

# The Good News

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## The TONGUES Question

*Are the Pentecost MANIFESTATIONS Being Repeated Today?  
Here is the PLAIN TRUTH about this burning question, plainly  
stated. Read every word.*

*by Herbert W. Armstrong*

**I**S "SPEAKING in tongues" the BIBLE evidence of the baptism with the Holy Spirit?

Is this "baptism" for us today? What is the Bible teaching about "TARRY MEETINGS"?

In the year 1906, a new movement sprang up, known as the "Pentecostal movement," which has swept this country and others like a prairie fire.

Thousands have followed it. It has caused thousands to wonder. Other thousands have been greatly troubled by it, while still other thousands denounce it as "wild-fire fanaticism."

What is the TRUTH? *Is this movement of God?* Is it true, as they claim, that the "latter rain" of the Holy Spirit is now falling?

### The Most Important Business of This Life

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

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

This, we know, is one of the most heated questions of the day. It is one fraught with prejudices on both sides. Let us remember that the Holy Spirit is, first of all, the Spirit of LOVE—of PATIENCE—of TOLERANCE. So let us, if possible, come to this study, each admitting that he may have been wrong,

and very humbly, prayerfully, seeking instruction from GOD out of His Word. And let us see this study thru, to the end.

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

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

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

### Is PENTECOST Repeated in This Day?

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

Are the accompanying MANIFESTATIONS that took place on the day of Pentecost—immediately following Jesus' ascension to heaven—for you and me today? The modern "Pentecostal" or

"Tongues" movement is founded on the assumption that it is—and that the method of receiving this experience or "blessing" is modern "tarry meeting." And that the only "Bible Evidence" of the "baptism of the Holy Spirit" is "speaking in tongues." On this assumption many would stake their lives!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Now notice carefully. Every man heard THEM (Acts 1:15) speak in HIS own language! These disciples all speaking in tongues—OTHER languages—the languages of EVERY NATION under heaven. And EVERY MAN who came rushing in heard THEM—the disciples—speak in HIS OWN LANGUAGE! The Parthian heard THEM, ALL of them, speak the Parthian language. But the Mede heard the SAME disciples speak the language of the Medes. Those from Greece heard the entire number of THEM—speaking Greek. THEY UNDERSTOOD what was said!

### A Different Kind of Tongues!

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

True, they spoke with other tongues when the Holy Spirit first came upon the Gentiles at the house of Cornelius (Acts 10). And in telling the Apostles of it, Peter said "the Holy Spirit fell on them as on us at the beginning," and "God gave them *the like gift* as He did unto us." (Acts 11:15, 17). And that same GIFT is for you and me today! Praise God for that!

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

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

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

But if not, WHY not?

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

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

### An Experience Unique in History

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

"The Holy Spirit was not yet given." How could men receive the GIFT before

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

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

Again, that same memorable night, Jesus said: "He dwelleth WITH you, and shall be IN you." (John 14:17). He was WITH them, in the person of Jesus, but was, after the day of Pentecost, to be IN them, thru the Holy Spirit. And so, today, as the Scriptures say, "Christ IN us, the hope of glory."

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

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

AND THIS ADVENT FROM HEAVEN WAS ACCOMPANIED WITH MIGHTY MANIFESTATIONS! The Spirit of God came with a SOUND as of mighty rushing wind! It came with the APPEARANCE of divided tongues of fire! And on that occasion, it filled all the 120 disciples, and spoke thru them *in such manner that every man from every nation on earth HEARD in his own language!* The miracle on that occasion was in the HEARING, as well as the speaking!

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

### "Praying Down Pentecost"

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

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

All we have to do now is to OPEN UP OUR HEARTS, and to let the blessed Holy Spirit in! Today you need not plead  
(Please continue on page 13)

# Does EASTER Commemorate the *Resurrection*?

*Here are SEVEN IRREFUTABLE PROOFS from history that the resurrection of Jesus was not on Sunday morning, that the crucifixion was not on Friday.*

*by Herman L. Hoeb*

## PART V

**N**O PROBLEM has caused more confusion and controversy than the time of the crucifixion.

Almost everybody has taken for granted the "Good Friday-Easter Sunday" tradition, even though *in the year* that Jesus Christ died *the passover was NOT ON A FRIDAY!*

Theologians have tried every way to solve this contradiction of fact. They have attempted to CHANGE the *year of Jesus' birth*, they have attempted to CHANGE the *year that He began his ministry*, they have attempted to CHANGE the *day of his death*, and they have attempted to CHANGE the *day of his resurrection*.

### Resurrection Sunday a Tradition

The common conception that the resurrection occurred early on Sunday morning is only a *tradition*. There were no human eyewitnesses to the resurrection. The *only* source of information to which later church writers had access was the historic account revealed by the angelic messengers and preserved by the gospel writers.

It was the "apostolic fathers" who began to teach that the crucifixion occurred on Friday. Yet they admitted that the ancient custom of fasting on *Wednesday* probably was derived from "the day on which Jesus was betrayed" and "on which the Sanhedrin decided to kill him"! (*Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia of Religious Knowledge*, art. "Fasting.")

What an admission!

These same teachers of the second and third century greatly disputed about *the year of the crucifixion*. They even varied from one and one-half years to twenty years in their dates of the length of Christ's ministry! What contradictions!

It's time we studied to see what really happened.

### The Evidence of Scripture

Before we examine the seven absolutely irrefutable proofs from history, let's note for a moment the evidence

from the Bible. Jesus was teaching his disciples, according to Mark's account, that he would "be killed, and *after three days rise again*" (Mark 8:31).

Although the critics are in consternation about what Jesus meant by the expression "after three days," we need only turn to *Jesus' own interpretation*. These three days, at the completion of which Jesus would rise, are explained in Matthew 12:38-40 to include *three days and three nights*. Since Jesus in other scriptures also said that he would "rise the third day," it is obvious that the resurrection must have occurred *precisely at the completion of the third day following his burial*.

Jesus was buried *before sunset* on the day of the crucifixion (Luke 23:54). Then the resurrection must have occurred *before sunset* in the late Saturday afternoon because when the women came to the tomb, early the following Sunday morning, *Jesus had already risen*. The angel said, "He is risen: he is not here" (Mark 16:6).

Late Saturday afternoon being the time of the resurrection, three days before that would place the crucifixion on *Wednesday*, the preparation day. Thursday of that year must have been an *annual sabbath*, the fifteenth of Nisan, the first annual sabbath in the days of unleavened bread. So we would know that that sabbath was not necessarily the weekly sabbath, John was inspired to call it a "high day" which means an annual sabbath which may occur *during the week*.

Mary picks up John's account by adding that *AFTER THAT SABBATH*, which was a high day, the women *bought* sweet spices to use in anointing the body of Jesus (Mark 16:1). This purchasing of the spices could not have been on Thursday, the annual sabbath: it must have been Friday!

Having made their purchases, the women *prepared* these ointments "and rested the sabbath day according to the commandment" (Luke 23:56). This was the *seventh day sabbath* upon which, near its close, Jesus was raised from the dead. Thus the Bible proves

that the resurrection was *not* on Sunday, the crucifixion not on Friday. THERE WERE TWO SEPARATE SABBATHS THAT WEEK!

### Matthew 28:1 Proves It!

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

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

### Another Mistranslation

Another verse causing the Bible apparently to contradict itself is found in Mark 16:9. When rightly translated this verse does not prove that the resurrection was on Sunday. In the common versions, the comma is placed following the word "week" making it *appear* that Jesus had arisen on Sunday morning. But the use of commas in the Bible did not develop until about *fourteen centuries after* this was written.

Here is the explanation. In the original Greek the phrase "early the first day of the week" can be *grammatically* connected either with the words "having risen" or with the words "he appeared first to Mary Magdalene." The *Expositor's Greek Testament* says the phrase "early the first day of the week" may be either "connected with (having risen), indicating the time of the resurrection, or with (appeared), indicating the time of the first appearance."

Other Scriptures, prove that *it could not refer* to the time of the resurrection. As *it could refer* to the first appearance of Jesus to Mary (John 20:14), this text in Mark 16:9 should have been translated, "Now having risen, early the

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first day of the week he appeared first  
 to Mary Magdalene."

## Proof One: The Calendar Tells WHEN

Now let's examine the passover dates  
 as Jesus died on the passover. We have  
 seen in previous articles that Jesus ob-  
 served the true passover at the proper  
 time—on the eve of the 14th of God's  
 first month, called Nisan or Abib. It  
 was the Jews in Judaea who were taking  
 their own—the Jewish—passover a day  
 later than God commanded (John 18:  
 28).

On which day of the week did Jesus  
 final passover fall? This simple question  
 has perplexed theologians and historians  
 for centuries, but the answer is so plain  
 a child can understand it.

The passover is calculated by astron-  
 omy as most everyone knows. The fol-  
 lowing is a chart giving the dates of  
 various passovers (Nisan 14) which  
 occurred about the time of the death of  
 Jesus Christ. You can verify any of  
 these dates by comparing *Hasting's Dic-  
 tionary*, with the *Encyclopaedia Biblica*,  
 and the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, article  
 "Bible." None of these references are  
 wholly accurate, however; but by put-  
 ting *all the facts together*, these dates  
 are the only possible conclusions.

A. D. 29, Saturday, April 16  
 A. D. 30, Friday, April 7  
 A. D. 31, Wednesday, April 25  
 A. D. 32, Monday, April 14  
 A. D. 33, Friday, April 3

Several references give the passover,  
 Nisan 14, as Monday, March 26 in the  
 year 31, but this is far too early. The  
 year 30 was intercalary—it had thirteen  
 months—thus placing the passover thir-  
 ty days later in 31 A. D. The passover  
*never comes less than four days after the  
 vernal equinox* (March 21, today) and  
 usually always *not less than five days*.  
 But remember, in Jesus' day the equinox  
 did *not* occur on March 21, but on  
 March 23 because the Roman world  
 was using the *Julian* calendar. Since at  
 that time March 26 was only *three* days  
 after the equinox, it could not have  
 been the passover. Hence in the year  
 31 A. D. the passover was on Wednes-  
 day—and *this is THE ONLY POSSIBLE  
 YEAR in which Christ could have been  
 crucified* as we shall now PROVE.

## Proof Two: The Decree of Artaxerxes

There are seven basic dates from  
 which the exact year of Christ's death

may be calculated. These dates are so  
 precise that there can be no doubt that  
 the passover upon which Jesus was  
 crucified occurred on Wednesday,  
 April 25, A. D. 31.

The first proof is the year in which  
 Artaxerxes issued his decree to restore  
 and build Jerusalem (Ezra 7). It is re-  
 corded in Daniel 9:25-26 that there  
 would be sixty-nine prophetic weeks  
 (7 + 62) till the Messiah would come,  
 after which he would be "cut off"—  
 crucified—"not for himself" but for the  
 sins of the whole world. Sixty nine  
 prophetic weeks equals 483 years (69 x  
 7).

When we determine the year in which  
 this decree was issued, we can locate the  
 exact year when Christ—the Messiah—  
 began his ministry.

By figuring from the date of an un-  
 disputed eclipse in the night following  
 the 16th of July 523, as well as from  
 two other eclipses, it is possible to date  
 correctly the reign of Artaxerxes. His  
 father reigned twenty-one years, accord-  
 ing to the Canon of Ptolemy, and died in  
 464 B. C. In the late summer of 464  
 B. C. Artaxerxes began to reign. His  
 first year would hence extend from 464  
 B. C. to 463 B. C.

His seventh year—the year in which  
 he issued his decree (Ezra 7:8)—would  
 extend from about the late summer of  
 458 B. C. to the late summer of 457  
 B. C. From the first month to the fifth  
 month of God's calendar—from the lat-  
 ter part of March to the latter part of  
 July, 457 B. C.—Ezra journeyed to Ju-  
 daea in the seventh year of Artaxerxes.

And just 483 years later would bring  
 us to A. D. 27—the year when the Mes-  
 siah or Christ would appear.

Although the date of the issuance of  
 this decree is amply proved from as-  
 tronomy and the Canon of Ptolemy, his-  
 torians often mis-interpret the facts to  
 suit their pet theories. Then theologians  
 quote from whatever historical sources  
 suit them in order to change the true  
 date for the beginning of Christ's min-  
 istry.

*But the true date—457 B.C.—is ab-  
 solutely fixed by astronomical observa-  
 tion and by the Canon of Ptolemy, the  
 most accurate record of history for that  
 time.*

## Age of Jesus at His Baptism

Jesus was anointed the Messiah in 27  
 A. D., which was 483 years after decree  
 of Artaxerxes to restore Jerusalem. The  
 next fact that we need to understand is  
 the age of Jesus when he was baptized  
 and entered upon his ministry.

The only historical account of this  
 was written by Luke to Theophilus  
 (Luke 1:1-4). In this account it is  
 plainly stated that when Jesus began his

## RADIO LOG

### "The WORLD TOMORROW"

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes to-  
 day's news, with the prophecies of  
 The WORLD TOMORROW!

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ministry "he was about thirty years old." (Luke 3:23).

If Jesus was about 30 years old in 27 A.D. then he must have been born in 4 B.C. as we shall now prove.

### Proof Three: The Death of Herod

The time of Jesus's birth is important. Jesus was born *before* the death of Herod the king (Mat. 2:15). When did Herod die? Again the critics are in utmost confusion because they have *refused to weigh all the facts*.

According to Josephus, the Jewish historian, Herod died, "having reigned, since he had procured Antigonus to be slain, thirty-four years; but since he had been declared king by the Romans, thirty-seven" (Antiquities, XVII, viii, 1).

The two dates for the beginning of Herod's reign are not disputed, but given as 37 B.C. respectively (*Ency. Bib.*, p. 2026). Simple subtraction—which the theologians and critics seem unable to do. Herod died just prior to the beginning of spring in B.C. 3. Although his death is commonly dated one whole year sooner (B. C. 4) it could not possibly have occurred then. Neither would it have occurred later.

Why?

Josephus mentions an eclipse of the moon before the death of Herod. That eclipse, as calculated, occurred March 13, 4 B. C. Yet it was *after* this that Herod went beyond the river Jordan to be cured of his diseases. Finding that the physicians couldn't cure him, he still revived sufficiently to return to Jericho. There, he gathered together and contrived the death of the principal men of the *entire* Jewish nation. And as if this were not enough, Herod had his son Antipater killed five days before his own death. Since these and other events occurred *after* the eclipse mentioned by Josephus, *that passover must have been thirteen months later* and not one month later. Thus Herod died in B.C. 3, the only date that agrees with all the known facts.

As Jesus was about thirty years old in the early autumn of 27 A.D., then he must have been born in the early autumn of B.C. 4, about a half year before the death of Herod. *Jesus could not have been born before this time*, or he would have been more than thirty years old at the beginning of his ministry. Neither could he have been born later in B.C. 2 as some assume, for he would have been only twenty-eight years old. But Luke plainly said that he was about thirty years of age.

### When Did the Wise Men Arrive?

But what are we going to do with the statement recorded in Matthew 2:16

that just before his death Herod had all the children in Bethlehem killed "from two years old and under"? This would appear to indicate that Jesus was born one year earlier than he really was born.

Most people carelessly read this account by *assuming that Herod knew the date of Jesus' birth*. They think he had all the children killed because Jesus must have been between one and two years old.

Think for a moment how illogical this would be. Would a murderer like Herod wait for at least one whole year after the Magi left before attempting to kill the child Jesus? Of course not.

The truth is that *Herod did not know the time of Jesus' birth*. Notice what the Scripture said. *As soon as* Herod saw that the Magi didn't return to him he became very angry, ordering all those little children butchered "from two years old and under, ACCORDING TO THE TIME WHICH HE HAD EXACTLY LEARNED of the magi" (Mat. 2:16).

Now what was the *exact time* that he learned from the magi? Was it the date of Jesus' birth?

No!

Notice verse seven of this same chapter: "Then Herod privily called the magi, and learned of them exactly the time of . . ." what? The birth of Jesus? No. But "*of the appearing star*."

Of course.

The wise men or magi had come a great distance from the East and the star had appeared *some time before the birth of Jesus* in order for them to prepare to make their journey to Bethlehem while Jesus was still very young. Since the star appeared more than one year previously, Herod took no chances but had every infant killed up to two years of age.

Jesus was slightly less than six months old at the time of Herod's death. The latest possible date for the birth of Jesus was the autumn of B. C. 4, before winter arrived (Luke 2:8). This places the commencement of the ministry of Christ, thirty years later in the autumn of the year 27.

### Proof Four: Temple Under Construction 46 Years

Here is another clinching fact.

Jesus was about thirty years old when he began his ministry in the autumn of 27 A.D. The *first passover* in his ministry must have occurred the next spring, A.D. 28. It was at that time that the Jews told Jesus that the temple of Herod was already forty-six full years under construction (John 2:20).

Herod began constructing the temple, after thorough preparation, in the last part of his 18th year according to Jo-

sephus. Since he reckons this year from the spring of B.C. 37, the 18th year would be 20-19 B.C. The temple was begun in the months preceding the passover, B.C. 19 (*Ency. Bib.*, art. "Temple").

Forty-six full years later would bring us to the beginning of A.D. 28, before the first passover in Jesus' ministry.

If the ministry of Christ began in any other year than the autumn of A.D. 27, then the temple would not have been exactly 46 years in building by the time of the passover in the spring of the year following.

### Proof Five: The Reign of Emperor Tiberius

One of the most vital keys to the chronology of Christ's ministry—and yet one of the most universally misunderstood dates—is the 15th year of the reign of Tiberius Caesar. Luke tells us that John the Baptist began to preach in his 15th year (Luke 3:1).

When was this fifteenth year?

The trouble arises from the fact that there are at least *two dates* from which the reign of Tiberius Caesar may be counted—the first begins with his being made co-ruler with Augustus Caesar, August, A.D. 11, and the second begins with his sole rule three years later in August, A.D. 14. Luke could have used either date and been historically correct. But which one *did* he use?

To be consistent with all the other facts, Luke must have used A.D. 11 as the beginning of the reign of Tiberius. In fact, for the word "reign" Luke uses a Greek word meaning "government" in general, indicating that he did not mean his sole emperorship, but merely his being elevated to authority.

The 15th year of Tiberius would therefore extend from the beginning of September A.D. 26 to the same month in A.D. 27. In this 15th year John the Baptist began to preach repentance all about the Jordan River before Jesus was baptized by him. *John's ministry occupied many months* in which he prepared the way for Jesus. This proves that Jesus did not start his ministry until about the autumn of A.D. 27, the exact time that Jesus was thirty years old. (Luke 3:23.)

### Proof Six: When Was Pilate Governor?

Notice how all these dates prove exactly the season of the year that Jesus began preaching.

The next record is just as plain. It proves that John the Baptist did not come out of the wilderness to preach until the beginning of A.D. 27, about  
(Please continue on page 15)

# Truth about Unclean Meats

by Raymond F. McNair

IT IS commonly taught that all foods—as this world designates foods—are fit for human consumption—that we may eat anything we desire and it won't harm our bodies.

To support this idea, Paul's epistles are interpreted to mean that we no longer have to follow the teaching that certain meats are not good for the human body.

But is this what Paul really taught?

Let's turn to the beginning of the 14th chapter of Romans. Notice what he is writing: "Him that is WEAK in the FAITH receive ye . . . For one believeth that he may eat all things, another who is WEAK, *eateth HERBS* (VEGETABLES)." (Rom. 14:1-2).

Of whom was Paul speaking? Of those who were VEGETARIANS only and of those who believed in eating *meats* as well as vegetables and fruits.

Thus you see the apostle Paul confronted with the same problem that we encounter today in carrying the gospel to the world. You would be surprised at the number of people who do not eat MEATS or even any animal products—milk, butter, cheese, or eggs. Others have a meatless day, or days on which they eat only fish.

## False Teaching About Meats to Arise

We are explicitly told in scripture that religious cults would arise commanding people to abstain from *those meats* which God created to be eaten by those who know and believe *the truth*.

Notice what Paul says in I Tim. 4:1-5. "Now the Spirit speaketh expressly, that in the *latter times* some shall DEPART from the *faith*, giving heed to seducing spirits, and DOCTRINES OF DEVILS . . . COMMANDING TO ABSTAIN from *meats*, which GOD HATH CREATED TO BE RECEIVED with thanksgiving of *them* which believe and know the TRUTH."

What is truth? "*Thy word is TRUTH.*" (John 17:17). So *the Bible*—God's Word—reveals the TRUTH concerning *which* meats are good for food. We should not refuse any food which, according to the TRUTH, God created to be eaten. But does this mean that ALL meats are healthful and fit food for the human body?

Notice I Tim. 4:5. We are not to refuse any creature that "is sanctified (set apart) by the word of God and prayer." Christians are allowed to eat *every one of those creatures which have been SANCTIFIED—set apart as fit for human food.*

Now WHICH meats has God sanctified for human food? The only passages in all the Bible showing *which* meats GOD SANCTIFIED are found in Leviticus 11 and Deuteronomy 14. Here you find that it is the "*clean*"—healthful—meats which are good for food. There is not one single scripture showing that God ever set apart as fit for food any unclean creatures—snails, oysters, clams, snakes, octopuses, skunks, rats, horses or swine. Yet people eat these creatures without fully realizing the harm they are doing to their bodies.

Now let's turn to the 14th chapter of Romans again.

## Vegetarians at Rome

In the second verse Paul speaks of those who are WEAK in the *faith* who eat vegetables (herbs) only—who succumbed to the teaching and doctrines of "seducing spirits"—abstaining from those clean meats which God had originally set apart in His word for man's nourishment.

The question confronting Paul was not that Christians in Rome contended the unclean animals had been cleansed by God—the common false assumption of today—but the real issue, according to verse two, was over the vegetarian belief held by some that NO MEATS whatsoever should be eaten.

Paul was straightening the brethren out on this matter, telling them that none of those clean meats which had been sanctified by God should be refused. He pointed out to them, however, that it would be wrong for the vegetarians to eat meat if they had doubts about it, thereby defiling their weak consciences. For he wrote, ". . . happy is he that condemneth not himself in that thing which he alloweth. And he that doubteth is damned if he eat, because he eateth not of *faith*: for whatsoever is not of faith is sin." (Rom. 14:22-23).

We must follow what *we believe* to be right ACCORDING TO THE WORD OF GOD. This does not mean that our consciences *always* tell us what is right—not at all. We have to continually study to learn what is right and wrong. But God thinks more highly of one who might sincerely and conscientiously do the wrong thing not knowing the full truth than he does of a person who would do the right thing according to the letter, but who really believes in his heart that he was doing wrong. Therefore we must educate our consciences

according to the TRUTH—according to the Word of God—so that our consciences will not misguide us.

Since Paul taught Timothy to distinguish between those meats which God calls "clean" and "unclean," and since he would not have contradicted himself, he must have used the phrase "nothing is unclean" (Rom. 14:14) to mean that NONE of the *clean* meats is unclean of itself, "but to him (the vegetarian) that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to *him* it is unclean" but *not to us* who know that ALL *clean* meats are good for food.

Nevertheless remember that we *must not judge* those who think meats shouldn't be eaten. We should not even eat meat if a true brother would stumble (Romans 14:20, 21).

## Everyone Has His Own Opinion

Apart from the word of God probably no two people on earth would completely agree as to what meats should be eaten. Everyone has *his own idea* as to what HE THINKS is right on this subject.

One believes in eating horse meat, another believes in eating snails or rattlesnake meat, someone else eats opossum, still others (especially orientals) esteem mice to be a delicacy, in some islands octopus is a highly prized rare dish, and of course millions like "that delicious roast pork"—to say nothing of what is commonly referred to as "sea foods."

Did these *ideas* come from the Bible or did they come from human custom and tradition?

But just who designed the human body? Who is it that created all plant and animal life? Should not He, their Creator, know what animals we should eat?

The answer is—yes! He, God the Creator, does know and has revealed to man which meats are good for him—which ones will provide the proper nourishment to make him healthy.

## A Common Objection

Some who haven't completely yielded themselves to God will likely retort, "I still believe everything is clean. Yes sir-e-e-e, and you can't change me."

Maybe you do believe that, but *your* beliefs will not alter the TRUTH when you face God on the judgment day. If you violate God's physical laws concern-  
(Please continue on page 12)

# God's Sacred Calendar

*The Roman calendar on your wall originated with Julius Caesar about 45 B.C. But God gave Israel a DIFFERENT calendar! Without a knowledge of it you can not obey the Creator!*

*by Kenneth Herrmann*

**W**HAT is the *true* calendar provided by God? Has God left it up to each individual to follow whatever calendar he pleases? Or is there an accurate one which He has preserved for us today?

How can we *know* the proper time to keep Passover, the Feast of Tabernacles and the other sacred days *which God commanded* for the church?

## True Units of Time

The first evidence of God's calendar is found in Genesis 1:14. The *sun* and *moon* are "for signs, and for seasons, and for days, and years."

The present *Roman calendar* does not meet this qualification. It divides the year in the dead of the winter. It divides the day in the middle of the night and its month has no reference to the moon. *It couldn't be God's calendar.*

What, then, is God's method of calculating time?

The first unit of time revealed in the Bible is the *day*. Six times in Genesis 1 the term "evening and morning" is used, always with the evening or dark part of the day preceding the morning or daylight part of each day. *The day* as revealed by God *does not begin in the middle of the night but at sunset.*

This division of days was correctly understood at Christ's time. When the Sabbath was drawing to a close, those who wished him to heal them waited, and "*when the sun was setting* all they that had any sick with divers diseases brought them unto him; and he laid his hands on every one of them, and healed them."

They understood when the day would come to an end, though they were not aware of the fact that Christ would heal on the Sabbath day also.

Could "the lights in the firmament of the heaven . . . divide the day from the night" (Gen. 1:14) *unless* the moment of sunset were used as the proper *division* of one day from another?

Notice what Mark also records: "And at even, *when the sun did set*, they brought unto him all that were diseased, and them that were possessed with devils." They brought these people to Christ when the Sabbath day was over, "when the sun did set" (Mark 1:32).

That a new day begins with nightfall

is also confirmed by the description of the Day of Atonement occurring on the tenth day of the month. "In the ninth day of the month at even, *from even unto even*, shall ye celebrate your sabbath" (Lev. 23:27-32). Notice that the tenth day began at the very close—the evening at sunset—of the ninth day.

The exact moment for the end of a day is again revealed by a comparison of Lev. 22:7 with Lev. 15. Unclean individuals were instructed to bathe and were then considered clean *when the evening came*. "*When the sun is down*, he shall be clean" (Lev. 22:7). A new day had begun at sunset, not at midnight.

God wants you to begin the observance of His holydays at sunset, not in the middle of the night according to a man-made watch.

## The Origin of the Week

When did the period of time called the week come into existence? Was it first revealed to Moses and the children of Israel when they came out of Egypt?

Far from it!

Notice Genesis 29. For several hundred years prior to the Exodus, Jacob, whose name was changed to Israel, served Laban seven years for each of his two daughters, Rachel and Leah. That seven year period was termed a "week." So they already had the knowledge of the week as a seven day period. (They also knew that a prophetic day might be used symbolically to represent a year—an important key to the understanding of Bible prophecy.)

The first time the word "week" occurs in the Bible is in connection with Jacob's service to Laban, yet the *first week* mentioned in the Bible was nearly over when Adam was created. The sixth day of this first week came to a close with Adam's naming of the animals, his presentation with Eve and with God's commands concerning man's position and duties on the earth.

Six of the days of creation were past; yet there remained one thing which the Eternal God had yet to make for man. Christ speaks of it in Mark 2:27; "THE SABBATH was made *for man*, and not man for the sabbath." Completing six days of physical creation, God rested on the seventh day of this first week, blessed

it and set it apart for holy use. This weekly cycle of six days of labor and a seventh devoted to our spiritual needs *has never been broken* and continues for us today. Write for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, "Has Time Been Lost?" for proof.

Yes, those who observe the seventh day of the week, called Saturday today, are observing the same seventh day God rested on, blessed and sanctified!

There is no basis from astronomy why the week should be a period of seven days. It does not divide evenly into the month or the year. No signs in the heavens can be held accountable for its origin. THE VERY EXISTENCE OF THE WEEK IS PROOF OF THE TRUTH OF THE SEVEN DAY CREATION WEEK OF GENESIS 1 AND 2.

The continual observance of God's Sabbath kept man in the knowledge of this seven day unit of time. And the fact that the week has continued is strong evidence that God's Sabbath has never been lost.

## Spring Begins the Sacred Year

We have found that the new day begins just as the sun sinks below the horizon *and that the week begins with the sunset FOLLOWING THE SEVENTH DAY*. This was true in Adam's time. It was still true over 4000 years later after Christ's death when *the day after the Sabbath* was the first day of the week or Sunday (Matt. 28:1).

But where does the Scripture give us information concerning the month and the year? When were they first made known to man?

The Eternal God instructed Israel, while they were still in Egypt, when to begin a new year. Why was this necessary? Weren't these facts known to the patriarchs and followed by them? They certainly were. The reason for the reissuing of this knowledge is that the descendants of Israel had been in slavery in Egypt for two centuries after the death of Joseph and had lost contact with the true God. They had lost God's method of keeping time. Only a few may have retained a partial knowledge of these things.

To clarify matters for everyone, God had to reveal it. Concerning the spring month of Nisan or Abib, God said:



"This month shall be unto you *the beginning of months: it shall be the first month of the year to you.*" (Exodus 12:2).

The first day of this month—which occurs at the beginning of spring—then would be the first day of the year. The first month in God's sacred calendar isn't January which begins in the middle of a dead winter.

The word *month* comes from the word *moon*. In Hebrew the word for month when speaking of the calendar is the same as for new moon or moon. God's months begin with the new moon. However, these months may seem to begin a day or so following the actual new moon because of certain special considerations. The observation of the new moon is to be made from Jerusalem, not from the North American continent. The seven to ten hours difference in time between Jerusalem and the part of the country you live in will make actual observation of the new moon from America misleading.

#### More Evidence on the Month

You can prove that each month began with the new moon by comparing Num. 28:11 with 1 Chronicles 23:31. In every instance the monthly offerings were made on the day of the new moon.

In the second year of their exodus from Egypt, God commanded Israel concerning the blowing of trumpets; "*In the beginnings of your months, ye shall blow with the trumpets over your burnt offerings.*" (Num. 10:10). Concerning his holydays, he said, "*In the seventh month, in the first day of the month, shall ye have a sabbath (rest), a memorial of blowing of trumpets, an holy convocation.*" (Lev. 23:24). In reference to this same day Psalms 81:3 states, "*Blow up the trumpet in the new moon, in the time appointed, on our solemn feast day.*" There can be no doubt that the start of a new month is regulated by the moon. Each month begins with a new moon.

Do these months coincide with the months of the Roman calendar? Not at all.

*The date of the new moon on the Roman calendar may occur at any time of the month.* The few moments required to prove this to yourself will be profitably spent. The astronomical months God gave us average approximately 29½ days, while the Roman months are close to 30½ days on the average. The difference in length causes the months of the true calendar to begin, in general, one day earlier each succeeding month of the Roman calendar.

It is important to recognize that the days of God's months seldom coincide with those of the Roman calendar. The

Passover, for instance, being the 14th day of God's first month varies from about March 26th to April 22nd over a ten year period.

Thus we have established the *daily cycle* beginning at sundown, the *weekly cycle* beginning at sundown following the Sabbath, the *monthly cycle* beginning with the new moon and the *yearly cycle* beginning in the spring with the first day of the month in which the early harvest would take place. The *day, month and year* are easy to follow by watching the sun in its daily path, the *moon* in its phases and the *seasons* as they progress. The signs in the heavens were intended for this purpose. The Sabbath is *remembered by its weekly observance.*

#### There Are Complications

In setting up this true calendar, some minor complications do arise when an attempt is made to relate the day to the month and the month to the year. For example, the length of time between new moons is slightly more than 29½ days. To solve this, one month in general has 30 days, the next 29. Minor adjustments from this pattern take care of the remaining fraction.

In fitting the months into the year more difficulties are encountered. The time required for the spring season to return each year is approximately 365¼ days. Twelve lunar months make only 354 days. Unless something were done the calendar would slip about 11 days behind the seasons each year. This could not be allowed for *the feasts throughout the year have a definite relationship with the harvests.* Note Lev. 23:4, "*These are the feasts of the LORD, even holy convocations, which ye shall proclaim in their seasons.*"

The Passover had to be at the time of the early grain harvest for the high priest waves a sheaf of the new grain crop on the morrow after the Sabbath during the Feast of Unleavened Bread. "*Keep this ordinance in his season from year to year.*" (Ex. 13:10). No other grain could be cut until the wave sheaf was offered. (Check Ex. 23:14-17, Deut. 16:9-16 and Num. 28:2 also.)

To keep the month in accord with the year, God intended that a 13th month be added in certain years. *Seven* times in a 19 year cycle this 13th month must be added to keep the year in accord with the seasons. Then the cycle is repeated.

#### Confusion or Order

The appearance of the new moon in the western sky just after sunset is used to determine the beginning of a new month. A keen eyed observer might note this first faint sickle a day earlier

than his neighbor. Is he justified in starting the new month with that day while his neighbor waits till the following evening? Can one man add a 13th month to the year and another wait until the next year to add the correcting month. No. It would be confusion.

Is there to be confusion or order? Logic would require that some CENTRAL AUTHORITY be guided in the task of determining which months should have the 30th day and which years should have a 13th month.

*This need for a true central authority concerning the calendar is absolute proof that such authority existed.* Add the fact that God requires us to keep *His holydays today* and we must conclude that some SUCH AUTHORITY ON THE CALENDAR EXISTS FOR US TODAY. God never fails to provide man with knowledge that he must know and can not find out for himself.

While no mention is made in Scripture concerning the need for some months to have 30 days and others only 29 or that some years have 13 months and others only 12, the facts of astronomy—the exact measurement of the length of the day, month and year—taken with the commands of the Scripture prove that this must be necessary.

#### Who Are the Calendar Specialists?

The perfect clock of the heavens is the timepiece given by God to man. Instructions concerning its use were given after Israel came out of Egypt. They were only a repetition of earlier instructions known to Adam, Noah and Abraham alike.

Certain men were given understanding in this matter so there would be order rather than confusion. "*Of the children of Issachar, were men that had understanding of the times, to know what Israel ought to do.*" (1 Chr. 12:32) God had commanded Israel to observe the holydays in their seasons and also in definite months. To keep the seasons in accord with the calendar year, a thirteenth month had to be added every 2 or 3 years. God did provide men with understanding as to when to add these extra months. They understood when to add a 30th day to a month regularly having only 29, a necessity in keeping the calendar accurate.

Thus we conclude that there were men whose GOD-GIVEN AUTHORITY IN THE MATTER OF KEEPING THE CALENDAR WAS RECOGNIZED AND FOLLOWED BY ALL THE PEOPLE. God told Israel the days to be observed but *did not leave it to the individual* to devise his own calendar adding an extra day to a month or month to a year when it might please him. Certain men specialized in this

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# Are Babies "Saved" If They Die?

by Rod Meredith

**G**OD IS working out a great purpose in our lives which very few people understand.

We mortal human beings were not born with perfect characters. We came into this world with a carnal mind which from birth is enmity against God's way (Romans 8:8).

But God is developing perfect, spiritual *character* in us through *experience* and *suffering*. We have all heard the expression, "Well, he certainly learned his lesson that time!" Experience is a great teacher. We can profit from our mistakes if we "learn our lesson" and quit repeating those mistakes.

## Few Know What Salvation Is

But most people find it hard to apply this principle to the spiritual realm *because they don't know what salvation really is*. God is not trying to save everyone *now*. Only certain ones are being "called." Salvation involves *learning that our own way is wrong, repenting of it, accepting Christ as Savior and acquiring God's character* to fit us to become sons of God—MEMBERS of the GODHEAD—and kings and priests under Jesus Christ in the kingdom of God (Rev. 5:10).

Failing to understand this, some people believe that little children and babies are "saved" if they die. To justify this teaching, they refer to Matthew 18:3-6 which reads, "Verily I say unto you, except you be converted, and *become AS little children*, ye shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven. Whosoever therefore shall *humble himself AS this*

*little child*, the same is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven."

Notice that Jesus *didn't* say, "Children are converted and will be greatest in the kingdom." He was speaking to *his disciples*, telling *them* to cultivate characteristics that little children ought to have. He knew that a normal, well-trained child will be humble before his parents and have implicit faith in their love, wisdom, and power to help him. Christ was simply pointing out that his followers need this quality in order to inherit God's kingdom.

Christ repeated this same principle when he said, "Verily I say unto you, whosoever shall not *receive* the kingdom of God as a little *child*, he shall not enter therein" (Mark 10:13-16). It is the *mature, converted* Christian who through a lifetime of experience humbles himself *as* a little child, keeps God's commandments and acquires God's character, who has a right to eternal life in the family of God and enters into the gates of the eternal city (Rev. 22:14).

God's great purpose is that we learn the value of His ways through *experience* and trial and test and even suffering. Even Christ, "though he were a Son, yet *learned* he *obedience* by the things which he suffered" (Hebrews 5:8). Before giving us eternal life, with all of its powers and responsibilities, God intends that we learn *obedience* to His law—the right and happy way of life.

## No Spiritual Growth

Little children have *not* had oppor-

tunity for this *spiritual growth*. They were born mortal and have had no eternal life in them because they *did not* receive the Spirit or life of God which imparts eternal life. "But if the Spirit of him that raised up Jesus from the dead dwell in you, he that raised up Christ from the dead shall also quicken your *mortal* bodies by his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11). Little children die without having been begotten by this Spirit, or life, of God.

We read that "God is no respecter of persons" (Acts 10:34). Yet He permits many little children to die without knowing the truth. Therefore, he would have to raise them from the dead and give them their first and only opportunity to gain eternal life!

All people—young or old—who have died in ignorance of God's laws and ways will be given their opportunity for salvation. This is the Great White Throne Judgment described in Rev. 20:12-13.

The July 1952 issue of the "Good News" contains an article which fully explains this subject. If you are a new reader, write for the July 1952 issue *immediately* so you can read the article "Is this the ONLY Day of Salvation?"

God deals fairly and equally with every person. He does not have the hurried and confusing way of "saving" people that misguided preachers have imagined. We need *time* to "grow in grace and knowledge." Everyone, including little children needs character development which comes *before* we inherit the precious gift of eternal life.

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## God's Sacred Calendar

(Continued from page 8)

field of astronomy. Their decisions, *guided by Scriptural instructions*, were accepted by the nation.

### Is the Sacred Calendar Still Correct?

Has God's calendar been preserved intact for us today? If not, then in commanding us to observe these holydays, God has asked us to do the *impossible*. If God's calendar is lost, God's commandments in regard to these feast days are *impossible to keep!*

But since God doesn't command the

impossible, THE CALENDAR IS PRESERVED!

To whom was the responsibility committed? The oracles of God were committed to *all Israel* to be passed on from generation to generation. Acts 7:38 speaks of the Israelites "who received the lively oracles to give unto us." Oracles are communications from God. These were given to all Israel, *both* the house of Israel and the house of Judah. The house of Israel went into captivity in 721 B.C. losing her identity and her knowledge of God. *She did not preserve the calendar or the Bible* for us. Who did?

The house of Judah went into captivity in 604 B.C. but retained knowledge of her identity and her God. Recognizing the fact that she had gone into captivity for breaking the Sabbath, Judah became very strict in its observance and retained it for us today.

Notice what Paul asks himself: "What *advantage* then hath the Jew?" Then he answers in part, "Much every way: chiefly, because that *unto them* were committed the *oracles of God*." (Romans 3:1, 2) The Jews alone were left to preserve *the Scripture, the Sabbath AND THE CALENDAR*. If they did not fulfill this God-given commission,

we have no real basis for calculating the Holy Days of God.

### Christ Followed Same Calendar

If the Jews did not preserve the law, could Christ have lived His early life in the knowledge of it?

He accused the Jews of "laying aside the commandment of God (to) hold the tradition of men." (Mark 7:8) The commands Jesus followed were the ones written in the Law—the Scripture they had preserved, yet refused to obey.

Had they not preserved the knowledge of *keeping time*, as well as the Scripture, Christ could not have observed Passover, Pentecost, the Feast of Trumpets and the Feast of Tabernacles in their proper seasons during His boyhood. He could not have lived a sinless life. The authority for keeping the calendar was delegated to the Jews and THEY DID PRESERVE IT.

Here is absolute proof of Jesus' recognition of the authority vested in the religious leaders of Judah at that time. Christ kept the same Sabbath that Jews around him did. He observed the same holydays, proving that they had a correct knowledge of time. In speaking of the Scripture, He accepted the same Scripture which had been entrusted to Israel by Moses and the Prophets. Christ recognized that IN THESE POINTS the house of Judah had carried out its commission.

### Are There Other Formulas?

Some sects disagree with the calendar which the Jews preserved and have developed their own formulas for beginning the year. The "authorities" they use are the writers of profane history.

Some believe the ancient reckoning of Passover was from the actual sight of the new moon NEAREST the vernal equinox and cite Josephus, a Jewish historian, to indicate that Passover could never be earlier than March 20th, or later than April 19th. Yet this same Josephus is quoted in *Hasting's Bible Dictionary* as saying the vernal equinox (March 21) always occurred in Nisan. This means the year began with the new moon PRIOR to March 21st and that Passover could be as early as March 5th but not later than April 3rd.

Thus one writer quotes Josephus (Ant. I,X,5) to begin the year with the new moon PRIOR to March 21st; another uses the same Josephus to prove we ought to take the new moon NEAREST the same date; still another source, the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*, asserts that the year ALWAYS began with the first new moon AFTER March 21st.

Writers of profane history only *contradict* themselves. They can not be depended upon to preserve this essential

knowledge. God has in no way used them to preserve His Sabbath or calendar.

Neither the oracles of God nor the preservation of His times were committed to writers of profane history.

The Jewish nation has preserved the Scripture, Sabbath and calendar for us even though individuals in that nation lacking guidance from God have strayed from the truth on these issues.

### From Observation to Calculation

At first observation was the chief method for the determination of the beginning of a new month or new year. Gradually, after years went by, a *definite pattern* began to emerge in the insertion of the extra days and extra months. For example, when weather did not permit actual observation of the faint sickle of the growing new moon, those entrusted with the matter were able to determine the correct day by astronomic calculation. But observation continued to be used in connection with calculation by keen-eyed men stationed on the heights about Jerusalem to watch for sign of the new month.

So long as the people were in close contact with one another observation was satisfactory. Foreseeing world conditions ahead where the Church as well as the Jews would be scattered, GOD GUIDED THESE MEN TO SET UP A CALENDAR based on the laws of *mathematics and astronomy*—the very physical laws God set in motion—a calendar that could be prepared far into the future—for our day—one that *would be* ACCURATE. NOT A NEW CALENDAR, but a mathematical continuation of the original one based on observations of the signs of the heavens over a period of nearly 2000 years; a calendar that would lead to order and harmony among God's people in the matter of keeping time.

### This Is Our Part

Understanding that God *commissioned* and *required* his people, the Jews, to keep the calendar intact, we have left only the problem of transferring the dates from the true calendar of God to the present day Roman calendar. (Caution, do not accept the Jewish dates for Passover or Pentecost as the Jews have departed from the *Biblical instructions* as to when these days must be observed.)

Lacking a Jewish calendar, or wishing perhaps to know the dates for coming years one may use a somewhat more difficult method. The dates for the Feast of Trumpets for the coming years are given in *Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary*. This feast occurs on the 1st day of the 7th month and the rest of the holydays in the year are quite easily

determined from the date of this feast.

### How to Transfer the Dates

Let us calculate this year's holydays. From Webster's Dictionary we find that the Feast of Trumpets is Sept. 10th. This is the first day of God's seventh month.

Next let us find the first day of the first month. Rule one: Get the date of the Feast of Trumpets from a reliable source. Rule two: The Feast is the 177th day after the first day of the year. (Three months of 29 days and three months of 30.) You will find that March 17th is the first day of the sacred year.

Rule three: The Passover day is the thirteenth day after the first day of the year. This brings us to Monday, March 30th. (Caution, *all* these days begin the preceding evening.) The Passover service then should be held *Sunday evening, March 29th, shortly after sunset*, which is the beginning of the 14th day of God's first month. The seven days of Unleavened Bread are March 31 through April 6.

Rule four: The day of the wave sheaf offering falls on the first day of the week (or Sunday) following the first weekly Sabbath (Saturday) during Feast of Unleavened Bread. The date of the wave sheaf offering is April 5th. Though there is no observance of this day it is of utmost importance in figuring Pentecost.

Rule five: Pentecost (meaning *count fifty*) is the fiftieth day *after* the day of the wave sheaf offering. This feast will be on Monday, May 25th, this year.

### Fall Feast Days

The next holyday, the Feast of Trumpets, we found from the dictionary to be Sept. 10th or the first day of God's seventh month. Following this, "on the tenth day of this seventh month there shall be a day of atonement" (Lev. 23:27). The tenth day of the month, which is *nine days after* Sept. 10th, brings us Sept. 19th, the Day of Atonement, the fast day.

Then, "The fifteenth day of this seventh month shall be the feast of tabernacles for seven days unto the LORD" (verse 34). The fourteenth day after Sept. 10th brings us to Sept. 24th (sunset Sept. 23rd), the first day of this Feast. It will continue seven days, Sept. 24th through 30th, and the eighth day, Oct. 1st, is the high day following the Feast.

How very clear it is that God has provided mankind with His holy Calendar. He preserved that calendar through the Jewish people. Through them God has given you His sacred calendar so you would be able to observe the days He commands.

# ON THE CAMPUS

*F*OLLOWING are articles written by students on student activities to give you the story of our jam-packed lives on the campus. We hope you won't mind if we occasionally poke a little fun at ourselves—striving human beings are always funny—and no matter how serious minded, our frailties wink. *The Campus Editor*

## Tobogganing!

*by Janette Spurlin*

On Thursday afternoon, January 15th, Mr. Jack Elliott's physical education class went to the snow lines. From our student residence at Mayfair we can see this beautiful snow-capped mountain which is named "Mount Baldy." The snow remains on this mountain for about three months out of the year.

We left Mayfair about one-thirty with everyone packed into three cars. After driving about an hour, we arrived in the beautiful snow-covered mountains. And what a drastic temperature change we experienced! In Pasadena, we didn't even need our sweaters, but in those magnificent and majestic mountains, we needed our heaviest winter coat.

On our way up we stopped and rented toboggans. When we arrived, everyone was eager to get on his toboggan which was a sled made of a thin board curved upward and backward at the front end. After exploring around a while to find a suitable place, the fun began. For some of the students this was a new and exciting experience. After several hours of *thrills* and *spills*, everyone was tired and ready to get back to Mayfair.

On our way back, we stopped along the route and Mr. Elliott treated us to some hot chocolate. After all the exercise in the snow this was very tasty and refreshing.

The next day brought the howls and laughs. Some had a little trouble walking and sitting comfortably. However, we all came out safe and sound and anxiously awaiting our next trip to the snow-line.

## Comedies for Profit

*by Elva Russell*

On the evening of January 19th at 7:30 p.m., several of the students, under the direction of Professor Theodore Walker, produced three one-act comedies as a class project. We spent several class periods for rehearsals, plus many hours practice outside of class, every minute of which was enjoyed tremendously by those of us who are interested in dramatics.

Finally after weeks of preparation the great moment of expectation arrived!

The curtain was raised! In that instant some of us felt rather ill-at-ease. We feared what would happen if we forgot our lines. Perhaps this "ill-at-ease" feeling could be defined as "stage fright."

But after walking onto the stage we forgot to be afraid! We could think of nothing except the desire to play our parts well and to make our listeners laugh and enjoy themselves. We wanted those who had come to see our performance feel that the time had been well spent. We hoped they would feel that their evening was both pleasurable and profitable.

Professor Theodore Walker had a dual purpose in producing these comedies. (1) For the pleasure and entertainment of other students, faculty members and friends, and (2) for the purpose of giving us training in speaking, enunciation, and expression. Those men God has chosen to be His future ministers must be capable of expressing the truth, which he has revealed to them, in a lively and interesting manner—in a way which will keep the congregation alert and interested in every word—they must be kept awake—otherwise the word of God will go unheeded.

Each of these three humorous comedies had a moral which we would all do well to heed. The first of these plays was Aunt Caroline's Pearls starring Norman Smith as Robert, Charlene Glover as Jean, and Paul Smith as Jean's father. Regardless of how comical this play seemed at the moment, we all went home, realizing the seriousness of the plot involved. It taught us that we should not accuse others falsely. We do not know what is in another person's heart. We learned from this that we should not "judge according to appearances" as Jesus said in John 7:24.

The second comedy was entitled "Easy Money." The cast included Emmett Rushing as Velvet Joe, Wayne Cole as Harlem, and Doris Allen as Daffydil. This comedy involved a certain group or class of people who have forgotten that man must still earn his "bread and butter," his very existence—just as Adam did—by the sweat of his face (Gen. 3:19).

People transgress God's laws in order to get money and they think nothing of it. They don't care how much they steal, lie, or cheat their neighbor—just so they receive the "almighty dollar." We learned

from this true-to-life story to trust no man. We can trust no man, because the heart of man is deceitful and wicked according to the Bible. However, we must realize that certain duties must be entrusted to people. We must put a certain amount of confidence in people or rely upon them to perform various duties.

"The Dummy" was the third and last comedy. Calvin Allen played the part of Roy Ulysses Hitchcock and Mary Jo Burrow was Jane, his wife. Elva Russell was Emma the maid, while Gene Michel played the part of Ted Manners, Mr. Hitchcock's friend. Kenneth Herrmann was the officer.

Mr. Hitchcock was never at home except when it came time to eat his meals. He was never very considerate of his wife until a little incident caused him to become aware of this fact. Mrs. Hitchcock made a dummy man to place in the home while her husband was gone because she was afraid of burglars. (You should have heard the laughter when Mrs. Hitchcock and Emma brought this dummy onto the stage). When Mr. Hitchcock happened to return home early one night, he was shocked to see the dummy because he thought it was a murdered man. Then realizing how lonely his wife must be, he began spending more time at home.

This comedy was very funny, yet there was a good lesson in it also. The observant person was taught that they should be considerate of others, and not to take them for granted. If one is a true follower of Christ he must "do unto others as you would have them do unto you."

Between acts, Thomas Ham recited a monologue from memory which was comical, yet realistic. It showed how much we criticize others, then turn around and do the same thing. Jesus taught us that we should first remove the beam from our own eye, then we would be able to see more clearly how to remove the mote from our brother's eye.

Those who saw these comedies produced enjoyed them very much. After a successful production, we felt that our time had not been spent in vain upon seeing the happy and smiling faces of those who made their exit. It was really an evening of pleasure and profit. Everyone went home in a gay and happy mood.

—refreshed and ready to again begin preparation for the great task which lies ahead of us with zeal and determination.

Correction: In the article, "Poise to Please," in the February issue of the "Good News," the product arrow root was misquoted. This product is a highly refined starch used as a thickening agent. The word should have been witch hazel.

Witch hazel is a natural product, the extraction of which may be used for the skin and **serves** the same purpose as an astringent to close the pores after washing the face with a mild soap and rinsing well. The condition of the skin is usually the direct result of the food you eat, as well as of the external care you give it.

## Truth About Unclean Meats

(Continued from page 6)

ing what meats should be eaten, then you, and you alone, shall reap the fruits of such violations—sickness, disease and perhaps premature death.

### What About This Comparison?

Now just think a bit! God created everything—animate and inanimate. He created all plant life. No one will dispute the self-evident fact that He created only a certain *portion* of the plants to be eaten. The poisonous plants are not to be eaten—we can prove that, because their poison reacts *immediately*.

In like manner God created all creatures that move and breathe, but only a certain *portion* of that number were intended to be used by mankind for food. How absurd it is for anyone to think that God intended man to eat *all flesh* just because he had created them all!

God intended man to discover many things for himself, but there are certain fundamental truths revealed in the Bible—God's revelation to man—which man needs to know and which he either could *never* discover for himself, or which would take so long to discover that he would have to suffer unnecessarily before these laws or rules of life could be demonstrated. God made these laws known to man through his holy prophets. Among these basic truths revealed to man were the laws of clean and unclean meats which were given to protect man's physical health.

Anyone who has made an honest, thorough study of certain meats—especially of the swine—should well know that pork in particular is not a healthful meat. Yes, this can be proved even though we throw the Bible out the window.

But look how long it has taken for certain men—doctors, athletic coaches—to learn that pork is not good food—

though many have not yet learned this lesson. Look at the untold inherited misery and suffering that has resulted. This could all have been averted had man heeded God's laws—the laws of clean and unclean meats.

But some protester is sure to raise up his voice and declare, "I don't believe pork is harmful to the body—how can it be?—for grandpa lived on pork and he died at 92, and old uncle Ben lived to be 105 and he ate barrels of pork."

The explanation to the above question is simple and requires little consideration to reveal just how shallow such reasoning is.

Consider! Two identical automobiles, purchased and driven off the assembly line on the same date, are driven for a six months' period. One driver is very careful to see that his car is given the best service possible when needed. He drives his car two thousand miles, never exceeding the speed limit during the entire six months, but yet he has trouble with his car—has had it in the garage many different times during that period.

The owner of the second car is a reckless travelling salesman who drives his car ten thousand miles, often at excessive speeds, during this six months' period, but never has to so much as turn a tap on his car—never has to have a penny's worth of repairs during the entire six months' period.

Now just what does this prove?

It simply proves that one purchased a good car—the other a poorly made car. It does not prove that abusing a car makes it last longer, nor that handling a car properly will cause it to break down sooner.

Thus it is that many inherit at birth a strong constitution and in spite of eating wrong foods, they live to be old—though not as old as they could have lived had they obeyed God. Others inherit a weak constitution because for generations their ancestors have violated God's laws—and (and remember, there are *other* health laws, beside those of clean and unclean meats)—and even if they obey the laws of health they cannot overcome in their lifetime the **HARM** that their ancestors have caused for generations past.

### What Was Christ's Example?

What did Christ teach concerning unclean meats?

Peter, who had been with Christ during his three and one-half years of earthly ministry, said in Acts 10:14, "I have *never* eaten anything that is common or *unclean*." We know that Christ is our perfect example *just as He was the apostle's example*—yet Peter, who

had faithfully followed His master during his ministry, answered, "I have never eaten anything that is common or unclean."

In this account Peter was told in a trance (verse 10) that he was to kill and eat all manner of creatures and four-footed beasts. Did he immediately jump to the hasty conclusion, *as so many do today*, that God meant, by this vision, that he was to eat unclean meats, or did he **DOUBT** what God was trying to show him by this *vision*?

Yes, Peter **DOUBTED**—he didn't know what God was trying to reveal to him. Peter *doubted* in himself what this vision which he had seen should mean (Acts 10:17).

Afterward when God had clearly revealed the true meaning of the vision to Peter, he exclaimed, "God hath (by this vision) shewed me that I should not call **ANY MAN** common or unclean." (Acts 10:28).

When Jesus Christ was on this earth he went about doing only good. He did not sin! He was our model of perfection. He never went about demolishing or destroying anything that should not be destroyed. Yet in the fifth chapter of Mark we read that Christ met a man who was possessed of demons and that he cast the demons into a herd of two thousand swine, thereby *destroying* the unclean swine.

By this act Christ showed that swine should not be used for food.

Did he do wrong by destroying this herd of two thousand swine which was worth a small fortune? If so he is a *transgressor* and if he is a transgressor, then he is disqualified as our Savior, and we are without hope still floundering around in our sins!

### Prophecy for the Future

What is the end of those who persist in eating that which God has forbidden—who wrest the Holy and sacred Word of God to suit their own lusts—"Whose God is their *belly*"? (Philip. 3:19).

The answer is found in Isaiah 66:17. "They that sanctify (set aside or separate) themselves, . . . eating **SWINE'S FLESH**, and the abomination, and the *mouse*, **SHALL BE CONSUMED** together, saith the Lord." And who has the power to revoke, alter, or in any way thwart that which has proceeded out of the mouth of the Eternal God?

Where will you cast your lot? With those who partake of the forbidden foods and ruin your health, and receive God's final judgment—to be destroyed—or will you obey God's perfect laws and live more healthily, happily, and abundantly now and forever? "Choose you this day whom ye will serve . . ." (Josh. 24:15).

## The TONGUES Question

(Continued from page 2)

and beg and agonize for God to give you this greatest of all Gifts. God needs no begging! The Holy Spirit is HERE—and God tells us in His Word He is more WILLING to give us this Gift than we are to give bread to our hungry children. (Luke 11:13). Today the Spirit of God is HERE—knocking on the door of your heart (Rev. 3:20), and the way to OPEN the door is to REPENT (Rev. 3:19), and He *will* come in, and abide with you forever!

### The Great Mistake!

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

This is their mistake:

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

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

And Peter said "REPENT, and BE BAPTISED!" and then "ye SHALL receive the gift of the Holy Spirit." "REPENT and BELIEVE," are the two conditions—and the ONLY conditions, to receiving the great blessing of the baptism with the Holy Spirit! And so Paul went "testifying both to the Jews, and also to the Greeks, REPENTANCE toward God, and FAITH toward our Lord Jesus Christ." And all who repented, and received Christ in faith, being baptised, DID receive the gift of the Spirit! And so will we, today!

The trouble today is that so many are begging, agonizing, pleading, like so many rebellious children begging and teasing a parent to let them have their own way and give them some gift they desire! God has told us plainly He will GIVE us the Gift if, and when, we SURRENDER, and BELIEVE. Why does God withhold the blessing to so many earnest seekers? Because they keep begging without SURRENDERING. We must yield all the way!

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

*ments*—to have the faith that will let the Holy Spirit in!

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

No, we need not pray down another Pentecost! But we do need to SURRENDER, and that is where we fall down. We are holding out on God! We still want our own way!

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

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

### The Devil's COUNTERFEIT

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

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

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

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

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

Beyond doubt this modern "Pentecostal" movement has brought a vital TRUTH once more to light—the truth of the need of the baptism with the Holy Spirit.

But do you suppose the Devil would be content to *deceive* men on all other questions, and then neglect to deceive the many thousands of seekers after the baptism with the Holy Spirit into a clever, a false, spurious MANNER and

METHOD of receiving this most precious gift of all—and therefore into actually receiving a COUNTERFEIT instead of the genuine?

God's Word WARNS you and me that Satan is going about, today, as a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour, KNOWING HE HAS BUT A SHORT TIME. The church is asleep (Mat. 25:5) but Satan the adversary is on the job! Jesus warned us of false doctrines that would appear in these last days, and that would DECEIVE many.

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

Can't we see that Satan is a SPIRITUAL being? (Eph. 2:2). He does not come as a red demon with horns and tail, but as "AN ANGEL OF LIGHT." He appears as an ANGEL—a SPIRIT, and as bringing LIGHT. Those deceived THINK they have received marvelous new LIGHT. They THINK they have advanced and been elevated to a HIGHER SPIRITUAL PLANE. And Satan has many MINISTERS. And they do not all come preaching modernism, or cold spiritless doctrines . . . they, too, come as SPIRITUAL ministers, and "are transformed as the ministers of RIGHTEOUSNESS." (II Cor. 11:14,15).

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

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

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

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

"And when they shall say unto you, SEEK unto them that have familiar *spirits*, and unto wizards that *peep and mutter*; should not the people seek unto their God? for the living to the dead? TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY: if they speak not according to THIS Word, it is because there is *no light in them!*" (Isa. 8:19-20).

The "law and the Testimony" is the Old and the New Testaments—the Bi-

ble. TRY the *Spirits*! By what standard? The BIBLE!

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

### What About "TARRY Meetings"?

The METHOD of this modern "pentecostal" movement for seeking the Holy Spirit is the modern "tarry meeting."

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

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

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

Time after time the seeker will come to some of these "tarry meetings" repeating the above formula, hours at a time.

In other forms of the "tarry meeting" a group of seekers assemble together, with, where possible, some who already have "received their baptism." Children must be left at home. Only "seekers" are permitted. All pray aloud at once, begging God to give them the "blessing." For hours, often lasting until 3 or 4 o'clock in the morning, they continue to beg, plead, and agonize.

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

be accepted as the evidence of "the baptism."

### Does the Bible Command the "TARRY Meeting"?

Is this modern "tarry meeting" the true scriptural WAY, or heathenism?

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

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

But that is not what this text says at all!

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

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

Because the "other Comforter" had not yet come FROM HEAVEN—from "on high." And Jesus knew that WHEN He came, He would come first to the city of Jerusalem. And so Jesus was merely instructing His disciples to wait, or remain, in Jerusalem until the day of Pentecost, *when*, it had been ordained, the Holy Spirit was to come from heaven—"from on high"—to earth.

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

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

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

But, protests the "tarry meeting" defender, it says in Acts 1:13, 14, that the disciples "went into an upper room,"

and "these all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication." The assumption is that the disciples met at a certain house for this purpose—that they were there holding a "tarry meeting"—that they begged and pleaded with God until He finally sent them the "blessing" from on high—and that we should do the same thing. Often the statement is made that "it took the disciples ten days to pray down Pentecost!"

### The MEANING of "Pentecost"

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

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

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

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

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

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

Most assuredly, but WHY?

Notice the scriptures! "And when they were come in, they went up into an upper room WHERE ABODE both Peter, and James, and John, and Andrew, Phil-



ip, and Thomas, Bartholomew, and Matthew, James the son of Alphaeus, and Simon Zelotes, and Judas the brother of James. These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication," (Acts 1:14-14), as they naturally would have done, at so solemn a time.

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

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

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

#### Experiences AFTER Pentecost

Now that the Holy Spirit had COME to earth, did those who honestly repented, and believed, have to beg and plead and agonize, and "tarry" before they could receive the full baptism with the Holy Spirit?

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

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

In the 10th chapter of Acts we find the experience at the Gentile house of Cornelius. Peter was preaching to them. They already had repented, and merely wanted to be shown the way of God. Was there a "tarry meeting" here? No, while "Peter yet spake these words, the Holy Spirit fell on all them which heard

the word." (Acts 10:44). The Holy Spirit had come from heaven on the day of Pentecost, 31 A.D. Cornelius and his house did not have to "pray down another Pentecost." They did not have to beg or plead or agonize. They had surrendered fully and unconditionally. When Peter came to reveal to them the Truth, and the Way, they did not begin to argue, or try to refute God's Word. They accepted it. And so, their hearts being ready and subdued, "while Peter yet spake," they received the baptism with the Holy Spirit!

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

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

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

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

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

languages than any of them.

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

I remember one time a "pentecostal" preacher was urging me to attend a series of these so-called "tarry meetings" where words were muttered repeatedly over and over, and where the people deliberately worked up their emotions, shouted, and went thru all the usual formula. I replied I could find no Bible teaching or example for such a formula or kind of meeting, and I wanted to do everything the BIBLE way.

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

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

Hear the warning thru Isaiah: "When they shall say unto you, SEEK unto them that have familiar spirits (counterfeit spirits of demons) and unto wizards that peep, and that MUTTER: . . . TO THE LAW AND TO THE TESTIMONY (Old and New Testaments—the BIBLE): if they speak not according to this word, it is because there is no light in them!" Yes, be sure you have a BIBLE reason for all you do!

NEXT MONTH: What is the "baptism" with the Holy Spirit? Very few know. This is the crux of the whole question. The startling, surprising answer will appear in the April number.

#### Does EASTER Commemorate the Resurrection?

(Continued from page 5)

spring time—and Jesus did not enter his ministry until the autumn of that year.

Luke names Pontius Pilate as governor of Judaea when John received his call (Luke 3:1). Pilate ruled for ten years (Antiquities, XVIII, iv, 2). Many historians give his dates as 26 to 36 A.D., but this is a mistake. Pilate was deposed a few months before the pass-over at the close of his tenth year. He hurriedly sailed for Rome to appeal to Emperor Tiberius. On his way news came that Tiberius died. Therefore, since Pilate was in a great hurry to reach Rome, he must have left shortly before the death of the Emperor which occurred in March, 37 A.D. Ten years before this is A.D. 27 at the beginning of which Pilate began his procuratorship.

Here is what the *International Standard Bible Encyclopedia* says in its article "Pilate": The assumed date for Pilate is usually "from 26 to 36 A.D.



... By this reckoning Tiberius died on March 16, 37 A.D. Such a delay is inconceivable in view of the circumstances; hence ... the period of his procuratorship (is) 27-37 A.D."

Now notice. As Pilate was already the governor of Judaea before John's ministry, the Baptist did not begin preaching until the early months of 27 A.D. and Jesus in the autumn of that year.

#### Proof Seven: Herod's Marriage

The gospel according to Mark explains that Christ began his ministry after John was imprisoned. "Now after that John was put in prison, Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God" (Mark 1:14).

Now notice WHY John was imprisoned. Matthew 14:1-4 says it was because Herod married Herodias, his brother Philip's wife. Therefore Herod didn't molest John *until* he had married her. When did this marriage occur?

The *New Schaff-Herzog Encyclopedia* in its article on "Herod and His Family," says: "In 27 A.D. he went to Rome, saw there the beautiful and ambitious Herodias, his own niece and already the wife of his half-brother, Herod Philip, and although he had a wife living he proposed marriage to her."

From this date alone, THE MINISTRY OF JESUS COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BEFORE the autumn of A.D. 27.

We also saw that THE MINISTRY OF JESUS COULD NOT HAVE BEGUN AFTER THE PASSOVER in the spring of A.D. 28 because the temple was already 46 years in building. Therefore Jesus must have begun to preach in the autumn of A.D. 27. THERE IS NO OTHER DATE

THAT WOULD BE CONSISTENT WITH ALL THE PROVABLE FACTS.

To find the date of the crucifixion, we need to find how long the ministry of Jesus lasted.

#### How Long Was the Ministry?

The prophet Daniel foretold that the length of Christ's ministry *at his first coming*—to confirm the new covenant—would be one-half of a prophetic week of seven years. In the midst of that prophetic week he caused the sacrifices for sin to cease by offering himself for the sins of the world. He was "cut off" in the midst of the week making the ministry at his first coming *three and one-half years* (Daniel 9:26, 27).

Now let's turn to the gospels to find the proof that Jesus Christ's ministry

was exactly three and one-half years. There would have to be three passovers during the three years of his ministry, and a fourth on the last day of his earthly life—the Crucifixion.

The first passover occurred in A.D. 28 and is recorded in John 2:23. The next note of time is found in John 4:35 which indicates a lapse of time of more than eight months—bringing us to the first of December A.D. 28. It was only four months until the next harvest season which always began about the week following the passover each spring—about the first of April.

In John 5:1 Jesus again appears at Jerusalem to celebrate a festival. Although the festival is not named, it probably was the passover or a later festival in A.D. 29. Under no circumstances could this feast have been any of the autumn festivals of A.D. 28 because they fall in the months of September and October—months which were already passed according to John 4:35.

Again in John 6:4 is another passover which brings us to the year 30 A.D. This was the third passover in Jesus' ministry. The fourth and final passover is recorded by all the gospel writers (John 11:55).

This last passover completed a ministry of three and one-half years—from autumn of A.D. 27 to the Spring of A.D. 31—THE VERY YEAR WHEN THE PASSOVER UPON WHICH CHRIST WAS CRUCIFIED FELL ON WEDNESDAY.

Yes, history proves a myth, the tradition that Jesus was crucified on Friday and rose on Easter Sunday!

*To be continued*

#### HOLY DAY CALENDAR

For 1953

Passover, after sunset, Sunday, March 29th.

Days of Unleavened Bread, beginning sunset, Monday, March 30th, ending sunset, Monday April 6th. Tuesday, March 31st and Monday, April 6th, are annual Sabbaths.

Pentecost, Monday, May 25th, beginning previous sunset.

Festival of Trumpets, Thursday, September 10th.

Day of Atonement, fast day, Saturday, September 19th.

Festival of Tabernacles, begins sunset, Wednesday, September 23rd, ends sunset, Thursday, October 1st.

#### The GOOD NEWS

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