

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

March 1972



The Garden Tomb

Letters to the Editor

Personal from the Editor

We were pleased to receive your letter informing us that our names would be added to your Co-Worker list. We are indeed interested in helping as we are able, and will be looking forward to your letters telling us more about His Work you and your staff are so ably carrying on. We especially enjoy reading your "Personal Letter" in the front part of *Tomorrow's World*. You write in down-to-earth, easy-to-understand language, almost as if you were sitting there talking to us personally. It gives us much to think about, and inspires us to further study of the Bible to check your statements for further knowledge.

Mr. and Mrs. C. M. C.,
Portland, Oregon

Prosper." I am very grateful to learn God's Laws on this matter and also how I can prosper in this debt-ridden society. I have known for some time that God tells us to tithe, but I never did except for a very few times. Nevertheless, when I did, something good always came out of it.

I always made the excuse, "Oh, I don't have the money" or, "Maybe next time." But I have now decided to submit to God's laws and start tithing — not because I know that I'll prosper, but because the money will help distribute the knowledge of our Creator. I am sending my first check to you. I would also like to have a copy of the booklet titled *Ending Your Financial Worries*.

Raymond H.,
Princeton, Va.

New Co-Worker

I'm a recent Co-Worker, having decided after 3½ years of hesitation, which I regret, to participate in this magnanimous service to mankind. I've come to know the Truth and freely I received so I now freely give.

Only about a month ago I began to practice, or I should say obey, God's commandment of tithing. Your article in December's *Tomorrow's World* was therefore most opportune. It answered all my questions concerning tithing.

Glen B.,
East Orange, N.J.

Between the Testaments

I thought I'd just write to let you know how much I enjoyed your articles "Between the Testaments I & II."

I have been for some time trying to understand the story flow of the emergence of the Sadducees and the Pharisees. I had looked through some of the Talmud and Josephus trying to uncover for myself what your article so clearly revealed.

Jack G.

The "Between the Testaments" article in *Tomorrow's World* for September 1971
(Continued on back cover)

Read the Book

A little over a year ago, you issued a challenge to *Tomorrow's World* readers to read their Bibles through. I had started reading mine a short time before, so I did not write in. I have been surprised that only one person (to my knowledge) has responded. It is a shame that more people are not concerned enough to find out the wonderful things recorded for us in the Bible. I am happy to report that on December 24 I finished reading the Bible, and I am starting to re-read it. It is the most enlightening book I have ever read.

Mrs. Patsy M.,
McNeal, Ariz.

● *Congratulations. Actually MANY HUNDREDS have responded to our challenge to READ THE BOOK. Of course, we have only published a very few letters in this section. If any of our readers would like a copy of the article containing the "challenge," request our free reprint titled "Read the Book."*

Tithing

I have just read the article "Two Trillion Dollars in Debt — But You Can

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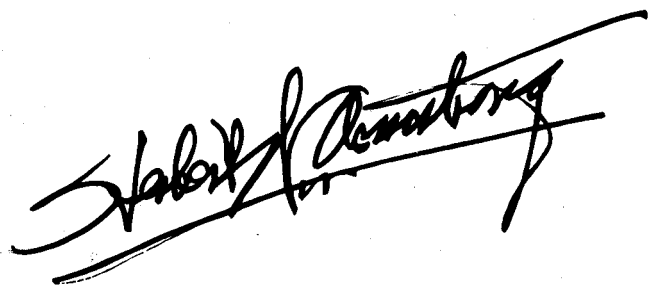
The Garden Tomb—where Jesus Christ fulfilled the most important prophecy in history. It was here that the God of Israel was resurrected from the dead after precisely THREE DAYS and THREE NIGHTS — unequivocally proving He was indeed the Messiah. You can prove that your Saviour was in the grave for EXACTLY that amount of time. Read "The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday" beginning on page 3.

Ambassador College Photo

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Personal from



Do Christians Sin? . . . Sequel to "Unpardonable Sin" article

THE ARTICLE on the "Unpardonable Sin" (July 1971 — TOMORROW'S WORLD) brought a heavy and most gratifying response. Thousands were helped — many minds freed from doubts. Consequently I want now to make plain a related truth.

I have written on this subject before. But perhaps I can approach it in a different manner, and explain more clearly.

Do Christians ever sin? If one does, is he "lost"?

First let me ask — and answer the question, *What is a Christian?* Does joining a church make one a Christian? Does saying, "I accept the Lord Jesus Christ as my Saviour" make one a Christian?

Let's get the Bible definition. In Romans 8:6-9 you will read: "For to be carnally minded is death; but to be spiritually minded is life and peace. Because the carnal mind [fleshly mind] is enmity [hostile] against God: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh [fleshly minded] cannot please God. 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."

A Christian, then, is one who has received, and in whose mind dwells the Holy Spirit of God. Otherwise he is NOT Christ's — NOT a Christian.

But how does one receive the Spirit of God?

On the day the Church of God was started, the Apostle Peter said, "Repent, and be baptized . . . in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

Repent of what? Of sin. And what is sin? "Sin

is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). What law? The law that the carnal mind, hostile to God, is not subject to — the Law of God (Rom. 8:7). Again, we read of "the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that obey him" (Acts 5:32).

There are the two *conditions* to receiving God's GIFT of the Holy Spirit: *Repentance* and *Faith*. Being baptized is the outward manifestation of the inner faith in Christ. Repentance is not merely being sorry for something one has done — or even many such sins. It is a real repentance of what one *is* and *has been* — of his whole past attitude and life apart from God. It is a total *change* of mind and heart and direction of life. It is a *change* to a new WAY OF LIFE. It is a turning from the *self-centered* way of vanity, selfishness, greed, hostility to authority, envy, jealousy and unconcern for the good and welfare of others to the God-centered WAY of obedience, submission to authority, love toward God *more* than love of self and of love and concern for other humans equal to self-concern.

LOVE is the fulfilling of God's Law (Rom. 13:10) — but God's Law is a *spiritual* law (Rom. 7:14) and can be fulfilled only by "the love of God, shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit" (Rom. 5:5).

The Holy Spirit will open one's mind to UNDERSTAND God's instruction on how to live, but it will not force one to live God's way — it will not pull or push one. Each Christian must take his own initiative, though God's Spirit will give him help, faith and power. But it is "as many as are *led by* the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God" (Rom. 8:14).

So a Christian, then, is one who has received God's Spirit, which is dwelling in him, leading him, and he is following GOD'S WAY of life. A Christian has forsaken his former habitual way of life — his selfish way unconcerned with God. Now he lives in the habitual way of God's Word — in the light of the Word of God.

But suppose, like an 8- or 10-month-old baby trying to learn to walk, as he "walks" this NEW WAY, he stumbles, "falls down," as it were, and sins. Is he then condemned — lost — no longer a Christian?

I would like you, now, to notice, and UNDERSTAND, what the Apostle John was inspired to write for our admonition. It is in the first letter (epistle) of John:

Speaking of Christ, in his opening salutation, as "That which was from the beginning . . . which was with the Father, and was manifested unto us; that which we have seen and heard declare we unto you,

that ye also may have fellowship with us: and truly our fellowship is with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ" (I John 1:1-3).

The true Christian has been reconciled to God through Christ. And, having God's Spirit, he enjoys actual *fellowship* with the Father and the Son Jesus Christ. And even his fellowship with fellow-Christians is through God and Christ. He is joined to them, as the different branches are joined to a grape vine and joined together through and by the vine. Compare Jesus' analogy in John 15:1-7. Christians, then, are actually *walking* with Christ — and two cannot walk together except they be in agreement (Amos 3:3).

Now continue in I John: "This then is the message which we have heard of him, and declare unto you, that God is light, and in him is no darkness at all. If we say that we have fellowship with him, and walk in darkness, we lie, and do not [are not doing] the truth" (verses 5-6). That is, He — the living Christ — is walking in the light — as if on a brilliantly lighted path. But if we are walking in darkness, we are walking on a different path altogether, where it is dark. Therefore we are not walking *with* Him at all, and if we say we are, we are lying.

But suppose, while walking with Him — in the light — one of us stumbles and falls down. This is not a case of having turned away from Him and the path He is treading, to a different and darkened path. If we say, "Oh I'm sorry," would He not give us a hand and help us get up and continue on the lighted path with Him? Would He become angry and say, "Get off my path — go walk down a darkened path"?

In still other words, the true Christian has turned *from* his former life of *habitual sin* — and from his former attitude of selfishness, and self-seeking when he had no serious intention of living God's way. But now he has turned from his former way. His life, in general, now, is the *habitual* way of the Christian life.

But he is not perfect the minute he is converted and receives God's Spirit. He must *GROW* spiritually, in grace and the knowledge of Christ, as Peter writes in II Peter 3:18. He is the creature of habit, and all old former habits do not just automatically leave him without any effort on his part to overcome them. He must learn to *overcome* sin. It is inevitable that he may be caught off-guard and make a mistake. So, continue in I John 1:

"But if we walk in the light" — that is, even

though we may stumble occasionally, it is now only the occasional slip — not a turning our back on God's WAY — *not* a turning back to the *habitual* and constant way of sin.

Do you begin to UNDERSTAND the difference? The true Christian *intends* to live God's WAY. He *wants* to live God's way. He *tries* to live God's way. And, in general, it now actually is his habitual NEW WAY of life. The occasional slip, or sin, does *not* mean that in his mind and heart he has rejected God and God's WAY. Continue:

"... As He is in the light" — if that is now our goal and purpose and *habitual way of life* — then "we have fellowship one with another, and the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us [us who are now Christians] from all sin. If we — [Christians] — say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us" (verses 7-8).

If we, now Christians, say that we are already perfect — that we never slip up and make a mistake or commit a sin, we are deceiving ourselves. I knew a woman who deceived herself in this way. She claimed to be above sin — claimed she *never* sinned. And although she was what most people would call a *good* woman, she actually was committing the biggest sin of all — spiritual pride and vanity! She gloried in her "sinless" state. She lacked Christian humility.

But if, while walking down this *lighted* path with God, one stumbles and falls down, does God kick him aside?

Verse 9: "If we [we who are Christians — it is *not* talking about the unconverted] confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

So notice the "IF." "If we *confess* our sins." When we stumble, we must admit it — we must repent of it — we must ask forgiveness. If we deny it, or blame it on somebody else, we shall not be forgiven. We must confess it — to God!

"If we say that we [as Christians] have not sinned, we make him a liar, and his word is not in us." The context continues right on into the second chapter: "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not." In other words, we *should* not sin — we must strive to avoid any sin. God gives us no license to sin. But, "... if any man sin, we [we Christians] have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous: and he is the propitiation for

(Continued on page 32)

The Resurrection Was Not On Sunday!

Was Jesus three days and three nights in the grave, as He said in Matthew 12:40? Can you figure three days and three nights between sunset "Good Friday" and sunrise Easter Sunday?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

IT IS COMMONLY supposed today that Jesus was crucified on **FRI**-**DAY**, and that the resurrection occurred about sunrise on Easter Sunday morning.

It would seem that no one, until recently, ever thought to question or to *prove* this "Good Friday-Easter" tradition. Yet the Bible tells us to *prove* all things. And you will be literally astounded by this proof.

For **PROOF** there is but one dependable authority, a sole historical record — the Bible.

Tradition No Evidence

There were no eyewitnesses to the resurrection. Even so-called "apostolic fathers" had no source of information save that record which is today available to us. Tradition, then, must be dismissed.

What are the recorded facts?

The doubting Pharisees were asking Jesus for a **SIGN** — supernatural evidence — in proof of His Messiahship.

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

Now consider, please, the tremendous import — the overwhelming significance — of Jesus' statement.

He expressly declared that the **ONLY SIGN** He would give to prove He was the Messiah was that He should be just **THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS** in the rock-hewn sepulcher in the "heart of the earth."

The Significance of the Sign

These Christ-rejecting Pharisees demanded **PROOF**. Jesus offered but one evidence. That evidence was not the fact of the resurrection itself. It was the **LENGTH OF TIME** He would

repose in His grave, before being resurrected.

Think what this means! Jesus staked His claim to being your Saviour and mine upon remaining exactly **THREE DAYS AND THREE NIGHTS** in the tomb. If He remained just three days and three nights inside the earth, He would **PROVE** Himself the Saviour; if He failed in this sign, He must be rejected as an imposter!

No wonder Satan has caused unbelievers to scoff at the story of Jonah and the "whale"! No wonder the devil has set up a tradition that **DENIES** Jesus is the Messiah!

The Dilemma of the Higher Critics

This one and only supernatural **PROOF** ever given by Jesus for His Messiahship has greatly bothered the commentators and the higher critics. Their attempts to explain away this sole proof for Christ's divinity are ludicrous in the extreme. For explain

this away they must, or their "Good Friday-Easter" tradition collapses!

One commentator says, "Of course we know that Jesus was actually in the tomb only half as long as He thought He would be!" Some expositors impose upon our credulity to the extent of asking us to believe that "in the GREEK language, in which the New Testament was written, the expression 'three days and three nights' means three PERIODS, either of day or of night"!

Jesus, they say, was placed in the tomb shortly before sunset FRIDAY, and rose at sunrise Sunday morning — two nights and one day.

The BIBLE Definition

But the BIBLE definition of the duration OF "nights and days" is simple.

Even these same higher critics admit that in the Hebrew language, in which the book of Jonah was written, the expression "three days and three nights" means a period of 72 hours — three twelve-hour days and three twelve-hour nights.

Notice Jonah 1:17: "And Jonah was in the belly of the fish *three days and three nights*"! This, they admit was a period of 72 hours. And Jesus distinctly said that AS Jonah was three days and three nights in the great fish's belly, so He would be the same length of time in His grave!

As Jonah was in the "grave" (see marginal reference, Jonah 2:2) 72 hours, after which he was supernaturally resurrected by God, by being vomited up, to become a saviour to the people of Nineveh upon proclaiming the warning to them, so should Jesus be 72 hours in His grave, thereupon being resurrected by God to become the Saviour of the world!

Did Jesus know how much time was in a "day" and in a "night"? Jesus answered, "Are there not twelve hours in the day? . . . But if a man walk in the night, he stumbleth" (John 11:9-10).

Notice the *Bible definition* of the expression, "THE THIRD DAY." Text after text tells us that Jesus rose *the third day*. Notice how the Bible defines the time required to fulfill "the third day."

In Genesis 1:4 God "divided the

light from the darkness. And God called the *light* Day, and the *darkness* he called Night. And the evening [darkness] and the morning [light] were *the first day*. . . . And the evening [darkness] and the morning [light] were *the second day*. . . . And the evening [now three periods of darkness called *night* — three nights] and the morning [now three periods of light called *day* — three days] were THE THIRD DAY" (Gen. 1:4-13).

Here we have the *only Bible definition* which explains and *counts up* the amount of time involved in the expression "the third day." It includes three dark periods called NIGHT, and three light periods called DAY — three days and three nights, and Jesus said they contained TWELVE HOURS for each period — a total of 72 hours!

That ought to be conclusive! Any seven-year-old, near the end of the second grade, could figure it easily.

What Is Wrong?

What is wrong with these plain, simple words of Jesus? How do these wise and prudent theologians *know* Jesus was crucified "Good Friday" and rose "Easter Sunday"?

The simple answer is, *they do not know it* — for *it is not true!* It is merely *tradition*, a tradition we have been taught from childhood and carelessly *assumed!* Jesus warns against "making the word of God of none effect through your *tradition*" (Mark 7:13).

We have examined two scriptural witnesses, in Matthew and in Jonah, both setting the duration of the body of Jesus in the tomb as three days and three nights, which the Scriptures plainly define as 72 hours of time. Now let us examine four other scriptural witnesses that prove the same thing.

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

(Any young second grader can figure this.) If Jesus had been killed on Friday, and then *after* one day He had risen, the resurrection would have occurred on Saturday evening. If after

two days, it would have occurred Sunday evening, and if after three days, it would have occurred Monday evening!

Examine this text carefully. You cannot, by any process of arithmetic, figure any less than a full 72 hours — three days and three nights — in a resurrection which occurred three days *after* the crucifixion! If Jesus were in the grave only from Friday sunset to Sunday sunrise, then this text too, must be torn out of your Bible or else you must reject Jesus Christ as an imposter! If He rose AFTER THREE DAYS, it might have been more than 72 hours, but it could not have been a second less!

Notice now Mark 9:31. ". . . They shall kill him; and *after* that he is killed, he shall rise *the third day*." The duration expressed here must be between 48 and 72 hours. It could not be one second *past* 72 hours, and Jesus still rise *the third day*. And it could not be Friday sunset to Sunday sunrise, because that is only 36 hours, carrying us into the middle of the second day, *after* He was killed.

In Matthew 27:63 Jesus is quoted as saying, "AFTER THREE DAYS I will rise again." This cannot possibly be figured as less than 72 full hours.

And in John 2:19-21, "Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and IN three days I will raise it up. . . . But HE spake of the temple of his body." To be raised up IN three days after being destroyed, or crucified and buried, could not be more than 72 hours.

If we are to accept all the testimony of *the Bible*, we must conclude that Jesus was exactly three days and three nights — three full 24-hour days, 72 hours — in the grave; or the only supernatural proof He gave must fail.

The TIME OF DAY of Resurrection

Now notice carefully this fact: In order to be three days and three nights — 72 hours — in the tomb, our Lord had to be resurrected at exactly THE SAME TIME OF DAY that His body was buried in the tomb!

Let us realize that very vital fact.

If we can find the *time of day* of the burial, then we have found the *time of day* of the resurrection! If the

burial, for instance, were at sunrise, then for the body to be left an even three days and three nights in the tomb, the resurrection likewise had to occur at sunrise, three days later. If the burial were at noon, the resurrection was at noon. If the burial were at sunset, the resurrection was at sunset, three days later.

The crucifixion day was called "the preparation," or day before "the sabbath" (Matt. 27:62; Mark 15:42; Luke 23:54). This day ended at sunset, according to Bible reckoning (Lev. 23:32).

Jesus cried out soon after "the ninth hour" or three o'clock in the afternoon (Matt. 27:46-50; Mark 15:34-37; Luke 23:44-46).

Yet Jesus was buried before this same day ended — before sunset (Matt. 27:57; Luke 23:52-54; John 19:42). John adds, "There laid they Jesus therefore because of the Jews' preparation day." According to the laws observed by the Jews, all dead bodies must be buried before the beginning of a Sabbath or feast day. Hence Jesus was buried BEFORE SUNSET on the same day He died. He died shortly after 3 p.m.

Therefore — notice carefully — the BURIAL OF CHRIST'S BODY WAS IN THE LATE AFTERNOON! It was between 3 p.m. and sunset, as these scriptures prove.

And since the resurrection had to occur at the *same time of day*, three days later, the resurrection of Christ occurred, not at sunrise, but *in the late afternoon*, near sunset! Startling as this fact may be, it is the plain Bible truth!

If Jesus rose at any other time of day, He could not have been three days and three nights in His grave. If He rose at any other time of day, He failed to prove, by the only sign He gave, that He was the true Messiah, the Son of the living Creator! Either He rose near the END of a day near sunset, or else He is not the Christ!! He staked His claim on that one and only sign!

What Day Was the Resurrection?

Now which DAY OF THE WEEK was the resurrection day?

The first investigators, Mary Mag-

dalene and her companions, came to the sepulcher on the first day of the week (Sunday) very early, while it was yet dark, as the sun was beginning to rise, at dawn (Mark 16:2; Luke 24:1; John 20:1).

Now here are the texts most people have *supposed* stated the resurrection was at sunrise Sunday morning. But they do not say that!

When the women arrived, the tomb was already open! At that time Sunday morning while it was yet dark, Jesus was not there! Notice how the angel says "*He is not here, but is risen.*" (See Mark 16:6; Luke 24:6; Matt. 28:5-6.)

Jesus was ALREADY RISEN at sunrise Sunday morning! Of course He was. He rose from the grave IN THE LATE AFTERNOON near SUNSET!

And since we know the resurrection was just shortly prior to that Sunday morning, and that it occurred in the late afternoon of the day, we now may know THE RESURRECTION OF CHRIST OCCURRED LATE SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

The Sabbath day ended at sunset. It was late on that day, before the beginning of the first day of the week. It was not, then, a Sunday resurrection at all. It was a Sabbath resurrection!

Did Christ Fulfill His Sign?

Now all this is based on the supposition that Jesus did fulfill His only *sign* of being three days and three nights in the grave. All our evidence is based on the claims of Jesus *before* His crucifixion. But some of the higher critics and doctors of divinity tell us that Jesus made a mistake — that He was only in the tomb *half as long* as He expected to be. Let us have *proof* as to whether He did spend the exact amount of time in the grave He said He would.

Notice that in Matt. 28:6, *the angel of the Lord* gives this testimony, which we now present as evidence! "He is not here: for he is risen, *as he said.*" And He certainly did not rise AS He said unless He rose at the precise TIME that He had said! So we have the proof of the angel of the Lord, recorded in the sacred Word of God that Jesus did fulfill His sign — He was three days and three nights in the earth — He rose Sabbath afternoon, and not Sunday morning!

Another proof that Christ was in the grave the full length of time He expected to be is found in I Cor. 15:3-4: "For I delivered unto you first of all that which I also received, how that Christ died for our sins *according to the scriptures*; and that he was buried, and that he rose again the third day *according to the scriptures.*"

His death and burial were *according to the Scriptures* — not contrary to them.

The *third day* following His Wednesday burial was the Sabbath; *three full days* spent in the grave ended Saturday afternoon just prior to sunset, not Sunday morning.

Which Day Was the Crucifixion?

Jesus was crucified on WEDNESDAY, the middle day of the week. He died shortly after 3 p.m. that afternoon, was buried before sunset Wednesday evening. Now count the three days and three nights. His body was Wednesday, Thursday and Friday nights in the grave — *three nights*. It also was there through the daylight part of Thursday, Friday and Saturday — *three days*. He rose Saturday — the Sabbath — late afternoon, shortly before sunset, at the *same time of day* that He was buried! It is not difficult now to determine the day on which Jesus was crucified. Counting back three days from the Sabbath when He rose, we come to Wednesday, the fourth or very middle day of the week. Sunday morning at sunrise He was *not there* — *He was already risen!*

It is significant that in Daniel's prophecy of the "seventy weeks" (Dan. 9:24-27), Jesus was to be cut off "in the midst of the week." While this prophecy has the application of a day for a year, so that this 70th week became a literal seven years, Christ being "cut off" after three-and-a-half years' ministry, as He was, yet it is significant that He was also "cut off" *on the middle day of a literal week!*

(For a more detailed exposition of this truth, write for our booklet *The Crucifixion Was Not on Friday.*)

Now we come to an objection some may raise, yet the very point which proves this truth! Perhaps you have

noticed that the Scriptures say the day *after* the crucifixion was a *Sabbath*! Hence, for centuries, people have blindly assumed the crucifixion was on Friday!

Now we have shown by all four Gospels that the crucifixion day — Wednesday — was called “the preparation.” The preparation day for the Sabbath. But for what Sabbath?

John's gospel gives the definite answer: “It was the preparation of the *Passover*.”

“For that sabbath day was an *high day*” (John 19:14, 31).

Just what is a “high day”? Ask any Jew! He will tell you it is one of the annual holy days, or feast days. The Israelites observed seven of these every year — every one called **SABBATHS**! Annual Sabbaths fall on certain annual calendar dates, and on different days of the week in different years, just like the Roman holidays now observed. These Sabbaths might fall on Monday, on Thursday, or on Sunday.

If you will notice the following texts, you will see these annual holy days were all called Sabbath days: Lev. 16:31; 23:24, 26-32, 39.

Notice Matthew 26:2: “Ye know that after two days is *the feast of the passover*, and the Son of man is betrayed to be crucified.” And if you will follow through this chapter you will see that *Jesus was crucified ON THE PASSOVER!*

And what was the Passover? It was the day commemorating ancient Israel's deliverance from Egypt, and picturing to them the crucifixion of Christ and their deliverance from sin. In the twelfth chapter of Exodus you will find the story of the original Passover. The children of Israel killed the lambs, and struck *the blood* over the doorposts and on the side posts of their houses, and wherever the blood had thus been applied the death angel *passed over* that house, sparing it from death. Following the Passover was a holy convocation or annual Sabbath.

Observe the dates: “And in *the fourteenth day* of the first month is **THE PASSOVER** of the Lord. And in *the fifteenth day* of this month is the **FEAST**” (Num. 28:16-17).

The Passover lamb, killed every year on the 14th of the first month, called

“Abib,” was a type of Christ, the Lamb of God that “taketh away the sin of the world.” Christ is our Passover, sacrificed for us (I Cor. 5:7).

Jesus was slain on the very same day the Passover had been slain every year. He was crucified on the 14th of Abib, the first Hebrew month of the year. And this day, the *Passover*, was the day before — and the preparation for — *the Feast* day, or annual high-day Sabbath, which occurred on the 15th of Abib. *This Sabbath* might occur on *any* day of the week. Frequently it occurs, and is observed even today, on *Thursday*. For instance, this “high-day” Sabbath came on Thursday in 1962 and in 1969 and will occur on Thursday in 1972, 1975, 1979 and 1982.

And the Hebrew calendar shows that in the year Jesus was crucified, the 14th of Abib, Passover day, the day Jesus was crucified, was *Wednesday*. And the annual Sabbath was *Thursday*. This was the Sabbath that drew on as Joseph of Arimathea hastened to bury the body of Jesus late that Wednesday afternoon. There were *two separate Sabbaths* that week!

Honest Objections Examined

Someone is sure to notice Mark 16:9, thinking this text says the resurrection was upon Sunday. But if you read the whole sentence, it does not say that at all. The expression “was risen” is in the perfect tense. What was Jesus' condition early the first day of the week? Does it say He “was rising” or that He “did rise” from the grave? No, early the first day of the week, at the time He appeared to Mary Magdalene, **HE WAS RISEN**. Of course He was! He had risen the late afternoon before, so naturally **HE WAS RISEN** Sunday morning. The text does not in any way refute the other texts we have given.

Another passage that might confuse is Luke 24:21: “. . . and beside all this, today is the third day *since these things were done*.” “These things” included all the events pertaining to the resurrection — the seizing of Jesus, delivering Him to be tried, the actual crucifixion, and, finally the setting of the seal and the watch over the tomb the following day, or Thursday. Study

verses 18-20, telling of “these things” and also Matt. 27:62-66. “These things” were not completed until the watch was set, Thursday. And the text says Sunday was the third day *since these things* were done. Sunday truly was the third day since Thursday. But it was not the third day since *Friday*, so this text could not prove a Friday crucifixion.

The Final Proof

There is yet one final clinching *proof* of this amazing truth.

A vital text proving that there were two Sabbaths in that week has been obscured by almost every translation into English. Only Ferrar Fenton's version has this point correct.

Turn to Matthew 28:1. In the common versions it says, “In the end of the Sabbath,” or more correctly, “after the Sabbath.” Notice that both of these renderings use the singular — Sabbath. *But in the original Greek the word is in the plural.* Fenton renders it correctly by saying, “After the **SABBATHS**,” although the remaining part of the verse he has not translated quite correctly. In a footnote to this text, he says, “*The Greek original is in the plural, ‘Sabbaths.’*”

According to Mark 16:1, Mary Magdalene and her companions did not buy their spices to anoint the body of Jesus until *after the Sabbath was past*. They could not prepare them until *after* this — yet after preparing the spices *they rested the Sabbath day according to the commandment!* (Luke 23:56.)

Study these two texts carefully.

There is only one possible explanation: After the annual high-day Sabbath, the feast day of the days of Unleavened Bread — which was Thursday — these women purchased and prepared their spices on *Friday*, and then they rested on the weekly Sabbath, Saturday, according to the commandment (Exodus 20:8-11).

A comparison of these two texts proves there were **TWO** Sabbaths that week, with a *day in between*. Otherwise, these texts contradict themselves.

The plain truth concerning the crucifixion and the resurrection of Christ is sweeping the world. Thousands are coming to see it. □

BUILD THE CHARACTER OF A KING!

Federal Reserve Bank of New York Photo

Behind every great nation or institution is one or more men of strong CHARACTER. Here are vital "keys" found in these men of character — keys that will make possible SUCCESS and LEADERSHIP for those who possess and use them!

by Roderick C. Meredith

COUNTLESS MEN of ability, intelligence, personality and training have failed to achieve success.

Why?

Time, chance, circumstance, and "bad breaks" are often assumed to be the cause. But they are not the real answers. The heart of the problem is LACK OF CHARACTER!

Cause of Tragedies

You have heard of the rising young executive who begins hitting the bottle and completely shatters a promising business career almost in its infancy. You've heard about the "happy" family man and civic leader who suddenly loses everything through a clandestine affair with a woman young enough to be his own daughter.

And the junior executive who suddenly jumps the tracks, begins embezzling company or bank funds, gets caught and ends up in OBLIVION or perhaps a *suicide*. These human tragedies failed to keep their eyes on the goal.

What Is Your GOAL?

Any intelligent, thinking person wants to be a SUCCESS — perhaps a

leader in his chosen field. Yet most people have not known how. Perhaps you were taught that, when it comes to religion, you sort of get your mind out of gear, think sentimental thoughts and hope to "get saved" through some emotional experience and "roll around heaven all day." Maybe you were taught that there is nothing to do. Nothing to accomplish, nowhere else to go except sit around in heaven, listen to harp music and perhaps gaze on the face of the Lord.

Nonsense!

The God of your Bible says *true Christians are training* to be LEADERS in the World Tomorrow! We are training to help RULE this earth with and under Jesus Christ and to help straighten things out!

Jesus said to His apostles: "I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may . . . *sit on thrones judging [RULING] the twelve tribes of Israel*" (Luke 22:29-30).

In the little-understood parable of the pounds, Jesus showed that those who "overcome" the most — using their strengths and abilities and yielding themselves to God — will be given

RULERSHIP. For God will tell the real overcomer: "Well, thou good servant: because thou hast been faithful in a very little, have thou authority over ten cities" (Luke 19:17). The other man who grew and developed spiritually and used his physical talents in the right way as well as given authority over *five cities* since he overcame only half as much.

Jesus foretold good news: "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 . . ." (Rev. 2:26-27; see also Rev. 5:10).

The man who "overcomes," who disciplines himself and develops character, is the one whom God will use as an instrument under Christ to help rule the earth in the World Tomorrow. God can always add mental ability and strength. But character cannot be manufactured or artificially produced — it is something we must willingly develop now as free moral agents under God.

Here, then, are *seven keys* to building the character of the kind of RULER God will bless and use — the character of a KING.

I. Humility and the Fear of God

Remember the late King Farouk? He was the ruler of Egypt well over a decade ago. He had ability and personality — but *very little character*. He began a wild spree through the nightclubs of Europe and the Middle East. He overindulged. He let things go at home — indulging his “court favorites” with certain lavish gifts and opportunities, but misusing the resources of the nation in so doing. The people had liked his personality and ability. But not the lack of character. Farouk was overthrown in a familiar Middle Eastern “coup.” An interim government came into power — evolving into the present Egyptian Government first under the late Gamal Nasser and now Anwar Sadat.

Another example is the deposing of the late Premier Sukarno in Indonesia. Although working hard and fighting valiantly in the revolution just after the Second World War, Sukarno soon went soft and began the familiar merry-go-round of wine, women and song. His indulgences blinded his eyes to many realities of political life. And so he too was overthrown — the government currently being in the hands of General Suharto.

Both of these fallen rulers were noted for their swagger and vanity when they were in power. They preened and strutted. They lacked real humility, or any fear of the true God of the Bible!

To have a lasting and prosperous reign, any king, ruler or leader MUST learn the lesson of humility. Your Bible says: “When pride cometh, then cometh shame” (Prov. 11:2).

Again, “Pride goeth before destruction, and a haughty spirit before a fall” (Prov. 16:18).

By contrast, God's Word says: “The fear of the Lord is the *beginning* of WISDOM” (Prov. 9:10). A man who comes to have a deep *awe* and *respect* for his Creator is just “beginning” to acquire the basis for real *wise* and *understanding* decisions. For he will be basing all of his plans and programs on the ultimate REALITY! This entire mixed-up world is soon going to learn that lesson!

To know the true GOD of Creation,

the God of the Bible, is the basis for all *right thinking* and *judgment*. It will keep you properly HUMBLE. It will make you realize that you are just a little ant on a ball we call the earth. You will quit playing “God” and wake up to reality.

Think of Yourself as a Servant

Jesus Christ said: “Whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted” (Matt. 23:12). Jesus showed that one who surrenders his will to God, who humbles the self and thinks only of being a servant of God and fellowman — that man will be blessed, used as an instrument in the hands of his Creator, and empowered ultimately with eternal life and a spirit body.

The Apostle Paul wrote: “Let *this mind* be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: who being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: but made himself of no reputation [or, ‘*emptied himself*’], and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men” (Phil. 2:5-7).

Too few understand this tremendous example of the willingness of Jesus Christ to “empty himself” of His divine power and glory in order to die for humanity. Very soon now, ALL THE EARTH will come to grasp and understand that because of this willingness to GIVE of Himself — to HUMBLE Himself — Jesus has qualified not only as our High Priest but as the KING OF KINGS and RULER over all nations!

This is the very *basis* of the character the true GOD demands of every leader and king! Even in this present man-made society, this living spiritual principle operates. Those who yield to excess pride and vanity soon “fall” into utter oblivion and disgrace. Those who resist the temptation come out on top.

II. GOD'S Standard of Right and Wrong

Several years ago, *McCall's* magazine ran a very interesting and very *important* article showing WHY American prisoners of war in the Korean War often became “turncoats.” Many turned against their own fellow prisoners or just “gave up” and died through lack

of the will to live. It was an article which went to the very ROOT CORE of American society and its foundations.

This article brought out the fact that the Army Intelligence, in reviewing these cases, pointed up the *vital necessity* of CHARACTER TRAINING in the home and in the school.

A high Army official stated: “Because of this the army would like to see every American parent, teacher and clergyman work to give our children . . . a *firm regard* for RIGHT and an *abiding distaste* for WRONG.” He continued: “By the time a young man enters the army he should possess a set of sound moral values and the *strength* of CHARACTER to live by them” (emphasis ours).

But what constitutes “right”? What do we mean by “wrong”?

The answers to these questions present a gigantic PROBLEM to American society — indeed to all the world! Modern, “progressive” educators, psychologists and even clergymen say there are no absolute values. They teach that all truth is relative, that God may, in fact, be “dead”!

Even the *Communists* can sense our lack of spiritual principles and dedication to a common ideal! Notice this startling revelation from the Red Chinese Chief of Intelligence regarding Americans captured during the Korean War: “The American soldier has weak loyalty to his family, his community, his country, his religion and to his fellow soldier. His concepts of *right* and *wrong* are HAZY. Opportunism is easy for him. He himself feels *frightened* and *INSECURE*. . . . He fails to appreciate the meaning of, and the necessity for, *any form* of DISCIPLINE.”

Although this comes from godless Communists, are we willing to stare this looking glass right in the face and ADMIT the truth about our materialistic, confused Western society?

Don't kid yourself! It is not just the American soldier, but nearly *every* man in the street in America, in Britain, in this whole Western world, whose concepts of right and wrong are “hazy”! Hazy concepts are virtually *no concepts at all!* They leave the door wide open for lust and lawlessness.

The Bible Is SPECIFIC

God says: "There is a way which seemeth *right* unto a man, but the *end thereof* are the ways of DEATH" (Prov. 14:12). Yes, the way that "seems" right to human reason usually leads man to his own destruction.

Men need to learn that there is a great GOD who sets the standard of *right* and *wrong*. He has not left it up to us to decide *what* the right way is, but only **WHETHER** we will obey His laws and ways!

God does NOT say: "Worship God according to the dictates of your conscience." Or, "Worship in the church of *your* choice." Or, "Do the best you can and it will all work out somehow."

Yet supposedly educated people in our society have accepted these vague, irrational, unreasonable, contradictory platitudes!

What is God's way, God's character, God's love? "For this is the *love of God*, that we KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3). From Genesis to Revelation we find that God's LAW — summarized in the Ten Commandments — is the WAY OF LIFE. He ordained the Law for man's own good, to guide him in developing the very nature and CHARACTER of God.

If all men had *this kind of character*, there would be *no wars*, no murders, no robberies, no lies, no disobedience to parents, no vanity and lust — virtually **NO UNHAPPINESS!** For a full explanation of this *tremendous* spiritual principle, write for our extremely challenging and informative free booklet *The Ten Commandments*. It's full-color and fully illustrated.

— God's definition of "right" is *keeping His Commandments*. But what do we mean by "wrong"? What is "sin"?

The *specific* Bible definition of sin — with which *all other* scriptures plainly agree — is found in I John 3:4: "Whosoever committeth sin transgresseth also the law: for *sin* is the TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW."

How clear!

We see that righteousness is **KEEPING** God's Law as summarized in the Ten Commandments. "Wrong," or *sin*, is **BREAKING** that same eternal,

moving, inexorable spiritual Law!

True character is based on obedience to the broad spiritual principles of God's Law. Here, in general terms, is a good basic definition of true character: "True character involves the capacity and willingness to *find what is right*, the will to choose the right way, then the strength of will to resist all other actions and impulses and **DO what is right.**"

Learn GOD's standard of right and wrong. *Live by it*. Then you will be fit to *rule* and **LEAD** in your own family, your business and chosen profession; and you will certainly have a vital part in the government of Almighty God in the World Tomorrow!

III. Practice Wise and Impartial Judgment

Any king or leader of men will be watched by his followers as to his complete fairness and impartiality in judgment. Nothing can harm morale more than the discovery that a leader is hypocritically accepting bribes, playing favorites or resorting to some other similar stratagem.

True *wisdom* — pointed out in a previous article in this series — is perhaps the most important single quality of a great leader. Such a man will constantly have to be making decisions — and that calls for wisdom. God says: "Where no counsel is, the people fall: but in the multitude of counsellors there is *safety*" (Prov. 11:14). Most people don't really want "counsel." They want their own way!

However, a real leader of men must learn to exercise the character to seek and accept wise counsel in any important matter. And he must be completely fair and impartial in the decision or action he may take. "These things also belong to the wise. It is not good to have respect of persons in judgment" (Prov. 24:23).

In the second volume of his autobiography, *The Public Years*, Bernard Baruch stated: "But even when we discover basic truths about human affairs, it is another thing to overcome human failings — the greed, hatred, sloth, or whatever it is that keeps us from acting on those truths. In a laboratory, men follow truth wherever

it may lead. In human relations, men have a supreme talent for ignoring truth, and denying facts they do not like."

Powerful words, those!

So in your own life, your family and your business, learn to be *impartial* and fair. Learn to get **ALL** the facts. Learn to get *wise counsel*. Learn to admit *your own mistakes*. Then *act* on the **TRUTH** with fairness and mercy!

IV. Exercise Strength and Determination

A real "leader" is one who **LEADS**. You cannot just "hand" a man authority and expect him to lead and dominate over others automatically. He must have built into his character the strength, the leadership and the determination to properly direct others and command their respect.

Many times, he may have to make *hard* and *unpleasant* decisions. But make them he must. And he must see that they are carried out.

A great leader must have the strength of will to **DOMINATE** in any crucial situation to guide the affairs of his family, company, institution or nation in the *right way*.

An outstanding example of this is recorded in the book *Churchill* by Lord Moran. Lord Moran wrote of Sir Winston Churchill: "What his critics are apt to forget is that you cannot measure inspiration. That is why it is not easy to bring home to the military hierarchy the list of assets which easily tilt the balance in his favor: The *strength of will* that has bent all manner of men to his purpose; the extraordinary *tenacity* — the Americans call [it] *obstinacy* — with which he clings for months and if need be for years, to his own plans; the **TERRIFIC FORCE OF PERSONALITY** that can brush aside all doubts and hesitations, and sweep away inertia, refusing to listen when weaker men begin to whine about difficulties; above all else, the *superb confidence* he exuded in 1940" (emphasis ours).

This "terrific force of personality" and the strength of will exerted by Churchill was undoubtedly a major factor in literally saving Western civilization only a few short years ago!

Disdaining his own doubts, fears and

hesitations, every truly great leader must exercise *this type of character!*

V. Practice Patience and Mercy

Any man who deals with the lives and fortunes of others needs a great deal of patience. For everyone has human nature and each of us must be patient with others.

We must also be merciful. Even the so-called "Lord's prayer" records this important principle: "For if you forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: but if you forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses" (Matt. 6:14-15).

God's Word instructs us: "He that oppresseth the poor reproacheth his Maker: but he that honoreth him hath mercy on the poor" (Prov. 14:31).

Again: "He that followeth after righteousness and mercy findeth life, righteousness, and honor" (Prov. 21:21).

A man with a "big heart," a man who is big enough to forgive and forget, to care for and help the down-trodden — *this type* of leader inspires deep and lasting loyalty in those who serve him. A recent book brings out that George Washington, "Father of the American Republic," exemplified this trait in many ways. During the Revolutionary War he encountered a number of British Redcoats defending themselves fiercely, and he cried: "See how those noble fellows fight!" But after the battle, he found a wounded British soldier being set upon and robbed by American stragglers. Furious, Washington drove the thugs away and ordered a soldier to stand guard over the bleeding Redcoat until he could be moved to camp.

Later, as President, he was often visited by former comrades-in-arms, old soldiers having a hard time. Though constantly plagued by a shortage of cash, Washington always gave each soldier a warm reception and there was a standing order in the kitchen that each veteran was to be served a good meal and sent away with a few dollars.

Any great leader must develop this capacity for understanding, for mercy, and for forgiving the minor faults and irritations of others. "For he shall have

judgment without mercy, that hath showed no mercy; and mercy rejoiceth against judgment" (James 2:13).

VI. Practice Diligence and Self-Discipline

Once the nation begins to flourish or the business begins to prosper, it is all too easy for the man at the helm to let down, begin to "take it easy," and give way to human lust and vices. A great leader must so *discipline himself* that this NEVER happens!

God says: "The hand of the *diligent* shall bear rule: but the slothful shall be under tribute" (Prov. 12:24). The man who works hard and produces — this man is going to end up "in charge." But the man who lets down and is lazy will soon find his job taken by others.

Again, "He that is slow to anger is better than the mighty; and he that RULETH *his spirit* than he that taketh a city" (Prov. 16:32). For the sake of his position — and as an example to his followers — a true leader must learn to discipline himself in what he eats and drinks, how much time he spends away from the job in recreational activities, the kind of companionship he keeps, the kind of spiritual character he is and portrays to others.

Nearly every great nation or institution is merely the length and shadow of one man. People follow their leaders! If a king is a drunken woman-chaser, so will his subjects be. If the head of a company or family is irresponsible, lazy and given to personal indulgence, so will be his employees and his family!

Bernard Baruch — famous "counselor of presidents" — sums up a supreme lesson all of us in this modern world *desperately need to learn*: "This is the test of SELF-DISCIPLINE. Even when we know what is right, too often we fail to act... we blame the nation's troubles on others... But it is far more likely that we will find the source of our national trials in our *own failure as individuals to DISCIPLINE OURSELVES to do what the nation's well-being demands*" (emphasis ours).

Through God's help, learn to MASTER yourself. Self-mastery comes first —

the opportunity to lead and direct others follows as a result.

VII. Have LOVE for God and Fellowman

Finally, the sincere feeling of *outgoing concern, compassion* and LOVE for others is an absolute must in the character of anyone who would be a real leader or king.

Jesus Christ said: "By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have LOVE one to another" (John 13:35). His entire life was a continual example of love and service. In the end, He GAVE *His very life* to redeem human beings to their God.

Throughout history and throughout life, the lesson is indelibly written that a man who does not have sincere love for others will never command their deep loyalty, respect and obedience. They may be cowed into fear, goaded on through greed and avarice in anticipation of the spoils; but when the going gets rough, it is LOVE which truly binds together the right kind of family, the true Church of God and the right kind of nation or people.

Coupled with humility and the fear of God, guided by GOD's standard of right and wrong, inspired by wise and impartial judgment, empowered by strength and determination, tempered by patience and mercy, protected by diligence and self-discipline, this outgoing LOVE will lead any father and head of his family, any company president, any team captain, any national leader, to GIVE and SERVE unselfishly those who share with him in the common task, trials and blessings.

If you would truly build GOD's kind of *character*, then *ask, seek, cry out* and then yield yourself to EXERCISE this kind of love in your life and in your relations with others and with Almighty God! There is NOTHING more important. For this kind of love is far from a religious platitude. It is a living, abiding, moving, active spiritual principle which is as real as tomorrow, as active as the law of gravity, as eternal as God Himself.

To be a *leader, a servant* of your fellowman, and a KING in the World Tomorrow, *think on* and LIVE by these things. □

Does EASTER Commemorate the Resurrection?

Christ did not rise on Easter Sunday! Here is an article explaining what Christ did command His Church to observe!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

HAVE you ever stopped to consider *why* you believe the things you believe?

Where did you learn the custom of observing Easter?

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

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

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

The Meaning of Easter

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

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

You will want to know *when* Jesus *did* rise from the dead, so read my article "The Resurrection Was Not on Sunday," beginning on page 3.

The name "Easter" is merely a

slightly changed English spelling of the name of the ancient Assyrian goddess *Ishtar*. As Hislop says in *The Two Babylons*, Easter "bears its Chaldean origin on its very forehead. Easter is nothing else than *Astarte*, one of the titles of Beltis, the queen of heaven, whose name, as pronounced by the people of Nineveh, was evidently identical with that now in common use . . ." (p. 103).

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

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

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

Jesus never observed Lent, nor did the apostles.

"The forty days' abstinence of Lent was directly borrowed from the worshippers of the Babylonish goddess. Such a Lent of forty days, 'in the spring of the year,' is still observed by the Yezidis or Pagan Devil-worshippers of Koordistan, who have inherited it from their early masters, the Babylonians" (from Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, pp. 104-105).

Lent came from the ancient heathen sun-worship, not from Jesus Christ. The

same is true of the use of hot cross buns, of dyed eggs and the Easter *sunrise* services. You will want to learn many more facts about these pagan customs that can't be included in this short article.

Write for our booklet *The Plain Truth About Easter*, which explains these and many more facts you surely need to know.

Apostles Observed Passover

Instead of observing the customs of the churches of our day, the original *inspired* Church of God, under the guidance of the apostles, observed the Passover as Jesus commanded on the eve before His death. Even the writers of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, realized that when writing their article "Easter":

"There is no indication of the observance of the Easter festival in the New Testament, or in the writings of the Apostolic Fathers. . . . The first Christians continued the observance of the Jewish [that is, God's] festivals, though in a new spirit, *as commemorations of events* which those festivals had foreshadowed" (p. 828).

Yes, the true, original Church kept the Passover annually when God commanded.

It was years later, after the death of the apostles, after many Gentiles had made a profession of faith, that we find the observance of Easter beginning. The Gentiles began observing the day on Sunday, rather than on the eve of the

14th day of God's first month, when Jesus always kept the Passover, setting us an example. A controversy then arose between these Gentiles, who were bringing pagan customs into the Western churches, beginning at Rome, and those who still remained faithful to the instructions of Jesus and the apostles.

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

"Polycarp, the disciple of John the Evangelist, and bishop of Smyrna, visited Rome in 159 to confer with Anicetus, the bishop of that see, on the subject, and urged the tradition *which he had received from the apostle* of observing the 14th day. . . . A final settlement of the dispute was one among the other reasons which led Constantine to summon the council of Nicaea in 325. . . . The decision of the council was unanimous that Easter was to be kept on Sunday, and on the same Sunday throughout the world, and that 'none hereafter should follow the blindness of the Jews'" (*Encyclopaedia Britannica*, 11th edition, pp. 828-829).

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

It Was Prophesied

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

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

In another place, Paul wrote Timothy: "Many shall follow their per-

nicious ways." So today, it's the *many*, not the *few*, who are going the wrong way. It is the *many* who are keeping Easter, which God never once commanded; but it is only the *few* who are observing the ordinance which God, through Christ, commanded.

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

What God Did Command

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

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

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

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

Notice, too, He commanded them to observe it — "THIS DO"! And why? "In remembrance of me," said Jesus. He instituted this New Testament way of keeping the Passover, on that tragic night, the very eve of His death.

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

The Passover had always been held on the eve of the 14th of God's first

month, according to the Sacred or Jewish Calendar. It was the night of the final and last Passover supper that Jesus introduced these NEW TESTAMENT emblems — the unleavened bread and the wine — in place of the lamb that was always slain annually.

For a full explanation of the *original* Passover as God instituted it, write immediately for our free booklet *Pagan Holidays or God's Holy Days — Which?*

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

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

The Ordinance of Humility

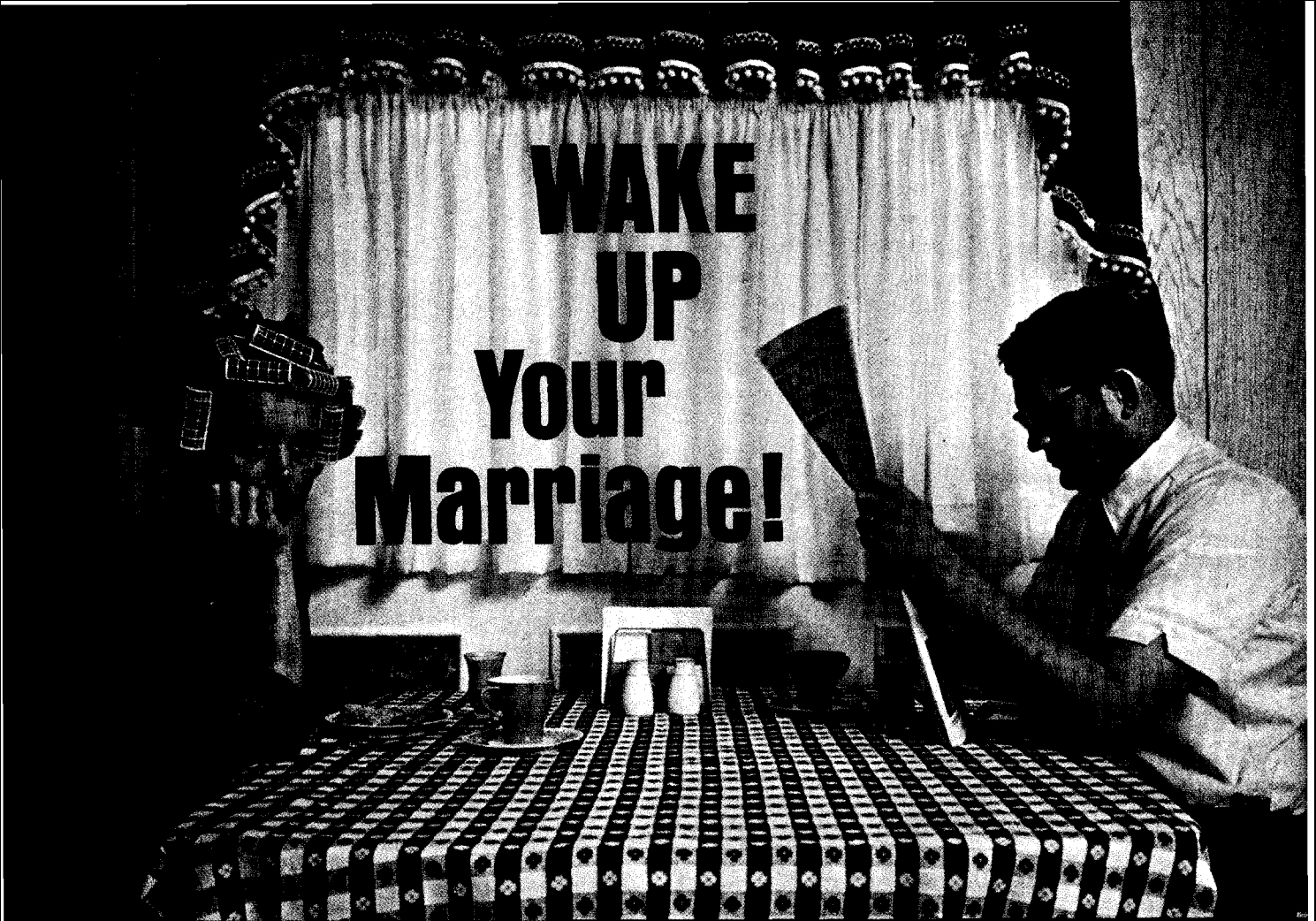
In giving us their accounts, Matthew, Mark and Luke describe the taking of unleavened bread and wine. But John relates another part of this ordinance.

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

"So after he had washed their feet, and had taken his garments, and was set down again, he said unto them, Know ye what I have done to you? Ye call me Master and Lord: and ye say well; for so I am. If I then, your Lord and Master, have washed your feet; ye also ought to wash one another's feet. For I have given you an example, THAT YE SHOULD DO AS I HAVE DONE TO YOU" (John 13:12-15).

If any of you are wondering if this ordinance of humility is a *command* to

(Continued on page 32)



WAKE UP Your Marriage!

Watson — *Ambrosio Collection* Photo

Leading psychologists and others are suggesting that conventional marriage may be on the way out! There can be no doubt that marriage is in trouble — the symptoms of marital misery are everywhere. This article will explain what those symptoms are and **WHY** they are. Marital difficulties need not become terminal! A dull, sick relationship can be revitalized if both parties are willing to give it half a chance. But it takes work and effort. You may have to reverse your thinking in certain areas. But it can be done.

by Brian Knowles

IN THIS iconoclastic age when everything is questioned and nothing is sacred, even the time-honored institution of marriage is under fire. What used to be considered the basic building block of any stable society is threatened with extinction — or so it would appear!

The Symptoms

The crisis in matrimony manifests itself in a variety of ways. Recent divorce statistics advertise the fact that marriage has never had it so bad. In 1970, about 2000 divorces *per day* were being granted in the United States alone

(up from 1000 per day in 1960). The divorce/marriage ratio was approximately one in three in 1970.

The frequency and likelihood of divorce as a fact of American family life has given rise to a plethora of new ideas about sex and matrimony.

One such concept is that of "serial

marriages." That is, a young person entering into the marital mainstream would anticipate not one, but a *series* of marriages. When any given "marriage" became stale, the couple would simply divorce and enter into the mate market again in search of a new partner. The classic marriage vow "till death do us part" would become a thing of the past.

Remedial Adultery

Others have suggested that a little "remedial adultery" will work wonders for an ailing marriage! Dr. Albert Ellis, executive director of the Institute for Rational Living, in New York, and a noted psychologist says, "It could appear that in our Judaeo-Christian society, *healthy adultery* is possible... people are not truly monogamous and romantic love is not durable.... Romantic love tends to last no more than three to five years, especially if the participants are under the same roof."

He said the man who has been married for 30 years and says he never wanted another woman "is to be suspected of being biologically or psychologically abnormal."

Dr. Ellis also concluded that the "healthy adulterer" could carry on an affair without destroying his marriage or family relationship (UPI release, Sept. 6, 1967).

Dr. Ellis is not alone in his advocacy of extra-marital affairs as a remedy for sick marriages. Hundreds of psychiatrists, psychologists and marriage counsellors alike are getting on the bandwagon. The "affair" has put on the tuxedo of respectability!

Group Sex (Alias "Swinging")

Another relatively new social phenomenon sweeping the country is "group sex." It was formerly called wife-swapping but its adherents prefer the more alluring name of "swinging." It is estimated that from two to ten million Americans may be involved in this form of mutual adultery! Most of the participants are white, Anglo-Saxon, middle-class Protestants according to Dr. Gilbert Bartell, who did a three-year study of group sex.

Conventional married sex has become uninteresting to millions of Americans. Today's young marrieds are casting

about for new thrills. This is strongly indicated by the new wave of books that have hit the stands emphasizing *sensuality*.

Emphasis on Sensuality

The bizarre and the twisted are rapidly becoming commonplace in an increasingly hedonistic America. Purveyors of pornography have been doing a landslide business in recent years. They now peddle their putrid wares in most cities in the United States. The themes of homosexuality, masochism, lesbianism are being profitably exploited in a thrill-crazed Western society. The Pied Piper of perversity is leading mesmerized millions to even greater depths of marital misery!

And what becomes commonplace also becomes known as "normal"!

"Many so-called 'abnormal' sexual practices might not be abnormal after all, if you judge by what people are actually doing..." stated a leading sexologist.

He noted that sexual intercourse outside of marriage, homosexuality and masturbation all *were* (!) immoral in the eyes of the Judaeo-Christian tradition, but they might actually be statistically normal, that is, done by over half the adults.

A number of alternatives to conventional legal marriage have also been proposed. Polygamy (multiple wives), polyandry (multiple husbands — one wife), and tribal marriages (self-explanatory) are examples. Trial marriages, network families, pairing and three-year marriage contracts (with the option to renew) are just some of the ideas that have been put forth to improve on what has become a dull and unexciting institution to millions (*The Family In Search of a Future*, edited by Herbert A. Otto).

What's Wrong With Conventional Marriage?

Why has the institution of marriage become unsatisfactory to so many?

What's behind the current preoccupation with physical sensuality and bizarre sex? Why have so many young people become disillusioned with the whole idea of conventional marriage?

What leads people to become involved in mutual adultery ("swinging")? And why, of all things, should the time-honored institution of marriage be questioned?

Not surprisingly, all of these symptoms point to one central factor! All are to one degree or another a manifestation of a single basic problem with marriages.

Dr. Bartell isolated it on page 277 of his book entitled *Group Sex*.

He says, "While our data was collected in mid-America, other researchers... have told us the same phenomena can be found *in suburbs* on the East and West coasts. The most consistent of these findings is '*boredom with marriage*.'"

He went on to explain that those who registered this complaint did not mean that they had an unhappy marriage — just a *stale* one! Marriage — and sex within marriage — has become *boring, unexciting* and *stale* to millions of Americans!

Stop and analyze it.

Those who are preoccupied with sensuality are obviously not getting a big enough thrill out of conventional sex. What used to be considered normal sex no longer offers any attraction to those who seek greater thrills in pornography, bizarre sex and extramarital affairs. Swingers often swing because their own marriages have slipped into the doldrums.

Let's face it — if a couple's relationship, sexually and otherwise, were exciting, interesting and enjoyable, they would have *no need* or desire to become involved in any of the above listed activities! *Wanting something different is an indication that what you've got is not satisfactory!*

And young people see all the dead marriages. They see the oft-repeated tragedy of divorce — the heartache, the expense, the ball and chain of alimony payments, etc. And when they do, they want none of it!

Humanly speaking, can you blame them?

No wonder the "now generation" is going to temporary "associations" instead of facing the obligations and potential difficulties of conventional legal marriage! They don't want to have to face living the rest of their lives

with a marriage that has long since gone stale. With their kind of relationship, when things go stale, they "split" and call it a day.

That's the way it is in today's world! That's the "state of matrimony" 1972.

How's your marriage doing? (That is if you are still a believer in conventional marriage.) Is your marriage still alive — scintillating with sparkle and interest? Is it better than when you first "tied the knot"? Or is the knot becoming a little loose?

If you are a typical American, Canadian or British couple, the chances are pretty good that your marriage needs *an awakening!* Before showing you how to wake up your marriage, however, it is necessary to go back and establish some *basics!*

Who Invented Marriage?

Is marriage merely a *man*-devised institution that has outlived its usefulness? Is it simply a time-honored custom of strictly human origin?

Not at all!

Marriage was invented by the very Creator of human kind. *It is a divine institution!* Notice what God said at the time of Adam's creation: "And the Lord God said, *It is not good* that the man should be alone; I will make him an help meet [fitting or complementary to] for him" (Gen. 2:18).

Following the creation of Eve, Adam said, undoubtedly with deep appreciation and emotion, "... This is now bone of my bones, and flesh of my flesh: she shall be called Woman, because she was taken out of Man" (verse 23).

Then we read in verse 24, "Therefore shall a man leave his father and his mother [cut the apron strings], and cleave unto his *wife*: and they shall be one flesh [a physical union]."

Note that the woman was called Adam's *wife*. And Adam was called her *husband* in chapter 3, verse 6. This makes it plain that God instituted a *marriage relationship* between them.

Was it a bad idea? Did God make a mistake in instituting marriage?

Absurd!

It is not the marriage institution that is bad. It is many *marriages* that have gone bad! In fact, so *many* marriages

have gone down the drain that one psychiatrist was led to conclude that "... *basically most men and women are incompatible*" (*The Incompatibility of Men and Women*, Julius Fast, page 14). But, if men and women are just naturally incompatible, why would God put them together in a permanent marriage relationship?

God intended marriage to be a deliciously happy state in which the man and woman function together as a perfect unit — "one flesh."

An imperfect and unsatisfying stale marriage is not the result of a bad institution! It is the result of *broken laws*. It happens because men and women have *lost sight of true marital values!*

Why Married Sex Becomes Uninteresting

Married sex becomes dull for one primary reason. And it is really not explained in all the sex manuals and psychology texts available. The true answer must be *revealed* from a higher source. That source is the Creator God.

In His Instruction Book, Almighty God — the One who designed the human entity — has revealed knowledge otherwise unaccessible to man. It is knowledge which, in the main, cannot be arrived at by means of the "scientific method" of testing and observation. All the "sex clinics" in the world are unable to provide men with anything other than basically physical, psychological or biological information. And there is certainly no shortage of *that* in our sex-conscious society!

The answer to why married sex becomes stale lies in a basic understanding of *our nature*. God tells us that "the carnal mind is *enmity* against God" (Rom. 8:7). That is to say the average person on the street is just naturally hostile to God. Not that it's an open hostility — it's an *unconscious*, but very *real* hostility. It is especially obvious when God asserts His *authority!* We are told that this world's philosophers and thinkers often "did not like to retain God in their knowledge..." (Rom. 1:28). (Does this not help to explain why we see the "Judeo-Christian ethic" so often maligned?) Thus, we find the answers provided by

psychology and psychiatry are often based on purely psychological and biological considerations. It is rare indeed to find the expressed will of the Creator considered! And *because* God is left out of the picture "they are without understanding" (Rom. 1:31).

Consider, for instance, the concerned husband who goes to his analyst (his "shrink" in modern parlance) and asks what to do about his frigid wife. "Get a mistress!" replies the psychiatrist. Now is that sound advice? Humanly it may seem to be. But stated in Biblical terms it is like saying "go commit *adultery* — it will work wonders for your marriage!" It is saying that one evil plus one more evil dissolves the first evil!

But God says, "Can a man take fire in his bosom, and his clothes not be burned?" Of course not! "*So is he that goeth in to his neighbour's wife...*" (Prov. 6:27-29). Committing adultery as a remedy for an ailing marriage is playing with fire — the *Lake of Fire!* It simply is not the answer.

The Way of "Get" Does Not Pay!

The real reason people become dissatisfied with marital sex of the conventional sort is partly shown in this revealing quote from *The Sexually Responsive Woman* by Drs. Phyllis and Eberhard Kronhousen. A wife was asked if she could do without extra-marital affairs. She replied, "Could I do without extra-marital affairs? Certainly, I'm sure I would survive, but *I think sex would become more and more monotonous to me*. Extra-marital affairs seem to keep me *younger in spirit...*"

But while her adulteries were keeping her "younger in spirit" what were they doing to her marriage — to her husband? Her answer apparently did not include this consideration. She did go on to say, however, that she felt the "practice" she got in adulterous love-making would enable her to better "love" her husband!

But notice the basic *selfishness* of the reply! She was concerned that sex would become monotonous to *her*. She was wrapped up in proving that *she* could still "cut the mustard" — that she was still "young in spirit."

Why do husbands occasionally patron-

ize prostitutes? Why should they feel they "need" to? An answer is provided by *Companion Magazine*, April 1966, in an article titled "Adultery Can Save Your Marriage": "Many of the husbands who patronize prostitutes, reports Judge John M. Murtagh, Chief Magistrate of the City of New York, are men who cannot bring themselves to ask their wives for sexual activities they consider 'low' but which they crave."

To "crave" twisted and perverted sex is to lust after it. *And nothing is more selfish than lust!*

It should be apparent by now that the most basic reason marital sex fails to satisfy — fails to continue to be interesting — is that most mates are only participating for what they can get out of it! They are taking pleasure. They are concerned with whether they will achieve maximum pleasure rather than whether their partner will! It is a totally selfish performance based on getting and not on giving!

As long as sexual pleasure is an end in itself — a selfish end — it will never satisfy! The senses can never be permanently satiated. As wise King Solomon was inspired to say centuries ago, ". . . The eye is not satisfied with seeing, nor the ear filled with hearing" (Eccl. 1:8).

God never intended sexual pleasure to become an end in itself. Nor did He intend it solely for the purpose of procreation! Marital sex was intended primarily to be an intimate, exclusive expression of love between two permanently bound people!

The Apostle Paul said, inspired by the Creator of sex, "Marriage is honorable in all, and the bed undefiled: but whoremongers and adulterers God will judge" (Heb. 13:4).

Paul also said in I Corinthians 7:3-4: "Let the husband render unto the wife due benevolence [conjugal dues — Mof-fatt]: and likewise also the wife unto the husband. The wife hath not power of her own body, but the husband: and likewise also the husband hath not power of his own body, but the wife."

What Paul was saying is that a person's body is not for selfish use sexually! The husband should give himself sexually to the wife and vice versa. The husband's body is not really his to do

with as he pleases — it is not for selfish sensual satiation. It is to serve his wife!

This is a key to the whole problem of sexual dissatisfaction within marriage! If husbands and wives would concentrate on giving sexually instead of getting, a lot of problems would be resolved. But as long as sex is selfish — as long as it is an end in itself — it will never satisfy! Sooner or later it will become boring, routine and unexciting. And when that happens couples begin to cast about for new thrills in illicit and equally unsatisfying relationships.

On the other hand, God has made human beings so that they can never get tired of giving! Giving always satisfies; it is always rewarding. It never becomes dull or boring to give. And of course if both parties in a marriage are giving sexually they will also be getting — but not selfishly.

The "Pass the Salt" Syndrome

Many marriages suffer from a massive communications breakdown. To illustrate, let's take the case of Joe and Marge. Joe works at an office in the city and lives in the suburbs. That means commuting every morning.

It's the beginning of a typical weekday. About 7:00 a. m., Joe and Marge take their places at the breakfast table. (Children may or may not be present — it doesn't make that much difference!) The traditional toast and eggs are served up and Joe takes his position behind the morning newspaper. His interest is likely focused on the sports page. An occasional mumble or grunt finds its way around or over the newspaper. Every so often a whole sentence or phrase may shatter the silence. "Pass the salt" or "Is there any more coffee?"

Following breakfast, Joe heads out the door to fight the morning traffic after a perfunctory peck on the cheek from Marge. As he heads down the driveway she returns to the table to catch up on Ann Landers and then clears the breakfast dishes away.

Later that day Joe returns home, "shot" after the day's pressures and the nerve-racking rush-hour traffic. He heads for his favorite chair and flips on the TV. He doesn't feel much like talk-

ing as he clutches a cool beer and catches up on the news and sports telecast. Marge gets the dinner ready. Dinner is served and the "pass the salt" syndrome again makes its appearance. Marge would like to "unload" on Joe, but he really doesn't want to hear it and says so. After dinner Joe heads for the TV again while Marge clears up the dinner dishes. Later she joins him before the "boob tube" as an inane assortment of situation comedies, intelligence-insulting commercials and predictable detective dramas parade before their tortured eyes.

This same ho-hum approach also carries over into their sex lives. To them, sex has become a routine — a mere fulfilling of a necessary but now uninspiring obligation. To Joe and Marge, marital sex is just a boring ritual. But then, so is everything else about their marriage!

Could You Live Without TV?

Do you think you could survive without your television set? Many seemingly cannot! To millions, getting rid of their TV would be like a dope addict coming off a heroin habit! They would suffer withdrawal symptoms, a feeling of emptiness and utter frustration if the one-eyed "cyclops" in the corner of the room were to suddenly disappear!

But it might work wonders to wake up your marriage!

If you have the gumption you might consider trying it for a while. Not necessarily selling your set. Just seeing if you could live without it!

Try this. Loan your television set to a neighbor or a friend for about 2 weeks. Get it right out of the house. That way you remove the temptation of flipping it on in a moment of frustration. Resolve to avoid all forms of TV watching for the prescribed period. You can always find out what's going on in the world by way of the newspaper or the radio.

Rediscover the Art of Conversation

If you have been a TV addict, you may find your ability to conduct or participate in a stimulating conversation has almost disappeared! Husbands often lose the ability to communicate with their wives. Yet nothing is more crucial



to a successful and interesting marriage.

Marriages without communication become dead marriages — mere “marriages of convenience.”

Why not try to revive after-dinner conversation in your home? Learn to philosophize constructively with your mate. Have a broad spectrum of topics which you discuss with each other. Not just the kids and your job, etc., but learn to be informed on world affairs and other matters of interest.

Remember those long enjoyable talks you had with each other *before* you were married? Do you recall discussing together all your plans, hopes and dreams? You can *still* do that — can't you?

Many couples who have rediscovered the art of conversation after some years of marriage have found that it is like getting to know each other all over again! For years they had been drifting

apart without realizing it! They had virtually nothing in common anymore. Now through improved communication they were again beginning to think alike.

Rejoice With Your Mate

Do you still have a lot of fun and “good times” with your mate? Are you still able to “cut up” and have a good laugh together? Many are not.

To millions of couples, marriage is a humorless, humdrum affair. But God tells husbands, “. . . REJOICE with the wife of your youth” (Prov. 5:18). That does not mean just rejoice with her when she is young, and then become a pair of “grouches” when you grow older! It means that husbands should rejoice with their wives *always* even though they were married many years ago — in their youth.

When was the last time you had a

Typical nightly mesmerization before the television set. Many marriages are rendered downright boring because of the conversational vacuum created by centering family activities around the TV.

Ambassador College Photo

good hearty laugh together? Can you still kid each other? Do you still enjoy each other's company because it's *fun* to be around each other?

Do you share each other's successes and triumphs? Do you really *rejoice* when you are blessed? You should! Learning to do so will do much to revive a stale marriage!

Do Things Together

Don't knock “togetherness.” Sure it's a mushy word often used as an expression of maudlin sentimentality. But it's also a key to a lively marriage!

Many families function as a group of autonomous individuals sharing a common living facility! That is, everyone in the family unit is doing "his own thing" independent of the other family members. This is fine up to a point. Everyone is entitled to his privacy.

But families should learn to do things in which they are obliged to think "family" instead of "me."

Take a weekend off with the wife — alone — go on a 2nd (or 22nd) honeymoon.

Some Suggestions For Marital Revival

Familiarity *does* breed contempt. Even if it is a cliché to say so — it's easy to become entrenched in a marital rut. You don't need to do everything the same old way all the time. You can pleasantly surprise each other from time to time.

Customs that are "oldies but goodies" — such as bringing your mate gifts from time to time — have a habit of falling by the wayside. It's a good idea to surprise the one you love (hopefully that means your mate!) with a small gift that is *not* connected with any special occasion. Just one that says "I love you." A small bouquet of flowers for your wife can mean a lot!

If you have let the small courtesies of marriage slip, and you have begun to take each other for granted, perhaps it's time to get back to the niceties "once delivered"! God's Word warns us not to become "weary in well doing" (Gal. 6:9). Sooner or later all the favors, courtesies and small things you do for your mate will come back to you! You will reap exactly what you sow in marriage.

Wives — Is Your Cooking Still Interesting?

Surprisingly this is an area of great difficulty in many marriages. It may seem unimportant but it's not! Some husbands would rather go to a "greasy spoon" restaurant than come home to the relatively dull fare that is customarily served up!

Does your husband look forward to coming home to dinner or is he usually disgruntled over what's on his plate? If your cooking has gone down the

drain, maybe you need to haul out the old recipe books and wake up your dinner table! Have you ever tried fondue cooking? Or preparing Chinese food? When did you last try some exotic new recipe and create some culinary excitement at mealtime? Maybe now is the time to give it a try!

Sometimes a bone of contention is found in the way husbands and wives dress. If you are tired of seeing your mate in the same old clothes or clothing styles — maybe it's time for a *change!* Husbands and wives really should dress to please each other and not themselves, anyway. Frownsiness is *not* next to godliness! A word of qualification. This does not mean you should go out and dress in the latest bizarre fashions and come home looking like an entrant in a clown contest! Don't go off the deep end and shock the socks off your mate. Just because you are waking up your marriage, that doesn't mean it should wake up with a *scream!*

Wives often need to wake up their *minds!* It's easy to slip into an intellectual limbo after you get married and are saddled with the responsibilities of home and children, etc. But many husbands gripe (and sometimes wives) that they cannot talk about anything with their mates but "domestic nothings"! Often this is a legitimate gripe. Everyone needs to be well-informed on what's going on in the world around them (Luke 21:36). Wives should continue reading and broadening their intellectual horizons after they are married too! They should show an interest in their husbands' jobs and in *their* interests, as well as their own world of babies, children, domestic and social interests. If wives could *read* more widely, it would give them a broader area for stimulating conversation with their husbands who are out in the world of business or industry all day long. In other words — wake up your marriage by being informed on a variety of subjects which you can discuss with your mate.

Women's Lib advocates often complain about household drudgery and intellectual atrophy being the curse of the housewife. But if your life as a homemaker is drudgery — if it's dull

— it's because you have *made* it so! It doesn't *have* to be that way. Marriage and the role of the homemaker is exactly what you make it!

Good Grooming Is Important

Are you still physically interesting and attractive to your mate? If not, it is likely that you have let your personal appearance and grooming slip. Do you still take care of the condition of your body? Maybe all the sand in that hourglass figure has shifted to a less desirable location! You should take as much care of your body and physical appearance after you are married as you did before when you were trying to impress your future marriage partner!

Of course there are some things you can't do much about — things like the wrinkles, gray hair or baldness that all of us must experience to some degree. Oh, you can slow down the progression of some of these things — but chances are, if they are going to happen they will.

It all boils down to this:

If you want a lively, interesting marriage — you'll have to GIVE ONE! If your marriage has become dull, there are only two people you can blame! If you want to wake up your marriage and make it live again, you'll *both* have to make an effort. It *can* be done.

Marriage is a great institution. God knows; He ordained it. If a marriage has slipped into the doldrums it's not God's fault. But *God can help you revive it.* As you take steps to wake up your marriage, don't leave God out of the picture. Earnest, fervent prayer for God's intervention can make a great difference.

Will *your* marriage revive? It *can* if you *work* at it! □

Is marriage on the way out? Is adultery still wrong?

HOW, and WHEN, did the institution of marriage originate? Does it, after all, serve any necessary purpose?

Our booklet *Why Marriage!* — *Soon Obsolete?* answers these questions and explains the powerful and beautiful analogy between the God-ordained institution of marriage and the God Family. Send for your copy today!

**ONLY
ONE
GOD
IS
GOD!**



C. B. Naik Photo

The world is full of many man-devised idols of bizarre appearance. But only one God IS God!

The world abounds with homespun ideas of God. Men prostrate themselves before carved stones, wood or even photographs. But in fact, most of that to which mankind has affixed the label "God" has fallen far short of the God of the Bible! Man has indeed created many gods, and lords, but none of them is the True God. Read here about that One True God!

by J. Orlin Grabbe

MOSES was up on Sinai, receiving instruction from God. The children of Israel demanded of Aaron: "Up, make us gods, which shall go before us; for as for this Moses, the man that brought us up out of the land of Egypt, we wot not [don't know] what is become of him" (Ex. 32:1).

They made a molten calf beautifully fashioned. Everyone was prepared for a feast, with dancing, singing and drinking.

Pagan? Yes.

But did they call it pagan? Did they name *it what it was*? No!

It was *called* a feast to GOD — to YHVH! "And when Aaron saw it, he built an altar before it; and Aaron made proclamation, and said, Tomorrow is a feast *to the LORD* [YHVH]"! (Verse 5.)

But of course this golden calf *wasn't*

the real God! The real God condemned this, saying, "Thus they changed *my glory* [original reading] into the similitude of an ox that eats grass" (Ps. 106:20).

The real God, great and glorious was upon the mountain called Sinai with Moses!

That historical occasion was prophetic of what mankind has done ever since. Modern man is no different from the ancient Israelites. He has built his own gods, and called them "God." And for almost 2000 of those years, he has often made his own saviours and called them "Jesus Christ." None of these man-made gods could begin to live up to the magnificence of the true God — or the true Jesus!

God says Israel of the Bible created her own gods. "But ye have borne the tabernacle of your Moloch and Chiun your images, the star of your god, *which ye made to yourselves*" (Amos 5:26).

God calls them names like Moloch and Chiun. But that doesn't mean the *people* called them "Moloch" and "Chiun." Many times, the *people* called these gods "God." And modern man nearly always calls his gods "God" — as the golden calf was labelled "God."

Which God?

Consider what we mean. Ask yourself this question: "Is the name I call an object, the object itself?" An apple for example. The word "apple" is not the apple itself. If by consensus, people take off the label "apple" and attach another name to it, it is still the same piece of fruit!

By the same token, what about God? If people worshipped Baal, he would still be Baal, whether he were called "Baal" or "God." If people worshipped Mithras, he would still be Mithras, whether he were called "Mithras" or "Jesus Christ."

Israel called the golden calf "God" — but it was still a golden calf! Tragically, some people have called their god "God" — and he is not God at all!

The Bible shows that it is not enough to worship "God." You must look behind the label "God" to see if you have the true God. Notice Moses' example. "And Moses said unto God, Behold, when I come unto the children

of Israel, and shall say unto them, The God of your fathers hath sent me unto you; and they shall say to me, *What is his name? What shall I say unto them?*" (Ex. 3:13.)

Moses knew it wasn't sufficient just to say, "'God' is His name." "God" had to be defined. The children of Israel were in Egypt where Ra was called "God"; Osiris was called "God"; Isis was called "God." There were many wrong ideas. God later specified himself as "... the LORD thy God, *which have brought thee out of the land of Egypt...*" (Ex. 20:2).

So it is today. Every individual is beset with a bewildering array of ideas called "God." Each religious denomination has called its object of devotion "God." Yet each defines a different "God." You need to be sure you have the right God — your Creator!

Creating Gods

The Bible describes the process of man creating his own gods. "To whom will ye liken me, and make me equal, and compare me, that we may be like? They lavish gold out of the bag, and weigh silver in the balance, and hire a goldsmith; and he maketh it a god: they fall down, yea, they worship" (Isa. 46:5-6).

Does that sound like *ancient* image worshippers, thousands of years ago? It shouldn't.

Today, a man might shell out a few bucks to an artist. The artist paints a picture of flowing hair and soft features. Then the man takes it home, hangs it up on the living room wall over the couch, and declares, "That's my Saviour!"

But the process of creating your own god goes much deeper than any physical creation. Where did you get your ideas that you associate with the term "God"? Didn't they form from childhood Bible stories, from what your parents and friends said, from what you read, and from what you wanted God to be? If so, this is what God means when He says "your god, which ye made to yourselves."

Religious ideas are not inborn. A child absorbs his ideas of God from his environment. He sees religious observances at home. He hears statements

about God, the Bible, morality. He detects the attitudes which people around him have toward religion. He forms an idea of "God" by the things he is told are "good" and those that are "bad" — by the answers he gets to his questions.

Children are naïve — as equally ready to believe in Santa Claus as in God, eager to adopt mythology of any sort. Impressions are made indiscriminately. A child's first clear conception of God grows directly out of the feelings and thoughts toward his father and mother.

There are three major factors at work: 1) The direct influence of the actions of older persons; 2) direct teachings about God; and 3) the natural development of the child's mind.

A child may be taught that certain doctrines or beliefs are "ideas of the devil." Religious prejudices and loyalties grow up. The definitions of sin, heaven, hell, the devil, and God Himself are taught according to what other people in their minds have come to believe, which in turn are reinterpreted in the mind of the child. Religion is also identified with social customs and taboos, so what is religion to one is nonsense to another. Yet these different beliefs are all described as "the will of God."

Later in life, a person will carry with him these same or similar ideas. Or he may experience a total revulsion which leads him to adopt a different set of convictions. Such changes are often based principally on the emotional knowledge that they contrast to his former ideas!

These religious values and ideas about God will change with time — just as the religious ideas of society periodically undergo popularization and abandonment.

So man's "God" changes. But the real God says, "I change not" (Mal. 3:6; Heb. 13:8).

Few people, when they are baptized, or when they adopt some church as their own, feel it necessary to get rid of their own preconceived religious opinions. Few approach Scripture with the attitude of "correct my misconceptions." Rather, like ancient Israel, they simply "chose new gods" (Judges 5:8).



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Anthropomorphism — What's That?

Look at history. Long centuries of man's conflicting ideas of "God" have demonstrated that each nation gives its god its peculiar characteristics, and every individual gives his god his personal peculiarities. One observer noted: "Each nation has created a god, and the god has always resembled his creators. He hated and loved what they hated and loved, and he was invariably found on the side of those in power. Every god was intensely patriotic, and detested all nations but his own. . . ."

Think! How can different people possibly avoid having totally different ideas of God — unless they use a common source? How can *our* ideas of God be anything but *our* personal human ideas — unless we all know where to go to find the real answer?

The Greek philosopher Xenophanes (540 B.C.) observed that men of dif-

Another humanly devised idol called "the god of fire." But there is only one true God who changes not!

ferent races picture their gods like themselves. The Thracians picture them as fair and red-haired. And the Ethiopians, he said, see their gods as black.

Consider — why is it that many modern critics and free thinkers have stated that God is merely an illusory projection of human self? Why did, for example, Ludwig Feuerbach state that man creates God in man's own image?

Because man has done just that!

These men looked at a long history of gods who were revengeful, savage, lustful, and ignorant — who were partial to the people who created them, and who showed that partiality by assisting those people to rob and destroy others.

They therefore concluded that there is no God.

That was an error of reasoning on their part. What they should have done was to look past these false gods that man created. They should have turned to their merciful, living Creator! Instead, they were so totally "turned off" by man's gods that they rejected the real God altogether.

Scholars have coined a word that they apply to any religious statement that depicts God in the bodily form of a man, or that shows God as having qualities of thought, will, or feeling like those experienced by man. That word is "anthropomorphism."

Anthropomorphism is technically defined as the attribution of a human body or human qualities to God. Philosophers and theologians coined the word because they believe man has a natural tendency — or necessity — to conceive of God by analogy with man himself.

Is God Like Man?

Let's understand how God is, and is not, like man. *It's the crucial key for determining if you have created your "God" — to show if indeed your "God" is God!*

The Bible makes many statements about God's personal characteristics. God *walked* in the garden (Gen. 3:8). He *ate* with Abraham (Gen. 18:8). He wrote with His own *hand* upon the tables of stone (Ex. 31:18). God has *ears* (Isa. 59:1). He has a *mouth* (Isa. 58:14). The Scriptures abound with similar references.

Man is created in the shape and form of the real, living Creator God. Notice it in Genesis 1:26-27: "And God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness. . . . So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

This was for a great purpose. Because man's destiny is to be born as God — to "be like him" (I John 3:2; Ps. 17:15). God from eternity has possessed hands, ears, eyes, arms — and feelings, emotions, reason, will. Therefore God, when He began His plan of reproducing Himself, created Adam and Eve with *His* body shape, and with a mind capable of creative thought like God's!

Of course, man is now physical while God is Spirit. And man's mind,

unlike God's, is limited in power.

However, man is wrong in ascribing his wrong motivations to God! "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the LORD. FOR AS THE HEAVENS ARE HIGHER THAN THE EARTH, SO ARE MY WAYS HIGHER THAN YOUR WAYS, AND MY THOUGHTS THAN YOUR THOUGHTS" (Isa. 55:8-9).

God has feelings and emotions — man has feelings and emotions. But the characteristics of God's mind are love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, meekness, temperance (Gal. 5:22, 23).

But the characteristics of a natural human mind — the works of the flesh — are adultery, fornication, uncleanness, lasciviousness, idolatry, witchcraft, hatred, variance, emulations, wrath, strife, seditions, heresies, envyings, murders, drunkenness, revelings, and similar things (Gal. 5:19-21).

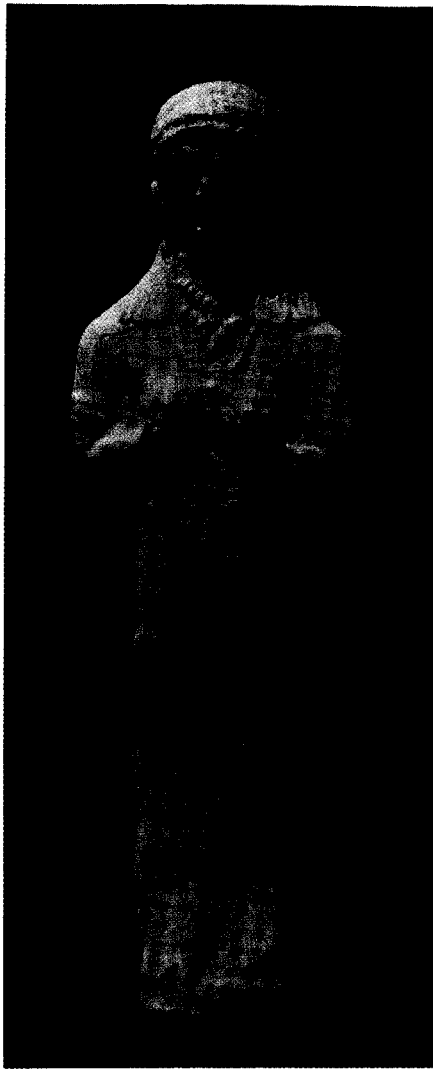
In the Dark Ages, man's gods — which he called "God" — were the impetus for covering the earth with blood. Instruments of torture were invented for service to this "God." This "God" had great churches built for Himself and dungeons for men. He had the clouds peopled with angels and the earth with slaves. The Bible shows that this "God" was purely a creation of the evil mind of man!

No wonder many people have been taken aback, appalled by the image of "God" as an infinite fiend! These gods were not God at all, but were purely man's creations. God is a God of love.

People used to believe the world was flat. This was declared to be true by the authority of "God." Many similar wrong and false ideas have been propagated *in the name* of God. Why?

Simply because *men* created such gods (they called each one "God"), and put into the mouths of their gods all *their* mistakes in astronomy, in geography, in philosophy, in morality. The god was never wiser or better than his creators. If they believed in slavery, so did he. If they believed in a cruel hell fire or eternal torment, so did he. If they wanted to go to war, so did he.

Religious zeal for such gods was usually utterly incompatible with peace. Those who loved the gods most were



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The goddess Ashtoreth. The Bible warns against the worship of idols, images and pagan deities created in the imagination of men's minds (Acts 17:29). Such lifeless idols and false gods have no power whatever (Ps. 115:4-8).

apt to love man the least. By contrast, the true God had always said, "Love your neighbor" (Lev. 19:18) and "If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (I John 4:20.)

The True Christian Approach

Man's approach has always been either to impute his evil nature to God, or to interpret God in terms of himself.

But the teaching of the Bible is that a man must seek to acquire God's nature

— and give up his own nature. That is man's purpose in living! The Apostle Peter states that we are to be "partakers of the divine nature" (II Peter 1:4). The Apostle Paul said, "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 2:5).

God's mind comes by the gift of God's Holy Spirit! God's Spirit comes through repentance and baptism (Acts 2:38).

Because human ideas are not the same as God's ideas — because man's thoughts are not God's thoughts — then our ideas of what God loves or hates, what God will do or won't do, are utterly invalid unless backed by God's Word, the Bible! Otherwise, we are as guilty of creating God in our image as any pagan idol maker.

The Bible shows that Christ was the stamped, impressed character image of God, with the mind of God (II Cor. 4:4; Phil. 2:5-7; Heb. 1:3). He is our example (I Pet. 2:21). Any opinion of the nature or character of God that conflicts with this example is of our own creation!

Some people have made their god responsible for human affairs now — which makes their god the god of pollution, war, crime, disease, famine. But the True God says He is not the god of this world — rather Satan is (II Cor. 4:4; Eph. 2:2; Rev. 12:9). The real God teaches concern for the environment, tells men to live at peace and to love their neighbor. He says He will heal our diseases and give us prosperity if we obey Him.

Some have created a "Christ" who is weak and sanctimonious. Others have created a "Christ" who was a notorious leader of an underground liberation movement. Both have created these "Christs" out of their own imaginations.

You create God in your own image when *you say* something is "God's will," and the *Bible doesn't* say it is God's will. If the Bible doesn't support it, then it is *your* will. People do this when they group together God, the Bible, and the goals of a certain political party or when they declare a certain war is "God's will."

People create God in their own image
(Continued on inside back cover)

IS TITHING LEVITICAL?

We have been asked: "Was tithing only for Israel under the Old Covenant? Wasn't it a form of national taxation in ancient Israel?" Others inquire: "Should non-Christians, as well as Christians, tithe?" Here is the New Testament teaching on this much misunderstood subject!

by Herman L. Hoeh

ALMOST no one, it seems, understands HOW tithing began, WHO instituted it, and WHY!

It is often assumed today that tithing was first instituted at Mt. Sinai, that it was a form of national taxation under the Old Covenant. Therefore, it is reasoned, tithing must be "Levitical."

Nothing could be further from the truth! Understand *why!*

Tithing Not Levitical

Did you know your Bible reveals tithes were being paid to the Creator God long before the *first Israelite* was born?

That tithing was, in fact, a divine institution centuries prior to the making of the Old Covenant at Mt. Sinai? And, after the Old Covenant was broken, and after everything that was nailed to the cross was ended, tithing continued as a living principle under the *New Testament*?

The proof has been in your Bible all these years! You will find it in the book of Hebrews, the seventh chapter. In it Paul expounds the *New Testament* teaching on tithing.

Why Paul Wrote Hebrews

Paul wrote the book of Hebrews to make plain to Christians the office and present duties of Jesus Christ as our

Mediator and High Priest in Heaven.

But what does Christ's office as High Priest in Heaven today have to do with tithing?

Far more, probably, than you realize!

First, Paul explains that Jesus Christ, our High Priest, holds the rank — office, or order — of Melchizedek (Heb. 5:5-6). Who this Melchizedek is, very few understand! It's made plain in our reprint article "The Mystery of Melchizedek Solved."

Briefly, Melchizedek is called "priest of the most high God" in Hebrews 7:1. One of His names is "King of Peace" (Hebrews 7:2). Is it coincidence that Christ is also a priest, and that the Prophet Isaiah names Jesus Christ "Prince of Peace"? (See Isaiah 9:6.) The priestly rank or office of Jesus Christ and Melchizedek is the same!

Furthermore Melchizedek, High Priest in Abraham's day, *is alive today* — "having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually" (Heb. 7:3). Christ, too, is alive today!

Melchizedek — note — was "made like unto the Son of God." Could anything be plainer? Melchizedek and Christ are One. That One became the human Jesus. As a human being — God in the flesh — He was also the Messiah

or Christ — the Anointed. And He is now, as He was before, High Priest. He has the same office or rank He had in Abraham's day, when He was known as Melchizedek — meaning "King of Righteousness"!

Received Tithes

Consider, now, what Melchizedek or Christ, in His office as High Priest, received from the patriarch Abraham.

"For this Melchisedec, king of Salem, priest of the most high God, who met Abraham returning from the slaughter of the kings [See Gen. 14:18-20], and blessed him; *to whom also Abraham gave a tenth part of all...*" — a tenth is a *tithe*. ("Tithe" is an old English word for tenth.)

Continuing: "Now consider how great this man was" — Melchizedek — "unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth [a tithe] of the spoils" (Heb. 7:1-2 and 4).

Melchizedek — who later became the human Jesus — collected from Abraham *God's* tenth — the tithe. That is one of the functions of Christ's priesthood which continues today.

But how did Abraham know to tithe? Because "Abraham," says God, "obeyed my voice, and kept my charge, my commandments, my statutes, and my laws" (Gen. 26:5). This was centuries before

the law of Moses and before the Old Covenant!

God's laws are eternal principles. They have existed *from the beginning*. They are living, active principles today!

So tithing was a law centuries before the Old Covenant was made at Sinai. Abraham was paying tithes about 140 years before Levi, the father of the Levites, and Abraham's great-grandson, was born.

Tithing is not "Levitical"!

Tithing, of course, was included in the laws revealed to the Hebrew ex-slaves at Sinai. It had to be. Tithing is a living financial law. It did not begin with Moses, and it did not end when the law of Moses ceased. The law of Moses could not end what it did not bring into existence!

Later we find Jacob, Abraham's grandson, promising God He would pay Him the tithe. "And of all that thou shalt give me I will surely give the tenth [the tithe] unto thee" (Gen. 28:22). It is important *to whom* the tithe is paid — "unto thee," said Jacob. Not to imposters!

What Christ Does with the Tithe

What is the purpose of the tithe? How did Melchizedek use the tithes He received in Abraham's day? To what use does Christ put tithes today?

There is a great PURPOSE being worked out here below. Man can know nothing of that purpose unless it is revealed to him. *That* takes a Revelator. Christ is that Revelator. He reveals the Father's will. It is one of His duties as High Priest!

Now understand what the priesthood of Christ has to do with tithing.

God the Father works through Christ. But how does Christ work? On occasion, He works in person on earth. He worked from time to time with the patriarchs. He worked continuously in the flesh for 3½ years with the apostles. Most often — and for the past 1900 years — He works *from heaven* through His chosen human instruments.

But *what* is Christ's WORK? What WORK has Christ been carrying out through human instruments on earth these near six thousand years?

The Work of preaching the good

news — the Gospel — of the Kingdom of God!

When on earth with the apostles, "Jesus went . . . preaching the gospel of the kingdom" (Matt. 4:23). His commission *today* is: "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:15). He carried on the same WORK 4000 years ago. As Melchizedek, He preached "the gospel unto Abraham, saying, In thee shall all the nations be blessed" (Gal. 3:8).

It cost money for the apostles to travel from city to city, to rent halls in which to speak, to have letters laboriously handwritten. Even in Abraham's day it cost to carry out the WORK of God. Abraham had at least three hundred men in his employ (Gen. 14:14). Including wives and children there must have been between 1500 and 2000 who traveled with him. To preach the gospel to them, facilities had to be provided in which to meet for special occasions and for weekly services.

Today, to reach the whole world with the Gospel of the Kingdom of God on the superpower facilities of radio and via the printing press costs very large sums of money.

To pay for His WORK God ordained from the beginning a definite financial plan — *tithing*. God does not come down on earth today and ask owners of radio stations and printing presses for their facilities free. God believes in justly paying human beings for the facilities He entrusts to them.

What the Creator does is to reserve for Himself, out of all that is produced out of the earth He created, only 10%. The remaining 90% He willingly releases to man for his personal use *after* man *first* renders the first 10% to his Maker. He commissioned Christ, as High Priest, to collect that 10% — the tithe — from those who voluntarily want to become Co-Workers with Him. As Melchizedek, He received it personally in Abraham's day. Today — and ever since His ascension in 31 A. D. — Christ, as High Priest, authorizes His servants whom He has chosen as His ministers to receive it for Him and to disperse it, as He directs, for the WORK of the Gospel of the Kingdom of God.

How many of you knew *that* is one

of the functions of Christ, our High Priest, today? It's time we understood why tithing is included in the one book in all the New Testament which specifically explains Christ's priesthood!

"But," some will ask, "what about the Levitical priesthood? Didn't the Levites receive tithes?"

That is just the point Paul makes! If the Levites — a priesthood of merely human rank — received tithes under the Mosaic dispensation, how much more worthy to receive tithes is Christ, who, since His resurrection, has again the rank of Melchizedek — the "King of Righteousness"?

Why the Levitical Priesthood?

The Mosaic dispensation was purely materialistic, fleshly, with physical rituals and sacrifices. In Hebrews 4:2 we read: "For unto us was the gospel preached" — in New Testament times — "as well as unto them: but the word preached did not profit them, not being mixed with faith in them that heard it."

The Holy Spirit was not promised under the Old Covenant. The Mosaic ceremonies did not impart the gift of faith. That was not the time God was trying to save all Israel. It was not the time for the Gospel to go to all the world. God was only calling a very few, primarily the prophets, who were used in Christ's Work to write the Hebrew Scriptures for us.

The nation Israel formed a flesh-born congregation, not a Spirit-begotten Church. During those years a priesthood of *lower rank* was in office — of mere human rank. It was vastly inferior to the spiritual and divine rank of Melchizedek. The priests were of the tribe of Levi. It was called the "Levitical Priesthood." It administered physical rituals — called "the works of the law" in the New Testament.

Yet this lesser priesthood had to be financed. Once again God used the tithing system. "And verily they that are the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, *have a commandment to take TITHES of the people according to the LAW*" (Heb. 7:5).

Since tithing is God's permanent, continuous financing system, it *continued* through the Mosaic dispensation. Dur-

ing that period, when the Levites were the ministers, their physical work had to be financed.

But when Christ came and the priesthood was changed, God did not change His financing system. Christians in Paul's day did not need to be instructed that TITHING is an obligatory and permanent law of God. They *did* need to have it made clear that the Levitical Priesthood was superseded by that of Jesus Christ — *the Melchizedek priesthood restored!* The only question was to *which* priesthood tithes were now to be paid!

To make this point plain, Paul explains the superiority of the Melchizedek priesthood.

"Now consider *how great* this man was, unto whom even the patriarch Abraham gave the tenth of the spoils. And verily they that are of the sons of Levi, who receive the office of the priesthood, *have a commandment to take tithes of the people* according to the law, that is, of their brethren, though they come out of the loins of Abraham.

"But he whose descent is not counted from them [the Levites] *received tithes* of Abraham, and blessed him [Abraham] that had the promises. And without all contradiction the *less* [Abraham] is blessed of the *better* [Melchizedek]" (Hebrews 7:4-7).

Continuing the comparison of the two priesthoods: "Here men [the Levites] that die receive tithes; but there he [Melchizedek] receiveth them, of whom it is witnessed that he liveth" — as He does today, in heaven, as our High Priest!

"And as I may so say," continues Paul, "Levi also, who receiveth tithes, payed tithes in Abraham. For he was yet in the loins of his father, when Melchisedec met him" (verses 8-10).

Figuratively, even Levi paid tithes to Melchizedek — that is, the One who became Christ. Similarly, Judah, the father of the Jews and the brother of Levi, paid tithes "in Abraham" — hundreds of years before Sinai!

The Melchizedek priesthood is far superior. It has precedence! It is again in force under Christ.

Christ is now carrying out the WORK of God. It, too, has to be financed. So we read: "*For the priesthood being*

changed, there is made of necessity a change also of the LAW" (Heb. 7:12).

New Testament LAW!

Paul does not say the law was abolished. The change in priesthoods makes necessary *a change in the law*. What law was thus CHANGED? The very law this chapter is instructing New Testament Christians about — the TITHING LAW! "The sons of Levi . . . have a *commandment to take TITHES . . . according to the law*" (verse 5).

Tithing, far from being abolished, is NEW TESTAMENT LAW! Actually, the law is merely restored *as it was from the beginning!*

Jesus Christ Personally Taught Tithing

In speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, who often made a self-righteous display of strictly keeping some of the smaller points of God's law, Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for *ye pay tithe* of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment,

mercy, and faith: *these ought ye to have done* [these weightier matters], and NOT TO LEAVE THE OTHER [carefully tithing!] UNDONE" (Matt. 23:23).

Isn't that clear enough? Jesus said that carefully and strictly paying tithes on every little plant that might grow in your garden ought not be put ahead of spiritual qualities such as *mercy* and *faith*. But Christ said "NOT to leave the other undone" — NOT to fail to pay your full tithes as God has commanded!

How plain! Tithing is God's law — His system for financing His WORK today. It's commanded, *now!* Our peoples, says Malachi's prophecy, are under a divine curse because they disregard that law! Every individual who breaks it is under a curse! Notice it — Malachi 3:8, 9: "Will a man rob God? Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?" — Don't *we* own everything? The answer is NO! — "*In tithes and offerings*. Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation."

Let each one ask, "Does that mean *me?*" □

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THE STORY OF MAN

for children five to one hundred five

Written and Illustrated by Basil Wolverton

NEBUCHADNEZZAR GOES INSANE

CHAPTER ONE HUNDRED FIFTY-FIVE

SHADRACH, Meshach and Abednego (whose Jewish names were Hananiah, Mishael and Azariah) had just been thrown into the special, great furnace in Babylon because of their refusal to worship King Nebuchadnezzar's golden image. (Daniel 3:1-20.)

God Rules Furnaces, Too!

The king was disappointed in the satisfaction he imagined he would receive by seeing the three Jews consumed by the flames. To start, they had spoiled his sadistic fun by failing to scream for mercy. On top of that, he had lost some of his best soldiers, famous in his kingdom for their physical strength, when they burned to death upon hurling the Jews into the furnace.

"If only I could see their ashy, scorched skeletons lying in there in the embers," Nebuchadnezzar thought.

By now the horrible heat of the giant furnace was diminishing, as no further fuel had been added. Morbidly curious to learn if anything could be seen through the

King Nebuchadnezzar, trying to shield his face from the withering heat of the furnace, was certain that he could see a fourth person inside, whereas only three had been thrown in.



wide furnace door, the king inched forward as close as the heat would allow him, and stared inside.

It was almost impossible, through the eyeball-drying, torrid gusts, to make out the heat-distorted embers glowing in a blinding fusion, but for some reason the king stood resolutely against the heat, his attention rivetted by something unusual.

"Weren't there only three men thrown into the furnace?" Nebuchadnezzar asked, blinking in bewilderment and pain.

"That's right," aides answered.

"But I can make out four people in there!" the king exclaimed excitedly. "And they're walking around!"

"The heat distorts things and makes them unrecognizable," the aides answered concernedly. "You should leave this place now, sire, and return to the comforts of your palace!"

"Don't try to cause me to lose sight of what I'm seeing!" Nebuchadnezzar snapped angrily, carefully backing up a few steps. "I tell you I see four men walking around in there as easily and calmly as I would walk around in my palace! And the appearance of the fourth one is similar to a Son of God! Look in there for yourselves!" (Daniel 3:21-25.)

The king's nearest aides, along with many bystanders, carefully peered at where Nebuchadnezzar's excited finger was pointing.

"I see them! I see them!" several people started loudly shrieking at once.

As more and more bystanders witnessed the miraculous scene of men walking about in a sea of withering flame, gasps of disbelief and even cheers filled the air. The most moved and enthusiastic witness was the king himself.

"Come out, come out, you servants of the Most High!" Nebuchadnezzar yelled, wildly waving his arms.

There were more gasps of surprise and wonder as the three men obediently strode from out of the furnace door and walked up to Nebuchadnezzar. The king stared in wonderment, noting that the hair and clothing of the victims hadn't been touched by the flames. Nor was there even the *smell* of smoke on them. High-ranking Babylonians crowded around to gaze in disbelief, but none were more amazed and impressed than Nebuchadnezzar.

Praise for God — But No Repentance!

"The God of these men has shown His great power!" the king of Babylon loudly announced to all who stood about. "The God of the Jews is so powerful that He has swept aside my decree that all people should worship my golden image! Therefore I now decree that all people over whom I have dominion must show respect to the God of these men above any other god! Any who refuse to worship Him or speak against Him shall be hacked into small pieces and their homes shall be turned into dumps for barnyard refuse!" But Nebuchadnezzar was still far from repentant.

With this the three Jews were swiftly escorted to comfortable quarters, but only after Nebuchadnezzar had satisfied his curiosity about the fourth person he had seen in the furnace.

"But what happened to the fourth person who was with you?" Nebuchadnezzar asked. "Where did he go?"

"He returned to the throne of our God," was their general reply.

Following their trial of faith in the furnace, God blessed Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego for their obedience, and they were promoted to even higher positions of importance under Daniel in Nebuchadnezzar's powerful and growing kingdom. The incident greatly altered the king's attitude for the better, but he had still much to learn about how great God really is. (Daniel 3:26-30.)

He also had much to learn about how insignificant he really was compared to God, even though he was the head of the most powerful nation on earth. Nebuchadnezzar had such a consuming awareness of his power and possessions that his mind was obsessed with it.

Long before that, Daniel had reminded him that these things had come only through God's hand, and that God could take them back at any time. The king of Babylon could only conclude that he must be a very special person in God's sight to be given such special things.

"If I'm a person distinctive enough for all I've accomplished and accumulated, then I'm too distinctive to be deprived of it," Nebuchadnezzar mused.

Little was he aware of what was soon to happen to him because of his egotistic overconfidence in

himself. One night he dreamed an unusual dream that troubled him so much that he decided to call before him those who were supposed to have special knowledge in such matters, so that he could determine the meaning of the dream from them. Thus, on a certain day, the king's throne room was jammed with magicians, astrologers, and prognosticators, all anxious to please Nebuchadnezzar and receive his rich reward.

Nebuchadnezzar's Dream

"Listen carefully while I relate to you my strange dream," the king addressed them. "Afterward I don't want to be bothered by anyone who is merely guessing at the meaning of the dream. I want a sensible explanation, and I shall deal harshly with anyone who dares take up my time with ridiculous remarks and shallow philosophizing.

"I dreamed that I was standing in a wide expanse of open country, where there was a great tree. The tree grew swiftly until its side branches filled the sky and its top branches went up past the clouds. Mammoth leaves cast a vast shade area across the earth, and all kinds of beasts sought shelter there. Gigantic flocks of birds came

Nebuchadnezzar dreamed of a huge tree that grew up beyond the clouds.



to live in the far-reaching branches. Beasts and birds alike fed well on the tree's huge fruits growing in unbelievable abundance.

"Then down from the sky swooped a being whose voice filled all of space as he shouted out that the tree should be cut down, and that its branches should be removed, the leaves shaken off, the fruit scattered and that the beasts and birds should flee for their lives.

"The stump of the tree was to be left and encircled by a protecting band of iron and brass, but exposed to the elements for a period called 'seven times.' Any who can interpret this dream should step forth and speak up!"

There was a restless shuffle in the crowd, but not a man stepped forth. Probably some of the would-be interpreters remembered a previous time when Nebuchadnezzar angrily threatened to behead all who were unable to explain one of his dreams. In any event, not one of the many magicians, astrologers, and prognosticators came forth with anything to say, whereupon the king dismissed them.

For a while Nebuchadnezzar sat glumly silent, disappointed that none of his so-called "wise" men could help him. Suddenly a hopeful thought came to him.

"Why didn't I save time and effort and simply send for the man who interpreted my dream years ago?" he asked himself, gesturing for a servant. "Send word to Belteshazzar the Jew to come to me as soon as possible!"

"Belteshazzar" was the pagan name the king had given to Daniel, who soon arrived before Nebuchadnezzar. The king recounted to him all he had told his former audience.

"Not one of those learned men was able to tell me what my dream meant," the king observed discontentedly, "but I know you won't fail me because you are constantly in touch with the gods."

"I have only one God," Daniel smilingly reminded the king.

"Then ask your one God to show you the meaning of my dream," Nebuchadnezzar insisted.

Daniel Interprets the Dream

Daniel was troubled. The meaning of the dream was plain to him as soon as he had heard it, but he was hesitant to startle the king by coming out bluntly with unpleasant facts. As the minutes dragged by and Daniel was still preoccupied with

his thoughts, the king realized that there was something Daniel wished he did not have to tell him.

"If there's something you think I wouldn't want to hear, don't let it prevent your speaking out," Nebuchadnezzar said, at the same time desperately wondering what bad news he was about to hear.

"I'm afraid that only your enemies would care to hear what I have to say," Daniel answered.

"But I'm sure that I want to know what it is even more than they do," the king retorted.

"Here is the meaning of your dream," Daniel began, knowing there was no point in trying to spare the king's feelings any longer. "The colossal tree you saw in your sleep is you. You have grown in such power in the world that many rely on you for protection and sustenance, just as did the animals in your dream that fed off the tree's fruits.

"The one you saw in your dream who came out of the sky and decreed that the tree should be cut down was a messenger from God. God has decided that you need to be taught humility and shown how insignificant your pomp and majesty are when compared to the God who made the heavens and the earth."

Nebuchadnezzar was on his feet now, staring blankly out a window at his beautiful Hanging Gardens of Babylon.

"Just how does your God plan to teach me this humility you speak of?" the king asked in a sarcastic tone.

"Your dream was meant to tell you that," Daniel promptly answered. "The cutting down of the tree means you will lose your position as king of Babylon."

"You mean my enemies are going to take over my nation?" queried Nebuchadnezzar.

"Not at all," Daniel explained. "For seven years you will have no power over Babylon or any other nation, but God will protect your kingdom for you. Before this happens it would be wise to depart from sinful pursuits, including the worship of idols. God would also be pleased if you distributed a part of your great wealth to the poor among your people who are in such need of food and shelter. If you were to do that, God would surely postpone the miserable events that otherwise will soon come upon you." (Daniel 4:21-27.)

Nebuchadnezzar was naturally quite miffed with these statements from Daniel. Even though he

had just declared Daniel's God to be considered the most powerful of deities, he didn't like to be told how he should worship. As for contributing to the poor, he reasoned that he would have no wealth left if he gave to all who were in need. Nebuchadnezzar ended the audience abruptly. This relieved Daniel, who was spared informing the king *how* he would lose control of Babylon. The fact was that Nebuchadnezzar was going to go insane!

As the months passed and the political and financial affairs of Babylon remained in a promising state, the king began to doubt that Daniel's interpretation of the dream was true. There was no indication of trouble ahead. On the contrary, matters appeared better than ever, what with the wars of expansion apparently in the past.

The Haughty One Humbled

A year after his dream, Nebuchadnezzar was walking in his palace, particularly pleased at the sight of the lavish surroundings.

"Feast your eyes on all that!" he exclaimed proudly to guests as he gestured widely toward costly walls and buildings of the city. "There's no place in the universe like Babylon, the city I have built through my great power for the honor and glory of my majesty!"

Just as the king finished uttering this extremely vain remark, he was startled by a thunderous voice from the sky!

"Nebuchadnezzar, you are to lose your kingdom!" the voice boomed. "Within the hour you will be an outcast from this city of your haughty pride! Instead of living with men, you will be forced out into the fields and forests to live with animals! For the next seven years you will even act and look like a wild beast! It will take you that long to fully realize that God decides every man's state, and gives to and takes from whomever He chooses!"

The king suddenly crouched crazily at the base of a fountain and gazed wild-eyed with his mouth wide open. He looked as though he wanted to say something, but only loud gasps and grunts came past his distorted lips. His shocked guests and aides backed away from him, obviously more perturbed by his conduct than by the voice, which possibly was heard only by Nebuchadnezzar. The king fell to his hands and knees and ran awkwardly along the street. Women screamed and men seized them and pulled them away from the struggling figure.

A crowd began to gather, but everyone kept a safe distance from the prone figure. The king's aides were afraid to seize the stricken man. "Mad man! Mad man!" was the shout that spread around the streets, and that drew only more of a crowd. Even the members of Nebuchadnezzar's family, when they heard of his condition, made no moves to have him taken away privately. God willed it that way. (Daniel 4:28-33.)

Very likely Daniel, who had long been next to the king in authority, kept the government running smoothly while Nebuchadnezzar was insane. Daniel and his three friends could be expected to return Nebuchadnezzar's kingdom to him in good condition when he recovered.

"— With the Beasts of the Field"

Meanwhile, little was seen of the former king. Occasionally he would be glimpsed in some distant wooded area digging for something to eat, but if he knew he was being watched, he would scurry away like a startled animal.

As the years passed and Nebuchadnezzar was seen less, Daniel had a growing desire to learn how the former king was making out. Daniel had no intention of helping him in any way, because he realized God was dealing with the insane ruler, and would keep him alive through the seven rugged years. By following the clues of farmers and hunters, Daniel found where Nebuchadnezzar was living at the time. It turned out to be a small cave. There Daniel almost came face to face with Nebuchadnezzar, whose hair and beard were long and matted. Even his fingernails and toenails were thick and long like those of an animal, which indeed he had become after years of living like one. It was difficult to believe that such a creature had once been the most powerful ruler in the world, but it was more difficult to believe that he would soon return to that same position.

If Nebuchadnezzar saw Daniel watching him, he gave no sign of it. He simply ambled down to a small stream, where he took a long drink. After that he munched on grass and dug vigorously in the ground, with his long nails, in search of roots. Shocked at the sight, Daniel returned to his home, thankful that he could know that God would restore Nebuchadnezzar to be a wiser man than he had been almost seven years before.

(To be continued next issue)

ANSWERS to your Questions

● “Please explain Matthew 16:28, where Jesus said, ‘Verily I say unto you, There be some standing here, which shall not taste of death, till they see the Son of man coming in his kingdom.’ Jesus’ disciples died long ago. But Christ still has not returned with His Kingdom. What is the meaning of this verse?”

The *context* of the verse clearly reveals the meaning. Note that Jesus was talking *only to His disciples* (Matt. 16:21). Then in verse 28, Jesus made it clear that He was referring to *only SOME of His disciples* by saying “SOME standing here.”

Next, notice that Jesus stated that they would “see the Son of man coming in his kingdom” before they died. He *didn't* say He was actually going to come before they would “taste of death.” The first verse of the next chapter begins with “and” — it is a *continuation* of the same train of thought. The next few verses are still a part of the *context* of verse 28 of the preceding chapter.

Continue reading into the next chapter: “And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart.” Here were *some of Jesus’ disciples* going with Him. Now, read the companion account of this occurrence in Luke 9:28-32. Jesus went up into the mountain to pray (verse 28). “And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistening” (verse 29). “. . . They saw his glory” (verse 32).

Much later, the Apostle John, one of this same group, again describes seeing Christ in His glory, “. . . One like unto the Son of man, clothed with a garment down to the foot, and girt about the paps with a golden girdle. His head and his hairs were white like wool, as white as snow; and his eyes were as a flame

of fire; and his feet like unto fine brass, as if they burned in a furnace; and his voice as the sound of many waters” (Rev. 1:13-15). Both times John saw this manifestation IN A VISION. Note Revelation 1:10 says the picture came when he was “in the spirit.” Matthew 17:9 says in a similar but more positive vein, “Jesus charged them saying, Tell THE VISION to no man.” The disciples saw these things only IN VISION — *not in reality!*

Christ has yet to come in real, actual glory as King of kings and Lord of lords. But James, Peter and John had a foretaste — in vision — while they were yet alive.

● “Where was Jesus Christ between the ages of 12 and 30?”

Today there are a number of theories in circulation purporting to answer the question, just where was Jesus Christ from age 12 (Luke 2:42) to age 30 (Luke 3:23). But what does the Bible indicate about this period of time?

Following the account of Jesus’ teaching in the Temple at age 12, Scripture states, “And he [Jesus] went down with them, and came to Nazareth, and was subject unto them” (Luke 2:51). Notice further: “And he came and dwelt in a city called Nazareth: that it might be fulfilled which was spoken by the prophets, He shall be called a Nazarene [that is, one who came from Nazareth]” (Matt. 2:23). If Jesus had spent most of His younger years away from Nazareth, it is unlikely he would have been known as a Nazarene.

Now read the important account of Jesus preaching in the synagogue, after He was 30 years old: “And he came to Nazareth, where he had been brought up” (Luke 4:16). And what did they think of Him? “. . . they were astonished, and said, Whence has this

man this wisdom, and these mighty works? Is not this the carpenter’s son? Is not his mother called Mary? and his brethren, James, and Joses, and Simon, and Judas? And his sisters, are they not all with us?” (Matt. 13:54-56.) This was Jesus’ own country (Luke 4:24). These people *knew* Jesus! They knew His whole family. How evident that Jesus spent most of those 18 years between ages 12 and 30 in Nazareth. This is where He was trained and where He studied.

● “What is the correct *time* for taking the Lord’s Supper?”

When did Jesus partake of “the Lord’s Supper”? His *example* is the one we should always follow (I Peter 2:21).

We should first note that the Passover was ordained as an *annual* event. It was to be observed yearly on the evening commencing the 14th day of the first month — Abib (Lev. 23:5).

Many, following the examples of men, have used different hours of the day for this occasion. But, Jesus ate that Passover meal after the sun had gone down. By the clock, it would have been between the hours of seven and ten p.m.

On the *eve* of the *Passover*, that solemn, annual observance kept by all Israel in *anticipation* of the sacrifice of the Messiah, Jesus ate His last Passover supper.

While Jesus and His disciples ate that Passover supper, Jesus — as Lord of the Passover — *changed the symbolism* which had existed from the time Israel left Egypt (Ex. 12). He took bread and wine, explained the new symbols (broken bread to represent His body broken for our infirmities; wine to represent His blood shed for our spiritual sins), and told them to take of the *new* Passover symbols “*in remembrance of me*” (I Cor. 11:24).

With this precedent — the *change of symbolism* — Jesus showed how Christians, His true followers, should observe the *Passover* from that time on. For a more complete explanation, read the article “Does Easter Commemorate the Resurrection?” beginning on page 11 of this issue.

Personal from

(Continued from page 2)

our sins [those of us who are Christians]: and not for ours only, but also for the sins of the whole world" (chapter 2:1-3). But, of course He is the propitiation for the sins of the unconverted in the world *only* when they come to real repentance, and faith in Christ.

God looks on the heart — the attitude — the *intent*.

As long as one, in his heart, has the real desire to walk God's WAY with Him — is deeply sorry and repents when he commits the occasional sin — and is seeking to overcome sin, and to make God's Way his habitual way of life, he will stumble on occasion, but if he

confesses it and repents, he will be forgiven. But, if he is diligent in his Christian life, his occasional stumbling will become less and less — he will be making good progress, overcoming, GROWING spiritually and in righteous godly character.

What is your attitude? When you have sinned, have you been carelessly indifferent about it? You are on dangerous ground. Do you justify it, feel *others* are to blame? That will never justify *your* sins. Do you still *desire* to go God's Way? Then it's not too late. Turn from sins, CONFESS your sins — to God. REPENT! Pick yourself up, with Christ's helping hand, and go on overcoming and GROWING spiritually.

And once you know you have repented and been forgiven, don't repeat it, but FORGET it. As the Apostle Paul wrote, "FORGETTING those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Phil. 3:13-14). □

EASTER Commemorate the Resurrection?

(Continued from page 12)

you, then turn to Matthew 28:19, 20. Here Jesus said to these same disciples: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them... *teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded YOU.*" So they were to teach us to observe ALL things WHATSOEVER Jesus commanded them!

Kept Once a Year in the Apostolic Church

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

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

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

Christ instituted this ordinance on the EVE OF HIS DEATH. It was the 14th of Abib, by God's Sacred Calendar, in the very beginning of the day. God starts days at sunset, not midnight. So, later that same day, after Jesus had gone out to Gethsemane, Judas Iscariot led the crowd to seize Jesus. Then He was crucified later that same day, in the daylight part of this same 14th of the month Abib.

By following the example of Jesus in observing this sacred ordinance at the same time He did — the very same time the Passover was forever commanded to

be observed — we continue to remember His death, annually, on the eve of the crucifixion.

Some always question the meaning of Paul in verses 27-29, in I Corinthians 11. The apostle is not speaking about a Christian being worthy or unworthy to take it. It is speaking of the *manner* in which it is done. We take it unworthily if we take it wrongly, in the wrong manner. Once we learn the truth about its observance, and yet take it at any other time than what God says, then we take it unworthily. We take it unworthily if we do not accept the body and blood of Christ. So let's not take this most sacred ordinance to our condemnation, but take it *worthily* instead!

"Easter" a Mistranslation

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

We have just seen that "Easter" was

PERSONAL COUNSEL

Many hundreds have written asking if we have representatives in their areas to counsel with them personally — to answer their questions — and even to baptize in certain cases. The answer is yes, we do. The Worldwide Church of God sends personal representatives [ordained ministers] into most communities of the United States and British Commonwealth and many other parts of the world. These men are carefully trained under the sponsorship of the Ambassador College School of Theology, which also publishes *Tomorrow's World*. Of course, *none* of these men will ever call on you unless they are invited. But, if you do have questions — or require personal counsel for any reason — feel free to write us and request a private appointment. We'd be happy to send our men to see you.

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

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

What Does "Break Bread" Mean?

There are some denominations that read Acts 20:7 as a proof that the "Lord's Supper" should be taken each Sunday *morning*! First notice that this was after the Days of Unleavened Bread (verse 6). Paul was preaching a farewell meeting, not on Sunday morning, but on Saturday night. It was after midnight (verse 7), that they broke bread because they were hungry. When they "had broken bread, *and* EATEN, *AND* TALKED A LONG WHILE, *EVEN* TILL BREAK OF DAY," Paul departed.

So this was just an ordinary meal!

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

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

ONLY ONE GOD IS GOD!

(Continued from page 22)

when they say God has given exclusive privileges to their class, their race, their color, their ethnic group.

Paul said, "For though there be that are called gods, whether in heaven or in earth, (as there be gods many, and lords many,) but to us there is but one God, the Father, of whom are all things, and we in him; and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom are all things,

and we by him" (I Cor. 8:5, 6).

Remember that ancient Israel decided that God, which brought them out of Egypt, looked like a golden calf. They sadly settled for a concept of God resembling a dumb ox.

They failed to perceive the glory of the true God, "The Lord, The Lord God, merciful and gracious, longsuffering, and abundant in goodness and truth" (Ex. 34:6). They settled for an inferior product.

What about your "God"? Is he the true God?

Search the scriptures and see. □

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)

refers to Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XI, Chapter X, Parts 5-6. Should this refer instead to Josephus' *Antiquities of the Jews*, Book XI, Chapter VIII, Parts 5-6?

Louis A.,
Lansing, Mich.

- Yes, it should. Thanks for your help.

Jerusalem Through the Ages

Just wanted to say thanks for the superb job done on the historical account "Jerusalem Through the Ages"—filling us in on the many eras of its destruction and rebuilding, and giving us a much better understanding of the present-day "Big Dig" in Jerusalem. Both of the articles bring into sharp focus the insignificance of man—far though the stones endured, he didn't! It is heart-warming to know through prophecy that God will yet bring about another great change in this city and its surrounding countryside.

Mrs. Bernard L.,
Carter, Mont.

Halloween

I was really made aware of the meaning of Halloween by your October issue. It opened my eyes to things I have felt were not right in Christianity. Also I have been made aware of many other things by studying your magazine with God's book, comparing scripture with scripture. I read many things that I don't always agree with in your magazine, but I do not cast all of it out.

Mrs. James H.,
Page, Ariz.

- We appreciate your objective approach.

Can Replace Car . . . But Tomorrow's World?

A few days ago I received the most recent edition of *Tomorrow's World*. I was travelling to Sydney on business and had only time to glance at the contents of the magazine. On arriving in Sydney I parked my car, spent an hour attending to business and on returning found my car had been stolen. The vehicle I can replace, but I feel considerably incensed at the loss of the magazine. Could I have another copy of *Tomorrow's World*?

D.T.C.,
N.S.W., Australia

- Gladly.

Religions Hold Clues to Worldwide Problems?

Yesterday I received your September issue of the *Tomorrow's World* and must say that your magazine's contents did really appeal to me. I was born a Hindu but took little interest in religion. At times I had believed that there was no God, for if there was, the present problems would not

have arisen. Even to this day I had doubted the existence of God. When I read your September issue I found myself battling in mind. I was confused and uncertain of my beliefs. Your issue contained many things which appealed to me and drove me to enquire more about the religions of the earth. Perhaps they hold a clue to problems of this world... I thank you very much for sending me *Tomorrow's World*. It has really broadened my outlook and shaped my course of life.

Student,
University of Melbourne,
Victoria, Australia

The Plain, Unvarnished Truth

Recently I wrote for a subscription to your publication *Tomorrow's World*. I had read three issues belonging to my friend and they had started me on the road to a spiritual recovery that I needed desperately. My own copies have been such a help; you cannot know the clarification and illumination they provide. I was reared in a strong Southern denomination and have brought up my six children in this faith. However, being a searcher, and one who must have answers to live by, what I read in my Bible often conflicted sharply with what I had been brought up to believe. But I trusted the "experts" and refused to accept what my own eye saw and my understanding perceived. I began a study of the Scriptures when I was about ten years of age and used no published aids of any kind.

I have a B.A. in English, having graduated from the University of Houston in May 1970. The relevance of this information is simply this: I could not comprehend the source of what I was taught in church, nor my own "rebellious" attitude until the last half of my senior year. I took advanced courses in Chaucer, Shakespeare, and Milton, and this on top of four years of the humanities. Then, things began to become clear, as I am sure you will understand without a dissertation from me. And at the same time there were troubles in our local church and our family left. You can understand the void we found ourselves in. This is where your publication came in.

What can I say? You publish the plain Gospel, unfettered with pagan philosophies. You present the Scriptures in their simplicity, as God intended, so that a child could understand. God's Holy Word is so beautiful when stripped of man's interpretations and Satan's pseudo-truth and his diabolical substitutions.

Had I not learned what paganism was from my secular education, I could not have recognized it in my church and its absence in your publication. The ordeal was long and fraught with doubts and wasted years, but now I feel as though we will be equipped to meet the future. We have long been aware of the times and their significance to our generation. We are unafraid for ourselves and our children. My favorite scripture is Psalm 91.

Mrs. William S.,
Houston, Texas

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