Gentiles then received was the baptism with the Holy Spirit. And this baptism is also called, in verse 17, “the like GIFT.” And so “the *gift of the Holy Spirit*” is the *baptism* with the Holy Spirit.

In verse 15 Peter said, “The Holy Spirit *fell on them*, as on us at the beginning.” So the Holy Spirit “FALLING on them” was the baptism with the Holy Spirit — into the Church!

In the 10th chapter, verse 44, where this actual experience is described, we

learn that “the Holy Spirit *fell on all them*,” and in verse 45 we find that “on the Gentiles also was *poured out the gift of the Holy Spirit*”! And in verse 47 they “*received the Holy Spirit*.” So the *receiving* of the Holy Spirit is the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

All these terms are used synonymously and interchangeably by the Holy Spirit to describe the same experience.

So what must we conclude? That which is born of the flesh is FLESH (John 3:6). When fleshly, sinning, mortal man *repents* and is *baptized* as a symbol of his FAITH in Christ, *he receives the Holy Spirit* — not as a result of “tarrying,” but through FAITH (Gal. 3:14; John 7:37, 39). And this *receiving* of the *gift of the Holy Spirit is the baptism with the Spirit* INTO the Church!

He is then a *child of God*. He has been begotten — though the *real* rebirth must come at the time of the resurrection. He is begotten from above — begotten of the Spirit. And thus he is baptized BY the Spirit *into the body of Christ*!

“ . . . I had rather speak five words with my understanding, that by my voice I might teach others also, than ten thousand words in an unknown tongue.” — I Cor. 14:19.

This baptism is not the end, but only the BEGINNING of his Christian experience! He is merely a newborn BABE in Christ! He must now GROW in grace and knowledge. He must live a life of *overcoming*. And he that endureth *unto the end* shall be saved!

Do ALL Speak With TONGUES?

Is “speaking in tongues” THE Bible evidence of the “baptism with the Holy Spirit”?

Must ALL speak with tongues at the time they receive the Spirit, and are brought into the true Church?

The apostles did not teach it!

The EXPERIENCES recorded in the New Testament, subsequent to Pentecost, do not indicate it. Of all the experiences of conversions recorded in the New Testament, it is recorded that there

was tongue-speaking in *only two of them*! Shall we ASSUME there were tongues in all the other experiences? Let us be careful about ADDING to God’s Word what is not there.

There is NO STATEMENT IN SCRIPTURE that you must speak with tongues to prove you have received the Holy Spirit “baptism.”

No SCRIPTURE says “by their TONGUES ye shall know them.”

But the Scripture does say, “by their FRUITS ye shall know them”! (Matt. 7:20.) *The lives we live* are the BIBLE EVIDENCE of whether or not we have received the Holy Spirit!

Jesus said, “By this shall all men KNOW that ye are my disciples, *if ye have LOVE* one to another” (John 13:35).

But are not the “tongues” at least AN evidence of the baptism with the Spirit?

Read what the Apostle Paul says: “Though I speak with the tongues of . . . ANGELS, and have not charity [LOVE], I am become as sounding brass” (I Cor. 13:1). There are *fallen* angels, demons, and it certainly could be that *many today are speaking in the “tongues” of these demons*. Would you say the counterfeit tongues of demons are *any evidence at all* of the true baptism with the Holy Spirit?

All admit “tongues” can be counterfeited by Satan. If one has been careless about PROVING all things *by the Word of God*, and has unsuspectingly been lured into SEEKING what the Bible nowhere tells us to seek — “tongues” and physical sensations and thrills pleasing to the SENSUAL self — then that one is caught off guard and becomes an open channel through which an evil spirit may enter and possibly take full possession of the mind.

Yes, Satan can COUNTERFEIT “tongues.” And do you suppose for one moment that the true BIBLE EVIDENCE could be something that can be cleverly COUNTERFEITED? No, NEVER! The “tongues” gibberish as practiced today does not even resemble the gift of languages given on that day of Pentecost in 31 A.D.

But the FRUIT of the Holy Spirit — LOVE, JOY, PEACE, patience, kindness, gentleness, goodness, meekness (most “tongues” people are not meek, but

loudmouthed and bragging), temperance, FAITH — these things in one's life *cannot be counterfeited*. They are not natural. No one has sufficient will-power to FORCE himself to show always these fruits in his life. It requires the miracle of the LOVE of GOD shed abroad in our hearts *by the Holy Spirit* (Rom. 5:5). Satan has no counterfeit for that!

That is the BIBLE EVIDENCE! "Tongues" are not even "*an evidence*." This is the PLAIN teaching of the Bible.

Are There Any GENUINE Tongues?

They DID speak with "tongues" at the house of Cornelius, and at Ephesus, AFTER the day of Pentecost.

While correcting the Corinthian church, Paul said, "I would that ye ALL spake with tongues" (I Cor. 14:5), and "forbid not to speak with tongues," in the church (verse 39).

We should banish all prejudice against the true manifestation of tongues which is the ability to speak in real languages.

But we should get the "tongues" into the proper SCRIPTURAL place of importance.

In the same 14th chapter of I Corinthians, above quoted, Paul said he would rather speak just *five words* with understanding, that he might teach others also, than *ten thousand words* in an unknown tongue. To those Corinthians, becoming fanatical on "tongues," he said, "Brethren, BE NOT CHILDREN in understanding" (verse 20). The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a SOUND MIND (II Tim. 1:7).

We should NOT *seek tongues*. "Pentecostal" people loudly protest they do not do this, but in practice and in fact, they do, and they should not deny it.

One of Satan's Clever Pitfalls

The reason for this caution is found in the Scripture. "He that speaketh in an unknown tongue EDIFIETH HIMSELF" (I Cor. 14:4). It is seeking for *self* — for *self-blessings* — for *self-thrills* — and is *contrary* to fulfilling the law of God which is love *away* from self and toward God and neighbor! And therefore it may easily degenerate into a most deceptive form of SIN.

One of the "fruits" of this "tongues" movement is that many seek nothing but "blessings," as they express it — which in plain language means sensual FEELINGS and THRILLS that they themselves ENJOY as a PLEASURE. This often includes an unnatural, perverted, Satan-inspired SEX sensation. Deluded people are led to believe this is a spiritual blessing from GOD! It's time people knew the TRUTH!

Jesus said, "That which is born of the flesh is FLESH" (John 3:6). We must be BORN AGAIN — born of the SPIRIT — to inherit eternal life. Now the flesh has its FEELINGS, its EMOTIONS, its five SENSES.

It is but natural that Satan's counterfeits are of the FLESH — even his counterfeits of spiritual things. So Satan the devil gives to people FEELINGS, and EMOTIONS, and THRILLS — and induces many zealous seekers after the Holy Spirit to accept these pleasing sensations as "blessings" and "manifestations" of the Holy Spirit!

The saddest thing is that Satan has beguiled many into continually lusting for SENSUAL FEELINGS, and for THRILLS of the FLESH, deceiving them into believing they are receiving "blessings" from God!

Oh, WHY will so many honest souls be misled, and fall into this satanic snare? God's Word warns us to TRY the spirits, WHETHER they be of God! For many false SPIRITS are gone out into the world!

This is not to say there is NO EXPERIENCE, or nothing felt, when God pours forth His blessed Holy Spirit. There is a definite EXPERIENCE to real genuine conversion. But what a tragedy to see so many deceived into receiving the FALSE experience — the FALSE "blessing" — because they have failed to heed God's warning to TRY the spirits — because they fail to have on the WHOLE ARMOR of God, which is THE WORD OF GOD!

And the greater pity is that the very ones most deceived are the ones who RESENT having the Scriptures opened to them to CORRECT them, to REPROVE, and to set them right! If *you* feel resentment of these words, it is the surest BIBLE EVIDENCE that you are under the deceptive power of Satan the devil, and

you should flee the influence he has over you, and ask God to renew a RIGHT spirit within you.

So many in this modern "tongues" movement do not seem to understand the real PURPOSE of receiving the Holy Spirit. They look upon spiritual gifts as ornaments to decorate and embellish the PERSON. But the gifts of the Spirit are the TOOLS placed in our hands to DO THE WORK OF GOD.

After Jesus had received the FULLNESS of the Holy Spirit, He said: "The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, BECAUSE he hath anointed me to *preach the gospel* to the poor; he hath sent me to *heal the brokenhearted*, to *preach deliverance* to the captives, and *recovering of sight to the blind . . .*" (Luke 4:18).

The object and purpose of the Holy Spirit is not to give FEELINGS and THRILLS that are of the senses of the *flesh*, and therefore *sensual* — not to please the SELF — but to enable one to *crucify* the SELF — to endow with power to overcome sin, which is transgressing of God's Commandments (I John 3:4) — to *cleanse* us of all unrighteousness — to impart to us GOD's righteousness, so our light may shine and others may see Christ in us — to *understand* the Word of God, so we may know how to live by its every word — to give us the FAITH of Jesus, making possible His righteousness — to give us POWER to be kind, patient, gentle, and of service to others — to preach the Gospel — to heal the sick.

Let Us Receive THIS Power

Jesus did not say, "Ye shall fall helpless UNDER the power." He did not say the Holy Spirit would ROB us of power, render us powerless. He said, "YE SHALL RECEIVE POWER"!

The Holy Spirit is the Spirit of POWER, and of LOVE, and of a SOUND MIND (II Tim. 1:7). The Spirit of UNDERSTANDING (John 16:13). And that kind of power comes from just two things: SURRENDER, and FAITH, along with much earnest PRAYER.

Let us YIELD to God, and His Word. Let us seek more of His Love, more of His FAITH, a better UNDERSTANDING, more POWER FOR SERVICE! And let us leave manifestations and feelings to HIM! □

Personal

(Continued from page 4)

lasting only an indefinite few or several years during the 3rd 19 years.

The early Church was given 19 years for the first phase of its ministry, when the door was opened to carry the Gospel to EUROPE! The same, TO THE PRECISE DAY, was true in our case! And that is FACT!

Yes, this seemed SIGNIFICANT!

It SEEMED we would have a second 19 years to get the Message "in all the world, as a witness to all nations."

I admit we were somewhat excited by this realization of FACT. We are HUMAN! Our hearts are IN God's Work to which He has called us. This was, to some extent, an emotional revelation. Would YOU have the same normal human reaction, had you been in our place? I think all but dour, prejudiced, hostile critics, who would like to see God's Work destroyed, would have reacted as we did!

I said at the beginning, "Emphatically I am NOT a prophet." Later, "Now a word about what my Commission is NOT. It is *not* to become an infallible expert on or to preach, chronology." Later again, "But we are only human, and it is natural that we should have been curious to know, as far as possible, how much time we had to GET THE JOB DONE. That, however, in fact, is not our *main purpose, or our Commission* — which is to proclaim Christ's Announcement of the advance good NEWS. . . . Our Commission is TO GET THAT JOB DONE! We have been GETTING IT DONE!"

This is the PARAMOUNT FACT our readers and Co-Workers need to keep uppermost in mind!

Our human interest, and enthusiasm about facts and indications pointing to the probable amount of time we had left is of MOST MINOR consequence compared to the BIG point of the Commission — WHICH WE HAVE BEEN GETTING DONE!

Now let me continue.

It has never been our intention to SET DATES! Time after time, I have said — Garner Ted Armstrong has said — our literature has stated — "WE DO NOT SET DATES!"

Yet, in our human zeal and enthusiasm for getting this greatest mission on earth done, we have a few times come close to it or appeared to — and that we deeply regret.

If we were not human enough to be virtually carried away with what appeared inevitable — in the light of fact and probability — we surely would not have been imbued with the energy, vitality, sense of urgency and enthusiasm to GET the job done!

So let me give you a few actual QUOTES:

In 1959, we issued a booklet, (now out of print) *A True History of the True Church*, by Herman L. Hoeh. He said: "God . . . opened a DOOR to the apostle Paul *at the beginning of the second nineteen-year cycle* by which the Gospel went to Europe (Acts 16:9; II Cor. 2:12-13). So now, just before the second coming of Jesus Christ, God has given His Church . . . *just two* nineteen-year cycles in which to carry the Gospel to the world! The first cycle *passed*. Then God suddenly opened the door for the second cycle in January 1953, and the Gospel is now going to all the world!"

My only comment: By the end of the second cycle we *had* gotten it into all nations — and not even six months before. We still face the question: HOW THOROUGHLY must all nations be reached?

An edition of a booklet, *1975 in Prophecy*, issued 1957 — now for some time out of print — had the following:

"Feverishly science, technology and industry are working to produce a fantastic, push-button world of leisure by 1975."

Let me say here in regard to this booklet, the title date, "1975" had *nothing* to do with any prophecy, or fulfillment of any prophesied event whatsoever. It was a date set by certain scientific and technological sources, for accomplishing certain materialistic objectives. Scientists set dates for the times they HOPE to accomplish certain breakthroughs. But does anyone discredit THEM, if they set the wrong date? Of course not!

Let me give you other examples:

Sir Philip Noel Baker (Nobel Prize winner in 1959) before television cam-

eras, radio mikes, newspaper and magazine reporters, this dedicated man of science, deadly serious, said, "I believe that *within ten years* we will all be dead and the earth will be an incinerated relic." That ten years passed three years ago. But no one calls Sir Philip a false prophet. At any time during that ten years his statement *could have* come true! What he said is even more of a possibility today than in 1959! There are *more ways* to destroy mankind now than then!

This man of science, well informed, trying to get *someone* to heed the deadly SERIOUSNESS of the world condition, boldly stated that he felt it would be decided *within ten years!*

Author Gordon Ratray Taylor put the threat to the extinction of mankind this way: "THE THREAT IS TOO SERIOUS TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY."

John Platt of the University of Michigan has stated in *Science* magazine, "We may have even less than a 50-50 chance of living until 1980!"

The Federation of American Scientists in 1960 declared, "It appears unlikely that the world will avoid a nuclear holocaust if another 15 years pass without arms control agreement!" HE set a date — 1975!

In 1966 Dr. Binay Sen, Director of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization said, "If the rate of food production cannot be significantly increased, we must prepare for the *four horsemen of the Apocalypse.*"

We are living in a lost, empty world, hopeless, just about to commit cosmocide! Concerned, dedicated, sincere, intelligent, sober men in government, science and education are sounding a unanimous alarm: *Mankind will end before this century does!*

The point: Because these men add a date to their concerned comments regarding mankind's future, does it mean that their concern, and all the overwhelming facts which cause that concern, are wrong? NO! When the house is on fire no one seems interested in the exact number of minutes one might have before he is finally consumed! When it gets down to the last few straws, no one volunteers to lie down under the loaded camel whose back is about to be broken.

Time marches on inexorably, and so do all the prophetic events leading to the collapse of mankind's experiment in self-government. And better yet, the sure coming of God's Kingdom to save man from himself *is near!*

Emphatically, if we — in our dedicated enthusiastic ZEAL to get God's WARNING of the end of mankind's world before this sick, sick world — do, even though we intend not to, appear to set a date, I FEEL I DO NOT NEED TO APOLOGIZE! No one but the enemies of ALL GOOD will accuse!

Now, continuing the booklet, *1975 in Prophecy*, on page 3: "MAN does not know the WAY to peace and happiness and joy. What man is bringing on the world is the diametric opposite — such catastrophic and terrifying destruction that human life will be erased from the earth in 25 years UNLESS GOD ALMIGHTY INTERVENES!" That would be by 1982.

On page 10: "While modern science and industry strive to prepare for us a push-button, leisure-luxury world by 1975, United States Assistant Weather Chief I. R. Tannahill warns us unofficially to really fear 'the big drought of 1975.' But the indications of prophecy are that this drought will be even *more* devastating than he foresees, and that it will strike *sooner* than 1975 — probably between 1965 and 1972!" I said "indications are" and "probably."

On page 20: "Yes, millions of luke-warm inactive professing Christians will suffer MARTYRDOM — and that *before* the anticipated push-button leisure-year of 1975 dawns upon us!" I did not set that 1975 date — spokesmen for science and industry did. I still say it will occur *before* their dream-world materializes!

In *The PLAIN TRUTH*, October 1965, appeared the following (page 16): "But we know that the time is soon coming — *probably* at the end of the second 19-year time-cycle of this Work — when our voices shall be stilled — our printing presses stopped!" The main statement remains as certain today as then — *only* the "PROBABLY" by 1972 has proved to be premature.

In a reprint from an issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH* during 1963, an article, "There Is a Way of Escape," by Her-

man L. Hoeh, has this: "The new slogan of the neo-Nazi parties is that the west is 'through by 1972' . . . It is time we recognized that civilization has less than 15 years to go." The Nazi slogan, dating 1972, was *off* — but Dr. Hoeh has six more years to go before his is!

In my "Personal," *The PLAIN TRUTH* for February 1967, I said: "I wish ALL OF YOU could realize that this wonderful coming world (that Jesus' GOSPEL announced) is REAL — *and most of you will be in it* — I hope as one of its coming IMMORTALS. It's not only REAL — it is coming SOON. Possibly (I do not set dates) in less than ten years! Yes, *very possibly* that soon!" I still say, it WAS — and still IS — possible; but I specifically said "I do not set dates."

In a Co-Worker letter to those contributing financially, dated December 29, 1969, I said: "While I EMPHASIZE, *we cannot set dates*, yet I am prepared to say now, for the first time, the second coming of Christ COULD happen during this coming decade, which we enter later this very week. Don't under any circumstances take this as setting a date — but we are now far closer to the END OF THIS WORLD — and the beginning of the *happy* and *peaceful* WORLD TOMORROW than people realize. TIME IS SHORT!"

That one statement epitomizes what we have said all along.

Scores and scores of times we have said, "We do not set dates." Yet, in our zeal, we have used "possibilities" and "probabilities" and even appeared to set dates we really didn't intend to set.

Scientists have done the same. Other writers in other fields have, also. I'm sure all our sincere readers UNDERSTAND OUR INTENT!

Hundreds of times I have said — Garner Ted Armstrong has said — our other speakers and writers have said — "DON'T believe ME because I say it — but listen with open mind, without prejudice, search your own Bible, and BELIEVE WHAT GOD SAYS IN YOUR BIBLE."

I have never tried to induce leaders to FOLLOW ME — but to follow CHRIST, and to follow me *only* as I follow HIM.

Now a final summary:

Let me give you now what was our thinking, based on prophecy (which does foretell certain *events* to come, but NOT their dates), based also on world events and trends, and at the same time being influenced to some degree by the 19-year time cycle that HAD DEFINITELY OCCURRED, ON THE VERY DAY. I do not mean merely my own thinking, personally. I include the combined thinking of our top men here at Pasadena in the Work.

First, in 1945, before the end of World War II, I was saying on the air that the Nazis were organized to go UNDERGROUND, in case of defeat, and to COME BACK. By war's end, later in 1945, it seemed history might repeat — it often does. It had taken Germany 21 years from the armistice bringing the end of the first round of world war — an "armistice" is a RECESS — to be ready to start the second round, World War II. The armistice had COME OF AGE — 21 years!

So, we looked then to 1966 as a POSSIBLE date for the next round — nuclear World War III. I do not remember ever having stated this publicly, either on the air or in print. It was merely our *private* thinking of a POSSIBILITY. But by no means even as a probability.

By 1952, when my elder son, Richard David, and Herman Hoeh spent a summer in Britain, France, and Germany, their glowing reports of German progress in a post-war COMEBACK even strengthened our private view of POSSIBILITIES.

But, after the astounding fact of discovering our first broadcast into Europe and Britain had been 19 years — TO THE VERY DAY by both Hebrew and Roman calendars — we gained further insight into the probable time it would require to reach all nations. And we knew this *had to be* accomplished before World War III would break out. It seemed, then, it would require another 19 years at least.

Then we *did* begin to mention the possibility of God's Work extending another 19 years — or at least until January 7, 1972. In fact, we were SO overwhelmingly impressed — perhaps more than we should have been — by the FACT of what happened after 19

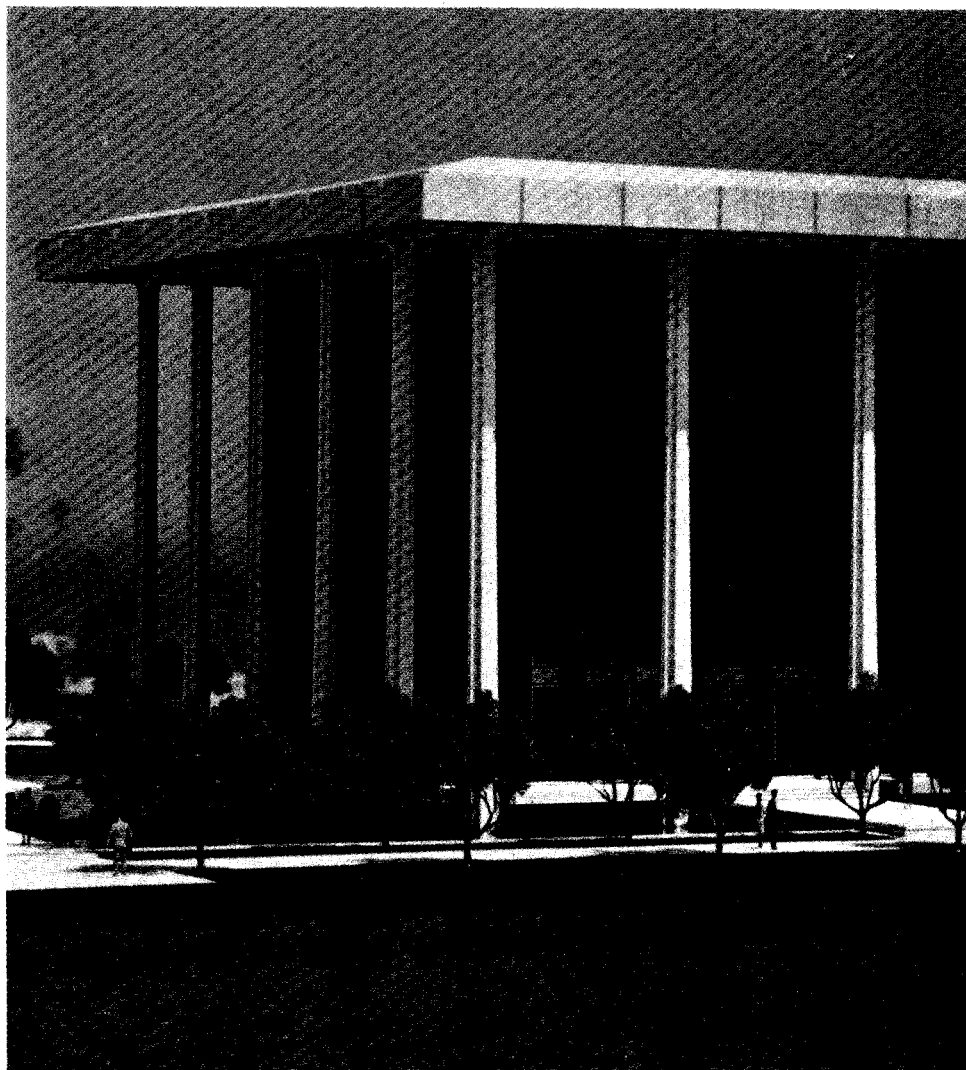
years, we did, a few times, go further than we should with it — though basically, we continued, time and again, to say “we do not set dates.” But some statements gave the IMPRESSION that we did set the date, January 7, 1972. It is difficult to control sincere, dedicated enthusiastic ZEAL; and we were human!

However, after June, 1967, and the six-day war between Israel and the Arab nations, just when world events *could have* plunged suddenly by that impetus to a climax in a few short years, world events, instead, began to slow down. But we could not discern that for a year or more.

De Gaulle, in France, began to slow down the Common Market moves toward POLITICAL union in Europe, in order to prevent Germany from dominating. He wanted to dominate.

In the Vatican, in Jerusalem, in Germany and Europe, in United States economy, affecting THIS WORK, the pace SLOWED! But we were so impressed with what already had happened in the 19-year time-cycle, that we failed to divorce actual contemporary world events, as they were slowing, from our time-cycle analogy.

During the past two or three years, the realization came upon us more and more that events were slowing — that the world-crisis would NOT be reached by January, 1972. All this has happened SINCE the 1967 edition of the *U. S. and British Commonwealth in Prophecy* book came out: This book contained statements that seemed justified in 1967—before this slowing down was noticeable—such as: “Events of the next five years may . . .” in the very beginning — and, “A staggering turn in world events is due to erupt in the next four to seven years.” And again, “the next five to seven years” on page xi. You will notice that, even here, we were not setting a definite YEAR, but expressing a general period in different ways. On page xii, the statement, “The events prophesied to strike the American and British peoples in the next four to seven years are SURE!” By this we meant the EVENTS are SURE — not the “four to seven years.” Lower on the page, however, the statement was made that these events will come “on schedule, BUT NOT UNTIL THE WARNING HAS BEEN MADE



AVAILABLE” — which certainly qualified it.

In the latest edition of that book, ALL THESE STATEMENTS HAVE BEEN CORRECTED.

As I have said, Moses made mistakes, Abraham made mistakes, David made mistakes, Elijah made mistakes, Peter made mistakes, and so have ALL MEN God has ever called and used. Making a mistake is NOT any evidence at all that a man is NOT being used of God. But these men CORRECTED their mistakes! AND SO HAVE WE! And I am correcting a few in this very “Personal”!

The BIG POINT is — WE HAVE BEEN GETTING THE JOB DONE — and no one else on earth has!

One point remains. The question, HOW THOROUGHLY does God intend His Work to reach the nations?

It DID take a second 19 years to get the message into all nations — but, as of January 7th, 1972, we had reached

many of them *only superficially* — not intensively!

I know of no place in the Bible where, in specific plain words, this question is answered. The one possible answer is in Matthew 24:14, the very prophecy defining our COMMISSION for this latter day. There we are to preach and publish this Gospel OF THE KINGDOM in all the world *for a witness* unto all nations. The answer may be tied up in the words “for a witness.” One commentary, on this phrase, has: “*as a witness*: God never sends judgment without previous warning.” In Amos 3:7 may be found a corollary: “Surely the Lord Eternal will do nothing, but He revealeth His secret unto His servants the prophets.” (Amos 3:7). The inference is that God’s servants warn the people, as Jonah did Nineveh, of God’s judgment to come.

If that is the meaning intended, then we must say that God does intend many

nations to be warned more intensively than as of now. We have gotten the Message into Japan, for example, in the past six months — but reaching only a superficial fraction of the people. To say Japan has been warned would not be the truth.

In view of WHAT DID HAPPEN, on January 7th, it seems God has revealed in no uncertain language, BY THE VERY THINGS THAT HAPPENED on that day, that we must now reach all nations MORE INTENSIVELY!

1) On that very day, the MOST POWERFUL DOOR so far opened to us, swung wide open. We had hoped for it, but not really expected it. We had no idea *when* the answer would come. On that day the purchase of advertising space in the ENTIRE UNITED STATES edition of *Reader's Digest* opened before us. Total circulation, 17,750,000 copies — with a readership of 50 to 70 MILLION people — by far the largest of any magazine. That is from $\frac{1}{4}$ to more than $\frac{1}{3}$ of ALL the people in the U.S. The first two-page ad will appear in one half of that circulation in the April number, and in the other half of the circulation in the May number! For years we have purchased advertising space in overseas editions. Now the entire U. S. is opened to us!

2) On that day we received from our bankers the signed, sealed and delivered financing for 80% of the superb new auditorium, NOW ACTUALLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION on the Pasadena campus. Since, besides being the college auditorium, for us it will also serve to honor GOD at the present Headquarters in Pasadena, it seems God assures us of a few more years at least to go, since it will take two years to complete it. The other 20% of the financing was already on hand, received and accumulated from Co-Workers. So the financing is 100% completed! Only we still must — over several years — repay the 80%.

Since, one of the most powerful radio stations, KOA Denver, has opened time for *The WORLD TOMORROW* at 7:30 every evening, seven nights a week, and for the Garner Ted Armstrong T.V. program at noon Sundays.

Since then, the NUMBER ONE inde-

pendent T.V. station in the U. S. — top rated outside the major networks — WOR, New York, has opened PRIME TIME — actually in the very center of prime time for New York — 10 p.m., Sunday nights, beginning February 13th!

Yes, THINGS DID HAPPEN January 7th! And now THE MOST POWERFUL DOORS ARE OPENING. Next watch for major openings in Chicago, Philadelphia, Dallas, and elsewhere.

So where are we, now, in the Work? *All systems are "GO!"*

Welcome aboard! Glad you're GOING

WITH US! You know, I'm reminded of the time Jesus was criticized, persecuted, misrepresented by His enemies. He asked His disciples, "Will ye also go away?"

"Then Simon Peter answered him, Lord, to whom shall we go? THOU hast the words of Eternal Life!"

And we in His Work, today, have those SAME WORDS OF ETERNAL LIFE!

Yes, *all systems are "Go!"*

With renewed energy, greater than ever before, WE PLUNGE ON TO FINISH THE WORK WE HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO DO! □

How Your TOMORROW'S WORLD SUBSCRIPTION Has Been Paid

So many ask: "How does it happen that I find my subscription price for TOMORROW'S WORLD has already been paid? How can you publish such a high-class magazine without advertising revenue?"

The answer is as simple as it is astonishing! It is a paradox. Christ's Gospel cannot be sold like merchandise. You cannot buy salvation. Yet it does cost money to publish Christ's TRUTH and mail it to all continents on earth. We solve this problem Christ's WAY!

Jesus said, "This Gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached [and published — Mark 13:10] in all the world for a witness unto all nations" (Matt. 24:14) at this time, just before the end of this age. A PRICE must be paid for this magazine, the Correspondence Course, or other literature. But HOW? Christ forbids us to sell it to those who receive it: "Freely ye have received," said Jesus to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim His Gospel, "freely GIVE!" "It is more blessed," He said, "to GIVE than to receive" (Acts 20:35).

God's WAY is the way of LOVE — and that is the way of giving. God expects every child of His to

give free-will offerings and to tithe, as His means of paying the costs of carrying His Gospel to others. We, therefore, simply trust the Living Christ to stir the minds and hearts of His followers to give generously, thus paying the cost of putting the precious Gospel TRUTH in the hands of others. We believe in what we are doing, and THE WAY it is being done. Our ever-growing family of volunteer Co-Workers believe in it, and gladly give of their incomes that we, with them, may GIVE this precious gospel to an ever-widening number of readers. Yet it must go only to those who themselves wish to receive it. Each must, for himself, subscribe — and his subscription has thus already been paid by others.

The living, dynamic Christ Himself enables us to send you this TOMORROW'S WORLD magazine on an already-paid basis; to enroll many thousands in the Ambassador College Correspondence Course with full tuition cost already paid; and to provide other literature and services without charging a price. God's way is RIGHT — the way of giving to others.

Letters to the Editor

(Continued from inside front cover)

They've driven home the point well about the pagan origins of Christmas and about the accidents, suicides, family breakups and mental depressions that occur at Christmas time.

Earl R.,
Sacramento, Calif.

Thank you very much for December's articles "Is Christmas Christian?" by Albert Portune and "Ten Reasons Why I Don't Keep Christmas!" by David Jon Hill. They came at a very appropriate time — the day before Christmas. Like all of your informative articles, they proved everything they said and reaffirmed my faith in the Bible.

Frank L.,
San Antonio, Texas

I have just read the excellent article by David Jon Hill in the December issue — why he does not keep Christmas. His thoughts coincide so much with mine — I just had to write you about it. For years I used to get into debt — so as to do the expected — and it took me several months to get on my feet.

Irene S.,
Inglewood, Calif.

One statement in "Is Christmas Christian?" isn't quite accurate. It is: "The plain truth is — NO ONE knows the exact date of Jesus' birth." There is no authentic record of the date of the birth of Jesus, but scholars (Griswell, among others) consider it probable that He was born on the tenth day of the Jewish month of Nisan, which in the year of the Nativity has been calculated to correspond to Saturday, April 5th.

Jay A.,
Orem, Utah

• *There are abundant indications that Christ was born sometime in the autumn. Details are available in our free reprint "When Was Christ Born?"*

Personal Counsel

Our family has been reading your literature for about two years. We have many questions and feel we are ready for a visit from your representatives. We live just outside of Pullman, Washington, which is about 80 miles south of Spokane.

Ken P.,
Pullman, Wash.

Yesterday we had the privilege of a visit from two of the representatives of the Worldwide Church of God. I am very grateful for their help in answering our questions about several areas.

Henry H.,
Southfield, Mich.

I recently enjoyed the visit of your representatives and I want to truly thank

you for sending them. They have really helped.

James G.,
Livingston, Tenn.

I recently received a visit from two of your personal representatives. I found them to be everything I expected. They were well versed in the Scriptures and had a great deal of knowledge concerning scientific and everyday matters.

Anthony C.,
Brooklyn, N. Y.

Recently I wrote to you asking that a representative of the Worldwide Church of God might call on my wife and me. Several days ago two of your representatives called on us. It was one of the most inspiring conversations that I have ever had. I thank you for making this visit possible.

Loren P.,
Abingdon, Ill.

Be Seen and Not Heard

I have just read your article "Be Seen and Not Heard." I wish I had seen it three years ago before I lost all my friends and had to leave town! At Sunday school I learned the same traditions of my friends: the long-haired Jesus, "believe (certain doctrines) and you will go to heaven." Then I began studying the Bible with a certain denomination that sends their women and children door to door, preaching (to earn their own salvation). When I learned from my Bible that the earth was made to be inhabited and that the saved will live here forever, immediately I began talking to everyone in sight. You know the rest — I was turned out, avoided and despised, unwelcome at my job and homes of my former friends, because I had dared to study my Bible instead of taking the word of others. People just don't want to hear about the Bible. I hope that many will take your advice and not make the mistake I made.

Mrs. Bobbie V.,
Warren, Oregon

• *Other readers with similar problems are welcome to write for our reprint article "Should You Try to Convert Others?" It's free of charge — like all of our other literature.*

Reader from Nigeria

I am very happy to let you know that it was the invaluable pieces of advice which I got from your publication and the Holy Bible that sustained me during the terrible Nigerian Civil War. I happened to live in a Biafra-controlled area. The experiences of the Civil War have taught me that the Bible is the living Word of God and that all its prophecies must sometime come to pass.

M.A.U.,
Nigeria

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