

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

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PROPHESED TO HAPPEN to the United States and Britain!

Few people are aware of the drastic turn of events soon to befall our nations. The most startling book of this generation is Mr. Armstrong's forthcoming book revealing tremendous prophecies closed and sealed until now! This is the fifth installment.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHAT HAS GONE BEFORE

VERY soon the most colossal disaster of all history is destined to fall upon our nations. Yet, organized religion fails to warn our people of *this very next prophesied event!*

WHY?

Because few know *where* the peoples of America, Britain, and Northwestern Europe are mentioned in Bible prophecy!

Today, aggressor nations covet our wealth. The astounding fact that the Bible foretold that we should become the wealthiest of nations has been overlooked by the churches of this world. And so what is now prophesied to befall us is hidden from them.

God's time has come for this warning to go out to our nations. But first, we must learn *how* our peoples are identified in prophecy. For a fuller, yet condensed, synopsis of the chapters that have gone before, write for our free booklet, "The United States and Britain in Prophecy."

God promised this national wealth and world power to the patriarch Abraham for his descendants. Dual promises were made to Abraham. The kingly and spiritual promise, called *the Sceptre*, culminating in the Messiah, and salvation

thru Him; and the purely material and national promises, called *the Birthright*.

These two distinct promises were handed down thru Isaac and Jacob, but they went into separate tribes—for *the Sceptre* was never to depart from the tribe of Judah (Gen. 49:10), "but *the Birthright was JOSEPH'S*" (I Chron. 5:2). The *Sceptre* promise involved GRACE, the *Birthright* concerned only RACE. Later, with David, God made another *unconditional* covenant—guaranteeing that David's throne, and his dynasty would be established thruout *all generations*, FOREVER, in his son Solomon. David's dynasty was never to cease, even for a single generation, unless God's Word fail! The last king of David's dynasty recorded in history was Zedekiah of Judah. Christ did not take the throne. Did God break His covenant? *Has* the *Sceptre* departed from Judah? Has the Word of God failed?

After Solomon's death, the twelve tribes of Israel were divided into TWO NATIONS. The nation rejected its king, Rehoboam, son of Solomon. But, in order to keep His covenant with David, God gave one tribe—Judah—to Rehoboam. This tribe, JUDAH, seceded from the nation ISRAEL, and formed a separate and *different nation*, the King-

dom of JUDAH. The tribe of Benjamin, and most of Levi, went into the new Kingdom of Judah. Now the *Birthright* and the *Sceptre* were divided into *two separate nations*. JUDAH had the *Sceptre*, and the kingly dynasty—ISRAEL had the *Birthright*, jointly possessed by Ephraim and Manasseh, descendants of the sons of Joseph.

The people of the separate nation, Kingdom of JUDAH, came to be known as "Jews"—the nickname for Judah. The ten-tribed House of ISRAEL was *not Jewish*. Their descendants today *are not Jews*. Abraham *was not a Jew*! The term "Jew" is a nickname for "Judah," and was never applied to any but those of the Kingdom of Judah! The first place in all the Bible where the term "Jews" occurs is II Kings 16:6—and there we find the Kingdom of ISRAEL *at war against the Jews*! The next place in the Bible where the term "Jew" is employed is after the ten-tribed House of ISRAEL had been invaded, conquered, and removed as slaves from their land, and *only* the Jews remained!

After Israel rejected Rehoboam as king, and set up Jeroboam, of the tribe of Ephraim, on the throne, Jeroboam introduced immediately into the northern kingdom idolatry, and Sabbath-

breaking. These two violations of God's law became Israel's national sins. (Ezek. 20:10-24), and after the reigns of 19 kings through seven dynasties, God's prophetic warning of Leviticus 26 was carried out on the Kingdom of Israel. They were invaded, conquered, removed from their land as slaves. The vast national wealth and world power promised by God unconditionally were now withheld for 2520 years ("seven times") from the date of their captivity, 721 B.C.—until 1800 A.D.!

The House of Israel now *lost* its identity, its language, its religion, its land, and its NAME, as God had warned in Deut. 32:26. Now they began to dwell *many days* "without a king" (Hos. 3:4). They became known as the "LOST Ten Tribes." Now *only* the Jews remained in Palestine. Those of the House of Israel, *possessors of the Birthright*, have been regarded as *gentiles* from that day! Yet, wherever they are today, it is *THEY*, and not the Jews, who are the *Birthright* possessors! Where are they? By what name are they known today? The answer is the most astounding fact of our time!

Meanwhile, what happened to the Jews, left behind in Palestine?

CHAPTER V JEREMIAH'S MYSTERIOUS COMMISSION

WE COME now to one of the most fascinating phases of this strange story of Israel—indeed, the very connecting link between prophecy and present-day fulfillment—yet unrecognized by theologians.

After the House of Israel, the northern kingdom whose capital was Samaria, was driven into Assyrian captivity, 721 B.C., the Kingdom of JUDAH continued on in the southern part of Palestine known as Judaea. At that time Judah, as a nation, had not yet rejected the government and religion of God. God had continued to keep His covenant with David. David's dynasty had continued on the throne over *part* of the Israelites—the House of JUDAH—the Jews.

But after Israel had become lost from view, Judah turned from the ways and government of God, going after the ways of the *gentile nations*, sinning even worse than Israel, until finally the Eternal drove Judah, too, into national captivity and slavery.

Before Judah's apostasy, God had said, thru the prophet Hosea, "Though thou, ISRAEL, play the harlot, yet let not JUDAH offend." (Hos. 4:15.)

But later, the Eternal said to Jeremiah: "Have you seen what she did, that faithless one, ISRAEL, how she . . . played the harlot? . . . and her false sister JUDAH saw it. She saw that for all

the adulteries of that faithless one, ISRAEL, I had sent her away with a decree of divorce; yet her false sister JUDAH did not fear, but *she, too*, went and played the harlot . . . Faithless ISRAEL has shown herself less guilty than the false JUDAH." (Jer. 3:6-11.)

"And the Eternal said, 'I will remove JUDAH *also* out of my sight, as I have removed ISRAEL, and I will cast off this city which I have chosen, Jerusalem, and the house of which I said, My name shall be there.'" (II Kings 23:27.)

And so, more than a hundred years after Israel's captivity, the time came when God caused the Jews, also, to be driven out of their land in national captivity and slavery.

For this purpose God raised up a very special prophet, whose real call and commission few, indeed, understand.

This prophet was Jeremiah. Jeremiah played a strange and little realized role in this captivity.

Something of the importance of this mission may be gleaned from this significant fact: The Bible mentions three men, only, who were sanctified for their respective offices before they were born—and of these three Jeremiah was the first. The other two were John the Baptist and Jesus Christ!

The Eternal first spoke to Jeremiah when he was but a young lad, about, some evidence indicates, seventeen years of age. By the time his mission was completed he was an aged, white-haired patriarch.

This vital, yet little-known call and commission is described in the opening verses of the first chapter of the Book of Jeremiah.

"Before I formed you in the womb I knew you," the Eternal said to him, "and before you were born I consecrated you; I appointed you a prophet to the nations." (Jer. 1:5.)

But Jeremiah was frightened—afraid! "Ah, Eternal God!" he replied, "Behold, I do not know how to speak, for I am only a youth."

But the Eternal answered, "Do not say, 'I am only a youth;' for to all to whom I send you, you shall go, and whatever I command you, you shall speak. Be not afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you." (Jer. 1:6-8.)

Then the Eternal put forth His hand and touched Jeremiah's mouth. "See," said God, "I have set you this day *over nations* and *over kingdoms*, to *pluck up* and to *break down*, to *destroy* and to *overthrow*, TO BUILD and TO PLANT." (Verses 9-10 RSV.) Or, as this tremendous commission is worded in the Authorized version: "to root out, and to pull down, and to destroy, and to throw down, TO BUILD AND TO PLANT."

Notice, Jeremiah was set over NATIONS—more than one kingdom. He

was a Jewish lad, living in Judah. He was set a prophet over Judah—but not Judah *alone*. Over NATIONS—over KINGDOMS! He was set over these kingdoms to do *two* things:

First, to "pluck up," or "root out," to "pull down," or to "overthrow," and second, TO BUILD, AND TO PLANT.

Not Realized, Today

Look at it in your own Bible! Jeremiah was used of God as a prophet to warn the nation JUDAH of their transgressions against God's government and ways. He was sent to WARN this rebellious nation of the impending PUNISHMENT—the invasion and captivity at the hands of the Chaldean armed forces, unless they acknowledged their guilt and changed their ways. He was used as a go-between—an intermediary—between the kings of Judah and Babylon.

It is well known that Jeremiah was used in warning Judah of the impending captivity, and the "pulling down," or "overthrowing" of the THRONE OF DAVID in the Kingdom of JUDAH.

It is understood generally that the House of Judah was invaded by the armies of King Nebuchadnezzar—that the Jews were taken captive to Babylon—that they ceased from being a kingdom—that there no longer existed a ruler of David's dynasty on the throne over the Kingdom of JUDAH.

What, then, does this mean? Did God, at last, forget His covenant promise to DAVID that David's dynasty should *never cease*—that David's throne was established in Solomon to continue through ALL GENERATIONS FOREVER? Has God Almighty now forgotten that He had sworn that He would not alter this promise—even though the kings and the people rebelled and sinned?

The faithfulness of GOD is at stake. The inspiration of the Holy Bible as His revealed WORD is at stake!

But NOTE IT!—see it in your own Bible!—Jeremiah was divinely commissioned to PULL DOWN, and to OVERTHROW that very throne of David in Judah—but notice the second half of the commission . . .

TO BUILD AND TO PLANT!

To build and to plant WHAT?

Why, naturally, that which he was used in "rooting out" of Judah—the THRONE OF DAVID which God swore He would preserve forever! Jeremiah was set over not just the *one* nation, JUDAH—but over NATIONS. Over THE KINGDOMS—the Kingdom of ISRAEL as well as Judah!

He was used in "rooting out" that throne from JUDAH. Then what was Jeremiah commissioned to do in ISRAEL?

Ah! Note it! Notice the *second* half of his strange and little-understood commission. (Please continue on page 15)

Is the Day of Miracles Past?

Here is a CHALLENGE for anyone who denies the inspiration and authority of God's Word!

by Roderick C. Meredith

YOU LIVE in an age of *doubt*. This age abounds with *uncertainty, fear and chaos*.

Man has lost faith in God. Now he is beginning to lose faith in *himself*. His cynical, doubting "intellectualism" has left him *hopeless and helpless* in the face of mounting *world cataclysm*.

This attitude of DOUBT is the very thing that is robbing most of *you* of the happiness, and joy, and peace of mind that should be yours. God seems *unreal* and *far away*, doesn't He?

The God of POWER—the living, active, *Creator* that Jesus prayed to, the God that healed the sick, and raised the dead, and performed great MIRACLES—that God seems *mythical* to most people. They would *like* to believe that God could supernaturally intervene and help them, as He did in Jesus' time, but how can they *know* He will?

People today want PROOF!

Is it possible to *prove* that the God of Jesus Christ is a *living, active* God NOW? Can the Bible be *proved* to be COMPLETELY RELIABLE in its statements?

God's Answer

God himself says that we should require PROOF for our beliefs—"Prove all things; hold fast that which is good" (I Thes. 5:21).

But is it possible to *prove* whether or not the statements made in God's Word are true—and if God is *still* miraculously intervening in human affairs as the Bible states that He did in past times?

YES, it *is* possible!

There are many, many parts of the Bible which can be put to an acid test as to their validity—and, if *proved* to be true—they will necessarily demonstrate that the men who wrote these scriptures *were inspired* as the Bible claims. This is so because the fulfillment of many Bible statements could *not* have been brought about by human power—but *only by divine intervention*.

Listen to Peter's claim of Biblical inspiration: "For the *prophecy* came not in old time by the will of man: but holy men of God spake as they were moved by the Holy Spirit" (II Peter 1:21).

Here is part of the Bible we can put to the test—PROPHECY. Could men living hundreds of years ago predict *accurately* and *in detail* events that would happen long after their deaths?

God claims that He is the *only one* able to foretell the future. He says in Isaiah 46:9-10: "I am God, and there is none like unto me, declaring the end from the beginning, and from ancient times the things that are not yet done."

Here, then, is one means by which the Bible can be *tested* and *proved* as to its claim of divine inspiration. And many Bible prophecies are of such a nature that they call for ACTION by God in our time—*now*.

History in Advance

Here is a prophecy you can *prove*—it is one that men could still break *unless God is still acting to fulfill His word*. In Ezekiel 26, a remarkable prediction is made concerning one of the greatest cities of that day—Tyre. Tyre had been a great maritime power in the ancient world for hundreds of years, a city renowned for its splendor and fabulous wealth.

Tyre was at the height of its glory when Ezekiel uttered this prophecy: "They shall destroy the walls of Tyrus, and break down her towers: I will also scrape her dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock. It shall be a place for the spreading of nets in the midst of the sea: for I have spoken it, saith the Lord God: . . . and they shall lay thy stones and thy timber and thy dust in the midst of the water . . . And I will make thee like the top of a rock: thou shalt be a place to spread nets upon; thou shalt be built no more: for I the Lord have spoken it, saith the Lord God" (Eze. 26:4-14).

The very next year after this prophecy was uttered, Nebuchadnezzar laid siege to Tyre. It took him thirteen years to conquer the city. The city was wrecked and utterly demolished, never recovering its former glory.

But even at this, the complete fulfillment of Ezekiel's prophecy was not accomplished on Tyre. Even though the city had been conquered and, on the whole, destroyed, its ruins still stood as a challenge to the statement that God would even "scrape the dust from her, and make her like the top of a rock." This did not happen until 332 B.C., when Alexander the Great came to conquer new Tyre, which was built on a small island just offshore from its ancient sister.

To bridge the waterway between the mainland and the island, Alexander used

the walls, timbers, and ruined houses and palaces of the ancient Tyre, and with them built a solid causeway to the island city. So great was the demand for material that the very dust was scraped from the site and laid in the sea.

Thus God's word was strangely fulfilled down to the minutest detail *hundreds of years after the prophecy on Tyre had been given*.

More amazing still is the fact that this divine sentence on Tyre has been a challenge down through the centuries to every unbeliever on earth. Most of the renowned ancient cities have been rebuilt at some time, and many are still in existence. But Tyre remains a desolation, uninhabited, and is in fact a place where fishermen spread their nets upon the rocks.

Tyre is even now a witness as to the accuracy, truthfulness, and *divine inspiration* of Ezekiel's words. God continues to challenge unbelievers to rebuild Tyre.

God is backing His Word—NOW!

God *binds Himself* to His Word. It can be *depended upon*.

And how foolish it would be to imagine that the same men who were *inspired by God* in writing these remarkable prophecies should suddenly become liars and engage in the basest kind of deception when they wrote of the laws, the promises, and the *miracles* recorded in the Bible.

And who, by the way, is going to say that the *continuous* and *exact fulfillment* of prophecies written hundreds of years in advance is not a MIRACLE of the very highest caliber in itself? It is indeed difficult to look back through the centuries and *prove conclusively* that a miracle—or *any* historical event, for that matter—took place in the exact manner described. But year by year, history continues to confirm the *inspired prophecies* written by the same men who tell us of the *miracles* God performed through His servants.

However, there is *one miracle* to which countless prophecies point, about which scores of books have been written, and which proves difficult for even atheists to deny. It has stood through many generations as a PROOF of God's power to supernaturally intervene in human affairs and save man even from the grave.

And once you accept this miracle, you will see that by its very nature it

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NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately
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demonstrates the validity of countless
others, and of God's *promise* to mirac-
ulously intervene in our lives *now*.

A Basic Miracle

The very heart of Bible prophecy
concerns a subject which too many peo-
ple take for granted, without realizing
it should be PROVED. This is the subject
of Jesus Christ, His *reality*, His *life*,
His *teachings*, His *miracles*, and His
own *resurrection*.

More than three hundred prophecies
and references to Christ in the Old
Testament are expressly cited in the
New Testament as predictions fulfilled
in Him. These prophecies were all writ-
ten *hundreds of years* before Christ
was born. Taken all together, they form
a bond of *truth* which cannot be broken
or disproved.

In the fifty-third chapter of Isaiah a
series of remarkable, and seemingly par-
adoxical statements is made about the
coming Messiah. It is stated that He was
to be cut off from the land of the liv-
ing, a young man without offspring, yet
He shall prolong His days. He was to
be put to death as a criminal, to make
His grave with the wicked, and yet the
sepulchre of the rich was to be His
tomb. He was to pour out His soul unto
death, and yet He would live to make
intercession for transgressors.

Before Jesus appeared, it seemed im-
possible that one man should fulfill all
these incongruous requirements. Yet He
fulfilled them so naturally that we have
ceased to observe how paradoxical these
prophecies must have appeared before-
hand.

Almost from the beginning of His
own ministry, Jesus taught His own
disciples of this coming great event of
the ages—His *literal* DEATH, and His
literal RESURRECTION from the dead.

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

When the doubting Pharisees asked
Jesus for a supernatural *sign*—a MIRACLE
—as *proof* of His Messiahship, Jesus
pointed to the same event. He answered:
"An evil and adulterous generation seek-

eth after a sign; and there shall no sign
be given to it, but the sign of the
prophet Jonas: For as Jonas was three
days and three nights in the whale's
belly, so shall the Son of man be three
days and three nights in the heart of the
earth" (Mat. 12:38-40).

Jesus staked His very Messiahship on
a *miracle*—His RESURRECTION from the
dead *after a definite period of time*.

You either believe in *this* MIRACLE
—or you are without a Savior!

Historical Proof

Here are the FACTS: As we have just
seen, Jesus repeatedly told His disciples
that He would be *killed*, and would *rise*
again after three days. Yet, when it ac-
tually happened, they seem to have giv-
en up hope and were slow to believe it
(Luke 24:11; Mr. 16:13). Doubting
Thomas was *sure* there was a mistake
somewhere, and did not believe until he
touched Jesus with his own hands
(John 20:27).

These men had to be *shown*!

Thus, the men who later risked their
very lives to preach the story of Jesus'
resurrection were at first unable to be-
lieve it, determined *not* to believe it
without *proof*, and finally came to be-
lieve it in spite of themselves. This be-
lief so filled their lives that they hence-
forth went out and dedicated their lives
to preaching Jesus' message and acting
as "witnesses" of His *resurrection*.

The story of Jesus' life is basically the
same in both sacred and secular history.
It is acknowledged that Jesus was a real
person who came to have a large follow-
ing in Judea, that He was put to death
in Jerusalem by authority of the Roman
governor, Pontius Pilate. No contempo-
rary or successor contradicts the story.
Not even Jewish writers try to deny it.

Neither the Roman historian Pliny in
the first century, Celsus in the second,
Porphyry in the third, nor Julian in the
fourth questioned the authenticity of the
New Testament, or insinuated that
Christians were mistaken in the authors
to whom they ascribed the New Testa-
ment. But all agree that in the reign of
Tiberius Caesar a growing band of
people risked their lives to propagate a
new religion, sustaining unheard-of per-
secutions and sufferings with amazing
faith and courage—and that one of the
central tenets of their message was their
belief in the *literal* RESURRECTION of
Jesus Christ *from the dead*.

More Evidence

And there is much more evidence!

If Jesus did not really rise from the
dead, what became of His body? If ene-
mies stole it, they would have shown it
at every opportunity, for they did every-

(Please continue on page 14)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

TO ALL OF EUROPE
RADIO LUXEMBOURG — 23:30
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A.M. Sundays.

WHY . . .

so many translations of the Bible?

by Herman L. Hoeh

SKEPTICS scoff at the Bible. A revelation from God to man? How could it be, they ask, with so many different translations?

Which of the more than two dozen commonly known translations is God's revelation?

Why are there, I ask you, so many translations? Is there *only one* which is right? Don't the different translations and versions contradict one another? Are some more accurate than others?

Can we be sure that the original inspired revelation, given directly from God to the apostles and prophets, has not been corrupted beyond recognition? And what about the number of books in the Bible? Many believe some of the Bible is missing!

These many questions NEED TO BE ANSWERED! Let's face them!

Yes, it is time we learned the *truth* about the Bible. Despite its being the world's consistent best seller, the Bible is certainly the book "nobody knows"!

Facing the Facts

First, let us never forget that the Bible *is* the revelation from God to man of essential knowledge man needs but could not otherwise discover for himself. In Scripture, the Creator speaks in the first person: "Thus saith the Lord"! Its prophets, apostles and other writers claim to be sent *with divine authority* to convey God's revelation to mankind.

In his final defense, the martyr Stephen emphasized that ancient Israel "received the lively oracles (God's revelation to man) to give unto us" (Acts 7:38). Jesus Christ taught "as one having AUTHORITY" (Matt. 7:29).

Obviously it is important that we know whether we have this revelation in its right form—whether it is properly translated—whether we have it all!

Bible Corrupted?

Before we can reach a proper conclusion concerning *translations* of the Bible, we first need to know that the original text, as God inspired it in the Hebrew and Greek languages, has not been corrupted beyond recognition. It has been contended by certain critics that no amount of research can restore the Scriptures to their original inspired form. This is NOT true, as most scholars and Bible translators know.

There are over 4,000 Greek manuscript *copies* of the original inspired New Testament now extant. These copies demonstrate beyond doubt that the New Testament *has not been corrupted*—that we can be sure of almost 100% accuracy of the original New Testament as God inspired it. Some manuscript fragments, recently discovered, were written within 50 years of the death of the apostle John!

Much the same may be said of the Hebrew Old Testament. Manuscripts recently discovered near the Dead Sea, and written before the time of Christ, correspond almost exactly with the received Hebrew text, of which we have about 1,700 copies dating from the sixth century after Christ forward.

Another article will appear soon explaining this in much greater detail. But these undeniable facts prove that the scholars possess almost perfect copies of original-language manuscripts as God inspired them. But what about the *translations* into English? Can we rely on them? Are they faithful renderings of the original?

An Often-overlooked Principle

Did you realize that God sets the pattern of translation in the Bible itself?

Few have recognized it, but the Bible gives us the principles of translation! First, let us consider the Ten Commandments which God himself uttered and wrote. They are recorded in Exodus 20. Note, for instance, the command against adultery: "Thou shalt not commit adultery" (Ex. 20:14).

Now turn with me to Deuteronomy, the fifth chapter. Forty years have elapsed since God uttered the ten commandments. Moses is now repeating the law of God *under inspiration* to the people. How is Moses inspired to word this command? "Neither shalt thou commit adultery" (Deut. 5:18).

Notice it! *The wording is different*, but the MEANING IS THE SAME! The meaning would *not* have been the same, however, if Moses had said: "Thou shalt not commit adultery unless your mate is unfaithful"!

Here we have proof that it is NOT wrong to use different words, provided the meaning is not corrupted.

Now let us turn to the New Testament, written originally in the Greek

language. Notice how Jesus himself *re-worded* the original inspired Hebrew, but retained the same meaning. Read Mark 7:6 and 7: "Well hath Esaias (Isaiah) prophesied of you hypocrites, *as it is written*, 'This people honoureth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me. Howbeit in vain do they worship me, teaching for doctrines the commandments of men.'"

This was quoted from Isaiah 29:13, where we read: "Forasmuch as this people draw near me with their mouth, and with their lips do honour me, but have removed their heart far from me, and their fear toward me is taught by the precept of men."

The wording is different, but the MEANING REMAINS IDENTICAL WITH JESUS' WORDS. Notice that Jesus did not translate it word for word, yet His meaning is the same.

Now open your Bibles to Romans 3:10-12, where Paul translated the Hebrew into the Greek: "As it is written, 'There is none righteous, no, not one: There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God. They are all gone out of the way . . . there is none that doeth good, no, not one.'"

Paul translated this from Psalm 14:1-3. Notice the original Hebrew from which Paul translated this: "They are corrupt, they have done abominable works, there is none that doeth good. The Lord looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, and seek God. They are all gone aside . . ." The meaning is not lost even though different words are freely used.

Translations Were Intended

God intended translations to be made. How else could we know His revelation? How else could the early Greek-speaking converts become acquainted with the Hebrew Scriptures?

Again, observe how God guided Peter in quoting Scripture concerning the choice of another to replace Judas, the traitor: "For it is written in the book of Psalms, 'Let his habitation be desolate, and let no man dwell therein: and his bishopric let another take'" (Acts 1:20). These quotations, rendered into the Greek from the Hebrew, are taken from Psalm 69:25 and 109:8: "Let their habitation be desolate: and let none

dwelt in their tents." "Let another take his office."

In this translation the direct quote is entirely changed, but the *principle* remains the same. In Psalms what applied to the wicked certainly applied, in Acts, to Judas. God himself had this translated from Hebrew to Greek. He set us the pattern by inspiring His apostles to translate portions of the Hebrew Old Testament into Greek in the New Testament. The inspired quotations of the Old Testament in the New are, however, *without contradictions!*

How plain it is. The inspired New Testament contains translations which are *not* always literal, but which are *never* contradictory. They always convey the same meaning or the same principle. Understanding this, it becomes plain that it is not wrong to have different translations into English—though, for sure, *they are NOT inspired translations!*

God intended us to read and to understand His revelation—the Bible. He therefore intended that it should be translated into our tongue, as into any other language. But HE LEFT IT TO MEN TO DO THE TRANSLATING, just as for centuries He left it to men to preserve and recopy the Scriptures in the original languages. A few copyists errors were introduced by the scribes who painstakingly recopied the original manuscripts, just as a few translation errors have appeared in our English versions. But such errors do not change the TRUTH WHICH IS STILL ACCURATELY PRESERVED.

No Translation Inspired

Many people, it seems, come to cherish one particular translation so much that they assume it must be inspired and without error. The only inspired Bible is the ORIGINAL SCRIPTURE AS GOD FIRST REVEALED IT TO THE APOSTLES AND PROPHETS. *No translation is inspired!* Every translation can be proved to be inconsistent with the original in a certain few points. Every translation has its flaws, its provable mistranslations, and its misinterpretations. Some Bible translations even have a few contradictions. *God has never used scholarly translators as inspired translators since the days of the apostles.*

Here are two fundamental reasons why translations are not flawless: 1) scholars are not always perfect in their understanding of the original languages, and 2) most scholars and ministers on translation committees do not understand the PLAN OF GOD. They have been taught, as we all have since childhood, to take for granted contradictory and false doctrines supposedly contained in Scripture. Hence *they interpret* and translate the Scriptures according to

their viewpoint by reading incorrect meanings into the inspired original text.

Because professing Christianity is so divided into quarreling denominations, each teaching different doctrines, it is not possible for scholars to translate the Bible with *complete* accuracy.

This is the very reason, in fact, that so many translations appear. No one scholar agrees completely with the work of another. And always there is the change of language which necessitates a more modern and more easily understood version or revision. Nevertheless, *every version is accurate enough to be a reasonably faithful rendering of the Word of God.*

Common Errors

Let us notice some common errors which appear in our English translations. In Acts 12:4 the excellent Authorized King James Version *mistranslated* the Greek: "intending after Easter to bring him (Peter) forth to the people." The word "Easter" is a woeful mistranslation. Almost all other translations have correctly rendered *pascha* as "passover." Easter is not and never was the passover. Easter is a pagan holiday.

In Dr. Goodspeed's translation of I Peter 3:19, he mistranslated the original Greek: "In it Enoch went and preached . . ." The original does not refer to Enoch, but to Christ!

Moffatt's well-known translation has a very notable contradiction in Hebrews 11:5. He gives "Enoch went to heaven" as a rendering of the original, instead of "Enoch was translated (removed)." Moffatt's purported *translation* is merely his *interpretation*. It *contradicts* what Jesus himself said in John 3:13. In all fairness to Moffatt's free translation, it should be said, however, that he did not intend it for study, but for easy reading. It is a very helpful Bible.

Many such mistranslations may be found in *every* translation. But in none—whether Catholic, Protestant or Jewish—is the original TRUTH of God seriously altered. The amazing fact is that ALL THE TRANSLATIONS ARE SO NEAR ALIKE! Most differences are in wording, not in meaning.

How to Discover Contradictions

Perplexed individuals have written to us expressing their fears that some translation with which they are not already familiar would have contradictions which might lead them astray. The fact is that by using only one translation they are more likely to accept faulty translations than if they have two or more versions to compare side by side. Any doubtful scriptures could easily be checked with other translations, and also WITH OTHER TEXTS IN THE BIBLE.

False doctrines are often based on

obscure texts. By letting *the Bible INTERPRET itself*—comparing Scripture with Scripture—every *contradiction* in translations (and there are only a few of them!) can be discovered! There is no exception! You would not even have to know the original Hebrew, Aramaic and Greek languages in which the Bible was written. Doubtful scriptures can often be checked, as a last resort, at the Public Library by the use of exhaustive concordances or commentaries.

Just remember, you don't have to be afraid that any translation will lead you astray. They are for your use.

Another point to remember is that Bibles translated by single authors are more prone to error than are versions by groups of scholars. When numerous scholars and critics work together, there is greater safety that the original will be accurately preserved.

Most modern versions are also more readable and more accurate than those of a century or more ago. Each decade, ancient manuscripts are being discovered which aid in attaining a purer original text from which to translate. Even so, new versions will often introduce small errors that *never* appeared before! Such are the failings of mortal men who can never achieve the accuracy of their Creator!

Do We Have All the Bible?

Contrary to the ideas of scoffers and agnostics, our numerous English translations are an AID to Bible study—not a hindrance. Numerous versions make it possible for everyone who really wants to discover and to practice the WILL of God to come to a better understanding of His Word.

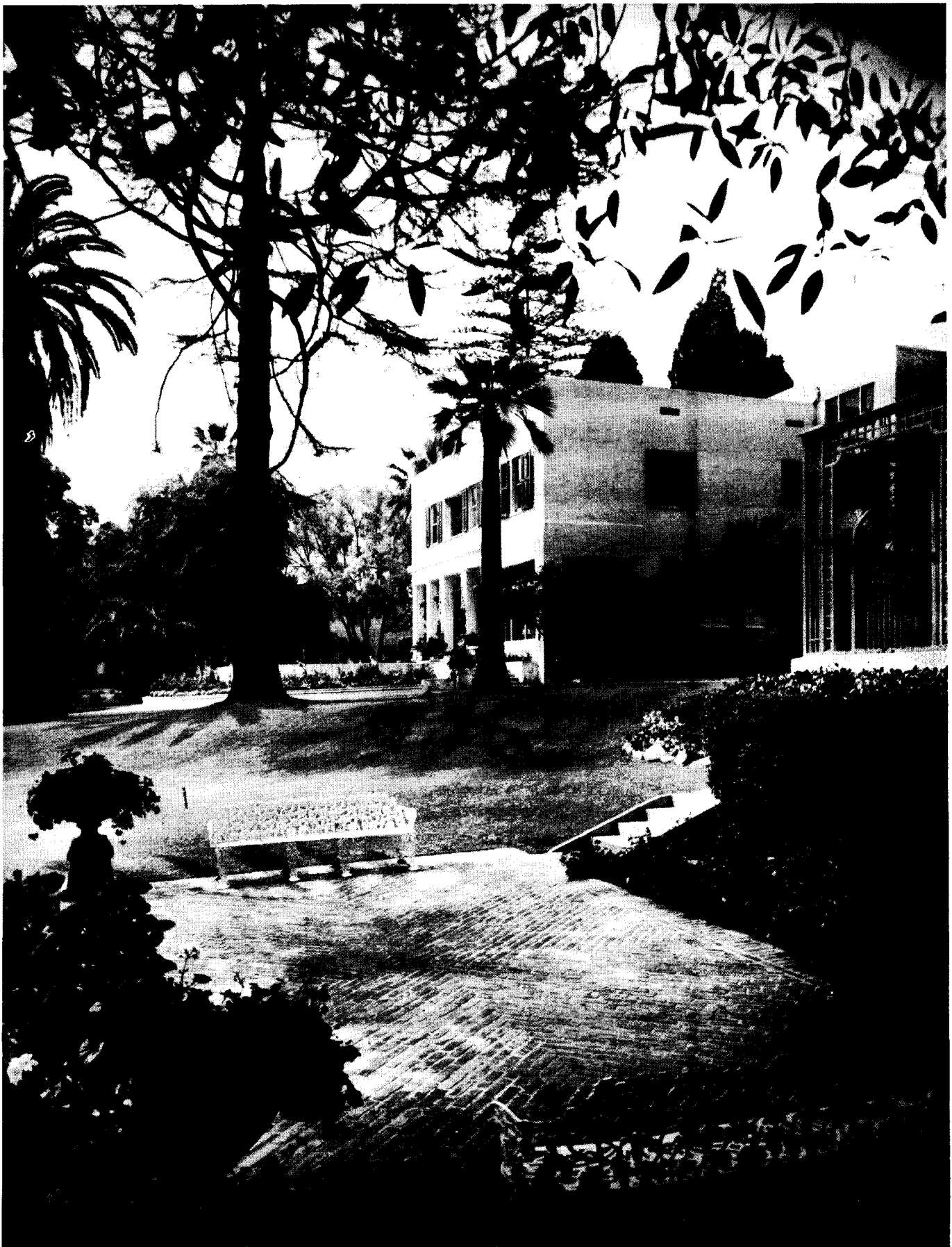
There is but one more question which we have not yet considered. Do we have *all* the Bible? The answer to this important question will appear in thorough detail in a forthcoming article. Suffice it here to say that no portion of the word of God has ever been lost. God will not permit it. Turn for a moment to the 36th chapter of Jeremiah. Notice verse 23. The King had an entire scroll of the Word of God cut with a penknife and consumed in the fire.

Did it perish forever? No!

"Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to Baruch the scribe . . . who wrote on it at the dictation of Jeremiah *all the words of the scroll* which Jehoiakim king of Judah had burned in the fire" (Jer. 36:32). The Word of the Lord endures forever!

The forthcoming article will also prove why there are *NO lost books* of the Bible! It will also prove that we possess the entire New Testament—as Catholic and Protestant scholars agree. It will also prove that the Jews in Pal-

(Please continue on page 14)



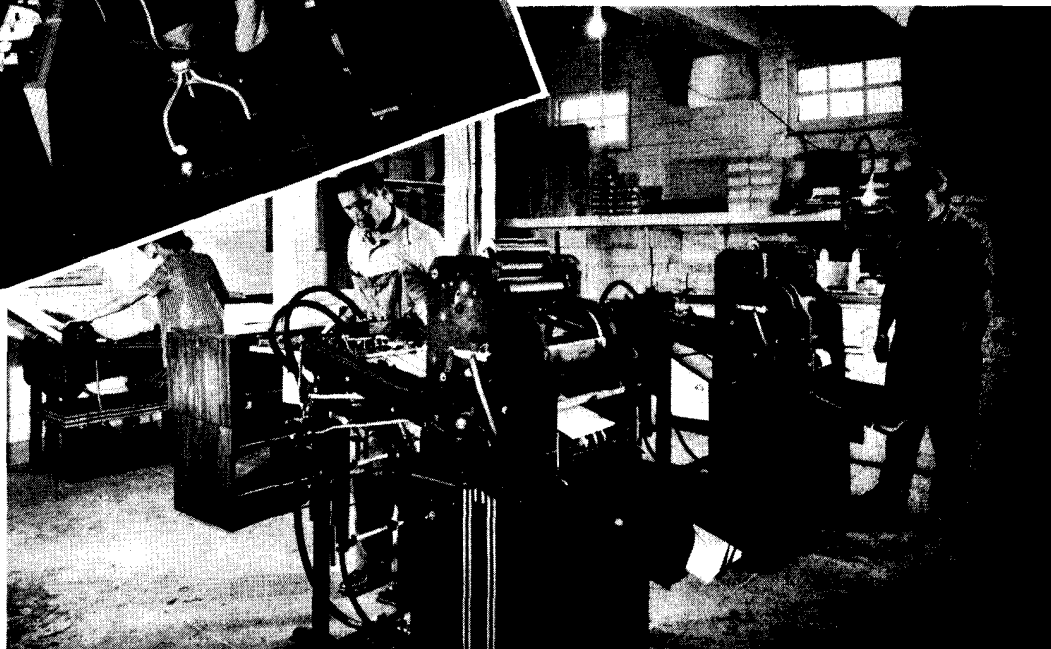
A Portion of the magnificent Ambassador College Campus

showing one of four patios, a small portion of the spacious, beautifully contoured grounds, and a corner of the class-room building.



NERVE-CENTER OF

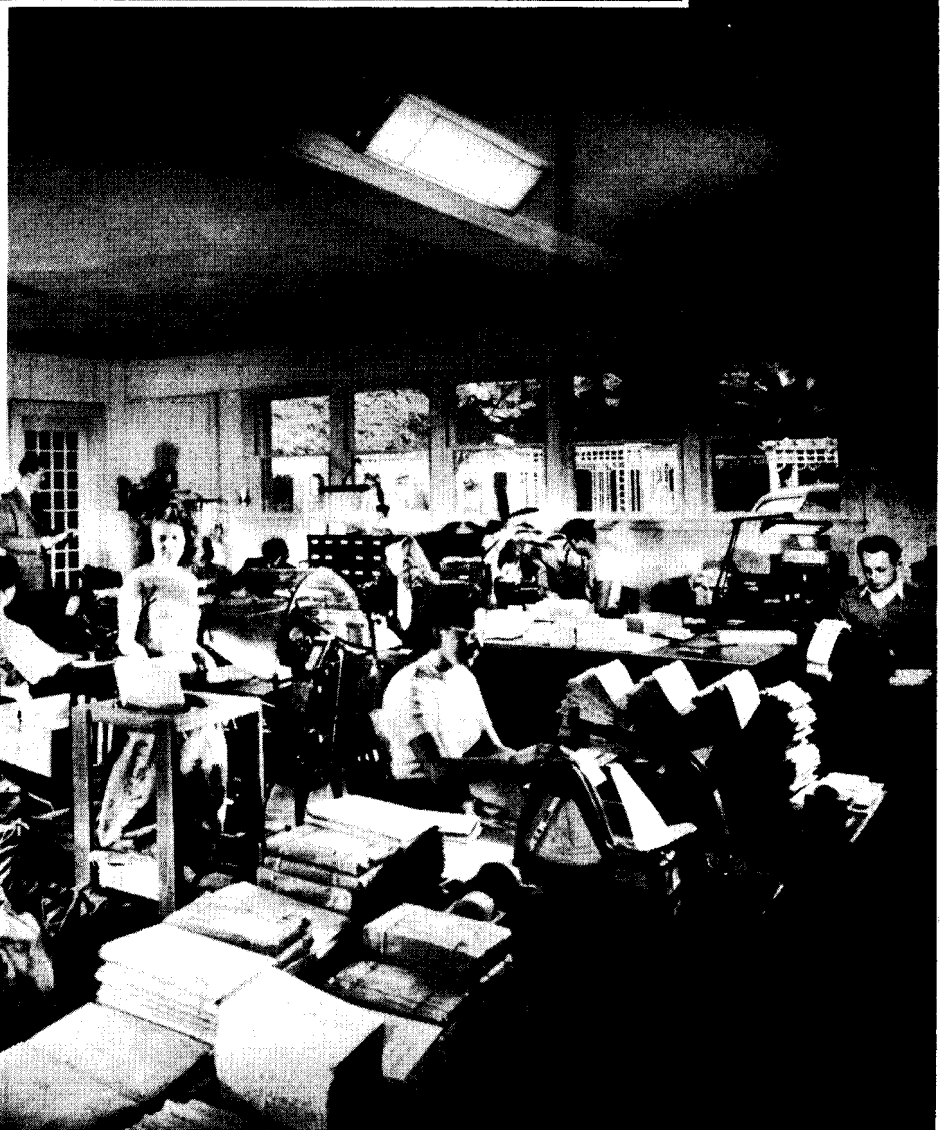
Here are grouped five pictures showing the dynamic nerve-center of the world-wide program, "The World Tomorrow," in Ambassador College, Pasadena, California. Above, right, "The World Tomorrow" program is ON THE AIR, world-wide—Beverly Armstrong Gott singing, directed by Leon Ettinger, accompanied by Lucy H. Martin; Herbert W. Armstrong, seated at table, waiting before the microphone to continue his message, with Mrs. Armstrong sitting by his side. This shows a portion of our own radio studio in Ambassador College, where the program originates, connected by direct wire with radio stations, several tape recordings being also made





OF THE WORK

simultaneously. Above, left, we repeat a picture published January, 1952 issue, showing close-up of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong during broadcast. At left, center, you see the superbly equipped control-room, and thru the double-glass, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong in the radio studio, Norman A. Smith, chief technician, at the controls. Below, left, a corner of our printing office where James A. Gott, manager (right), and Herman Olson turn out hundreds of thousands of attractive booklets. Below, right, we again reproduce a portion of our large mailing office, where tons and tons of precious gospel literature are mailed to all parts of the world.





The Ambassador Chorale, musical organization of Ambassador College, Leon Ettinger (center) director.



Home Economics laboratory, Ambassador College, Miss Velma Lee Metz (left), instructor.

Today's Religious Customs...

how did they begin?

Part VII

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

SALVATION is certainly the most important question in today's *confused* world. Communism is stalking the earth. It threatens freedom of religion. Soon, very soon, there will be a "*famine . . . of hearing of the words of the Lord,*" and then it will be *too late*. For "they shall SEEK the word of the Lord, and shall NOT FIND IT." (Amos 8:11-12).

TROUBLE, terrible trouble, IS JUST AHEAD and NOW *while things are relatively peaceful* is the time to prepare yourself to meet it.

The vast majority today believe they are on the right road to salvation. They are honest, sincere people. They do what *they think* is right. Never has it entered their mind to question that they might be *wrong*.

This series of articles is a stern warning against the confusion and failure of professing Christianity in our tottering Western World. *Save these magazines for re-reading.* They will be *very useful* in the coming dark hours. This series of articles may be obtained in a forthcoming book entitled *Satan's Great Deception*.

World Deception Planned from Time of Flood

Up to this point we have learned that the knowledge of Adam and Eve's sin and the coming of a Savior to redeem mankind was well known by the earth's early inhabitants. Just after the flood Nimrod founded in *Babylon* a *civilization which ignored the rule of God* (Gen. 11:1-9).

Soon after his death, his wife Semiramis, inspired by the devil who wished to confuse the world by clever counterfeits, *claimed* she miraculously conceived the Redeemer. He would emancipate the world from the rule of God. This gave her prestige and power to retain her dead husband's kingdom.

One of her illegitimate children (Tammuz) served as this "Savior." The gospel of the *coming Christ* and *much* of the Bible teachings were counterfeited in such a way as to *appeal* to its followers but lead them to DESTRUCTION INSTEAD OF SALVATION. From the place of her rule (Babylon) these deceptive teachings spread throughout the whole world—including the Christian-professing nations! Because of their marked similarity to Christ's teachings, the pa-

gan counterfeits became mingled with His, and have *deceived the people to this very day*—just as the devil had planned!

Many of these planned PITFALLS have been revealed to you in previous articles. Satan is going to double his efforts to DECEIVE in these very end days "because he knoweth he hath but a short time" (Rev. 12:12). Christ, warning of this time, said, "THERE SHALL ARISE FALSE CHRISTS, AND FALSE PROPHETS, AND SHALL SHOW GREAT SIGNS AND WONDERS: INASMUCH THAT, IF IT WERE POSSIBLE, THEY SHOULD DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT." (Matt. 24:24) BE ON GUARD! KNOW SATAN'S METHODS! IT WILL PAY TREMENDOUSLY!

Let us now learn more of these deceptions that masquerade as Christian—but are actually pagan—and lead people down the *wrong* road today.

The Counterfeit Cross

Is the cross which took Christ's life a thing to be proud of and adored? Or has the Devil *deceived* us here also? Our sins and the Devil's deception killed Christ. SATAN was to *bruise* the heel of the seed of woman (Gen. 3:15)—*Satan* was to kill Christ. How did he do this?

Satan deceived us into sinning and OUR sins killed Christ. Should we parade OUR INSTRUMENT OF DEATH which took Christ's life before the world and be *proud* of it? But notice even more about the practice of parading the cross.

The true original form of the Chaldean (Babylonian) alphabet letter "T" is made like "†"—like the CROSS THE CHURCHES USE TODAY—and WAS THE INITIAL OF TAMMUZ, the sun-god. "This was marked on the foreheads of those initiated into the *Mysteries*; the Vestal virgins of *pagan* (not modern) Rome wore it suspended from their necklaces as nuns do now. There is hardly a pagan tribe where the cross has not been found . . . the X which in itself was not an unnatural symbol of Christ, and which was once regarded as such, was allowed to go entirely into disuse, and the Tau, "†," the sign of the cross, the indisputable sign of Tammuz, the false Messiah, was everywhere substituted in its stead." (Hislop, *The Two Babylons*, p. 119)

People and churches nowadays are even going to great lengths to *identify themselves with the symbol of the Sun-god!* The great display of this symbol

today is an outward sign of how blinded this world is to the truth of God.

Extreme Unction a Counterfeit Salvation Method

The Savior is spoken of as the "Messiah which is . . . Christ" (John 1:41). The word "Messiah," according to Peloubet's *Bible Dictionary*, means one who is *anointed with holy oil*. Kings of Israel were called "anointed" from this mode of consecration. *The Savior was the Messiah, the anointed one consecrated by God.*

We shall now see how Satan, knowing of the Messiah's coming—the One who would come to *make peace between mankind and God*—produced counterfeits hundreds of years before he came. It did not take Semiramis, inspired by Satan, long to incorporate this into her Mysteries and identify this title with her dead husband Nimrod:

"Among the many names of the Babylonian god (Nimrod) was the name 'Beel-samen,' 'Lord of Heaven,' which is the name of the sun. But Beel-samen also properly signified 'Lord of Oil' and was evidently intended as a synonym of the Divine name 'The Messiah.'" (Note here the subtle counterfeit of Semiramis, as inspired by the Devil, to duplicate the *real Messiah!*)

"This also accounts for the fact that the body of the Babylonian Belus (Nimrod) was represented as having been preserved in his sepulchre . . . floating in oil. And . . . at Rome the statue of Saturn' (Nimrod) was made hollow and filled with oil . . . As the olive branch was one of the symbols of their Messiah (Nimrod) whose great mission it was to *make peace between God and man* so, in bearing this branch of the anointed one, they thereby testified that in the *name* of that anointed one they came seeking peace." (Hislop, p. 165). IF ONE WAS ANOINTED WITH OIL BEFORE HE DIED, HE WAS SURE OF A GRACIOUS RECEPTION BY HIS GOD, THEY BELIEVED.

"The worshippers of this . . . 'Lord of Heaven' . . . were also anointed with 'magical ointments' . . . to fit and prepare them for being admitted *in vision*, into his awful presence . . . Thus the pagan system naturally developed into an 'extreme unction' . . . 'Extreme unction' . . . was entirely unknown among

the Christians till corruption was far advanced in the Church." (p. 166)

Extreme unction thus was being practiced by pagans hundreds of years before the great falling away from the truth occurred in the Church. It was being used to prepare those who were being initiated into the Mysteries to meet their god *in vision* in an initiation. It was also to prepare others to make their last journey into the unknown beyond.

After Christ's coming, the apostate Church, desiring to retain this pagan practice for the thousands of incoming pagans and also to pacify the professing Christians, concocted a scriptural basis: "Is any *sick* among you? Let him call the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, *anointing him with oil* . . . and the Lord shall *raise him up*." (James 5:14-15.) THIS COMMAND IS OBVIOUSLY GIVEN FOR PHYSICAL HEALING AND NOT TO PREPARE MAN TO MEET THE CREATOR! This Scripture was deliberately misinterpreted to allow a pagan counterfeit to masquerade as Christian. Repentance and Christ's blood make forgiveness possible. But by this pagan rite men claim to prepare one another to meet the Creator—but the rite or ceremony is only a continuation of pagan Sun-worship, worship of a false Messiah.

So those who could *have life by God's healing* COMMAND are led astray by Satan's counterfeit, into other ways which bring *death*. They are deceived into honoring a false Messiah—into using a false method to prepare them for their final judgment!

Pagan Worship Continues Today

You will recall that in the time of Nimrod, the sun (which was associated symbolically with the Serpent or Satan) was symbolized on earth by *fire*. NIMROD, as the SUN-GOD or fire-god in the *Mysteries*, was worshipped by the sacrifice of HUMAN BEINGS IN FIRE TO HIM. Has this pagan custom persisted even in our "Christian" times? Let us examine.

The Feast of the NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN is set down in the *Papal* calendar for the 24th of June. *The very same period* was equally memorable in the Babylonian calendar for one of its grand original festivals—to commemorate the death and reviving of Tammuz (Nimrod reborn). (Stanley's *Sabaeen Philosophy*, p. 1065).

Why this "coincidence"? The apostate Church followed the now famous advice of Pope Gregory I, that by all means they should *meet the pagans half way* and so bring them into the Church (Bower's *Lives of Popes*, vol. ii, p. 523). Here is how it happened. About the sixth century A.D., emissaries were sent over Europe, with an eye to *gathering the pagans into its fold*. Remember, the apostate Church was formed by a *union of pagans and professing Christians*. (Consult Gibbon's *The Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire*, vol. i, chap. 15.) These emissaries or investigators found that the keeping of the 24th of June in honor of Tammuz (or Nimrod reborn as the Sun-god), was very popular.

To *gain numbers* to the Church was the thing! This meant *both* professing Christians and pagans must be satisfied. The pagans wanted this festival. The Christians would *not tolerate a name suggestive of its real meaning*. So a *Christian name* was put on this pagan festival. This is exactly the way our *pagan Christmas* came into Christianity and why there are so *many* pagan festivals observed in the churches today.

Now what *Christian* name was attached to June 24—a pagan festival?

As the *pagans* had already established December 25th as *Christ's* supposed birthday (*actually* it is in the *autumn*), that could not be used. *But* June 24th—6 months earlier—*could be* John's birthday! John the Baptist was born 6 months before Christ. The Feast could be called the nativity of St. John. But where could a connection be found between John and the name of Tammuz? In the Latin language adopted by the Church, John was called Joannes.

One of the many sacred names by which Tammuz or Nimrod was called, when he reappeared in the *Mysteries* after he was slain, was *Oannes* (Bunsen's *Egypt*, vol. i, p. 707). How similar is *Oannes* to *Joannes* or John!

Oannes was the Fish-god. How did Nimrod acquire this name?

When Nimrod was overcome by Shem, Semiramis concocted a fable regarding it. She said that Nimrod took refuge in the sea. When he therefore "reappeared" he did so in the very character of Oannes, the Fish-god (*Hispol*, p. 114).

CHANGES IN ABC NETWORK SCHEDULE FOR PACIFIC COAST AND MOUNTAIN STATES

ARIZONA				KOPR Butte 550 kcs. 11:00-11:30 A.M.			
KCLF	Clifton	1400 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.	NEW MEXICO			
KCNA	Tucson	580 kcs.	11:00-11:30 A.M.				
CALIFORNIA				KCLV	Clovis	1240 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.
KABC	Los Angeles	790 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.	KTRC	Santa Fe	1400 kcs.	10:30-11:00 A.M.
KARM	Fresno	1430 kcs.	4:00- 4:30 P.M.	OREGON			
KCBQ	San Diego	1170 kcs.	12:00-12:30 P.M.	KASH	Eugene	1600 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.
KGO	San Francisco	810 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.	KFLW	Klamath Falls	1450 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.
KITO	San Bernardino	1290 kcs.	12:00-12:30 P.M.	KJUN	Redmond	1240 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.
KPMC	Bakersfield	1560 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.	KWRC	Pendleton	1240 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.
KROP	Brawley	1300 kcs.	9:30-10:00 A.M.	WASHINGTON			
KTIP	Porterville	1450 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.	KGA	Spokane	1510 kcs.	9:30-10:00 A.M.
COLORADO				KPKW	Pasco	1340 kcs.	4:00- 4:30 P.M.
KGHF	Pueblo	1350 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.	KTEL	Walla Walla	1490 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.
KVOD	Denver	630 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.	KVOS	Bellingham	790 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 A.M.
IDAHO				WYOMING			
KGEM	Boise	1140 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.	KFBC	Cheyenne	710 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.
MONTANA				KRAL	Rawlins	1240 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.
KMON	Great Falls	560 kcs.	7:00- 7:30 A.M.	KVOC	Casper	1230 kcs.	10:00-10:30 A.M.

So THE PAGAN NATIVITY OF ST. JOHN FESTIVAL, which actually commemorates the death and reviving of pagan Tammuz, BEARS A CHRISTIAN NAME!

How was this Christian-named festival observed? How has it been observed in our times?

Before Christianity entered the British Isles, the 24th of June was celebrated by the Druids with blazing fires in honor of their great divinity who was Baal (another name for Nimrod or Tammuz). It was thus observed to our times! "I have seen the people running and leaping through the St. John's fires in Ireland . . . proud of passing through unsinged . . . thinking themselves in a special manner blest by the ceremony." (Toland's *Druids*, p. 107.) It was a wide spread custom. Herodotus, Wilkinson, Layard, and many others record its observance in various countries.

The grand distinguishing solemnities of St. John's Eve are the mid-summer fires. These were lighted in France, Switzerland, Ireland and Scotland (*Hislop*, p. 114). "When the FIRE had burned for several hours and got low, everyone PASSED THROUGH IT . . . here was . . . worship of Baal, if not Molech (II Kgs. 23:10) too, by millions professing the Christian name." (Bell's *Wayside Pictures*, p. 225)

So, WE SEE THE WORSHIP OF THE SUN-GOD OR SERPENT AGAIN IN OUR TIMES, UNDER THE CLOAK OF A CHRISTIAN NAME! We are not as far removed from paganism as we think!

What does God say about this heathen practice? The people of Old Testament times were practicing this identical rite to honor this same pagan god." They built the high places of Baal . . . to cause their sons and their daughters TO PASS THROUGH THE FIRE TO MOLECH (Nimrod); which I commanded them not! (Jer. 32:35). Again God says, "When ye make your sons to pass through the fire, YE POLLUTE YOURSELVES WITH YOUR IDOLS, even unto this day." (Ezekiel 20:31). God COMMANDS that this idolatrous festival NOT be kept! He says it is IDOLATRY!—in honor of an idol god! THE PEOPLE TODAY HAVE OTHER GODS BEFORE THE TRUE GOD. The very first of the Ten Commandments says, "THOU SHALT HAVE NO OTHER GODS BEFORE ME!" (Ex. 20:3).

Christmas Observance Is Sun-god Worship

The day set apart by Semiramis in memory of the "new birth" of Nimrod, her husband who had been slain by Shem, is familiar to everyone. What day is this? CHRISTMAS! Through her mysteries he was said to have been miraculously conceived of Semiramis and to

have returned in the form of Tammuz (Semiramis' illegitimate son). It was the BIRTHDAY OF THE UNCONQUERED SUN! (Giesler's *Ecclesiastical History*, vol. ii, p. 42). Shem had not vanquished Nimrod even though he had slain him.

In Egypt, the son of Isis (Semiramis), the Babylonian queen of heaven, was supposedly born at the approximate time of the winter solstice. (Wilkins' *Egyptians*, vol. iv. p. 405). The winter solstice was then December 25, the place marking the beginning of the days becoming longer and longer. TO THE PAGAN SUN-WORSHIPPERS IT MEANT THAT THEIR GOD—THE SUN—WAS NOT GOING TO DIE AFTER ALL, BUT WAS BECOMING STRONGER AND STRONGER. The very name "Yule-day" which is used among us today proves its pagan and Babylonian origin. (Mallet's *Northern Antiquities*, vol. 1, p. 130). "Yule" was the Chaldee name for "infant" or "little child" long before Christ's time. It did not appear in Christian worship until around 350 A.D.!

The Sabaeans of Arabia regarded the 24th day of December as the birthday of their pagan 'Lord' (Stanley's *History of Philosophy*, p. 1066, col. 1). The Saxons observed December the 25th. *Hislop*, p. 96 states: "It was an essential principle of the Babylonian system, that the Sun or Baal was the one only God. When, therefore, Tammuz was worshipped as god incarnate," (after he had supposedly taken the human form as Christ did centuries later) "that implied that he was an incarnation of the Sun."

Here again then we see why observing the BIRTHDAY of Tammuz is Sun-worship! IN OBSERVING THIS DAY PEOPLE OF OUR TIME ACTUALLY PAY HOMAGE TO A MORTAL MAN (now dead) AS BEING GOD INCARNATE WHILE THEY THINK THEY ARE HONORING CHRIST'S BIRTHDAY.

What about today's Christmas tree? The Christmas tree in Egypt was the palm; in Rome it was the fir. The mother (Semiramis) of Adonis the Sun-god (Grecian name of Tammuz) was mystically said to have been changed into a tree—the Christmas tree. While in this state she was said to have brought forth her 'divine' son Tammuz. (Ovid's *Metamorphoses*, lib. XV 500-513) *Hislop*, p. 97, indicates that if the mother was the tree, the son must have been the counterfeit "Man of the branch." But Christ is the true "Branch." (Jer. 23:5). This is another pagan duality!

This, he states, accounts for putting the Yule Log into the fire on Christmas eve and the appearance of the Christmas tree next morning—the tree that brings all divine gifts to men. When the deceived today use the Christmas tree in their celebrations, they pay homage to Semiramis, the mother (and giver) of

their "Savior." Who then do they thus acknowledge as their savior? NIMROD—the very man who "saved" mankind from following God at the tower of Babel (Gen. 11:6).

What does God say about the Christmas tree? "Learn not the way of the heathen . . . for one cutteth a tree . . . They deck it with silver and gold; and fasten it . . . that it move not . . . they are altogether brutish and foolish (Jer. 10:1-18.) God commands us to commemorate Christ's death (Mark 14:22-24)—not his birth which occurred before winter (Luke 2:8).

Christ's Conception Counterfeited

Is there a counterfeit for the miraculous conception of Christ? Yes! Lady Day, celebrated each March 25th—9 months before the supposed "Savior" was born. This day was observed long before Christ's time in honor of the Babylonian "Messiah" (*Ammianus Marcellinus*, lib. xxiii, cap. 3, p. 355).

How clear it is becoming that the Devil supervised the fashioning of these counterfeits. They not only could be used in deceiving mankind then, as to the True way to salvation, but also could be used in deceiving people today after the real Savior came! So we see that THOSE WHO KEEP CHRISTMAS TODAY MARK THEMSELVES AS WORSHIPPERS OF THE SUN, SATAN, NIMROD, and TAMMUZ, AND SEMIRAMIS—the apostate heroes who founded civilization after the flood in defiance of the way of God. What a group for a modern "Christian" to be worshipping!

And Semiramis? Does she have a day? Yes, she has a day reserved for herself also—Lady Day—and the people here and in other countries are dutifully keeping it! After all, had it not been for her, these MYSTERIES (II Thes. 2:7) which deceive the earth today would never have been formulated and they would never have had a false "savior."

The name of Semiramis found on As-

WHY THE PLAIN TRUTH HAS NO SUBSCRIPTION PRICE

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

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

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

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

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

syrian monuments is "Ishtar." This was pronounced "Easter." This corresponds with one of the titles of the Babylonian Beltes (Semiramis)—called Astarte in the Bible. So, the very word "Easter" shows that this festival originated in Babylon (Layard's *Nineveh and Babylon*, p. 629).

What does this day commemorate?

Easter Observance Is Sun-goddess Worship

We have to go back to Semiramis and her Mysteries again. Says *Hislop*, p. 110, "As everything that was good . . . to mankind was represented in the Chaldean (Babylonian) mysteries, as in some way connected with the Babylonian goddess (Semiramis), so the greatest blessing to the human race which the ark contained . . . was held to be Astarte . . . the great civilizer and benefactor of the world . . . It was easy for her worshippers to be made to believe that in a previous incarnation she had lived in the Antediluvian world."

The word for "egg" and "house" in the Hebrew and Chaldean is very similar. So the house or ark of Noah floating on the waters, became the "Egg." "An egg of wondrous size is said to have fallen from heaven into the river Euphrates . . . out came Venus, who afterward became the Assyrian goddess" (Hyginus' *Fabulae*, pp. 148, 149.)—that is, Astarte. The classic poems are full of fables of the Mystic egg of the Babylonians.

This then, was the event that the Ishtar egg or Easter egg first commemorated: the "arrival" (birth) of the future mother of the Sun-god on this earth after the flood. So we see *Easter commemorates Semiramis' birthday*—not Christ's!

Jesus knew that men would attach His name to pagan practices, claiming to worship Him. He shouted the warning: "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46.)

Why . . .

So Many Translations?

(Continued from page 6)

estine preserved all of the Old Testament books accurately—that the Apocrypha (13 *uninspired* books which appear in the Goodspeed and Douay Bibles) were not added to the Greek translation of the Old Testament till after the days of the apostles!

How miraculous that the Word of God has been preserved intact against every enemy through 3400 years!

Miracles?

(Continued from page 4)

thing in their power to discredit the story, and killed many of those who told

it. If Jesus' disciples stole it, they were then preaching a lie. But men do not become martyrs for what they know is untrue.

Was Jesus really dead? His disciples certainly believed that He was. Their trouble was in believing His resurrection at first. And the Roman soldiers and Jews certainly believed He was dead. They were only concerned about the disciples stealing away His body (Mat. 27:64).

Was the resurrection, as some skeptics claim, a later addition to the story of Christ, invented years later to glorify a dead hero? As we have shown, sacred and secular history alike clearly state that the great religious movement known by Christ's name was *begun* by people who preached of His *resurrection from the dead*. This joyous belief was not an addition to the Christian faith, but one of the primary *causes* of it. The apostles did not rest their faith on records, *but on what they had seen with their own eyes*.

When questioned about this belief, the apostles chorused: "We are his WITNESSES of these things" (Acts 5:29-32).

There is no conceivable way to account for the origin of the story of Jesus' resurrection except that it was an ACTUAL FACT. This miracle is as well established as any fact in history!

May God grant you the wisdom, in this age of *skepticism* and *modernism*, to see that this *miracle* is as *real*, as *literal*, as *factual* as anything you know.

Basis of Faith

Once you really grasp the fact that the resurrection of Christ was quite *literal* and *miraculous*, you will in all honesty be forced to acknowledge that Jesus really was what He claimed to be—the Messiah, the Son of God—and that His *many other* predictions and promises and teachings must be just as *true* and *literal* as that of His death and resurrection. Would God raise from the dead and show as His Son one who had told the *truth* part of the time, and *lied* part of the time?

Let's be *honest* and *reasonable* about these things!

Were the apostles telling the *truth* about Jesus' resurrection—as we have *proved* they must have been—and *lying* when they told of His other miracles? And of His promises? And of His teachings?

Clearly, the factual, historical PROOF of the *divine inspiration* and *present fulfillment* of the prophecies in God's Word, and of the *miraculous resurrection* of Jesus Christ demonstrate that God's Word means *exactly* what it says—that God is the Living, Active, Creator-Ruler of Heaven and earth NOW,

and that His *instructions*, His *prophecies*, and His *promises* are in effect right now—*today!*

God help you to grasp what this means!

Concerning God's promises, this complete faith in His *Word* and in His *present power* will enable you to *trust* God as you never did before to *supernaturally intervene* in your life when you need Him.

And don't be deceived by the modernist teaching that miracles were only for the days of Christ and the apostles. If that were so, why did God perform such great miracles through the hands of Stephen and Philip, who were never called apostles? (Acts 6:8; 8:6).

What about the "signs" that Jesus said "*shall follow them that BELIEVE*"? (Mr. 16:17-18). Have those that *believe* ceased to exist?

Rely on God's Word

The sad truth is that most so-called "Christians" *deny* by their words and their deeds the promises and teachings of God's Word. They have lost sight of *God's present power to miraculously intervene and back up His word*—whether it be a prophecy or a promise.

For instance, God says in James 5:14-15: "Is any sick among you? Let him call for the elders of the church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord: and *the prayer of faith shall save the sick*, and the Lord shall raise him up."

Why don't people *believe* and *claim* that promise today?

Because, as most of you, they have just never been taught that kind of faith in God's Word. Or, perhaps, they have seen God's promise to heal counterfeited or perverted by some group of people who make a religious racket out of this sort of thing.

But this is God's *promise*. It doesn't require a lot of mental conditioning or emotional gymnastics—only sound-minded, simple, persevering FAITH in God's Word. If you would like to understand more about this particular promise—of *divine healing*—write today for Mr. Armstrong's *free* booklet, "*Does God Heal Today?*"

On the WORLD TOMORROW program, and through the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH, we absolutely prove in a clear, sound-minded, factual manner that God is *present* RULER of the world—and that He binds himself by His Word, the Bible.

Once you fully grasp this truth, and begin to *act* on it, you will join hundreds of others who know by *personal experience* that *miracles do happen today*. And you will learn to *trust* and *obey* God as never before, thereby reaping all the blessings of His divine inter-

vention on your behalf *now*—and preparing yourself by spiritual growth for the gift of eternal life in the world tomorrow.

Prophesied to Happen

(Continued from page 2)

mission—to BUILD and to PLANT!

So far as the world knows, the last king to sit on that throne of David was Zedekiah of Judah. He was thrown down off the throne, and the throne rooted out of Judah in the year 585 B.C.—nearly 600 years before Christ!

What happened to that throne? Where was that throne between 585 B.C. and the time of Christ, 600 years later? We know Jeremiah did not plant and re-BUILD it in Babylon. God had promised that David's throne should rule over ISRAELITES thru *all* generations—not over Gentiles. We have the history of the continuance of the gentile throne in Babylon. That throne was never again planted or built among the Jews! It was not reigning over the Jews in the time of Christ. The Jews were then under the Roman rule. Jesus did not ascend any such throne. The throne was not functioning in Judah—it was not existing at that place or over that people—it was not there for Jesus to take over. And Jesus said plainly that HIS Kingdom *was not of this present age*! Yet He was born to sit upon this very THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID (Luke 1:32)!

Yet that throne was divinely commissioned to be planted and re-BUILD by the prophet Jeremiah—*during his lifetime*! To plant and to build, then, of necessity, among the HOUSE of ISRAEL, lo, these many days without a king—among LOST Israel, now supposing herself to be GENTILE! Therefore the identity and location of the re-planting *must remain hidden to the world until this Time of the END* in which we live.

Tearing Down the Throne

The life and work of Jeremiah is a most fascinating story.

It is generally known that Babylon took Judah in three different stages. The first siege was in 604 B.C., a date about two years later than has been commonly reckoned, but a date now firmly established. The land did not *completely* pass into the hands of these Gentile Babylonians, however, until 19 years later, or 585 B.C. You can read the part played by Jeremiah in this captivity in the *book* of Jeremiah.

But now notice an interesting fact. The last and final king recorded either in Bible or secular history as having sat

on the throne of David was King Zedekiah of Judah. Remember his name. Now notice II Ki. 24:18: "Zedekiah was twenty and one years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eleven years in Jerusalem. And *his mother's name was Hamutal, the daughter of Jeremiah of Libnah.*" It is assumed that this was Jeremiah the prophet. There is no evidence to the contrary. This young King Zedekiah, the fifth to occupy the throne after Jeremiah's commission, and the last king of Judah, therefore, WAS JEREMIAH'S OWN GRANDSON! That fact has an important bearing on Jeremiah's commission.

Now notice briefly a description of the final tearing down and rooting out of this throne of David:

"In the ninth year of Zedekiah, king of Judah, in the tenth month, came Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, and all his army against Jerusalem, and they besieged it. And in the eleventh year of Zedekiah, in the fourth month, the ninth day of the month, the city was broken up . . . And it came to pass, that when Zedekiah the king of Judah saw them, and all the men of war, then they fled . . . but the Chaldeans' army pursued after them, and overtook Zedekiah in the plains of Jericho: and when they had taken him, and brought him up to Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, to Riblah in the land of Hamath, where he gave judgment upon him. Then the king of Babylon slew the sons of Zedekiah in Riblah before his eyes: also the king of Babylon slew all the nobles of Judah. Moreover he put out Zedekiah's eyes, and bound him with chains, to carry him to Babylon." (Jerc 39:1-7.)

In the 52nd chapter, first 11 verses, we find almost a word-for-word description of the same events, adding, "and put him (Zedekiah) in prison TILL THE DAY OF HIS DEATH."

These passages bring out these points:

1. The king of Babylon slew *all* the sons of Zedekiah who were heirs to the throne of David.

2. He also slew all the nobles of Judah, so as to leave no possible heirs for that throne.

3. Finally, after putting out Zedekiah's eyes, the king who sat on David's throne was himself taken to Babylon where he died in prison.

4. Thus, as it *appears*, and as the whole world has believed, the throne of David ceased, with no possible heirs, or sons, to keep the dynasty alive. Certain it is that from that day on the throne never again has existed in Judah, in Jerusalem, or among the Jews!!

Jeremiah has now accomplished the *first* part of his great commission. The throne has been rooted out, the kingdom torn completely down. Judah is now be-

ginning HER national punishment.

Where Did Jeremiah Go?

But what about the SECOND part of Jeremiah's commission? God's Word often repeats an important fact to emphasize it. In Jeremiah 31:28 we find repeated this commission of Jeremiah which is the actual connecting link between Bible history and prophecy! Here it says: "It shall come to pass, that like as I have watched over them, to pluck up, and to break down, and to destroy, and to afflict; so will I watch over them, TO BUILD AND TO PLANT, SAITH THE ETERNAL." Here the tearing down has already happened. And now that the first part of Jeremiah's commission is performed, the ETERNAL again reiterates the second part—to BUILD AND TO PLANT.

Listen! Jeremiah was among these captive Jews. He must be free to carry out the second part of his commission. So "Nebuchadnezzar, king of Babylon, gave charge concerning Jeremiah to Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard, saying, Take him and look well to him, and do him no harm; but do unto him even as he shall say unto thee." (Jer. 39:11-12). "And the captain of the guard took Jeremiah, and said unto him, . . . behold, I loose thee this day from the chains which were upon thine hand. If it seem good to thee to come with me into Babylon, come; and I will look well unto thee: but if it seem ill unto thee to come with me into Babylon, forbear; behold, all the land is before thee: whither it seemeth good and convenient for thee to go, thither go . . . So the captain of the guard gave him victuals and a reward (money) and let him go." (Jer. 40:1-5.)

So Jeremiah was left absolutely free to do as he pleased, supplied even with expense money, and given complete freedom, so that he might perform the second half of his mission. Where did he go? We come now to an amazing, fascinating, thrilling part of the Book of Jeremiah which has been almost entirely overlooked.

"Then went Jeremiah unto Gedeliah, the son of Ahikam, to Mizpah; and dwelt with him among the people that were left in the land." (6th verse.)

Now this Gedeliah had been made governor over a remnant of Jews in the land by the king of Babylon, and since Jerusalem was destroyed, he had made Mizpah his headquarters. But the king of Ammon plotted with a Jew named Ishmael to assassinate Gedeliah. The plot was executed; the governor and part of the Jews were slain. Jeremiah was among the survivors.

"Then Ishmael carried away captive all the residue of the people that were

in Mizpah, even the king's daughters, and all the people that remained in Mizpah, whom Nebuzaradan, the captain of the guard (from Babylon), had committed to Gedeliah . . . and carried them away captives, and departed to go over to the Ammonites" (Jer. 41:10).

Ah! Did you catch it? Read that passage again.

Among these Jews were *the king's daughters!* Daughters of Zedekiah, King of Judah and of David's dynasty!

King Zedekiah had died. All his sons had been killed. All the princes of Judah had been killed. All possible heirs to David's throne had been killed—*except the king's daughters!* Now we see why Jeremiah went to Mizpah!

Jeremiah, with Royal Seed for Replanting, Escapes

Soon a man named Johanan replaced Ishmael as leader. And in fear of reprisals from Nebuchadnezzar and the Chaldean army, they appealed to the prophet, "and said unto Jeremiah the prophet, Let, we beseech thee, our supplication be accepted before thee, and pray for us unto the Lord thy God . . . that the Lord thy God may show us the way wherein we may walk." (Jer. 42:2-3.)

The word of the Lord came to Jeremiah, and He told them not to fear, that He would protect and deliver them. But the people wanted to flee to Egypt. This the Lord warned them not to do. If they did, the sword of Nebuchadnezzar, which they feared, would overtake them there, and they would die. (Jer. 42:7-16.)

"If ye wholly set your faces to enter into Egypt," God said, "and go to sojourn there; Then it shall come to pass, that the sword, which ye feared shall overtake you there . . . and there ye shall die." (Jer. 42:7-16.)

But as people usually do, they rejected God's warning.

"Thou speakest falsely," Johanan answered. "The ETERNAL our God hath not sent thee to say, Go not into Egypt." (Jer. 43:2-3.) "So Johanan . . . and all the people obeyed not the voice of the ETERNAL" (verse 4).

And so Johanan "took all the remnant of Judah . . . even men, and women, and children, *and the king's daughters . . . and Jeremiah the prophet, and Baruch, the son of Neriab* (Jeremiah's scribe, or secretary). So they came into the land of Egypt." (Jer. 43:5-7.)

Baruch was Jeremiah's constant companion and secretary. It is important to note here God's promise of protection to him: "Thus saith the Lord, the God of Israel, unto thee, O Baruch . . . Behold, that which I have built I will break down, and that which I have planted I will pluck up, even this whole land . . . but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest." (Jer. 45:2-5.)

Under Divine Protection

Baruch's life, like Jeremiah's, was under Divine protection!

On reaching Egypt, God warned these Jews again through Jeremiah that they should die there by the sword and famine, and "none shall return *but such as shall escape!*" (Jer. 44:12-14.)

Yes, a few in this company are under divine protection. A divine mission is to be performed. They shall ESCAPE! The ETERNAL continues: "Yet a small number that escape the sword shall return out of the land of Egypt into the land of Judah." (Jer. 44:28.)

Now previously, the ETERNAL had said to Jeremiah, "Verily it shall be well with THY REMNANT." The only "remnant" left of Jeremiah's family is the

king's daughters, his own great-grand-daughters. The rest have been killed. "Verily," continues the ETERNAL, same verse, "I will cause the enemy to enreat thee well in the time of evil and in the time of affliction . . . *and I will make thee to pass with thine enemies INTO A LAND WHICH THOU KNOWEST NOT.*" (Jer. 15:11, 14.)

Notice, it is *Jeremiah's* remnant, not Judah's, and therefore it is to be well with the remnant of *his own family*, or his great-grand-daughter princesses, *THE ROYAL material given TO JEREMIAH WITH WHICH TO BUILD AND TO PLANT*—and Jeremiah is to be protected and to go to a land that he knows not! Who else was to go to a land they knew not? *The ten-tribed birthright kingdom, ISRAEL!*

So, Jeremiah and his little royal remnant are to escape out of Egypt, return to Judah, and then—WHERE? "*Into a land which thou knowest not!*"

Now let Isaiah complete this prophecy:

"For out of Jerusalem shall go forth a remnant, and they that escape out of Mount Zion: the zeal of the Lord of hosts shall do this. And the remnant that escaped of the house of Judah shall AGAIN TAKE ROOT DOWNWARD, AND BEAR FRUIT UPWARD." (Isa. 37:32, 31.)

This remnant with Jeremiah—at least one of the king's daughters—shall *take root downward!* That is, BE RE-PLANTED!

And then *bear fruit upward!* BE BUILDED!

Has God failed in His solemn covenant to keep alive David's throne? Where was this planting and building? Can we find it in God's Word?

We can! The place and the people among whom the throne was re-established, are clearly identified!

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