

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXII, NUMBER 3

MARCH, 1957



—Wide World Photo

THE CEDARS OF LEBANON

Sunlight and shadow and the famed snow-covered Cedars of Lebanon transform the mountain slopes into a winter paradise—a foretaste of the promised Millennium of peace and happiness.

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding.

VOL. XXII NO. 3

HERBERT W. ARMSTRONG
Publisher and Editor
Herman L. Hoeh
Executive Editor
Roderick C. Meredith
Associate Editor

Sent FREE to all who request it, as the Lord provides. Address all communications to the editor, Box 111, Pasadena, California. Our readers in England should address the editor, B.C.M. Ambassador, London W.C. 1.

Copyright, March, 1957 /
By the Radio Church of God



—Wide World Photo

Working on the banana plantation at Ramath Yohanan, a settlement near Haifa, Palestine. If the Jews, who have forgotten God, can cultivate bananas in once arid Palestine, how much MORE will God prosper them when they are converted during the Millennium?

NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!



—Wide World Photo

A tractor helps prepare ground for future vegetable gardens at En-Gedi, a historical oasis by the Dead Sea (mentioned in Ezekiel 47:10). These Jewish settlers are trying to make the land bloom as a rose.

The Coming UTOPIA . . . Wonderful World of Tomorrow

Why should universal peace and prosperity be impossible? Why can't we have a world bubbling over with joy and happiness?

by Herman L. Hoeh

EVER SINCE the dawn of civilization, man has longed to live in a plush world where all his physical desires could be fulfilled!

But even as he has longed for such a place, in his heart he has been secretly positive that such a *Utopia* could never be found *on this earth*.

WHY SHOULD SUCH A UTOPIA BE IMPOSSIBLE?

Where Mentioned in the Bible

God has allowed a six-thousand-year period for mankind to rule himself. During this time, God has kept hands off the affairs of this world. Man has pursued the course that "seemeth right" to him. BUT this time is now almost up! The new order—THE WORLD TOMORROW—is about to begin! A 1000 years of peace and prosperity is just around the corner.

In Micah, the fourth chapter, a graphic description is given us concerning the soon-coming Utopia. Verse one shows God's rulership established over the nations. Then what happens? "And many nations shall come, and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain [government] of the Lord, and to the house of the God of Jacob; and He will teach us of His ways, and we will walk in His paths: for the law shall go forth of Zion, and the Word of the Lord from Jerusalem. And He shall judge among many people, and *rebuke strong nations afar off*: and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruning hooks: nation shall not lift up a sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

In less than 40 years all nations are going to live in a Utopia! They will be *forced* to learn the ways of peace. A Utopia of God's making—not man's—is

fast approaching.

What's wrong with this millennial Utopia? Why don't people want it?

It is time you knew about the coming Utopia—a MILLENNIUM of plush and happy living you never dreamed of!

Actually, the word "millennium" is derived from the Latin which simply means *a thousand years*. Instead of finding the word "millennium" in the scriptures, you will read of the "thousand years." The *only* scriptures in all the Bible mentioning this specific period of time are in Revelation 20:1-9.

Here is the TIME SETTING for the coming Utopia or Millennium.

The apostle John wrote that he saw an angel who "laid hold on the dragon, that old serpent, which is the Devil, and Satan, and bound him a thousand years . . . and set a seal upon him, that *he should deceive the nations no more, till the thousand years should be fulfilled*" (Rev. 20:2-3).

Did you notice that? During the millennium [the thousand years], the devil does not deceive the nations. This age we are now in couldn't be the millennium, because the devil is STILL DECEIVING THE NATIONS. The millennium must still be in the future—a time when the devil will not be deceiving the whole world any longer.

Notice what else the apostle John says about the thousand years.

"Blessed and holy is he that hath part in the first resurrection: on such the second death hath no power, but they shall be priests of God and of Christ, and *shall reign* with him a thousand years" (Rev. 20:6).

So the millennium is a time when the saints reign with Christ. The saints help create the millennial Utopia.

Did you ever notice before that those

in the first resurrection will reign with Christ a thousand years? (Rev. 20:4). This means that the millennium can't begin until AFTER the first resurrection, because it is those *in the first resurrection* who do the ruling.

WHEN Will the Millennium Occur?

Now when does the first resurrection occur?

I Thes. 4:14-17 declares that the first resurrection occurs at the second coming of Christ. "The Lord himself shall descend from heaven with a shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Lord in the air." This first resurrection occurs "*at the last trump*: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed" (I Cor. 15:52).

Since the saints do not rise *until* the second coming of Christ, and since *they* rule with Christ during the millennium, then the thousand years must occur *after* the second coming of Christ, and NOT before. This is vitally important because there are some who teach that Jesus does not come until the end of the thousand years. But your Bible says Jesus comes *at the beginning* of the thousand years.

Christ is returning to make a UTOPIA possible!

But what else happens when the *last* trump sounds?

In Revelation 11:15-19, when the last or seventh trumpet blows, the dead are raised AND "the kingdoms of *this world* are become the kingdoms of our Lord, and of his Christ; and he shall reign forever and ever."

This is when the millennium begins! Christ is starting to reign and the saints are already resurrected to rule with Christ.

But where shall we rule?

WHERE Will the Millennium Be Spent?

The last phrase of I Thessalonians 4:17 tells us. After all the saints meet the Lord in the air they shall "ever be with the Lord." Since the saints shall always be with Jesus Christ, then any scripture that tells us *where Christ will be*, will also explain *where* those resurrected saints *shall be* during the thousand years. Also a verse that says where the saints shall rule during the thousand years, explains the place where Christ must be ruling, too!

Now consider this. In order to reign during the millennium, there must be someone for the saints to reign *over*. Over whom does Christ give the saints power and authority to rule?

Notice Revelation 2:26-27. Jesus promises: "And he that overcometh . . . will I give power *over the nations*: and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron." So the saints will rule *over the nations*. And these nations will be ruled with a rod of iron.

In the last days of the kings or rulers of this present civilization, "shall the God of heaven set up a kingdom, which shall never be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people [not to human beings, but to the sons of God], but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand forever" (Dan. 2:44).

Notice, that it is "in the days of these kings," not a thousand years later, that God sets up His kingdom under Christ—pictured by the stone that smote the image (Dan. 2:34,35)—which "became a great mountain, and FILLED THE WHOLE EARTH." It doesn't fill heaven, BUT IT DOES FILL THE EARTH.

To say that these nations are in heaven is absurd. Are there such sinful nations in heaven that the saints have to rule them with an iron rod? Of course not. These are the nations of *this earth*.

Now let's find scriptures telling us that Christ WILL rule on this earth. In Rev. 3:21, Jesus said: "To him that overcometh will I grant *to sit with me in*

my throne, even as I also overcame, and am set down with my Father in His throne." So the resurrected saints will sit with Christ ON HIS THRONE while ruling the nations.

At the present moment Christ is sitting on His Father's throne in heaven. (Rev. 3:21) He is NOT sitting on His own throne. But when Jesus leaves heaven (Acts 3:21) to come for the saints, they are promised a place with Him *on His throne*. Jesus does not promise them a place on the Father's throne *in heaven*, but a place *on His own throne*, from which they, with Jesus, shall rule the nations with a rod of iron.

Where will Jesus' throne be?

The Throne of David Is NOT in Heaven!

The throne of Jesus Christ could not be *in heaven*. If Jesus' throne were the Father's throne in heaven, then He would not need *His own throne* because He is already sitting on *the Father's throne*. But what throne will Jesus have?

Gabriel said, as recorded in Luke 1:30-33, that Jesus "shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him *the throne of his father David*: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end."

So Jesus' throne will be *the throne of David*. David's throne is on this earth! (Jer. 33:17). The Father's throne is in heaven. During the millennium, the saints shall sit with Christ on the throne of David and rule the nations of this earth.

Not only will Christ rule over the house of Jacob forever, as Gabriel said, but it is also written: "Thou art my son; this day have I begotten thee. Ask of me, and I shall give thee *the heathen* for thine inheritance, and the uttermost parts of the earth for thy possession. Thou shalt break them with a rod of iron; thou shalt dash them in pieces like a potter's vessel" (Psalm 2:7-9).

Here the Psalmist says that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, will do the very same things that He promised those in the first resurrection shall do. Of course, for the saints shall rule WITH HIM and

carry out His will and authority over the nations. This is when the Kingdom will be *restored* to Israel and when Christ shall rule the house of Jacob on the throne of David (Acts 1:6).

When the Kingdom of God is established on earth, *then* we shall have peace—and not until then. Yes, a wonderful UTOPIA is coming in the WORLD TOMORROW!

If all these scriptures are not proof enough that we shall reign with Christ *on this earth*, and not in heaven, during the millennium, then turn to Revelation 5:9. The proper translation of this verse, from the original Greek, is that Christ purchased with His blood "men of every tribe, and tongue, and people, and nation, and madest them a kingdom and priests to our God; and THEY SHALL REIGN UPON THE EARTH."

Here it is in the plainest of language. The saints shall reign, *not* in heaven, but *on the earth*. Do you believe what the Bible says?

HOW and WHEN Jesus Returns to Earth

In Acts 1:9-11 the account of Jesus' departure nineteen hundred years ago is given. "While they beheld, he was taken up; and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they looked steadfastly toward heaven as he went up, behold, two men . . . said, Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven*."

How did Jesus leave? He ascended from the Mount of Olives and was received by the clouds of heaven. And He is going to return *in like manner*. Let's find a scripture explaining this.

In Revelation 19 we read that, at the second coming of Christ, all nations are gathered to battle against Jerusalem. This same time, the second coming of Christ, is described in Zechariah 14:1-3. It is in the Day of the Lord when all nations are warring against Jerusalem.

"THEN shall the Lord go forth, and fight against those nations . . . AND HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES" (Zech. 14:3,4).

Notice it. Jesus is coming in the

clouds of heaven (Rev. 1:7) and shall fight against the nations AND HIS FEET SHALL STAND IN THAT DAY UPON THE MOUNT OF OLIVES which is *on this earth*. It does *not* say that Jesus will stand on the Mount a thousand years later, *but in that day* as He returns to receive the throne of David and to rule the nations with a rod of iron.

He Remains ON THE EARTH

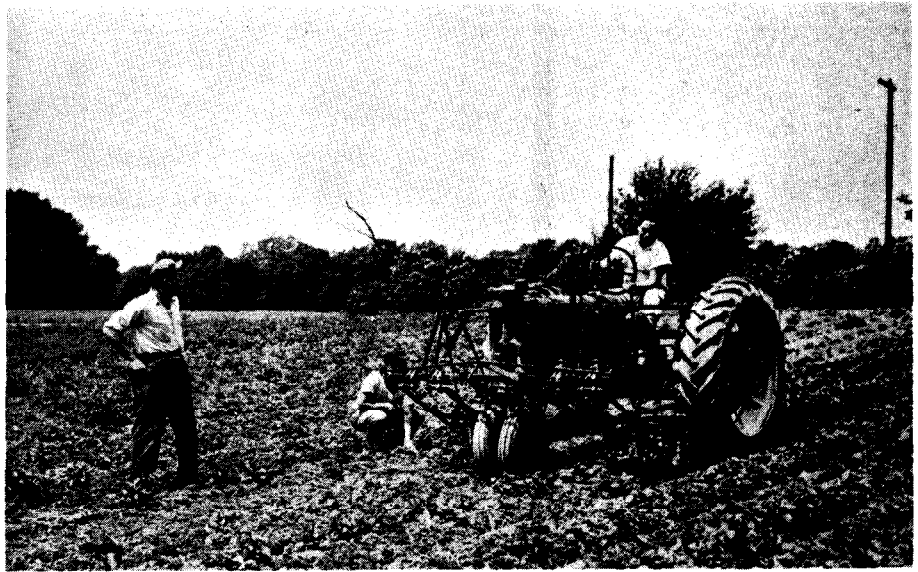
When Jesus returns to earth, the saints will be with Him—they will “ever be with the Lord.” He comes in the clouds of this earth’s atmosphere where-in they meet Him and then accompany Him *to this earth*. That is where the saints *shall be*.

But some contend that we return to heaven immediately. The Bible nowhere teaches any such doctrine. Let’s continue reading what Zechariah wrote.

“And it shall be *in that day* [notice, it is still the same day, not seven years or a thousand years later], that living waters [salvation] shall go out from Jerusalem . . . in summer and in winter shall it be. And the Lord shall be king over ALL THE EARTH . . . and the land shall be turned as a plain . . . AND INHABITED . . . And *men shall dwell in it*, and there shall be no more utter destruction; but Jerusalem shall be safely *inhabited*” (Zechariah 14:8-11). Here is the promise of the coming Utopia.

In the day that Christ returns, not a thousand years later, but *in that very day*, when the nations that battled against Jerusalem are subdued, the land shall be inhabited and MEN SHALL LIVE THERE. And the Gentile nations, after their *entire armies* have been destroyed (Zech. 14:12-15), shall come to serve Jesus Christ. “And it shall come to pass, that *every one that is left* of all the nations which came against Jerusalem shall even go up *from year to year* to worship the King, the Lord of hosts, and to keep the feast of Tabernacles” (Zech. 14:16).

The people *that shall be left* are going to worship the Lord year by year in Jerusalem, which is on this earth, not in heaven. The Lord shall be King over all *the earth*. (Zech. 14:9). The next verses show Him punishing nations for disobedience. The saints are also going to judge and correct the nations as they sit with Jesus on His throne.



—Wide World Photo

The young republic of Israel is noted for her agricultural crops—citrus fruits, wheat, olives, melons, grapes, figs and tomatoes. This photo shows a husky teen-ager sitting at the wheel of a modern tractor pulling a disc harrow in a field which not long ago was arid wasteland. Here is a minute foretaste of the utopian World Tomorrow.

None of these events can occur *before* the thousand years, and none can occur in heaven because there are no disobedient nations there.

Neither will disobedient nations be in the New Earth *after* the millennium. Therefore these events must happen DURING THE MILLENNIUM AND ON THIS EARTH. These are the plain statements of Scripture.

The Earth Is Not to Be Desolate

In the book of Isaiah, chapter 24, there are verses which some seize upon in a feeble effort to contradict the plain statements of Scripture. These verses are quite often misquoted to substantiate theories of men. The time setting of this chapter is near the *beginning* of the millennium period. The first verse is often quoted as: “Behold, the Lord maketh the earth empty, and maketh it waste, and turneth it upside down. . . .”

Just quoting this much, one is left with the impression that there are no inhabitants on the earth, that the millennium will be a period of complete desolation. But why not quote the whole verse? What does God mean by the earth being made empty? Did He mean that there are no inhabitants?

NOT AT ALL! Let’s not stop at this verse, as some denominations do, but continue reading this entire chapter.

What will God do? He “scattereth abroad *the inhabitants thereof*. And it shall be, as with *the people*, so with the priest; as with the servant, so with the master . . . The *land* shall be utterly emptied, and utterly spoiled . . . The haughty *people of the earth* do languish . . . *They that dwell therein are desolate*: therefore *the inhabitants of the earth* are burned, and FEW MEN LEFT.”

Read this *entire* twenty-fourth chapter of Isaiah. It shows the punishments to be meted out on this earth just prior to the *beginning* of the thousand years—the complete destruction of civilization and “*few men left*.”

A Utopia can come only when international gangsters in high offices are removed from their seats of power and when their armies are wiped out.

Remember also what Zechariah said about *those who shall be left*. They shall go up to Jerusalem from year to year and worship the Eternal who shall be King over all the earth. Isaiah says that those few who are left “shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord (verse 14) . . . when the Lord of hosts shall reign in mount Zion, and in Jerusalem.” (verse 23). Yes, Christ will reign in Jerusalem, not heaven, and there will be inhabitants who shall REPOPULATE the earth.

Again Jeremiah 4:23-31 is often lift-

ed out of its context and misapplied to the thousand years. If you will study the book of Jeremiah from the beginning you will notice that these verses are NOT referring to the thousand years. The prophet warns Judah that Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon is coming "to make **THY LAND DESOLATE**; and **THY CITIES** shall be laid waste without an inhabitant" (verse 7). This is speaking of Judah, not the whole earth. The "**WHOLE LAND SHALL BE DESOLATE; YET WILL I NOT MAKE A FULL END**" (verse 27).

The same word in the original Hebrew is often used to mean either "earth" or "land." It actually should be translated "land" in verse twenty-three, because God is speaking of the land of Judah. It shows, too, that there are Gentiles still on the earth who will *not* be allowed by God to make a full end of Judah, even though they desolate the *land* completely. Verse twenty-nine shows that not a man shall dwell in the cities. Why? Because there are no human beings on the earth? No! But because *whole cities shall flee* before the horsemen of the Gentiles.

This prophecy is NOT referring to the millennium.

Together with these two misquoted texts, people who hate God's Utopia turn to II Thess. 1:8 and 2:8.

The first of these verses is speaking of angels who will take vengeance on those that know not God and obey not the gospel. It is *assumed* that this text says that *all people* will be destroyed, but it *doesn't* say that. It is *only* those who refuse to obey that will perish. But there will be many other Gentiles who shall repent of their wrong ways and admit that their "fathers have inherited lies" (Jer. 16:19).

The other verse often mentioned (II Thess. 2:8) nowhere speaks of ALL THE WICKED. It mentions "THAT WICKED" whom Christ shall destroy, "even HIM, whose coming is after the working of Satan" (verse 9). So it is not all the wicked, but one person, even *him*, that is to be destroyed. This Wicked one is that false prophet whose destruction is described in Revelation 19:20.

None of the preceding texts describe an earth without inhabitants for a thousand years. But some people just don't

want to believe the plain statements in God's Word!

WHAT Will the Millennium Be Like?

Isaiah 11 tells us of the Millennium. The Gentiles are going to seek God

(verse 10) and Israel and Judah are going to be gathered **THE SECOND TIME** from the heathen nations (verse 11). This could not be speaking of any "spiritual Israel." The last verses in this chapter speak of men crossing rivers and highways as they leave the Gentile nations and return the second time to the land of promise.

This is the time spoken of by Paul. "Blindness in part is happened to Israel, *until* the fulness of the Gentiles be come in. And so all Israel shall be saved: as it is written, There shall come out of Sion the Deliverer, and shall turn away ungodliness from Jacob: for this is my covenant unto them, when I shall take away their sins" (Romans 11:25-27).

Here is GOOD NEWS! Here is part of the gospel message. Blindness is happened to Israel, *not forever*, but *until* the full number of Gentiles who are to be converted in this age comes into the Kingdom. Then Israel shall be forgiven and the vast majority of Gentiles shall seek God.

Returning to Isaiah 11, verse 4: Christ "shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked." At this very time *when* He is punishing the wicked and "reproving with equity the meek of the earth"—at this very time, notice it—"the wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid . . . and a little child shall lead them. And the lion shall eat straw like the ox. And the *sucking child* shall play on the hole of the asp, and the *weaned child* shall put his hand on the adder's den. They shall not hurt nor destroy in all my holy mountain: for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea" (Isaiah 11:6-9).

This is a real Utopia.

This can't be in heaven. There are no wicked human beings in heaven. Children are not being suckled and weaned in heaven.

AND THIS CAN'T BE IN THE NEW EARTH BECAUSE THERE WILL BE NO WICKED PERSONS THERE (Rev. 21:1-4). These events must occur *on this earth* during the millennium. It can't happen in heaven, nor in the New Earth, nor

(Please continue on page 18)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of **The WORLD TOMORROW!**

TO THE U.S. & CANADA

- WABC—New York—770 on dial—11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.; 10:30 A.M., Sun., Eastern time.
- WLS — Chicago — 890 on dial — 11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.; 8:30 Sunday night.
- WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—Sundays, 11:15 P.M. Eastern time. 10:00 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.
- WRVA—Richmond, Va.—1140 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time.
- XELO—800 on dial, every night, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 P.M. Mountain Standard time.)
- XEG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30 P.M. Central Standard time.
- WCAE — Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—4:00 P.M. Sundays.
- WXYZ—Detroit, Mich.—1270 on dial—1:30 P.M. Sundays.

HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

- XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 P.M. every night.
- KARM — Fresno—1430 k.c.—9:00 P.M. Daily.
- KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—7:30 A.M. daily. 9:30 A.M. Sunday.
- KPDQ — Portland — 800 on dial — 8:30 A.M. daily.
- KUGN — Eugene — 590 k.c. — 7:00 P.M. Sun. thru Fri.
- KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. every night.

TO ALL OF EUROPE

RADIO LUXEMBOURG
Mondays: 23:30 Greenwich time

TO ASIA & AFRICA

- RADIO CEYLON
Tuesday: 10:15-10:45 P.M. India-Pakistan Beam and Ceylon Beam.
Wednesday: 11:30-12:00 noon African Beam. 5:15-5:45 P.M. S.E. Asia Beam.
- RADIO FORMOSA
Wednesday: 5:50-6:20 P.M.
- RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES
Saturday: 10:00-10:30 P.M.

What Is MAN?

**How can you PROVE what happens to man at death?
Does man inherently have eternal life abiding in him?**

by Herbert W. Armstrong

MAN KNOWS what other things are—the things around him, *but he knows very little about himself.*

Almost nobody knows what man is. Man devotes himself, it seems, to learning about almost everything *except himself.* And so, we find this world today steeped in various and contradicting beliefs derived from fallible human reasoning.

The Common Assumption

The ancient pagans taught, and it has continued to be taught for many, many centuries, that man is a spiritual being—that he really is an immortal soul which is composed of spirit—and that this immortal soul is housed in what you might call a house of flesh—that the human body is merely the house we dwell in, or the cloak we put around us temporarily—and that the real you is not the body, but an immortal, invisible soul, and yet a soul that knows, that thinks, that hears, that sees, and that will live on consciously forever.

Then, the theory is, that at death, you leave the body, you go to a heaven, or a hell, or a purgatory, or a "happy hunting ground" of some kind. Others teach that the body merely goes to the grave. Many others believe in some phase of the doctrine of the transmigration of souls, that you, yourself, after death will become, perhaps, a butterfly, a mosquito, a fly, or a dog, or something perhaps in the plant kingdom.

There is no authority for any of these beliefs. *Nobody has ever provably come back from such a place or such a condition to tell us about it.*

Unless there is a Supreme God Who is the Creator, Who created us all, and unless such a divine, supreme, superior intelligence Who is the Creator exists, and unless such a personal, divine Being has revealed His knowledge to us, *then there is no way whatsoever that man can know.*

You will find that one religion be-

lieves one thing, another believes something altogether different. Even in this Western world of professing Christianity, one denomination believes one thing, and another sect believes something entirely and altogether different.

And since these various religions are combinations of various beliefs put together, each in a different way, CAN ANY OF THEM BE RIGHT?

Unless there be such a God, and unless there is some divine Revelation from that God revealing the truth in all of its purity, THEN YOU HAVE NO BASIS WHATSOEVER FOR ANY KNOWLEDGE OR BELIEF AS TO WHAT YOU REALLY ARE.

There Is a God Who Reveals What Man Is

I have proved to you in previous articles that there is such a God, the supreme Intelligence. I have proved to you that the religious writings of Christianity, the inspired Holy Bible, is that divine revelation from God.

Unless God is speaking through that Book, and reveals what is the truth, you have no basis for knowing what you are, or for that matter, what the laws of life are, and what makes for happiness or discontent, fear, and worry. No other book, none of the other religious writings, the Sacred Writings, or the Scriptures of any other religion quote any such God who is able to foretell all of the future, to pronounce sentence on nations, on cities, on great states, and even whole empires, and to bring it to pass. No other God is able to foretell their future for thousands of years and to bring it about so that it occurs. No other religious writing shows a God with such power, with such authority, Who has demonstrated by actual history the power and the authority that He wields.

The infallible authority of the Bible stands absolutely proved. If you have not read my booklets about this subject, I want you to write in for the proof,

because I have it now in printed form, "Does God Exist?" Can you prove that the Holy Bible is the inspired revelation of the Creator God Who created not only matter, but all force and all energy, yes, and even all life, and all the physical laws of nature that exist, and Who sits at the controls, Who sustains and upholds the universe by His very power, and Who DOES DETERMINE the outcome of all struggles with nations, with empires, and with the whole world, because He created it all. God rules all. He is the Most High, the Supreme Ruler. The world seems to have forgotten that, until God is not real to this world anymore.

Unless you can believe what is in the Holy Bible, then you have no source of belief whatsoever. It's the Bible, then—OR NOTHING.

The Bible does *not* reveal the ideas that men have come to in various religions. The Bible does *not* reveal any such thing as an immortal soul in a house or in a body of flesh, though I know many men have tried to read such a meaning into the Bible.

What is the truth?

Science Reveals Only Part of the Secret

Consider the proofs of science, whatever they may be in this regard, and then secondly, the truth of the Scripture.

Now science deals with the material universe, with only matter—material substance. Science knows of no life apart from matter. No scientific authority believes that life in plants or animals is a separate entity which may exist apart from, or outside of the matter of a flower, or of a plant, or an animal. Science has demonstrated that all living substance, or matter, arises only from other substance already living. The Law of Biogenesis proves that life comes only from life. When life ceases, it is dead matter. Nothing is more certainly proved by science than

the utter impossibility of the appearance of life in a resurrection through any powers inherent within itself.

There is the reproductive process, reproduction in plants, and reproduction in animals and humans. But there is no way to extend the life of that particular individual, and nothing inherent within the individual that can bring life back to it after death, or any resurrection of life in any manner whatsoever, that is inherent within the plant, the animal, or the human being.

All living matter, then, is mortal matter, with a temporary existence. Flesh is matter, and man is flesh.

What about this doctrine, then, of the immortality of the soul? Science has never found any such soul within any man.

THERE IS NO WAY THAT SCIENCE CAN OBSERVE ANY SUCH THING. There are no scientific evidences whatsoever of any such thing as an immortal soul that leaves the body at death, and that departs with all the store of knowledge that has been accumulated in the lifetime, a soul that can think, can see, can hear, taste, smell, and reason, or talk apart from the human body. There is absolutely no evidence of it whatever in the realm of science.

So now, let's see what the Bible actually says.

If we can believe, then, what the Holy Scripture reveals, we may have a basis of knowing. If you can't, you have no basis whatsoever for knowledge of this most important of all subjects.

What the Bible Reveals

In the Bible, Jesus Christ, the very Son of the Living God, is quoted as saying under inspiration in John 3:6, "That which is born of the flesh is flesh." That's what it is. "And that which is born of the Spirit is spirit." He said that man is born of flesh. That's what man is. And then again, "Except a man be born" of the Holy Spirit of God, "he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

Jesus Christ taught that man can enter into the very family, the very Kingdom of God, BUT HE MUST BE BORN OVER AGAIN. He has been born once, and he is flesh. He must be born again, as a spirit being—this time, born of God. Then he shall become spirit.

That's what Jesus Christ was saying in John 3:6-8. Man is flesh, not spirit. Man is *not* a spiritual entity, but flesh, pure and simple.

In Genesis 3:19 God said to Adam, "For dust thou art." He said this *to the man*. He said, "In the sweat of thy face shalt thou eat bread, till THOU return unto the ground; for out of it wast THOU taken"—not just the man's body. He said, "For dust THOU art, and unto dust shalt thou return," and the THOU was the conscious man to whom He was speaking.

He didn't say "your body," He said, "THOU."

Man Is a Soul

In Genesis 2:7, we read this: "And the Eternal God formed *man* of the dust of the ground." Now man was formed, but of what substance? Out of what was he made? Man was formed "of the dust of the ground," *not* out of spirit. Next, God "breathed into his nostrils the breath of life"—air that goes in and out of the nostrils—and "man became a living soul." It does not say that God put inside of him an immortal soul. God put the breath of life into him, that is, air, or wind, and *man became a mortal soul*. So man *is* a soul, not that he *has* a soul. HE IS A SOUL.

In the 146th Psalm, verses 3 and 4, notice: "Put not your trust in princes, nor in the son of man, in whom there is no help. His breath goeth forth, HE returneth to his earth." It doesn't say "his body." *He*, it is *he*, that returns to his earth; "in that very day his thoughts perish." He doesn't think anymore. In that same day he quits thinking. His thoughts perish. *He* goes to the earth. His breath goes forth.

What God gave at creation is the breath. God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. Then the breath leaves him at death. *He*, not just the body, but *he* returns to dust. Dust *he* is, to dust *he* returns.

That's the teaching of your Bible! That's the teaching of the very Book that is proved to be the Word of the God who is proved to exist!

Now turn to the 104th Psalm, the 29th verse: "Thou hidest thy face, they are troubled: thou takest away their breath, they die, and return to their

dust." The breath, is what God gave. The breath goes forth at death. God takes away the breath. *He*, the person, dies. *He* returns to the dust, and simply becomes dust again.

Next turn to the book of Ecclesiastes, chapter 3, the 19th on to the 21st verses: "For that which befalleth the sons of men," — human beings — "befalleth beasts." God is speaking here of men and animals. "Even one thing befalleth them: as the one dieth, so dieth the other: yea, they have all one breath." The same breath in the nostrils of animals is in the nostrils of every human being.

Continuing, "So that a man hath no preeminence above a beast: for all is vanity. *All go unto one place*,"—that's both man and beast—"all are of the dust, and all turn to the dust again." And that's man and animal alike.

The Bible continues with a question: "Who knoweth that the spirit of man,"—here the English word "spirit" is from the same Hebrew word that has been translated "breath" "air" or "wind," in the other passages already mentioned.

To continue with the question, "Who knoweth [whether] the spirit of man," that is, the breath of man, "goeth upward, and the spirit of the beast," or the breath of the beast, "goeth downward to the earth?"

Well, does anyone know of it? It's a question. Who knows it? The answer is, "Nobody does."

What Returns to God?

Now we come to the passage in the Bible that nearly everybody uses in the Christian world. Ecclesiastes 12:7: "Then shall the dust return to the earth as it was"—that's not just the body, that's the *whole* man as we have seen. "And," it continues, "the spirit shall return unto God who gave it." People take this word "spirit" to mean here an immortal soul. But the word inspired in the original Hebrew language is exactly the same word that is used elsewhere as the "breath" that is breathed into the nostrils of animals, as well as men. It is air or wind. It's the same precise word in the Hebrew language, that is the "breath" of animals. The breath of man and animals returns to the power of the God who gave it.

In the Genesis record, and just before the flood, the same word is used again [Genesis 7, verses 21 and 22]: "And all flesh died that moved upon the earth, both of fowl, and of cattle, and of beast, and of every creeping thing that creepeth upon the earth, and every man." Notice, animals and men are put together, "All in whose nostrils was the breath of life." The same word is used here for "breath" that is translated "spirit" in Ecclesiastes 12. "Of all that was in the dry land, died." They all had the same breath. That's what God gave when they were born. They all die *when the breath leaves them*. There it is!

The Bible absolutely refutes the idea of the immortality of the soul. What God gave at birth is the breath. He breathed into the nostrils of animals and of man alike—breath. The breath leaves them, they die. They return to dust.

What Is the LIFE of Man?

The spirit of mortal man here is his breath. And what is the function of the breath?

First, the breath goes into your lungs. The blood flows through the lungs on the way back to the heart as it is pumped through the veins, and the arteries, and the body. And the breath, the air, the oxygen in the air oxidizes the blood. That creates a burning, an energy that keeps up the body heat that gives you energy, that produces life. **THE LIFE IS IN THE BLOOD, AND THE BLOOD NEEDS THE BREATH OF LIFE TO KEEP IT ACTIVE AND ALIVE.** The life, however, is in the blood.

In the 9th chapter of Genesis, the 4th verse, you read this, "But flesh with the life thereof, *which is the blood thereof*, shall ye not eat." This verse explains that we are not to eat blood. It condemns our eating the blood of animals.

Now man is flesh and blood. He is flesh that has life by blood. His life is in the blood, oxidized by the breath of life, not by an immortal soul.

How to Gain Immortality

We find in I Corinthians 15:50: "Now this I say . . . that flesh and blood," that's a mortal man, "cannot inherit the kingdom of God." Jesus

Christ talked about the Kingdom of God and being born again, born into that Kingdom. He said in effect, "You can't enter that Kingdom as long as you are mortal flesh." And here, flesh and blood—that's what we are—cannot inherit the Kingdom of God. No, we can only be an heir to eternal life now in this life. "Neither doth corruption inherit incorruption. Behold, I shew you a mystery; we shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trump: for the trumpet shall sound, and the dead shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed." Paul is speaking here of a resurrection from the dead, and an instantaneous changing of those who are alive at that time. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality."

You don't have immortality now. That is the teaching of the Bible from Genesis to Revelation! That is why we must be born again!

There is a future life. But that life lies *in a resurrection*, not in an immortal soul. *It lies in A NEW BIRTH as an immortal spirit being in the very family of God.*

Thank God, the life after death that is offered to man is not to become some dumb animal, a fly or a mosquito, by transmigration, or anything of that sort!

God Almighty offers man His glorious grace to elevate man high above all animals, even above the angel kingdom, into the very Kingdom of God, the very creative Kingdom above all. That is the opportunity that God Almighty offers to everyone of you.

It is not a reforming of some immortal soul that the great Creator God offers to you or to me. *It is a new birth* onto a far higher plane, being born of the Spirit Who is God, born of God, a very child of God, born into the Family of God, the Kingdom of God. Oh, how incomparably more wonderful is that than the false ideas of man's reasoning.

Who Has Immortality?

And yet, many twist all of these Bible passages about death to apply to the body, clinging to their idea of an immortal soul which is nothing but a fallacy. There are no such words in

the Bible as an "immortal soul." The word *immortal* occurs ONLY ONCE in all the Bible. That's in I Timothy 1:17. There it refers to Christ as the King who is made immortal, who *now* is immortal, and very God, made immortal God by a resurrection from the dead as you read in Romans.

The word *immortality* in the English language occurs five times in the Bible. *First*, God only has it, not man. That's in I Timothy 6:16. *Second*, Christ brought it to light through the gospel, so that man can have it, *and put it on in a resurrection*. That's II Timothy 1:10.

We are also told that we must seek for it. You don't seek for what you already have. It's something we don't have. It's THE GIFT OF GOD, Romans 2:7.

The 4th and 5th places are in I Corinthians 15:50-54. The righteous, those who have salvation, are changed from mortal to immortal. They come under God's grace, put immortality on at the resurrection—*by the resurrection from the dead*—and not before.

Did Adam Have Immortality?

Was man created immortal in the very beginning?

Notice Genesis 3:22. This is the story of the very first man and woman that God created.

It says, "And the Eternal God said, 'Behold, the man is become as one of us, to know good and evil,'"—that's after the man had disobeyed God. God is the Supreme Ruler. God put this first man and his wife, the woman He made for him, in a beautiful garden in Eden.

And God spoke to the man, and He "commanded the man, saying, 'Of every tree of the garden thou mayest freely eat: but of the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, thou shalt not eat of it.'" God didn't give that to the man. That belonged to Him. "For in the day that thou eatest thereof thou shalt surely die."

The man was mortal, or he would not have been able to die. Yet God said "*You will die.*" The man was *created mortal*.

Along came a devil in the guise of a serpent. He beguiled the woman into reaching out and taking the forbidden

(Please continue on next page)

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

So many ask: "How can you publish a magazine, without subscription price, and without advertising?"

The answer is simple. The GOSPEL must go to the whole world, and it must go FREE. It must not be sold like merchandise. "Freely ye have received," Jesus said to His disciples whom He was sending to proclaim the Gospel, "Freely GIVE." Without money and without price, is God's way. We proclaim a FREE salvation. Therefore, we cannot put a PRICE upon the PLAIN TRUTH.

We have been called of God to conduct this work. It is not our work, but God's. We have set out to conduct God's work God's way. We rely, in FAITH, upon God's promises to supply every need.

God's way is the way of LOVE—and that is the way of *giving*, not getting. God expects every true child of His to GIVE of tithes and offerings that His work may go FREE—that His true ministers may GIVE the precious Gospel to others. We simply TRUST GOD to lay it on the minds and hearts of His people to give of their tithes and offerings that we may be enabled to GIVE the good things of God's Word to the hundreds of thousands who hear the Message over the air, and the scores of thousands who read The PLAIN TRUTH.

Many times our faith has been severely tried, but God has never failed us. We must not fail HIM!

(Continued from page 9)

fruit by lust and vanity, and stealing what was not hers, having another god before the true God. This amounted to rebellion, disobedience, dishonoring her only parent. She gave it to her husband, and he did eat, willingly and knowingly.

Now God said, ". . . Man is become as one of us, to know good and evil: and now, lest he put forth his hand, and take also of the tree of life," that is immortal life, lest he gain eternal life, "and eat, and live for ever,"—lest he live forever—"therefore the Eternal God sent him forth from the garden of Eden to till the ground from whence he was taken." So he drove out the man from all access to immortality, "and he placed at the east of the garden of Eden cherubim, and a flaming sword which turned every way, to keep the way of the tree of life." Why? *Lest he go back and gain eternal life.*

You see very plainly man had no immortality. The man did not have immortality at all. Adam had no "immortal soul" either!

No Immortal Soul!

The Hebrew word for *soul* is *nephesh*. In Genesis, three times it applies to fish, fowl, and creeping things *before it is used to apply to man*. In other words, *animals*, then, *are souls*, the same as men. *They are not immortal*. That means the soul is not immortal.

Notice what the Bible says in Ezekiel 18:4, "Behold, all souls are mine; as the soul of the father, so also the soul of the son is mine: *the soul that sin-*

neth, it shall die." The soul that sins—or disobeys the laws that God Almighty gave in His great love for us—the soul that does that shall die! So *a soul is mortal*. It is also mentioned in the 20th verse. Twice your Bible says the soul is mortal! *It shall die!*

No part of man is immortal, according to the Holy Bible. That is proved to be the very Word of God by I John 3:15, "Whosoever hateth his brother is a murderer." Now in time of war, there are millions upon millions of soldiers who hate their enemy brothers across the lines, and most of the people back home supporting them learn to do the same thing. Thus most of the people on earth come to hate their brothers, "And you know that *no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him.*" That's almost everybody on earth.

Now a man that just hates his brother is certainly flesh and blood, and it says that he does not have eternal life. No such person has eternal life abiding in him. If he had an immortal soul in him, he would have eternal life abiding in him, but he has no such thing abiding in him any where.

That is why God said: "In the day that you eat thereof you shall surely die." God meant that the man was mortal. Man has merely a temporary existence, and *no hope of future life inherent within himself*. God gives him that hope as His gift, but man does not possess it apart from God.

Flesh is mortal. Flesh is matter. Spirit, however, is immortal. In II Corinthians 4:18 you read that the invisible things that are spiritual are eternal, but man is mortal. The only hope of ever having eternal life and living past this life is thru a new birth, from new life that can be imparted to us from God. That is not imparted at our natural birth, but is imparted during and thruout our lifetime if we have repented, believed, and been baptized. It comes fully *at a resurrection*, and by a resurrection from the dead. And it's God's great gift—a new life from God, a birth, not of human parents, nor from human parents, but from God, Who only has immortality to give.

This is the greatest hope of all life. It is the greatest fact in life. There is no salvation, there is no hope, there is no eternal life unless or until you re-

ceive the begettal of the Holy Spirit of and from God as His gift. But there are terms and conditions.

God Sets the Conditions

In Romans 8:9-11 we read: "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." He's not a Christian. "But if the Spirit of Him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, He that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken"—that means make immortal—"your mortal bodies by His Spirit that dwelleth in you."

Christ brought this colossal message from God. He said in effect, "Repent of disobedience to God's rule, and God's laws." He said, "Believe in Jesus Christ. Believe the message that He brought about the Kingdom of God, and how we may be born into it, and about God's rule and government. Then you shall receive this very gift of the Holy Spirit which is immortal life inherent, or the presence of it within you—the very life, the very nature, the very character of God, the very love of God in your heart."

If you then overcome through a life of overcoming and growing in grace and knowledge of God, you shall be made immortal at the second coming of Christ, by a resurrection from the dead, or, if you are living, and if you exist at that time—as most of you probably will because we are coming right now to that time—you shall be changed to immortal spirit and live forever.

* * * *

Be sure that cannot be right that a man is the worse for having.

—WILLIAM PENN

The WORLD TOMORROW heard in Australia!

2CH—Sidney—Sat., 10:15 P.M.
2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 P.M.
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.
4TO—Towns—Fri., 10:15 P.M.
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.
4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 P.M.

Religious REVIVAL in This 20th Century?

Is the present increased interest in religion leading to a genuine spiritual revival? Read the surprising answer given in your BIBLE!

by Roderick C. Meredith

THOUSANDS have supposedly been "converted" in the last few years through attending numerous "revival meetings."

But how long do they *stay* converted?

Church attendance is UP! Yet ministers of all denominations fear that the reawakened interest in God and the hereafter is only the result of the fact we are now living in the shadow of death—the daily threat of *hydrogen bomb warfare* and human extinction!

On the surface, this looks good for the cause of Christ. *But . . .*

Is it a Genuine Revival?

Many ministers themselves are frankly dubious about the outcome of this "revival" of religious interest. They see that all too often the increased attendance in churches and evangelistic meetings is not a result of increased interest in the true worship and service of the Creator God.

It is the result of professional *advertising methods* which use cheap crowd psychology to hold and dispense a "cut-rate, easy to take, fast-action" type of "gospel."

How deep, do you think, are the religious convictions of those who worship their God by attending "drive-in" church services where people sit in their cars to hear the sermon, take no direct part in the spiritual fellowship, and where many do not even bother to dress properly to attend?

But the most distressing factor in many of these "converts" is *the astonishing lack of knowledge of what their new-found "religion" is all about.*

A prominent religious educator recently reported that between 1949 and 1953 Americans bought *ten million* Bibles, "but 53 per cent of the people could not name the first four books of the Bible."



—Wide World Photo

Here you see Londoners surrounding the speaker's stand on all four sides during an Easter week-end meeting and speech by American Evangelist Billy Graham. People are increasingly becoming interested in religion.

True Christianity is the religion founded by Jesus Christ. It would be well to refresh our memory of the first recorded instruction of Jesus in the Bible: "Man shall not *live* by bread alone, but by EVERY WORD that proceedeth out of the mouth of God" (Matt. 4:4).

How can people call themselves "saved"—HOW can they feel that they are truly "converted" to Christ when they either *neglect* or *refuse to obey* even this first and most basic command of the One they call their Lord?

Results of Religious "Revivals"

When you compare the *results* of this apparent upsurge in religion to the standards set by Jesus Christ, you can see that *something is terribly LACKING!*

People are not following the example of the early Berean Christians (Acts 17:

11) who listened to what Paul preached with an open mind, and then went home "*and searched the scriptures daily, WHETHER those things were so.*" Instead most of today's "converts" just ASSUME that whatever they hear preached must be sound Biblical doctrine. They do *not* PROVE it by God's Word.

In fact, even after individuals have been supposedly "converted" for years, they still remain in almost total IGNORANCE of the spiritual knowledge contained in the Bible.

What kind of "converts" are these?

One outstanding fact is that these "Christians" are all split up into *over four hundred* competing denominations and sects in the United States alone. Since they obviously have not *studied* the Bible to find out GOD'S teaching—then most of them must be following

various contradictory teachings of *men*.

After all, there is only ONE Bible teaching on any doctrine. "One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all, and through all, and *in* you all"—(Eph. 4:5-6). But God apparently leads them *over four hundred DIFFERENT ways* at once! Does this make sense?

No, it doesn't. And neither does the fact that although *church attendance has increased* in recent years—and the "influence" of organized churchianity is admittedly stronger, yet the *crime rate* has also risen *higher* and HIGHER!

It is a common thing nowadays to read about ministers, deacons, church secretaries, Sunday school teachers, evangelists, and others in "Christian" work being thrown in jail or fined for theft, adultery, perjury and numerous other crimes.

The "fruits" of denominationalism *don't look good*.

Where "Modernism" Leads

Religious "modernism" *denies* the virgin birth and physical resurrection of Christ, in actual fact *denies* the existence of a *real* GOD who *created* this universe and who now *sustains* it through His power, and who *can* and *WILL supernaturally intervene* in the affairs of men. The significance and the SCANDAL of this false doctrine is totally lost to most professing Christians.

Organized churchianity has become engulfed in "modern" teachings that would have instantly been branded as *flagrant HERESY* by the early apostles of Christ! It has been so involved in trying to "reconcile" the teachings of Christ with modern *ideas of men*—so bent on *creating* an acceptable "god" out of its own collective imagination—that the true CREATOR GOD who RULES this universe seems far, far away—like the vague, general, hazy memory of a long-forgotten dream.

Naturally, the collective morals of a people, influenced by the teachings of such "modernist" churches as this, will not be helped much, if any. To such people, God seems far off and unreal. Or, in some cases, their "god" is something *inside of THEM*. In plain language, *they* become a "god"!

These people—using *human reason*

—then put *themselves* as the judges of right and wrong. Thus, they proceed to do what "seems" right to *them*. They arrogate to themselves the divine prerogatives which belong *only* to the Supreme Personality of the Universe, the All-Wise, All-Powerful, Ever-Ruling one true GOD!

This is the kind of teaching which has been sweeping many of our big "popular" denominations for over fifty years! This is the kind of doctrine the "educated" people seem to go for. It appeals to their *intellectual vanity*.

This damnable doctrine makes veritable "gods" out of mixed-up, misguided, vain, puny *men*! Even an elementary perusal of the teachings, the beliefs, and the *practices* of Jesus of Nazareth should convince anyone that "modernist" doctrines are as FAR as it is *possible* to get from the message Jesus taught.

The increased influence of the ministers and denominations teaching these modernist doctrines based on human psychology, thinking positive thoughts (*while denying the Law of God*), and calling on the inner strength of the "god" inside of themselves—all this would NOT be considered by Jesus

Christ as a "revival" of true religion.

What About the "Good Old Fashioned Revivals"?

Many people contend that there are many evangelists stomping up and down the land 'telling their audiences about the *reality* of Jesus Christ and *His shed blood* and calling upon them to "accept" Christ and be "saved."

"Come up and give your heart to the Lord tonight," they plead. "Won't you come? Come now while the Spirit is moving you. Come up and say, 'Tonight I accept Jesus Christ as my personal Savior from sin.' There's no work to it—nothing to be afraid of. Just come up and give your heart to the Lord. That's all there is to it."

The emotional quaver in the preacher's voice, the sentimental organ or piano music, the bowed heads of the congregation, the "spirit" of the moment—all combine to cause many thousands in Britain, America and Australia to "come forward" and make their "decision," or be "saved," or "give their hearts to the Lord."

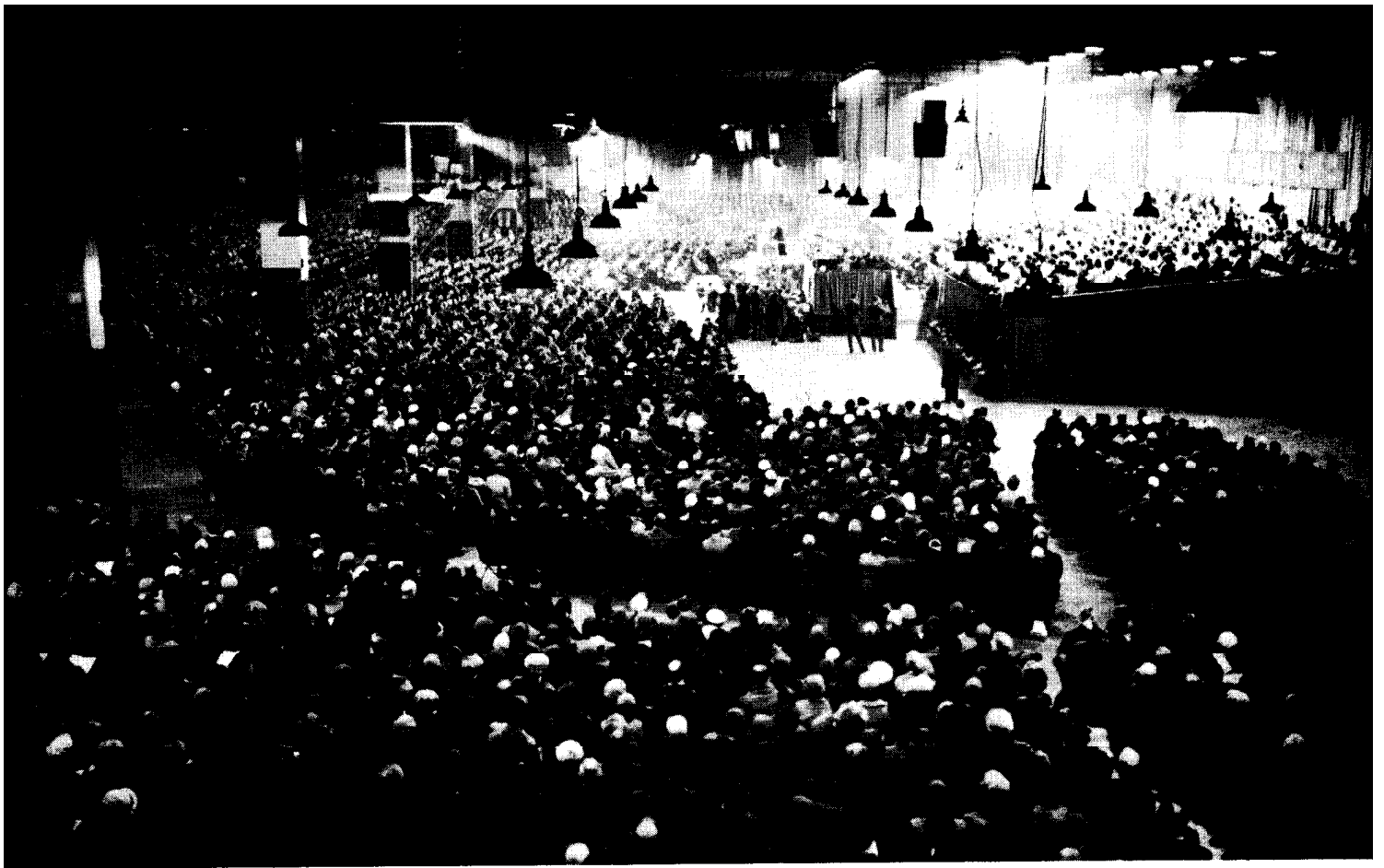
Yes, scenes like this typify the "old fashioned revival meetings," don't they?

But did you ever *honestly*—laying

The new and unconventional Epiphania Church in Frankfurt, Germany. Part of the pre-World War II church is incorporated into the new structure. The old Church was partially destroyed during the last war. Germans put industrial expansion and private housing before church reconstruction. Is this an indication that materialism comes before religion for most people?

—Wide World Photo





—Wide World Photo

This photo shows a general view of the huge choir and a selection of the vast congregation of 15,000 assembled in Glasgow, Scotland, during an evangelistic campaign. The evangelist pleaded with penitents to "make decisions for Christ." Most soon forget those "decisions."

aside prejudice and preconceived ideas—look into *God's Word* to see if Jesus Christ himself, or Peter, or Paul, or *any* of the New Testament apostles or evangelists ever employed such methods as this to get people "saved"?

The truth is that the inspired apostles and evangelists of New Testament times NEVER relied on this kind of empty preaching to save people from sin. That sounds *shocking*—but it is TRUE!

Notice what your *Bible* says. Notice what Jesus Christ taught about *becoming a Christian*. After all, *He* should know, shouldn't He?

What Jesus Taught

Jesus Christ set the example. When a man came and asked him how to inherit eternal life (Matt. 19:17), Jesus answered: "If thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*." Then Jesus proceeded to name some of *the Ten Commandments*.

In His teaching on the mount, Christ proclaimed: "Whosoever therefore shall *break* one of these LEAST COMMANDMENTS, and shall teach men so, he shall

be called the *least* in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall *do* and *teach* them (God's *Commandments*), the same shall be called *great* in the kingdom of heaven" (Matt. 5:19).

Jesus taught that OBEDIENCE to God's spiritual law as summed up in the Ten Commandments was *most necessary*. Throughout this same fifth chapter of Matthew, Jesus magnified the Ten Commandments and showed how they are to be kept in the spirit, not merely the letter.

Later, as living, acting Head of the true Church of God, Christ inspired His former human brother, the apostle James, to write: "For whosoever shall keep the *whole law*, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all. For he that said, Do not commit adultery, said also, Do not kill. Now if thou commit no adultery, yet if thou kill, thou art become a transgressor of the law" (James 2:10-11).

That is a *perfect* description of the Ten Commandments, isn't it? And it shows *clearly* and unmistakably that ALL TEN *commands* are to be *obeyed*.

Remember, this was written not later than 60 A.D.—*long* AFTER everything "nailed to the cross" was done away.

Then the inspired James continued to instruct Christians: "So *speak* ye, and so *DO*, as they that shall be *judged* by the law of liberty" (verse 12). Referring to the Ten Commandment law he has just been describing so clearly, the apostle James tells us to *DO* according to that law because we are going to be *JUDGED* by it!

Why don't the so-called "old fashioned revivalists" preach *that* kind of doctrine? Instead of just getting people sentimental about the *person* of Christ, *why*—oh *WHY*—don't they preach His God-inspired *message* of the *WAY* to real happiness, to world *peace*, and to *eternal life* through *obedience* to the basic spiritual *LAWs* that the All-Wise, All-Loving God has set in motion for our *good*?

The answer is that these preachers—and *millions* of their gullible followers—have been *DECEIVED*!

This is prophesied in literally *dozens*

of *placos* in your Bible. It is the real answer to the question of "religious revival" in our time.

Will you BELIEVE what your Bible says? Notice the answer!

Religious Apostasy Foretold

When Jesus was seated on the Mount of Olives, His disciples asked: "What shall be the sign of thy coming, and of the end of the world?"

He answered: "Take heed that no man *deceive* you. For many shall come in my name [ministers claiming to represent Christ], saying, I am Christ; and shall DECEIVE many" (Matt. 24:3-5). Here is a clear prophecy indicating that MANY—not just a few—will be *deceived* by false ministers who come preaching about the person of Christ, and saying He *is* the Christ—but obviously NOT preaching Christ's message of OBEDIENCE to the laws and ways of God Almighty!

Then Jesus prophesied of the wars, famines, and pestilences which would sweep over the earth before His return. In verse 11, He indicated that at the end of this age "MANY false prophets shall rise, and shall deceive MANY."

Notice that it is *always* the "many" who are *false prophets or preachers*—and the "many" who are to be DECEIVED.

In verses 23 and 24, Jesus describes the time at the *very end* of this age—during the Great Tribulation: "Then if any man shall say unto you, Lo, here is Christ, or there; *believe it not*. For there shall arise *false Christs*, and FALSE PROPHETS, and shall show great signs and wonders; insomuch that, if it were possible, they shall deceive the very elect."

Thank God that is *not* possible! For the true Church of God is composed of those who "keep the commandments of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (Rev. 12:17). Therefore, they will not listen to a preacher who DENIES the very *foundation* of true Christian doctrine.

The apostle Paul foretold the early falling away from truth in his inspired warning to the Ephesian elders: "For I know this, that after my departing shall *grievous wolves* enter in among you, not sparing the flock. Also of your own selves shall men arise, *speaking*

perverse things, to draw away disciples after them" (Acts 20:29-30).

Later, near the end of apostolic times, Jude wrote: "It was needful for me to write unto you, and exhort you that ye should *earnestly contend* for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. For there are *certain men crept in unawares*, who were before of old ordained to this condemnation, ungodly men, turning the grace of our God into *lasciviousness*, and *denying* the only Lord God, and our Lord Jesus Christ" (Jude 3-4).

Here the true saints are already being warned that APOSTASY has crept in! Some were already turning God's grace into *lasciviousness*—license to DISOBEY God and His righteous Law.

Believe it or not, that *same FALSE religious system* which usurped power in the organized churches after apostolic times *still* holds sway in organized churchianity in our day—*now!*

Counterfeit Religious "Revival" in our Time!

Many people somehow think that surely in these latter times a *great revival* will sweep the world before Christ comes. But they had better study their

Bibles to know what *kind* of "revival" this will be!

In his last letter, the apostle Paul wrote: "This know also, that in the last days PERILOUS times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves . . . Having a *form* of godliness, but *denying* the POWER thereof: from such turn away" (II Tim. 3:1-5).

Yes, we have a "form" of godliness today. In fact, we have *hundreds* of differing forms!

But the world is filled with the *corruption* and *violence* which Paul describes *because the professing ministers of Christ have denied the POWER and AUTHORITY of God's LAW to RULE our lives*—and the "modernists" and many others also deny the coming *supernatural intervention* of God in world affairs to GOVERN His creation!

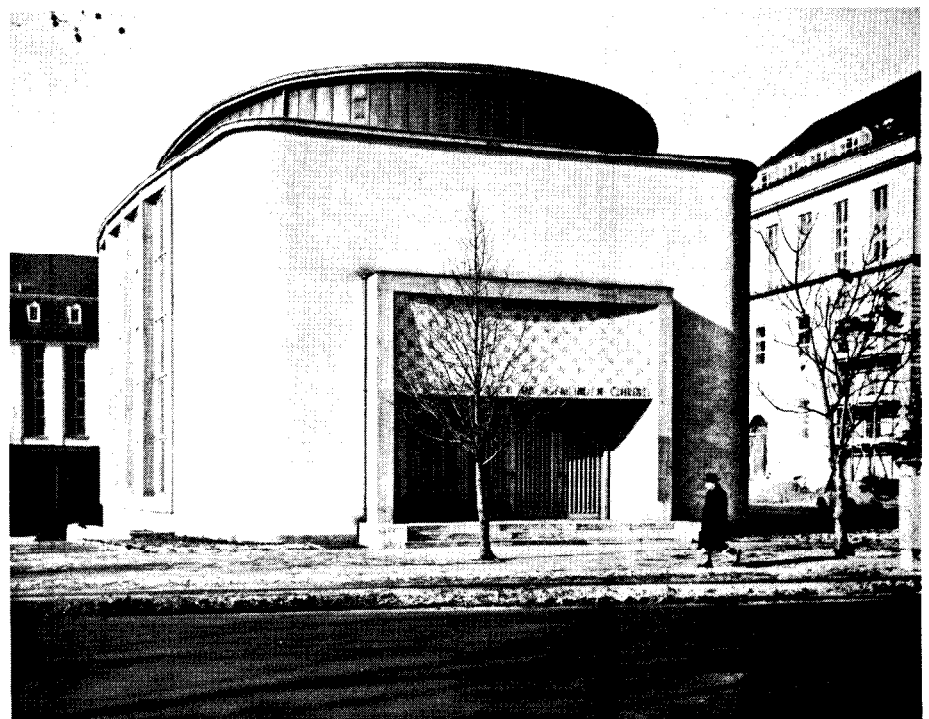
"But aren't all these revivalists and ministers going to do a lot of good?" many will ask.

The apostle Paul said NO! "But *evil men and seducers* shall wax worse and worse, DECEIVING and BEING DECEIVED" (verse 13).

Most of today's ministers are themselves DECEIVED by the false doctrines which crept into the early church after

Here is a new Methodist church in Frankfurt, Germany. It is one of the many modern-style churches built since the war. Germany, too, is having a tremendous upsurge in religion. But where is it leading?

—Wide World Photo



apostolic times and turned many away from *obedience* to the Ten Commandments and the spiritual principles based on them. Today, they have *substituted* instead the doctrines, the practices and customs of the ancient HEATHENS. They call these customs "Christian" and preach *about Christ* in connection with these *pagan* teachings which His Word CONDEMNS.

The Almighty says: "They *profess* that they know God; but *in* WORKS they DENY him, being *abominable*, and DISOBEDIENT, and unto every good work reprobate" (Titus 1:16).

"Lip service" is *not enough*. Giving your "heart" to the Lord in a *human devised* altar-call is *not enough*. You must first REPENT of all the wrong doctrines and customs which you have believed in and practiced, you must *turn away* from breaking God's Law, which is sin, and begin to LIVE by EVERY Word of God—to follow *only* those doctrines and customs which you find Christ and the apostles taught and observed *in your Bible*.

You do NOT hear *this* kind of preaching in most of today's "revival" meetings!

Second, you must believe in Jesus Christ and be baptized.

Great FALSE PROPHET to Arise!

Paul warned the early Christians that a great *apostasy* would rise up in the world before Christ's return. Here is what Paul wrote:

"Let no man beguile you in any wise; for not unless the FALLING AWAY come first, and the man of LAWLESSNESS be revealed, the son of *destruction*, he that opposeth and exalteth himself against every one called God or an object of worship; so that he sitteth in the temple of God, *setting himself forth as being God*" (II Thes. 2:3-4, *Panin trans.*).

Here is a man to rise up and claim *the very prerogatives of GOD!* Any Greek lexicon will bear out that this great False Prophet is to be a man of LAWLESSNESS—teaching *disobedience* to God's law, setting himself up as an arbiter to *change* God's holy *commandments* and *instructions*.

Paul said: "For the *mystery* of LAWLESSNESS doth *already* work" (verse 7). This false, commandment-rejecting

system was ALREADY at work in *Paul's day!*

After a time during which this system is to be restrained from reaching its final culmination, "Then shall be revealed the LAWLESS ONE [this great False Prophet he has been speaking of], whom the Lord Jesus shall slay with the spirit of his mouth, and bring to nought by the manifestation of his presence" (verse 8).

Notice that this whole abominable system is to culminate in a great False Prophet who is to be manifest in OUR TIME—before Christ's second coming—and is to be *destroyed* by Christ *when* He returns. This diabolical individual is living TODAY!

This False Prophet is further described as "him whose presence is according to *Satan's* working with all *power* and *signs* and WONDERS OF FALSEHOOD" (verse 9). He is to *deceive* the "perishing" with these *false signs* and *wonders*—FAKE MIRACLES!

Nothing like this has *ever* happened since Paul wrote these words! So this *final* great False Prophet—teaching *lawlessness*, and employing *fake miracles* from Satan—is obviously yet to appear in *our time*—SOON! "He that hath ears to hear, *let him hear.*"

A Warning for YOU

This article mentions only a *few* of the *dozens of prophecies*. But they prove that the "many" professing Christians are to be DECEIVED by a counterfeit religious system which culminates in the one great False Teacher whom Christ will supernaturally *destroy*.

But remember, Jesus warned that prior to this "many" false prophets shall arise and deceive the "many." The mystery of "lawlessness" was already starting in Paul's day.

Today we have many "forms" of godliness. Nearly every one DENIES that Christians are to *literally* OBEY every one of the Ten Commandments. Their excuses and arguments are numerous and often contradictory. But they *all* result in *ONE thing*—a society and a world which is filled with LAWLESSNESS, *hate, greed, violence, suffering, sickness, misery, DEATH*, and now the *daily threat* of HUMAN ANNIHILATION.

A so-called "Christian" society which

denies and DISOBEYS the *laws of God* has not and NEVER WILL solve this problem!

That is why God Almighty will soon send His Son Jesus Christ back to this earth "to *smite the nations, and he shall RULE them with a rod of iron*" (Rev. 19:15). Finally, after His return, "out of Zion shall go forth the LAW, and the WORD of the Lord from Jerusalem" (Isa. 2:3).

Before this happens, God's Word doesn't speak of a "great revival" of true religion, but of, "*Satan, which deceiveth the WHOLE world*" (Rev. 12:9).

But in this same chapter, God shows how His true Church—which Jesus called the "little flock"—is to be taken to a place of safety—a wilderness *on this earth*—and there protected from great *religious persecution*. He describes His Church as those "which *keep the commandments* of God, and have the testimony of Jesus Christ" (verse 17). And in Revelation 14:12, God says: "Here is the patience of the *saints*: here are they that *keep the COMMANDMENTS of God*, and the faith of Jesus."

The TRUE Church Is Here Today!

Somewhere on earth, then, God's true Church is working today. It is teaching *obedience* to EVERY word of God. It is preaching the gospel of the kingdom or *government* of God through His laws just as Jesus did (Mark 1:14; Matt. 5:17-19).

Before Christ returns, His Church will be preaching this gospel as a "witness" to warn the world of its disobedience. This will *not* constitute any *great REVIVAL* because very *few* will heed the warning.

But *many millions* will hear this message, and it will be a *powerful WITNESS* against them. They will then have no excuse to cry out to God: "*Why* are you sending these *plagues* on us? *Why* didn't you *warn* us?"

That WARNING is *now* going out!

You had better find out for sure who is actually fulfilling this inspired prophecy: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a WITNESS unto all nations; and *then* shall the end come" (Matt. 24:14).

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

HERE are the *Bible* answers to questions which can be answered briefly in a short space. *Send in your questions.* While we cannot promise that all questions will find space for answer in this department, we shall try to answer all that are vital and in the general interest of our readers.

WHY Doesn't God Heal Everyone Today?

God is the ALMIGHTY. Nothing is impossible with Him (Matt. 19:26). He *could* heal every sickness, disease, or infirmity. But He doesn't!

Why?

Since God is not healing all today, there must be a reason *why* He allows suffering to continue. Almost no one seems to understand the answer to this question.

God is letting this world go its own way in defiance of His laws. He is permitting humanity to *learn by hard experience*, by suffering, sickness, by mental anguish, that the ways that seem right to man end in sorrow and death.

The Creator set physical laws as well as spiritual laws in motion. When we violate the physical laws, we become ill. Cancer, heart trouble, and hundreds of other diseases afflicting human beings are the result of *broken* law, of violations of God's revealed way of life. Yet mankind doesn't believe this. Instead of inquiring into the laws that would keep us healthy, humanity seeks drugs to alleviate the *results* of physical sins, but is not willing to learn the *causes* of human woes.

Sickness is the *consequence* of physical sin; healing is the *forgiveness* of physical sin. Until men learn not to break God's laws with impunity, the world will *not* be healed.

Only a few were healed in Old Testament times (Luke 4:27). The world didn't want God to help them. They wanted to solve their own problems.

The Father sent Christ to preach the gospel and to heal; but He healed *only* those who personally asked or *who had friends who asked on their behalf*. Jesus did not go about begging people to be healed.

The true ministers of Jesus will follow Jesus' example today. They will not go to the unbelieving in hospitals or insane asylums who would not accept them as God's ministers. God's ministers are to pray for those *who want to be healed by God*—those who call for the elders (Jas. 5:14).

Jesus healed those who had *faith* that He could perform what He promised. When a woman was healed, He said: "Thy *faith* hath made thee whole" (Mark 5:34). God will not heal anyone who refuses to *believe* that He is both able and willing to heal. It is always God's will to heal, but we must first *believe* that Christ paid the penalty of our physical sins by suffering His Body to be wounded for us (Isa. 53:5; I Peter 2:24).

Many are not being healed because they are not willing to practice the laws of life that will keep them healthy. Notice that Jesus said to a man whom He healed: "*Sin no more*, lest a worse thing come unto thee" (John 5:14).

John was inspired to write: "Whatever we ask, we receive of him, *because we keep his commandments*, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22). The world doesn't want to obey God and live by the laws that lead to health. That is *why* not everyone is being healed today!

What Is the Proper Translation of Luke 23:43?

An article appeared in the August, 1956, issue of THE PLAIN TRUTH explaining the truth about "the thief on the cross." (If you did not read that article write immediately for a back copy of the August issue.)

In response to the article several have requested a further explanation on the proper translation of Luke 23:43. In the article covering this subject, we proved from the Bible that the common rendering is diametrically opposite to what Jesus really said and meant!

Open your Bible to this controversial verse. Notice the PUNCTUATION. Remember that punctuation was not used in the inspired Greek which Luke wrote. It was added into the Greek and English centuries later. The punctuation in this verse was added by men. The correct wording must, therefore, be determined by the Bible itself. The comma should follow, not precede, the word "today." Some object that this would make the King James translation a question, "Verily I say unto thee today, 'Shalt thou be with me in Paradise?'" But this is only due to a faulty word order in the common versions.

Here is exactly, word for word, the order in the inspired original Greek which you can verify at any Public Library: "Verily I say to thee today, 'With me shalt thou be in the Paradise.'"

Notice that when the proper word order is understood, the Scriptural translation is not a question, but a positive statement. Jesus was emphasizing the fact that the very day of His death—"today"—He could promise another dying man that he would be with Him after the resurrection in Paradise.

Should We Sell Dogs and Tithe the Income from Them?

The text often mistakenly quoted to prove that dogs should not be sold is Deuteronomy 23:18. "Thou shalt not bring the hire of a whore, or the price of a dog into the house of the Lord thy God *for any vow*: for even both these are abomination unto the Lord thy God."

When we check more closely the
(Please continue on page 24)

IF YOU DIE... Will You Live Again?

You are going to be surprised by the **NEW FACTS** you will learn about life after death in this article—facts you may **NEVER** have been taught, but information your Bible has **ALWAYS** contained.

by Dr. C. P. Meredith

IS DEATH the end of everything? Just what is the chance of YOUR coming back to life, of living again? ANYONE in great physical danger fights for his life! He exerts almost *superhuman* energy to save himself—and he does not give up until all strength is gone!

WHY this fear of DEATH?

The answer is obvious—death is the *opposite of life!* It snuffs out this very *mortal life* that you would defend with all your strength!

All people down through the ages have had to die, but this is not a satisfying answer when you yourself have to face it.

Whether or not you realize it, your *only* hope of living again is by a *resurrection!* But what is your ASSURANCE, if any, of such an occurrence? *Where* can you look for such assurance?

You can look to the Bible! It will give you the answers to those *important life and death* questions that no human mind can give! It is the revealed WORD of GOD.

The *preachers* today DO NOT GRASP THE FACT that the WHOLE BIBLE deals with ONE SUBJECT ONLY: THE FORMATION—through a resurrection—OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD by GOD the FATHER!

It can also be called the *family of God*. It will be a family of SPIRIT BEINGS with God the Father at the head; Christ will be the eldest son, and those who are finally saved at the resurrection will be the other sons.

THE RESURRECTION TO IMMORTALITY represents THE VITAL TRANSITION FROM THIS MORTAL BODY—BY BEING BORN AGAIN—INTO THE SPIRIT FORM AND ENTRANCE INTO THE KINGDOM OF GOD! “—except a man be *born again* he

cannot see the kingdom of God” (John 3:3). As we proceed to study the various RESURRECTIONS, let us keep in mind how the MASTER-MIND, God the Father, reveals HIS PLAN to us. *It will build our FAITH in the resurrection!* We will KNOW that we are in a world that is running according to a PRECONCEIVED DEFINITE PLAN!

Resurrection of Jesus Christ Foretold in Advance

From the time Adam and Eve sinned, God *foretold* the coming of ONE who would again give man an opportunity to immortal life, and foretold of his descent through Abraham. HE who was to give US the *opportunity* of a RESURRECTION TO ETERNAL LIFE—CHRIST!

David foretold Jesus' resurrection about 1,000 years B.C. (Ps. 16:10), and Isaiah about 700 years B.C. (Isaiah 7:14 and 26:19). Christ himself foretold that his *resurrection* would occur the THIRD DAY—72 hours (not in 1½ days—36 hours, as the *churches today teach*) and IT HAPPENED IN 72 HOURS! (Read our free booklet “The Resurrection Was NOT on Sunday.”)

The resurrection of Christ was an entirely *different* type of event than has ever happened on this earth before or since. The *pagans had taught about immortal souls* and that people returned to life after death in various other forms (i.e. reincarnations), but they could never produce PROOF. Christ, before his crucifixion, *raised many of the dead* back to life to fill out their *natural life span*. (Matt. 9:24,25; Matt. 10:8; Luke 7:15; John 11:44).

These *resurrections were all, only* for a short return, to a PHYSICAL LIFE and were of no great importance except to the ones involved!

But on Christ's resurrection depends the RESURRECTION and ETERNAL LIFE of ALL OF US; for I Cor. 15:17, 18 says, “If Christ be not raised, *your faith is vain*; ye are yet in your sins. Then they also which are fallen asleep in Christ are *perished*.” Doomed to eternal death!

Do you understand it? Had Christ been an *ordinary* mortal man without the Spirit of God, he would have SINNED sometime during his life and *could not* have paid OUR DEBT for sin! “The wages of sin is DEATH . . .” (Rom. 6:23)—ETERNAL DEATH! His sin would have taken *his own* life and God would not have *resurrected* him! He would have had no life left to PAY FOR OUR SINS—WE COULD NOT EXPECT TO BE RESURRECTED TO ETERNAL LIFE!

Suppose Christ had died but *set no time* as to when he would be resurrected and suppose further, that after a year or so his body *disappeared*. YOU AND I WOULD HAVE NO EVIDENCE WHATEVER THAT WE WOULD EVER BE RESURRECTED and BECOME IMMORTAL! His body might only have been stolen.

But Christ *has given us the evidence!* When the Scribes and Pharisees asked Christ for a SIGN (of his being the Messiah—or Savior) he said he would be THREE DAYS AND NIGHTS in the grave (Matt. 12:40)—NOT one and a half days as the churches today believe, but THREE! By this teaching of a day and a half the devil is trying to take our very evidence of a salvation hope away from us.

Christ arose the *third* day! He was crucified late Wednesday afternoon and arose late Sabbath (Saturday) afternoon.

The thing that confuses people is that they mistake the Sabbath that is mentioned as drawing on in Luke 23:54 for

(Please continue on page 21)

COMING UTOPIA

(Continued from page 6)

during this age before the millennium begins. No wild, carnivorous animals are going to be tamed before the 1000 years to eat straw like the ox. This is a prophecy of the Millennium!

The thirty-fifth chapter of Isaiah contains other descriptions of the reign of Christ and His saints for the thousand years. In the preceding chapter the destruction of this present world's civilization is depicted as a bloody catastrophe, but thanks to God, the world won't long be in the throes of destruction. For the wilderness shall blossom as the rose, the blind will see and the lame shall walk, because Christ is going to heal the afflicted just as He did in His ministry nineteen hundred years ago.

This is what the millennium will be like. And each of us can have a part in making the glorious age to come possible. This is the message of the gospel which Jesus preached—the Kingdom of God.

Satan Is to Be Bound

The Bible teaches that the millennium is the reign of the Kingdom of God ON

THIS EARTH—the millennium is not the Kingdom, it is merely the first thousand years reign of that Kingdom on this earth. Yet some people try to tell you that during the millennium Satan will be bound by circumstances—supposedly there will be no human beings alive for him to tempt! The Bible says no such thing. Satan is taken from the people and bound LEST he should deceive the nations. If there were no nations to deceive, he would not have to be BOUND AND SHUT UP IN A PLACE OF RESTRAINT (Rev. 20:1-3).

When Satan and his demons are restrained from their work of deception, the earth shall at last have its millennial "sabbath of rest." The resurrected saints will judge the world with Christ and all nations shall have peace at last, because they will for the first time be following that "law which shall go forth out of Zion."

Will the Dead Be Resurrected During the Millennium?

Some groups know that the millennium will occur on this earth. But they teach that there will be resurrections during the entire period. Is this true?

They falsely claim that Revelation

20:5 is not a part of the Bible. This verse says: "BUT THE REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED."

The greatest scholars admit that this text belongs in the Bible. It is found in the overwhelming majority of Greek manuscripts.

It is *after* the millennium (Rev. 20:11-15) that the rest of the dead are raised. If they were raised from their graves during the millennium, there would be no need of a time of resurrection after the thousand years.

It is important that we do not follow this error by removing this verse. Jesus said: "And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life." (Rev. 22:19).

Let's not follow the heresy that denies the rule of the Kingdom of God ON THIS EARTH during the millennium. If any man preaches a gospel that denies this, he shall be *cursed* of God.

Yes, a Utopia is coming—the wonderful World of Tomorrow is just around the corner. You can be there and help make it possible if you yield NOW your life to God and OBEY Him!

What a glorious age that will be!

Orchard work on the Jewish hill top settlement village of Kiriath Anavim near Jerusalem. Gradually the waste land is being turned into a prosperous farming area. This is but a slight foretaste of the Millennium. —Wide World Photo



WHAT Was Jesus *Before* His Human Birth?

Did Christ actually exist prior to His birth of the virgin Mary? Was He God? Was He just Spiritual Essence? Was He born HUMAN, just as YOU are human?

by Garner Ted Armstrong

WHY SHOULD there be such confusion concerning the existence of Jesus Christ? In our western world of professing Christianity, we see nothing but religious confusion—*differences* and *debates*—over the one great focal point of all Christianity—Christ Himself!

Even learned theologians, it seems, cannot agree on *who*, or *what* was Christ before His birth! *Yet your own Bible is very plain on this subject!*

Are YOU one who is willing to ask GOD and not men, for the truth?

Jesus Had a Father

During His earthly ministry, Jesus Christ revealed a Father-Son relationship existing between Him and His heavenly Father. Throughout the Bible, God stresses the *family* relationship. First, between God the Father and the Son, and then between each begotten Christian and the Father. The Church is revealed as the *mother* of us all (Gal. 4:26). Individuals within the Church refer to each other as "brothers" and "sisters." Throughout God's revelation, He shows us that there is a *FAMILY* known as God!

Let's understand it!

The logical place to begin is in the *very beginning*, so get your Bible, and turn to Genesis, the first chapter. "In the beginning, *GOD . . .*" These are the very *FIRST* words that meet our eyes when we begin to find out *WHO*, or *WHAT is* God! In studying through the inspired account of the creation of all things, it becomes clear the creation was accomplished *not* by just *one* person, but by *MORE* than one! "And God said, let *us* make man in *OUR* image, after *OUR* likeness . . ." (Gen. 1:26). God was not like the absent-minded professor, who

was speaking to Himself—but was revealing a *PLURALITY* of persons, *MORE* than one, in the word appearing in your Bible as "God."

The Hebrew Proves It

The Hebrew word used for "God" in Gen. 1:1 and throughout the account of the creation is "ELOHIM" which actually means *more than one!* It is the plural form of the Hebrew word "El" or "Eloah" which can be correctly translated as "Mighty One." The *PLURAL* form, as used in your Bible, means "The Mighty *ONES*" or *MORE* than just one person.

ELOHIM is a *plural* word, showing more than one person—just as the words "group," or "church," or "family" are single words, which mean *more than one person!*

What's more—all other scriptures uphold and support this vital truth! Listen to the words of the inspired Apostle Paul, who said, "For by Him (Christ) were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in the earth, visible and invisible, whether they be thrones, or dominions, or principalities, or powers, *ALL THINGS WERE CREATED BY HIM, and for Him.*" Paul went on to say, "And He is *BEFORE* all things, and *BY HIM all things consist!*" (Col. 1:16-17). Was Paul just flattering Christ—was he simply adding spiritual-sounding phrases to make Christ seem more *magnified* to the Christians in his care? Certainly not! For "ALL SCRIPTURE is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16).

If *all things* were *CREATED* by Christ, then He must have been *ONE* of the persons included in the Hebrew word

Elohim we read in Genesis 1:1.

Christ Before Adam

Strange though it may seem, there are *TWO* accounts of the "beginning" of all things given in your Bible! In the Gospel of John, chapter 1, a most vital passage gives us the clear, simple *TRUTH* of Christ's office *prior* to His human birth. "In the beginning was the Word," (John 1:1) Notice, "*In the beginning . . .*" There cannot be *TWO* beginnings—only *one*, so it is speaking of exactly the *same time* as Genesis 1:1. "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was *with* God, and the Word *WAS* GOD!"

There is the vital truth still unseen by so many—and yet so *PLAINLY* revealed in your Bible!

The Greek word which is translated into the English as "Word" in John 1:1 is "LOGOS" which means, more literally, *spokesman*, or one who *speaks*. To continue: "The same was in the beginning *with* God. All things were made by Him, and without Him was not anything made that was made." (John 1:2-3) Yes, *EVERYTHING WAS MADE BY HIM*, by the *spokesman*, or the *LOGOS*, who became *CHRIST*, as we read in Colossians 1:16-17!

The Person in the God Family who later *became* Jesus Christ was the *One* who SAID [spoke], "Let us make man in *OUR* image," thus executing His awesome office as the very *EXECUTIVE* of the God *FAMILY!*

Notice how clearly John's Gospel states this truth—"And the Word [Logos] was *MADE FLESH and dwelt among us*, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14). *WHO* was full of grace

and truth? ". . . grace and truth came by *Jesus Christ!*" (Verse 17).

Jesus Is Also God

Remember, the Bible *does not say* there is only ONE member in the God Family, but expresses a PLURALITY of persons—more than one! Otherwise Jesus would be a liar, for He prayed constantly to His *Father* who was in heaven!

Further light is shed on this commonly misunderstood subject in the wonderful book of Hebrews. Paul tells us, "God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us *by a Son* [Ivan Panin New Testament] whom He hath appointed HEIR of all things, *by whom also He made the worlds!*" It becomes self-evident, then, that Jesus Christ is the very CREATOR! And yet millions do not know, nor even faintly comprehend this amazing truth! Paul called Him "God our Saviour" (Tit. 1:3). And so—in the *person* of Jesus Christ, our very CREATOR became our Saviour! Christ is at once our Maker, and a member of the Godhead. Therefore, His life which He gave for us is of *far greater value* than the sum total of every living, breathing human being!

In order to pay the PENALTY for your sins and mine, which penalty is *death*—death for *all eternity* unless it is pardoned and washed away (Rom. 6:23), it was necessary that Christ be *Divine*—that His life be worth more than all our *human* lives put together! When Christ took our sins He paid the penalty we have incurred—*not* eternal life in hell-fire, but the cessation of life—DEATH! "Christ *died* for our sins according to the scriptures" (I Cor. 15:3). Jesus was MADE FLESH (John 1:14) and became a human being for this very purpose, that He might DIE on the cross for all mankind! And yet, if Christ were ONLY human, His life would have paid only the death penalty incurred by *one other human*. The penalty for every individual's sin had to be paid!

But remember, the penalty for sin is DEATH, and God cannot die! Therefore, the penalty is HUMAN life—and God of Himself could not have paid such a

penalty. It was absolutely necessary, then, that Christ be BOTH *human and Divine!*

The awe-inspiring mystery of God is not grasped in its overwhelming significance but by those who will *hunger and thirst* for God's truth! (Mat. 5:6). The *Logos*, the One who *spoke*, and CREATED by His very WORD, "*emptied Himself* and took upon Him the form of a servant, and *was made* in the *likeness of men*, and being *found in fashion as a man*, He humbled Himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross" (Phil. 2:7-8, margin).

The Divine Being who was instrumental in CREATING all things was *changed into* human flesh! Was Jesus human? YES, He was! Your very salvation depends on it!

Jesus Had HUMAN Nature

God came *in the flesh* as Jesus Christ, lived a perfect life, totally *without sin*, and thus was able to *die* and pay the full penalty of sin in our place! Jesus was God made into mortal flesh "*for the suffering of death*" (Heb. 2:9).

Past articles in *The Plain Truth* magazine have proved conclusively that Jesus Christ was HUMAN, that He DIED and was absolutely DEAD during the three days and three nights He was in the grave. "He also likewise (as the children are partakers of *flesh and blood*) took part of the *same*"—took on HUMAN NATURE — became flesh and blood—"that through *death* He might destroy him that had the power of death, that is, the devil" (Hebrews 2:14).

Jesus constantly had to CRY OUT to God *day and night* to keep Himself from falling! MILLIONS of people, not understanding the tremendous *battle*, the life-long *struggle* Christ had with *Himself*, in overcoming His own human nature, the natural pulls of the flesh, *do not fully realize the extent of the sacrifice their Saviour made*, and in many cases are trusting in a FALSE SAVIOUR!

"For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities, but was in ALL POINTS tempted like as we are, yet without sin!" (Heb. 4:15). "Who in the days of His *flesh*, when He had offered up prayers and supplications with strong cryings and tears unto Him that

was able to save Him from death, and was heard in that He feared!" (Heb. 5:7). Your very Saviour had to CRY ALOUD TO GOD, in strong crying and TEARS, to overcome Himself, to withstand the temptations of SIN, to finally die on the cross with the record of a PERFECT life! Are you WORTHY of this tremendous sacrifice?

Who Was the LORD of the Old Testament?

In the King James authorized version of the Bible, the word "LORD" is frequently used, and usually always in small capital letters. Wherever this word appears in the capital letters, it is translated from the Hebrew word "YHVH" commonly pronounced today as "Yah-veh." The YHVH, when more correctly translated, implies "The ETERNAL" or the EVER-LIVING ONE, rather than "Lord."

Throughout the books of the Old Testament, the LORD appeared to various individuals, dealt particularly and personally with the ancient Israelites, and talked directly (though from the darkness of a cloud or the brightness of a fire) to Moses. This Person who spoke to Adam, to Enoch, and to Moses *was the One who later became Jesus Christ!*

Christ Himself said so!

"For the Father Himself, which hath sent me, hath borne witness of me. *You have neither heard His voice at any time, nor seen His shape!*" (John 5:37). This almost universally mis-understood truth has led many people to repudiate the Old Testament, to cast aside the Laws of God as having no binding force on them today.

"But what of the transfiguration?" Yes, *what of the transfiguration?* The disciples, Peter, James and John, were with Jesus on a mountain, apart from the others, when a marvelous *vision* appeared—an actual *foretaste*, a view ahead into the soon-coming Kingdom of God! As the disciples stood, gazing with awe and wonder at the brilliance of the vision, there came a "voice out of the cloud, which said, 'This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased, hear ye Him'" (Mat. 17:5). But notice, did the scripture say it was God the Father who spoke? NO! *Read it in your own Bible!*

Many have carelessly assumed the

Bible says what it does not say! Notice this particular case, where a *voice* is heard speaking, and yet Christ Himself tells us it COULD NOT HAVE BEEN THE VOICE OF GOD! (John 5:37). The only logical conclusion in the light of all scripture is that an angel (messenger) spoke, as one bearing this message from the Father in heaven!

Since it was *not* God the Father who spoke to Moses, and Who even allowed Moses to see His hind parts (Ex. 33:23), then it had to be the Eternal Being who was instrumental in executing God's word! That was Christ's prior OFFICE, that was His all-important job! Who was the One who SPOKE to Moses? Why the *spokesman*, the *Logos*, of course!

Notice I Cor. 10:4, ". . . And did all drink the same spiritual drink, for they [the ancient Israelites] drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, *and that Rock was Christ!*"

That certainly clinches it! The One who actually GAVE the laws to the children of Israel from Mount Sinai was the One who later became Jesus Christ! JESUS CHRIST WAS THE LORD OF THE OLD TESTAMENT—THE GOD WHO DEALT PERSONALLY WITH ISRAEL, WHO INSPIRED THE PROPHETS, WHO REVEALED HIMSELF TO THE PHARAOH, TO NEBUCHADNEZZAR AND THE KINGS OF THE EARTH!

Most people have assumed the God of the Old Testament was the Father of Jesus Christ. This is proven by God's own inspired word to be a great error. As we read in I Cor. 10:4, the "ROCK" of the Old Testament was Jesus Christ. Remember the word "LORD" is actually YHVH, which means the Ever-living One, or the Life Self-Existent One. Now see II Sam. 22:2-3, "He said, 'The LORD [YHVH] is my *rock*, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my *rock*, in whom I take refuge; my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.'"

In Ps. 18:1-2, *this same ROCK is YAHVEH*. When Moses was talking to YAHVEH, and asked Him His name (Ex. 3:4-5, 13), He answered that His name was "I AM" (verses 6, 14) and "YAHVEH"—the Eternal One (verse 15). See also Ex. 6:2-3. In John 18:5-8, as soon as Christ made Himself known

to the crowd led by Judas as "I AM" (the "he" in italics is added without inspiration, and was not in the original), they went backward and fell to the ground. Again in John 8:56-58, Jesus called Himself: "I AM."

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:42 contains this: "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that *this is indeed the SAVIOUR of the world!*'" See Isa. 60:16, where YAHVEH is called the *Redeemer*, which is the SAVIOUR, or the Holy One of Israel!

Jesus, the Saviour, was the Holy One born of Israel [Jacob]. Jesus is the LORD of the Old Testament.

What to DO About It

What an overwhelming truth it is, to realize the glorious, the awe-inspiring magnitude of Jesus' pre-human existence! It should make you realize more fully the tremendous PRICE that was paid that YOU might have your guilty past blotted out, and the slate wiped clean! GOD HIMSELF, in the person of Jesus Christ, paid that penalty!

Think of it!

God the Father sent His own Son down to this mundane sphere of sin and fleshly emotions to suffer for humanity, and thereby provide a way of salvation, a way to enter into life eternal! The Life that was poured out on the cross was a human life—but it was much more than that—it was also Very GOD-LIFE! Jesus was Human, but He was also Divine! Day and night, while on this earth, Christ must have remembered the tremendous power and glory *from all eternity* He had enjoyed with the Father—and realized it would have been possible to *sin*, to *relent* in His battle against human nature, and *become eternally lost!* The very willpower, the determination and perseverance of Jesus Christ, together with the Divine presence of the Holy Spirit of God, kept Him from falling, that He could become the Saviour of the world!

Can you grasp it? Can you comprehend? Your very Creator—the One who gives you every breath of air you breathe, DIED FOR YOU! What are *you* going to DO about it?

IF YOU DIE... Will You Live Again?

(Continued from page 17)

a WEEKLY SABBATH whereas it was actually an ANNUAL SABBATH—which happened to fall on *Thursday* in A.D. 31, the year of the crucifixion.

After this came their WEEKLY SABBATH on Saturday. Between these days the women bought and prepared spices (Mark 16:1).

God has seen to it that these two WORLD IMPORTANT EVENTS—the Crucifixion and the Resurrection—have been well witnessed! Christ's healing and miracles had attracted a large following. People were interested in him wherever he went. On the day of His crucifixion a large multitude was present. (Matt. 27:24).

Mary (Jesus' mother) and the other two Marys and John were present also (John 19:25,26).

As Christ said he would rise the third day the chief priests and Pharisees took great precautions to see that his body did not disappear by being stolen by the disciples, so a guard was set and a great stone was rolled over the sepulture entrance. (Matt. 27:63-66).

Christ's body did disappear though! Christ was resurrected as a divine spirit Being! He had been RESURRECTED from the dead THE THIRD DAY and Mary Magdalene (John 20:14), the disciples (John 20:19), and after that about 500 people *saw him at one time!* (I Cor. 15:6). Fifty days later in Jerusalem a large number gathered from all over the world to observe Pentecost and await the coming of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:2).

From this point, the news "of the resurrection was spread by the apostles" (Acts 4:2), and their converts. Gibbon, in his *Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, says that *the resurrection is one of the best authenticated facts in all history*. Also, Gibbon says ". . . it is no wonder that so advantageous an offer (resurrection and eternal life), should have been accepted by great numbers of every religion . . ."

THE WORLD WAS CONVINCED OF THIS RESURRECTION TO A DIFFERENT TYPE

OF BEING!—to immortal life in the family of God.

Resurrection Is Necessary

You have probably been *taught* that you have been born with an immortal soul which goes immediately to heaven, purgatory or hell when you die. This is NOT TRUE! YOUR BIBLE DOES NOT TEACH IT! "The first man is of the earth, earthy—" (I Cor. 15:47).

The SAME word "NEPHESEH" which means *fleshy life*—whether of animal or man—was translated "*creature*" in Gen. 1:24 where it was associated with animals, and "soul" in Gen. 2:7 where the Bible speaks of *man* becoming a LIVING SOUL!

In other words, *both animal and man* are composed of ONE THING—the SAME THING—MORTAL FLESH, and, as born into this world, one has no more an immortal soul inside him than the other! (Ecc. 3:19,20).

No one would contend that any beasts are *in purgatory or eternal torment*.

Another passage, that shows that ANYONE THAT DIES GOES TO HIS GRAVE AND IS THERE NOW, is Acts 2:29 which shows that David is *now* in his sepulture, "... *David* ... is both dead and *buried*, and his sepulture is with us unto this day."

Now notice this: if anyone is in heaven, purgatory or hell where most preachers today say they are, then they are STILL ALIVE; THEREFORE THEY COULD NOT BE RESURRECTED—for the very word "RESURRECTION" itself implies that those resurrected were DEAD!

THEREFORE A RESURRECTION is NECESSARY if a person who once died is *brought to life again!* How sadly and without reason have the Bible teachings been distorted! WE COULD NOT ATTAIN IMMORTALITY and GOD WOULD BE DEFEATED IN HIS MAIN PURPOSE OF CREATING MAN—the CREATION OF A SPIRIT BEING! BUT WE DO HAVE THIS HOPE OF A RESURRECTION!

Bible Teaches Resurrection for All

"... There shall be a resurrection of the dead, *both* the just and the unjust" (Acts 24:15). Paul said this when he was being tried before Felix. Do you grasp the *meaning* of this? EVERYONE is going to be resurrected!

"... the hour is coming, in which *all* that are in the graves shall hear his voice, and shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of judgment" (John 5:28,29). Daniel 12:2 gives the same thought—A RESURRECTION FOR EVERYONE.

NOW YOU ARE GOING TO BE IN FOR A SURPRISE! Undoubtedly you are going to learn of *one* resurrection that you *never heard of before* and possibly *two* or *three!* Yet they are in YOUR BIBLE. The things that are in the BIBLE are just *not being taught today!*

The First Resurrection

The FIRST resurrection of man TO IMMORTALITY that has *ever* occurred in this world (except Christ's), will occur when Christ comes at the LAST TRUMP. I Thessalonians 4:17 describes this: "For the Eternal himself shall descend from heaven with a great shout, with the voice of the archangel, and with the trump (LAST TRUMP) of God: and the dead in Christ shall rise first.

"Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them in the clouds to meet the Eternal in the air: and so shall we ever be with the Eternal." But they will go *immediately* to Jerusalem to start their 1,000 years rule. Read Zechariah 14.

This is the resurrection *just ahead now!* I Cor. 15:51 through 56 describes this same resurrection and Rev. 11:15 describes the blowing (sounding) of the "last trump" which ushers this period in. Read these verses!

The JUST DEAD will be raised *by the power of God* exerted through the *medium* of Jesus Christ (John 6:44). These are they WHO HAVE REPENTED (i.e. turned from *their* former ways), been baptized, received the GIFT of the

POUR NOS LECTEURS FRANÇAIS!

Nous sommes heureux d'informer nos lecteurs que, petit à petit, les articles de Monsieur Herbert W. Armstrong sont traduits dans la langue française. Présentement, nous tenons à la disposition de ceux qui nous en font la demande une copie de l'article français, intitulé "Pourquoi Etes-Vous Né?"

HOLY SPIRIT and were overcomers to the end (Acts 2:38 and Romans 8:11).

(NOTE! This HOLY SPIRIT is a GIFT that is given ONLY TO THOSE WHO QUALIFY TO RECEIVE IT! This is the NEAREST thing we *ever* have in this life to the IMAGINARY IMMORTAL SOUL that people WRONGLY THINK *everyone* is BORN with!)

Of this resurrection, Rev. 20:6 says, "Blessed is he that hath part in the FIRST RESURRECTION: on such the SECOND DEATH (i.e. the eternal death) hath no power..."

"And I saw thrones, and they sat upon them, and judgment was given unto them..." (Rev. 20:4). This is the resurrection to the SPIRIT FORM (I Cor. 15:44) just described. Now notice verse 5, "... but the REST OF THE DEAD LIVED NOT AGAIN UNTIL THE THOUSAND YEARS WERE FINISHED"—all *but* the GOOD DEAD stay dead through the 1,000 years! There are *no* resurrections in the millennium of those long dead!

A *thousand - year* period follows Christ's second coming and during this time Christ RULES THIS EARTH. (Isaiah 11; Jeremiah 31:1-18; Ezekiel 36). This one thousand years is the time represented by the *Feast of Tabernacles* (Lev. 23:34 and Exodus 23:16) in GOD'S HOLY DAYS. It is a time when God REALLY BEGINS IN EARNEST TO SAVE PEOPLE WHO LIVE IN THE END OF THIS AGE AND INTO THE WORLD TOMORROW!

Another Resurrection

At the *end* of the thousand years, during which time Christ has been ruling the world and the earth has been full of the knowledge of the Eternal, (a condition that *certainly has not been present* up to now), there will be *another* resurrection!

Matthew 13:24 thru 30 and verses 36 through 42 (the parable of the tares), describes this HARVEST! Note verse 30: "Let both grow together until the harvest."

Also note verse 39 "... the *harvest* is the end of the world..."—or consummation of the *age*—the one thousand year age and the time of RESURRECTION *which will follow*. Matthew 25:31 to 34 describes the salvation of the world during the millennium and this RESURRECTION also!

Now you are REALLY GOING TO GET

A SURPRISE! Yet it is only WHAT YOUR OWN BIBLE TELLS YOU *if YOU WILL READ IT!*

Most of you have been told by the churches ever since you could remember that if anyone is NOT SAVED IN THE PRESENT LIFE then he is ETERNALLY LOST!

But what about all those MILLIONS AND MILLIONS of PEOPLE back there who were BORN BEFORE CHRIST'S TIME WHO NEVER HAD THE CHANCE OF SALVATION because CHRIST had not yet come to MAKE IT AVAILABLE?

REMEMBER that the BIBLE says "IF *the Spirit* (the Holy Spirit) of him (God the Father) that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ shall also quicken your mortal bodies by *his Spirit* (the Holy Spirit) that dwelleth in you." BUT—THE HOLY SPIRIT from the Father WAS NOT AVAILABLE to people on the earth *until after* Christ ascended!

Christ *had* to ascend unto heaven *first!* Christ said in John 16:7 "For if I go not away the Comforter (the Holy Spirit) will not come unto you; but if I depart, I will send him unto you." The *Holy Spirit* FIRST CAME TO THIS EARTH TO BE AVAILABLE TO ALL MEN *fifty-four days after* Christ was crucified! It came on the day of PENTECOST (Acts 2:1-4).

These MILLIONS are NOT LOST FOREVER!—They NEVER were called to be saved! God is a JUST GOD and he has PROVIDED A WAY whereby they CAN BE SAVED!

Also, what about the great number since Christ's day who have shown very little interest in religion and have died? ARE THEY LOST FOREVER? No, because *they have never had a chance* to salvation. *They are blinded.* God is NOT trying to save many *now.* He has BLINDED them! Read Romans 11:5,7,8,25. Also Acts 7:42, Isaiah 28:13, Matthew 13:10, 11,13.

NO SECOND CHANCE!

Now notice WHEN GOD IS GOING TO GIVE THESE PEOPLE THEIR FIRST CHANCE FOR SALVATION! *Note this carefully! You have probably NEVER heard it explained before in its TRUE meaning!*

"... Ye shall know I am the Eternal, when I have opened your graves . . . and brought you up out of your graves, and

shall put my spirit in you and ye shall live, and I shall place you in your own land . . ." (Ezekiel 37:13-14). This is speaking of *ancient Israel*—a people who had been scattered among the nations almost 150 years before this was written!

WHEN does this take place? It can not take place before Christ returns to earth at his second coming because that will bring about the FIRST RESURRECTION. It WILL NOT take place then but only after *one thousand years have elapsed* from the time of the *first resurrection* because as we have already seen that only the GOOD will be RESURRECTED then! (Also Rev. 20:5).

Therefore THERE ARE ONLY TWO CLASSES THIS RESURRECTION CAN POSSIBLY REFER TO—the *evil* dead who have knowingly rejected the truth and the dead who *never had a chance!* The *evil dead* are those who DELIBERATELY DECIDED they did not want to be *ruled by God.* There is NO REASON to give them a *second chance* to attain immortality! *They had their chance and turned it down!*

Therefore IT IS THE CLASS OF PEOPLE, THE VAST BLINDED MAJORITY, WHO NEVER REALLY HAD A CHANCE TO ACCEPT GOD'S WAY OF LIFE, WHO ARE RESURRECTED!

Read what Revelation 20:11-12 says about this RESURRECTION: ". . . and I saw a great white throne . . . and I saw the *dead*, small and great *stand* before God . . ." these people are STANDING—A RESURRECTION—" . . . and another book was opened which is the book of *life* . . ." they are given LIFE—"and the *dead* were *judged* out of those things."

IT IS THE GREAT WHITE THRONE JUDGMENT!

Even the WORST of the *sinners who never had a chance, will be in this RESURRECTION* for even the inhabitants of SODOM will be there! "When thy daughters, Sodom and her daughters, shall return their former estate, and Samaria and her daughters shall return to their former estate . . . then thou (Jerusalem, refer to Ezekiel 37) . . . shall return to your former estate" (Ezekiel 16:55).

Isaiah 65:20 indicates ALL will live for a hundred years in this age at this time.

God is indeed a just God (Deut. 32:

4) and ALL WILL HAVE THEIR CHANCE TO BE SAVED!

The Final Resurrection

Revelation 20:13,14,15 describes the FINAL RESURRECTION in which the sea, death, and hell ("Hades"—the grave) give up *their dead* to be judged. These are they who, after being begotten by God, rebelled, and those who have lived contrary to God's way of life and have refused to repent, be baptized, and thus receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. These are cast into the lake of fire which is described in verse 14 as the SECOND DEATH.

It is the EVERLASTING DEATH!

Why So Many Resurrections?

At first glance it seems strange that there are so many resurrections, but let us examine. God the Father is forming a *spirit family* of his very own from us mortals here on this earth, but he is also seeing to it that we develop into BEINGS OF CHARACTER—beings that can ULTIMATELY BE TRUSTED WITH the GREAT POWER THAT GOD WILL GIVE US!

This will take TIME in order that man may learn that HIS (MAN'S) OWN WAYS of doing things, *guided by his own natural tendencies,* ARE WRONG and that he MUST be guided by God's laws in ALL his activities or only WRETCHEDNESS and DEATH will result! We are *just starting* to see the terrible end results now of man's *own way* of running this earth!

God is going to enlarge his KINGDOM gradually. An increasing number will be given immortality at each resurrection. Only those who *qualify* to become a spirit being and are changed into spirit can enter into this kingdom; for I Cor. 15:50 says "Flesh and blood cannot inherit the Kingdom of God."

Matthew 13:31-32 describes the manner of growth of this kingdom: "The kingdom of heaven (or kingdom of God) is like to a grain of mustard seed . . . which is the least of all seeds; but when it is grown, it is the *greatest* among the herbs, and becometh a tree."

Only ONE person has been *born* into this kingdom *so far*—this is Jesus Christ. This was done by his *resurrection* to immortality (Romans 8:29; Col. 1:18).

These resurrections to immortality which are to GIVE BIRTH to the rest of

the citizens of this spirit kingdom have not started yet, but will start at Christ's *second* coming! When these do start, there will be a shorter space between each succeeding resurrection.

These people who are transformed into spirit beings, will be used to *govern* the mortal beings here on this earth. These spirit beings of the KINGDOM will be rulers, priests, and judges. (Rev. 1:6; 20:4; 1 Cor. 6:2). Ultimately ALL mortal men MUST be in this SPIRIT KINGDOM

The PLAIN TRUTH
 Printed in the U.S.A.
 Box 111—Pasadena, California

or CEASE TO EXIST! ALL of the Bible does start to MAKE SENSE once God's PLAN is UNDERSTOOD!

No wonder the apostles who were all *witnesses* to the *resurrection of Christ to immortality* (Acts 2:32; 3:15) were so joyous that they went diligently up and down the land preaching this *hope*.

It CAN Happen To You!

The apostles had the Old Testament Scriptures to read—they *knew* that David had said there would be a resurrection. They *knew* that Isaiah had later said the same thing. They also *knew* that Job had spoken of a resurrection from the dead to immortality. Christ had told them time and again "He must . . . be killed and be raised again the third day" to immortality (Matt. 16:21). It was too great a thing for them to *comprehend*. For even when told He had been resurrected, "They [still] *knew* (the Greek word for "knew" means "*comprehend*") NOT the scripture, that He must rise again from the dead" (John 20:9).

BUT when the *resurrected* Christ soon afterward came back to these *same* apostles who had witnessed closely His terrible death and remained among them for some time—"Being seen of them *forty days*" (Acts 1:3)—and when they, at the end of this time, saw Him ascend into heaven (verse 9), they became *convinced* a resurrection of themselves and all people to immortality is possible!

No wonder they were so joyous that they went diligently up and down the land preaching the Good News—the Gospel—of a resurrection into the Kingdom of God! *Your* belief in a resurrection to eternal life is based on FACT! It is *true!* Men like yourself *witnessed* and *recorded* for *you* the resurrection of another man of *the same flesh as yourself*—Christ (Heb. 2:14). A RESURRECTION CAN HAPPEN TO YOU!

Short Questions

(Continued from page 16)

original Hebrew meaning for the word "dog" used in Deut. 23:18, we find it does not refer to an animal in every case. You will notice that in the first part of the sentence it says you shall not bring the hire of a *whore*, speaking

Have you enrolled in our free Bible Correspondence Course?

This is a totally new, *different* kind of Bible study course, designed to lead you, by the study of *your own Bible*, to UNDERSTAND the whole meaning of today's world-chaos, of the PURPOSE being worked out here below, of PROPHECY, of SALVATION, of this entire Treasure-House of knowledge, which is GOD'S WORD—the TRUTH.

The most VITAL, most IMPORTANT questions of YOUR LIFE are thoroughly gone into, and you are directed to the clear, plain, simple answers, *in your BIBLE!* You will learn HOW to study the Bible—WHY so few UNDERSTAND it. You will PROVE whether the Bible really is the INSPIRED WORD OF GOD!

Just address your letter requesting the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course to Box 111, Pasadena, California.

of a *female* human being, or the price of a dog—referring to a *male* human being.

Now the word "dog" in the Hebrew is often used to mean "sodomite"—a *male* prostitute. So, actually what is meant here is not the animal dog at all. Rather, it is referring to a *male human* who is abusing his body. The Moffatt Version makes this clear. Such human beings will never inherit eternal life (Rev. 22:15).

Job 30:1 indicates that God does not frown upon the value of good dogs. They serve many indispensable functions in the farming and hunting world. To tithe income from the sale of a dog is *not wrong*.

¡LITERATURA EN ESPAÑOL!

Nos agrada anunciar que tenemos las siguientes obras listas:

¿Qué Clase de Fe Es Necesaria para la Salvación?

La Verdad Acerca de la Navidad

¿Existe Dios?

El Plan de Dios de 7000 Años

La Llave del Libro de Apocalipsis

Predestinación — ¿Lo Enseña la Biblia?

El Calendario Sagrado de Dios

La Iglesia de Dios—¿Dónde Está?

Diríjase al Departamento de Español, P. O. Box 111, Pasadena, California.