

# *the* PLAIN TRUTH

*a magazine of understanding*

VOL. XXI, NUMBER 4

APRIL, 1956



One of four patios on our picturesque AMBASSADOR COLLEGE campus

*The*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*A magazine of understanding*

VOL. XXI

NO. 4

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*Associate Editor*Sent **FREE** to all who request it,  
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**Heart to Heart Talk  
 With the Editor**

There are times, I have to confess, when I feel impotent, helpless, frustrated. I wonder if any of our readers could put themselves in my place, and realize what I see and know, and how I feel.

I look back over the years, and recognize how God called me, nearly 40 years ago, out of a fascinating and successful life in business—how I ignored the call and put it out of mind, as a sleeping man enjoying a dream resists and puts out of mind a call to awake in the morning—how God seven years later literally shook me out of my worldly trance and awakened me to the true reality of His call—how after another seven years God had me officially ordained into His ministry after a 3½ year-night-and-day preparation period of prayerful study—how 3½ years later the present work of world-wide evangelism was started in one tiny area on one tiny 100-watt radio station—how, after one 19-year time-cycle, God opened another great Door and His last warning Message began to be thundered all over Europe—and how He has revealed that there remains only the one more 19-year cycle (of which we are well into the 4th year already)—after which it will be **TOO LATE!!**

It's far later than we think! These years are whipping past at jet-plane speed. God has set SUPER-power instru-

mentalities at our disposal whereby I can speak HIS LAST WARNING to a dying world in one small radio studio, and my voice is magnified to be heard in millions of homes and public places around the world today!

Yes, MILLIONS are *hearing* God's last solemn, frantic WARNING! Would you suppose that fact would fill me with joy, sweep my being with elation? IT DOESN'T! Instead, I feel defeated—FRUSTRATED!

Do you know WHY? Because I see, as Christ said of HIS preaching to the people, that "they *seeing see not*, and *hearing they hear not*, NEITHER DO THEY UNDERSTAND." Only at Nineveh did the people ever *heed* a warning!

It gives me a feeling of utter futility—of putting forth supreme effort, fighting thru the years with all my own strength and energy, plus all that I've been able to drink in from God—and yet, it's like being on a tread-mill—actually making no progress!

I, personally, SEE what lies ahead! It fills me with frantic TERROR—for the safety of all the people whom I love—people who *could* be spared and protected from the catastrophes they are bringing on themselves—even as I fully expect to be spared thru God's supernatural protection—**BUT THEY WON'T!**

They just don't seem to SEE what I see! **GOD HELP THEM!** **GOD HAVE MERCY UPON THEM!**

Across the page in this first issue of the ENLARGED *Plain Truth* is, perhaps, the most shocking, alarming article we have ever published, from the pen of Herman L. Hoeh. I have read it—and shuddered! I know these things are coming! Hundreds of thousands of you will READ this article. But, seeing, will you SEE what's coming?

**WILL YOU UNDERSTAND?** Will you HEED—and spare your own precious life from the things to come? **WILL you take warning?** Will this article do any good? Are we, after all, on a treadmill?

It's UP TO YOU!

God says that if we ourselves SEE these things coming, and **WARN** you, we have acquitted ourselves—your blood is not on our hands. But that is not enough to satisfy me—just to save my own skin. I **WANT TO SEE YOU SAVED, TOO!!** Yet I'm HELPLESS, further than

to sound the truthful **WARNING**.

Yes, IT'S UP TO YOU! What will YOU do about it?

If even ONE of you would write and tell me you DO really comprehend this desperate warning—and that you do intend to **WATCH**, and **PRAY ALWAYS**, (Luke 21:36) that you may be accounted worthy to **ESCAPE** all these things surely coming to pass, it would give me great encouragement.

**RADIO LOG**

**"The WORLD TOMORROW"**

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

**TO THE U.S. & CANADA**

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 8:30 Sunday night.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time. 10:15 P.M., Mon. and Wed. thru Fri.; 10:30 P.M., Tues.

WRVA—Richmond, Va.—1140 on dial—Sundays, 11:05 P.M. Eastern time.

XELO—800 on dial, every night, 9:00 P.M. Central Standard time. (8:00 P.M. Mountain Standard time.)

XEG—1050 on dial, every night, 8:30 P.M. Central Standard time.

WCAC—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—4:00 P.M. Sundays.

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Wednesday: 11:30-12:00 noon Afri-

can Beam. 5:15-5:45 P.M. S.E. Asia Beam.

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**RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES**

Saturday 10:00-10:30 P.M.

# DISEASE EPIDEMICS threaten U.S.A. in 2 years!

**The spectre of horrifying epidemics frightens U.S. Public Health Department. Read how five years of drought and floods—the pollution of surface water by industry—indiscriminate use of "wonder drugs"—and decades of "soft" living are combining to produce raging epidemics!**

**by Herman L. Hoeh**

PRESIDENT Eisenhower's heart specialists, Dr. Paul Dudley White, recently warned 500 physicians in North Carolina that "soft" living has already made America one of the most unhealthy countries in the world. Stocky robust men, still in their middle age, he pointed out, *suddenly drop dead of heart attacks.*

Why?

Dr. White is not the only man to see the handwriting on the wall! In May, 1955, the "Scientific American" warned us: "We are beginning, in fact, to witness the appearance of *man-made diseases.*"

Think of it!—new MAN-MADE diseases."

Even the American Medical Association in its February, 1956, issue of "Today's Health" acknowledges that "some new disease symptoms may be caused by HIGHLY PROCESSED FOODS and by WONDER DRUGS."

Whether or not we want to admit it, we are living in an age in which the scientific and medical ingenuity of man *threatens to go out of control* and exterminate human life! It is time we come to our senses. It is time we realize where we are headed.

## Just Around the Corner

Without realizing it, this nation has suffered five continuous years of drought. Our superabundant reserve of food is gradually being depleted. The sixth year of drought is already beginning in many areas. Normally dry regions are becoming drier. Rain in many areas has become dust. Farm income has hit a new low.

At the same time raging floods are making wet areas wetter. These rushing

torrents often spread pollution to otherwise pure surface water—threatening the health of entire communities.

What really gives nightmares to state and federal authorities, however, is the *long-range effect on human health* of industrial pollutants. For decades industry has flushed millions of tons of poisonous chemicals, acids, oils and grease—and now portions of atomic wastes—into the nation's streams and rivers.

This dangerous practice has also been followed in Great Britain and other industrialized western countries.

At the same time, new farm chemicals and food preservatives and dyes have become a major contributing threat to health. Since their use, polio, cancer and heart diseases are fast approaching epidemic proportions.

## News Headlines in Advance

In newspapers, magazines, over the radio and television you hear constant appeals for more money to further medical research on these MAN-MADE diseases! Millions of dollars and thousands of laborious hours are being spent in a FUTILE effort to "cure" diseases *without removing the causes.* Each year the death rate due to diseases found only among civilized people increases. What we are unconsciously producing with our "soft" living and "wonder drugs" is a race of inferior human beings without the ability to resist the impending epidemics we are bringing upon ourselves.

Unless we immediately change our living habits, it will not be long until screaming headlines and shocking news reports tell of devastating epidemics with which medical science cannot cope.

*Man-created PLAGUES are just around the corner!*

The news headlines of the pulsating present and a devastating future were written millenniums ago AS A DANGER SIGNAL AND WARNING FOR US TODAY. If we would have heeded this warning, we would not have had to endure these past five years of drought and intermittent floods.

If we continue to disregard this warning, we will find ourselves surrounded by the worst epidemics that have ever struck this generation—and that beginning about two years from now!

This warning—written millenniums ago—is especially vital today. Man's wisdom has not kept pace with his scientific know-how. We are TAMPERING WITH NATURE *without understanding the LAWS that regulate it.*

It is time we open our eyes to this inspired warning before it is too late!

God had this prophetic warning penned over 3400 years ago. Precious little time remains in which to stem the tide of natural and SUPER-natural forces that we are presently unleashing upon ourselves.

## Here is the WARNING!

You will find today's and tomorrow's headlines written in advance in God's revelation to man—the Holy Bible. Let me show you these very headlines. You have already seen some of them in the newspapers and magazines and over television.

You will find these headlines summarized in Leviticus 26 and Deuteronomy 28.

Let's understand these two chapters.

Here is how we could be healthy and prosperous: "If you walk in my statutes," says God, "and keep my commandments, then I will give you rains in their season,

and the land shall yield her produce" (Lev. 26:3).

We would not have droughts and famines. The rain would fall *when* we need it and *in the quantity* we need it—if we OBEY God's laws. GOD'S LAWS REGULATE NATURE. When we conform to them we are blessed. When we violate them, we bring nothing but trouble upon ourselves.

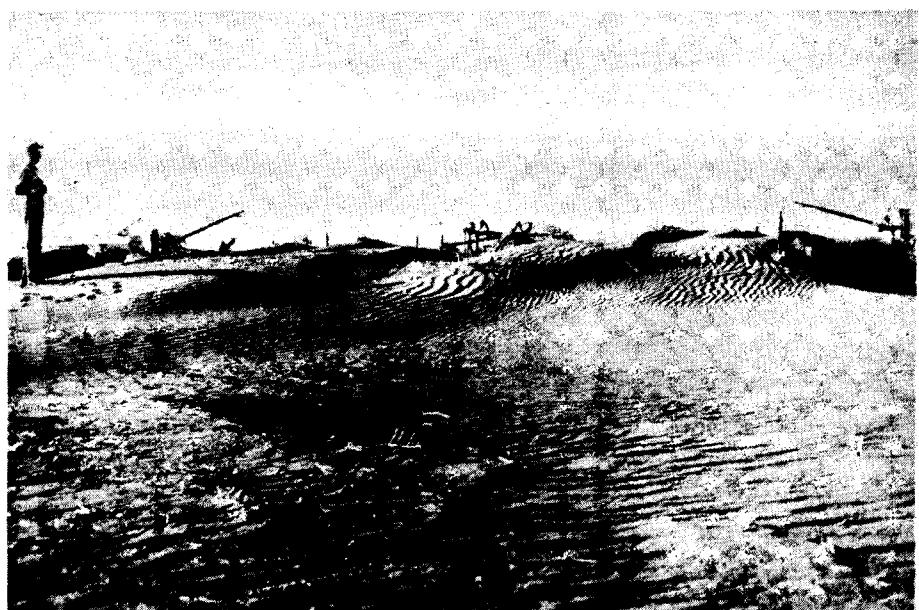
Now notice verses 6 to 9: "And I will give peace in the land . . . And ye shall chase your enemies and they shall fall before you . . . And I will . . . make you fruitful and multiply you."

These are the blessings we could have, if we would only learn that God's ways are right—that they are for our happiness.

But what occurs if we DISOBEY? Notice:

"But if ye will *not* hearken unto Me, and will *not* do ALL these commandments; and if ye shall reject My statutes . . . I will appoint terror over you, even consumption and fever, *that shall make the eyes to fail*, and the soul shall languish; and ye shall sow your seed in vain, for your enemies shall eat it . . . and ye shall be smitten before your enemies" (Lev. 26:14-17).

These punishments are the immediate results of breaking God's laws—these are the first consequences of sin! Notice them: Consumption or tuberculosis; fevers, such as measles and meningitis,



—Wide World Photo

Here you see the devastating results of five years of prophesied drought.

which can settle in the eyes causing impaired vision or blindness; general weakening or languishing of physical strength—then foreign nations attacking our lands.

These curses have afflicted us for years—*because we have been breaking God's laws for years!*

#### A Prophecy for the Democratic Nations Today

The sequence of warnings in Leviticus 26 is a prophecy for America, the British Commonwealth and the democratic

countries of northwestern Europe today! God's time has come for this warning to go out to our nations. (If you have not already learned *how* our people are identified as the so-called "Lost Ten Tribes of Israel" in Bible prophecy, write immediately for Mr. Armstrong's FREE booklet "The UNITED STATES and the BRITISH COMMONWEALTH in prophecy." You will be surprised!)

Most people do not understand why this prophecy in Leviticus 26 is for our day. What they do not grasp is that sin produces the same consequences in every generation. AND PROPHECY IS MERELY HISTORY IN ADVANCE!

The prophecies are headlines in advance of the natural consequences of sin—the automatic punishment that results from breaking God's laws. These punishments befell ancient Israel whenever they sinned—and they are beginning to befall us now *because we are committing the same sins*.

Notice how precise this prophecy is. The initial physical punishments we reaped were diseases such as *consumption or tuberculosis* and *childhood fevers*. Thousands died unnecessarily from these diseases. We had not learned how to be sanitary. These maladies no longer characterize the present era. The timetable of prophecy relentlessly moves on!

Observe that the sword of the foreigner—as a punishment for our sins—

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While some areas perish for lack of water, other areas perish from sudden floods in fulfillment of prophecy.

—Wide World Photo



# What's Criminally WRONG with Modern Education!

**A shocking problem faces youth! The most important knowledge of all is being entirely omitted in today's "education." Here is WHY!**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**T**HREE is something decidedly WRONG with the world *today*—and the chief CAUSE is our system of FALSE EDUCATION. Something is criminally WRONG with our system of education!

Give us RIGHT EDUCATION, and remove the evil from human nature which PREVENTS the world from *acting* on right knowledge, and we WOULD have—UTOPIA. And, fantastic though it may seem, *we are* GOING to have it, before the present generation of young people has passed on! That is SHOCKING, but happily TRUE!

If one would really USE his mind in THINKING, he would ask, "Why doesn't the GOSPEL point the way, and accomplish the result?" It DOES—but very few of you have ever *heard* the TRUE Gospel!

## Should Education Be Divorced from Religion?

I happen to be not only the called and chosen minister of Jesus Christ, but also an educator and a college president. And I have been asked, "What on earth is the CONNECTION between religion and EDUCATION? . . ."

In our western world we have become so imbued with the idea of SEPARATION of church and state, that we see no connection between religion and education. That is why the most basic and essential knowledge is NOT BEING TAUGHT today! Of course the "three R's"—"reading, 'riting, 'rithmetic"—are fundamental. Geography, history, languages, science are important. But they are not the MOST important knowledge.

The MOST important things to know are *these*: WHAT we are? WHY we are? that is, whether we were put here on earth by actual design and plan—and for WHAT PURPOSE?—and a knowledge of THE WAY to peace, happiness, joy, peace

of mind, the full, interest-packed ABUNDANT life, real prosperity; a knowledge of *what lies on beyond*—the TRUTH about life after death—the question of where we are GOING—and WHY, and HOW! These are the things you never learned at school! THESE subjects constitute the MOST vital knowledge which is NOT disseminated in our schools and our universities!

IF you were hearing the TRUE GOSPEL—the very Gospel Message which GOD ALMIGHTY sent to mankind by Jesus Christ—you would realize that real conversion IS EDUCATION! And true education leads to conversion! But the world long ago rejected that dynamic, life-giving Message—though it accepted the PERSON of the Messenger!

Do you realize HOW IMPORTANT it is to you to know WHY you were put here on earth?—WHY you are not, now, more happy, more successful?

## The Purpose of Education

God's PURPOSE in placing humans on this earth is the CREATION of God's supreme MASTERPIECE—perfect, righteous, spiritual *characters* to be actually BORN into the very FAMILY OF GOD! Redemption is merely the working out—the completing of that spiritual CREATION! It is creation of holy CHARACTERS—sons of GOD—in which WE SHARE with God in the process.

EVERYTHING that goes into that new divine being which we may *become*, we receive FROM GOD; but, it comes only as we abhor the evil in us, desire the righteousness of God, and BESEECH Him for it! WE make the decisions. WE put forth our effort in overcoming and in ASKING and SEEKING from God in faith. But it is God who actually SUPPLIES EVERYTHING—the LOVE, the FAITH, the RIGHT-EOUSNESS, the LIFE that is ETERNAL.

God's great design, then, is to mold, fashion, *change* a person into something different altogether. The true Christian is a *new creation*, "created in Christ Jesus in true righteousness and holiness *unto good works*" (Eph. 2:10).

Although it is a spiritual matter, involving God's Holy Spirit, this change takes place in the MIND—especially the faculty of mind we call "the heart."

The first step is repentance. Repentance literally means "a change of MIND."

The second step, acceptance of and faith in Jesus Christ as personal Saviour, takes place also in the mind and heart.

The third step is something God does—placing within us the gift of His Holy Spirit. Receiving of the Holy Spirit is the *renewing* of the MIND (Rom. 12:2; Eph. 4:23). The spirit of God is the Spirit of a sound mind (II Tim. 1:7). There never lived a sounder MIND than Jesus Christ. Conversion miraculously places within us the MIND of Christ Jesus (Phil. 2:5). Conversion is putting on "the new man, which is renewed in knowledge" (Col. 3:10). Only the "overcomers" shall be saved. Overcoming is directed by the *mind*! True Christians must grow in grace and in Christ's KNOWLEDGE (II Pet. 3:18). Christianity is *spiritual-MIND-edness*!

## Conversion Is Education

In other words, though we perhaps never have thought of it in this light, real conversion is EDUCATION! And true education is conversion! Not the purely mental, materialistic, largely erroneous education of this world—no, not that kind at all—but *real* TRUE education, which is the renewing and enlightening of the mind, the feeding of the soul, the development of self-discipline and CHARACTER in true spiritual values! That is true EDUCATION!

Man is the highest mortal being God has created on earth. The MIND is the highest part of man—the faculty which, above all else, elevates man above dumb animals. Did not God intend our minds then, to be developed, trained, *used* to His honor and glory?

Can't we see that none glorifies God by ignorance, by neglecting this most precious heritage God has entrusted to man—the MIND? To fulfill God's purpose in our existence, our minds need *enlightening* through the revelation of God's Word. They need to be trained, developed, cultivated, *used!* But used with the *enlightenment* that comes from God through the addition of HIS SPIRIT to our minds so that we are FREED from fears and worries, through living FAITH—through active, obedient BELIEVING in God that brings PEACE of mind, that DEVELOPS us from carnal, unhappy MORTALS into the CHARACTER of God, happily, joyfully, receiving IMMORTAL life.

#### WHAT'S WRONG with this World Today?

Today we live in a confused, misguided, deceived, chaotic world. We find ourselves in a civilization started thousands of years ago by a God-rejecting man named Nimrod. Every phase of this Babylonish civilization is established on principles diametrically *contrary* to the revealed principles and laws of God. This world is not happy. It's filled with strife, fear, ignorance, deception, injustice, crime, poverty, suffering, anguish, woe and DEATH!

And this whole worldly civilization is BASED on a system of false education!

Modern education is almost wholly materialistic. It rejects the basic revelations of God. It gropes in the dark amid its vain speculations, in the hopeless search for the acquisition of knowledge that can come only through the very revelation it rejects! It wastes precious hours and years in the minute study of nonconsequential details and impractical and untrue theories, instead of teaching young men and women the BASIC KNOWLEDGE OF LIFE—what life is, why we are here, where we are going, and how to live successfully, usefully, happily, joyfully! In other words—the spiritual LAWS of life! Its proponents look wise and dignified, and speak learnedly

of unimportant nothings. They fill students' *minds* with much chaff, while their *souls* starve for the TRUE educational food!

Yes, something's WRONG with this world's education, as well as with its religion, its governments, its economics, its society! *Wrong education* is a basic cause of ALL the world's wrongs today!

Where, when, and how did the present educational system start?

#### How It Has Developed

It all started at the very *beginning*. Let's trace it, just briefly.

Our first parents rejected the revealed KNOWLEDGE of God. To Adam and Eve God revealed certain definite facts, principles, laws. This knowledge they rejected. They spurned and disobeyed God's laws—four of the Ten Commandments were broken in man's "original sin." They departed from God's revealed way of life.

Down through the centuries man has continued to reject God's revealed KNOWLEDGE. Contrary to God's ways, mankind soon was organized into competitive units of society, started by Nimrod at Babel, Nineveh, and the original city-states.

Ancient nations developed—all straying from the revealed knowledge, the laws, and the ways of God. Groping in the dark, seeking to learn about "The UNKNOWN," the ancients speculated their way into the pagan philosophies that have come down to us—the very philosophies which form the BASIS of modern education, the teachings of Aristotle, Socrates, Plato, Epictetus, Virgil.

As the Creator said, through the Apostle Paul, of these ancient philosophers, "they did not like to retain GOD in their knowledge"; so today's popular education has no place for God or divine revelation. Today, modern education is almost wholly materialistic. It has lost sight of true spiritual values. It fails to teach young men and women the most needed knowledge of all—what life is, why we are here, the purpose of life, where we are going, *how to live* happily, abundantly, joyfully. Modern education cannot impart a knowledge it does *not* possess!

Notice where all this leads us! Here

is bewildered, deceived, unhappy suffering humanity groping in the dark, seeking by human speculation to come to a knowledge of "The UNKNOWN"!

WHO CAN KNOW? Yes, who?

If there be a GOD, would He have left mankind so hopelessly in the dark? WHY must man be in the dark about such vital basic knowledge as creation—the very accounting for the presence of things that exist, of what life is, whence it came, why it is, where we are going, what is the purpose of our existence, what of the hereafter.

Almost no one, it seems, has been able to learn what The Holy BIBLE really is! Let me tell you what it is.

#### A Revelation to Man

The Bible is GOD'S REVELATION TO MAN!

It is God's means of communicating to man the BASIC KNOWLEDGE man needs! Thru it as His vehicle of information, God reveals to man KNOWLEDGE of facts, of laws, of purposes, of events both past and future—all of which man has no other way to know!

Let me illustrate: Man is able, of himself, to build laboratories, to experiment through test-tubes. Man is able to invent and build telescopes and learn about the stars; to build microscopes and learn about infinitesimal particles of matter. Therefore God did not reveal in the Bible the laws of physics and chemistry, the distance to the sun, to the moon, and various stars from the earth. God left it for Newton to discover and reveal to us the law of gravity. MANY things man is able to discover for himself. Those things God has left for man himself to find out.

But "The UNKNOWN," which man needs to know, God has revealed through the Bible as a foundation for knowledge. That is the BEGINNING! And from there God has left it for man to go on and explore, examine, observe, and measure—and ADD to the basic store of knowledge with which God started him out! It is RIGHT for man to ADD all he can to this basic revealed knowledge. God gave us eyes to see with, ears to hear with, hands to work with, minds to think and to reason with.

THINK what a wonderful fund of knowledge man *might* have had today,

(Please continue on page 15)

# How YOU Can Become a CHRISTIAN

**You may be in for a surprise! Many people who THINK they are "Christians" are very mixed-up. Here is a CHALLENGE for anyone who sincerely wants to establish a closer contact with the Eternal God.**

by **Roderick C. Meredith**

**W**HAT DOES Jesus Christ think of the spectacle of *hundreds* of different, competing denominations and sects—each calling themselves "Christian"? Did Christ teach several hundred different methods of salvation and ways of life—or just *one*?

Since the Korean War and the advent of the *hydrogen bomb*, thousands more Americans than ever before are attending church. More and more people are seeking a contact with God. *People are turning to religion.*

But what *kind* of religion? Will just *any* religion do?

## Which Church?

Perhaps many thoughtful people have been shocked by the recent articles in the popular national magazines revealing just how careless the average American is about picking which church he attends. But the problem is certainly one for *everyone* to think about.

If you happen to be a church member, how did *you* pick *your* church—*your* theology?

Try to look at the problem objectively—thoughtfully. Before you began attending your particular church exclusively, did you first try to make a careful, unbiased analysis of all the churches to see which one taught the most Bible *truth*? Did you *study* the Bible to make certain of its teaching on various points of doctrine?

Or did you, like so many people, just grow up in your particular faith and *accept* it without ever having really *PROVED* it to yourself?

Think this over. People spend time and effort to determine what clothes they should buy, what car they should drive. A wise young man and woman spend

many hours over a period of *months* getting to really know each others' character before they are willing to make a life contract in physical marriage.

But the average person isn't even *half* as careful when it comes to uniting himself to a church and its doctrines with the hope that this will bring him an *eternal reward* from the very Creator.

Yes, whether we belong to a church or not, most of us have been *very careless* in acquiring our various beliefs in God. We have been *SO CARELESS*, in fact, that there are over *four hundred* denominations and sects all teaching *different* things in the name of Christ and God.

But the *Bible* says, and *common sense* ought to tell us, that there is *only ONE* right way. The apostle Paul was inspired to write: "There is one body (*church*), and one Spirit, even as ye are called in one hope of your calling; One Lord, ONE FAITH, one baptism" (Eph. 4:4-5).

*How* can we find the *one right way* to gain salvation? *How* can we be *sure*?

## Truth Stands Proving

The first thing to bear in mind is that if any of our beliefs are *true*, they will stand *proving*. If they are *not* true, we should *want* to discover this and *rid ourselves* of this error as soon as possible.

The inspired Paul exhorted: "PROVE all things; hold fast that which is *good*" (I Thes. 5:21).

In proving any spiritual matter, we should obey God's admonition to "lean *not* unto thine own understanding" (Pro. 3:5). God's Word also instructs us: "There is a way which *seemeth* *RIGHT* unto a man, *but* the end thereof are the ways of *DEATH*" (Pro. 14:12).

Then how are we to *prove* which is God's way of salvation? Where is the right doctrine to be found?

"All scripture is given by *inspiration* of God, and is profitable for DOCTRINE, for *reproof*, for *correction*, for *instruction* in righteousness" (II Tim. 3:16). We should get *all our doctrine* from the *Bible*. And we should let the *Bible* *correct* us and *reprove* us where we are *wrong*.

Will we?

Jesus Christ said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word of God*" (Luke 4:4). So Christians are commanded to *LIVE* by the *Bible*—to base their very lives on its teachings.

Then if we will honestly lay aside *our* ideas and begin to prove all things by the *Bible*, what better teaching could we follow than that of *Christ* himself. Who knows *better* how to instruct us in Christianity than *Christ*?

Let us put our own ideas and human opinions aside for a moment, and **SEE WHAT JESUS CHRIST SAYS ABOUT THIS MATTER.**

After all, He is the one who *really knows!*

## The Christian Way

In Matthew 7, Jesus warned His followers, "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for *wide* is the gate, and *broad* is the way that leadeth to *DESTRUCTION*, and *MANY* there be which go in thereat: Because *strait* is the gate and *narrow* is the way, which leadeth unto *LIFE*, and *FEW* there be that find it" (verses 13-14).

Notice that Jesus prophesied that *few* would find the way to eternal life. It is not the broad, popular, *easy way* that so many have assumed. Are you sure that you are on the *way* that Jesus taught

would lead to abundant, eternal life?

Jesus warned us to, "Beware of *false prophets*, which come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ravening wolves. *Ye shall know them by their fruits*. Do men gather grapes of thorns, or figs of thistles? Even so every good tree bringeth forth *good fruit*; but a corrupt tree bringeth forth *evil fruit*" (verses 15-17). The "fruits," the product, or *results* of true prophets, then, should be a society filled with *love, joy, and PEACE*—the "fruit" the Holy Spirit always produces (Gal. 5:22).

The peoples of western Europe and America have always called themselves "Christian." Our countries are filled with professing Christian churches. Has the "fruit" or result been *love and peace—or WAR?*

#### *Let's face facts.*

Something is terribly **WRONG** with this so-called "Christian" society of ours. We call Jesus our Lord—but *is He?*

Jesus answers, "Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; *but he that doeth the will of my Father which is heaven*" (Mat. 7:21).

"Lip service" to Jesus Christ is *not enough!* We must be **DOING** God's will. We must *act* on Jesus' commands. "And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, *and doeth them not*, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand . . . and great was the fall of it" (Mat. 7:26-27).

Jesus taught a definite *way of life*. That *way* is *obedience* to the will of God the Father. Anyone professing to be a Christian, but going a *different way*, is "likened unto a foolish man."

Jesus cried, "Why call ye me, Lord, Lord, and do not the things which I say?" (Luke 6:46).

We are rather ridiculous, aren't we? There are plenty of names in the world to choose from. But **WHY** do individuals, churches, and nations call themselves "Christian" while they continue to teach and practice an entirely *different way* than that taught by Christ?

#### Bible Is Consistent

The religious ideas and teachings of men are varied and confused. Even the great denominations have repeatedly *changed* their doctrines from time to

time. But the teaching of the Bible is *consistent and unchanging*.

The true servants of God in all ages have written and taught the same basic *way of obedience* to God. "Thy WORD is *truth*," Jesus said (John 17:17). And again He said, "The scripture *cannot* be broken" (John 10:35). *God does not contradict himself in His inspired Word*. We should always bear this in mind in studying the Bible.

So Jesus continued to teach the same truths all through His ministry, and the apostles preached the *same gospel*—not something different.

Later in Jesus' ministry, one asked Him, "Good master, what good thing shall I do, that I may have eternal life."

Jesus answered, "Why callest thou me good? there is none good but one, that is, God: but if thou wilt enter into life, *keep the commandments*" (Mat. 19:16-17).

This is the *way* Jesus taught would lead to eternal life. He said nothing about a meaningless ceremony of "joining" a church and "accepting" Him as Savior. He taught that if He is to be your Lord you have to *obey* Him.

Did Jesus know what He was talking about?

Many organizations of men seem to think He didn't, for they have substituted a dead faith and belief in His *person*, but deny the *way* of salvation which He taught.

The apostles were to continue preaching the *same* message Jesus did. Before His ascension to heaven, He commanded them to go forth and instruct all nations, "teaching them to observe *all things* whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mat. 28:19).

#### The Apostles Teaching

The apostle Paul taught the *same way of life* that Jesus did, and he recognized that *way as being what "Christianity" is!* He speaks of having formerly persecuted the Christians as follows: "And I persecuted *this WAY* unto the death, binding and delivering into prisons both men and women" (Acts 22:4).

In Paul's day, Christianity was recognized as a *way of life*.

Of exactly *what* does this *way of life* consist?

The apostle Peter answers, "For even

hereunto were ye called: because Christ also suffered for us, *leaving us an example, that ye should follow his steps*: who did no sin, neither was guile found in his mouth" (I Pet. 2:21-22). Jesus gave up His own will and suffered for us. He did no sin. He set us an *example* that we should follow His steps. This, Peter says, is our "calling."

In Galatians 2:20, Paul explains this even further. "I am crucified with Christ," he writes, "yet I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Could anything be plainer?

Paul wrote that he had crucified his own will, and that *CHRIST* was living in him—totally directing his life. He was not only living by *faith in*, but by the very *faith of*, the Son of God.

#### How to be a Christian

No human being can naturally and normally yield himself to obey God and follow Christ's example as he must.

As Paul explains, this is so, "Because the *carnal mind is enmity against God*: for it is not subject to the law of God, neither indeed can be. So then they that are in the flesh cannot please God. But ye are not in the flesh but in the Spirit, if so be that the Spirit of God dwell in you. *Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his*" (Rom. 8:7-9).

We must have Christ's Spirit within us—guiding our every thought and action—to be recognized as His. How may we receive God's Spirit?

When God's church first began on the day of Pentecost, Peter gave the answer to this question. "REPENT and BE BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38).

We have to realize our own ways are wrong, that they have brought on this war and suffering about us, and be willing to *repent* and completely turn from our former ways and let God rule our lives. Then we should be *baptized*, which Paul explains in Romans 6:1-6 is the outward sign of our willingness to completely *bury* our old self in a watery

(Please continue on page 12)

# The NEW Covenant— Does it Abolish God's Law?

**Thousands have asked if the New Covenant does away with God's Commandments. Here's the TRUTH on this question.**

by Raymond C. Cole

**N**EARLY everyone has been taught that the old covenant was the ten commandment law—that the new covenant contains only grace and promises, but no law. Hence it is argued that since the old covenant has been abolished God's law has also been abolished.

This teaching would lead you to believe that the law of God was harsh, cruel, and enslaving—that the FAULT of the old covenant was with the law, and since God gave the law, the FAULT must have been His!

Later, according to this common teaching, Jesus came with a new covenant which had no law, only promises and liberty to do what you please.

Certainly there is something terribly wrong with this concept.

## Why the New Covenant?

There is a vital need for the new covenant. Why? Paul wrote: "For if that first covenant had been faultless, then should no place have been sought for the second. For finding fault . . ." (Hebrews 8:7,8). So the first covenant had a fault, for "finding fault . . ." with what, the law? NO!

"For finding fault with THEM, he saith, Behold, the days come saith the Lord, when I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel and with the house of Judah."

Then the fault wasn't with the law, but "with them," THE PEOPLE, the children of Israel "because they continued not in my covenant"—because they *disobeyed* (Heb. 8:9). If the fault were with the law, then the law would *not* have been perfect; but David said, "The law of the Lord is perfect, converting the soul" (Psalm 19:7).

It was to correct the *fault with the people* that God said He will make another covenant. Now let's find out what the old covenant really was so we can know HOW the new covenant will correct that fault.

## What Is a "Covenant"?

The real reason most churches don't understand the truth about the covenants is that they don't even know what a "covenant" is! Webster defines a covenant as "a mutual *agreement*, a legal undertaking to do or to refrain from some act, a *document containing the terms of agreement*."

A covenant is an agreement between parties.

The Eternal God *proposed* the old covenant with Israel in Exodus 19:5,6. Here were the parties to the agreement or covenant. Notice what it says: "If ye (Israel) will obey my voice indeed, and keep my covenant"—that was Israel's part of the agreement, "*then*"—and this was the ETERNAL's part of the agreement, the part he promised to do—"ye shall be unto me a kingdom of priests, and an holy nation."

Did the people accept this *proposal*? "And all the people answered together, and said, All that the Lord hath spoken we will do" (verse 8).

## The Old Covenant a Marriage Agreement!

Very few know it, but the old covenant proposed by the Lord was a *marriage agreement* between Him and Israel! Israel was organized as both church and state.

Here is what Ezekiel wrote about this covenant, "I entered into a covenant with thee, saith the Lord God, and thou

becamest mine" (Ezekiel 16:8).

Again, in Jeremiah 31:32 you read, "My covenant they brake, although I was an husband unto them, saith the Lord."

Do you see, now, that the covenant was not just the ten commandments, but *an agreement* between the Lord and the nation—the church of Israel? They accepted the terms that He gave to them. They bound themselves by this first covenant to refrain from any adulterous or whorish relations with the "gods" of other nations (Exodus 34:12-17). In turn, the Lord promised to remain *faithful* to Israel, and provide for them and bless them even to a thousand generations (Deut. 7:9).

But what were the conditions of the old covenant to which Israel agreed?

## The Terms of the Old Covenant

There is a great deal of needless misunderstanding about that which constituted the first covenant with Israel. In Exodus, the 19th chapter, God made arrangements to declare the conditions of His covenant to the people. Then in the 20th chapter God spoke every word of the ten commandments. The ten commandments are a perfect and complete law in themselves. When the Eternal God finished speaking them "HE ADDED NO MORE. AND HE WROTE THEM IN TWO TABLES OF STONE" (Deut. 5:22).

The ten commandments were a *distinct part of* the terms of the old covenant to which Israel agreed. They were the TABLES OF THE COVENANT (Deut. 9:9,11).

Now notice Exodus, the 24th chapter. In verse 7 Moses "took the BOOK OF THE COVENANT, and read in the audience of the people: and they said, All that the Lord hath said will we do, and

be obedient." Besides the *tables* of the covenant, containing the ten basic spiritual laws (Rom. 7:14), there was a *book* of the covenant containing the civil laws of the covenant between Israel and the Lord.

From the 21st to the 23rd chapters inclusive, the Eternal revealed these specific *civil laws*, which *Moses wrote in a book* (Exodus 24:3,4), were based on the principles of the ten great and broad *spiritual* precepts—the ten commandments.

After God spoke the ten commandments to the people, *after Moses received the civil laws from God and delivered them to Israel*, you will find that the first covenant was sealed with blood—it became binding (Exodus 24:8 and Hebrews 9:18-20).

Since Israel had accepted the Eternal God as her husband, she was to be obedient to Him just as the wife is to be obedient to her husband. The Lord was head of the nation Israel. Israel was to keep herself unspotted from the evil of the world by being faithful to the laws or terms of the agreement which would make their relationship a perfect union.

When God spoke the old covenant to Israel at the time they were brought out of Egypt, He did not command them "concerning burnt offerings and sacrifices: But this thing commanded I them saying, Obey my voice, and I will be your God, and ye shall be my people" (Jeremiah 7:22,23).

The ceremonial and ritualistic laws were *added later because of transgressions and as a reminder of sin*—after the old covenant was sealed. They were not a part of the covenant because they came after the marriage agreement was completed. The spiritual laws of the old covenant **DEFINE** sin, the civil laws amplify them and prescribe punishments for disobedience.

Remember that the spiritual and civil laws were not instituted by the old covenant. They were already in existence and had to be included in the covenant. (See Genesis 26:5 and Exodus 16:28 and 18:16).

#### Old Covenant Had Only MATERIAL Promises

Since the ETERNAL was as a husband

to Israel, He agreed to provide for His holy nation. Carefully notice that IN NO PLACE IS THE BLESSING OF ETERNAL LIFE PROMISED, NOR IS ANY OTHER SPIRITUAL PROMISE GIVEN. Every promise given to them was *material*—they were to be fruitful and multiply greatly, their cattle and all livestock were to be very productive, their land would give abundant produce, they would become the greatest nation on earth IF THEY WOULD OBEY AS A WIFE OUGHT TO. God promised to walk *among* them and be their God. He did *not* promise to dwell *in* them through the Holy Spirit.

But if they disobeyed and did not remain faithful they were to be cursed by punishments in this world only. Hunger, sickness, famine, sorrow and war would overtake them just as *material* troubles ensnare any wife who is disobedient to her marriage vows and seeks promiscuous relations with others than her husband (Lev. 26 and Deut. 28).

#### Israel Was Divorced

Now read Jeremiah 11:10. Did Israel remain faithful to the covenant?

"They *went after other gods* to serve them: the house of Israel and the house of Judah *have broken my covenant* which I made with their fathers."

Israel and Judah did not remain faithful, the marriage agreement—the old covenant—*was broken*. Listen to what the Lord says in Jeremiah 3:8: "And I saw, when for all the causes whereby backsliding Israel *committed adultery* I had put her away, and given her a bill of divorce; yet her treacherous sister Judah feared not, but went and played the harlot also."

The relationship became so bad that the Eternal was finally forced into divorcing His own people. He first sent Israel into captivity by the Assyrians and later Judah by the Babylonians (Ezek. 23).

Now that we have seen what happened to the first covenant, let's observe the fault with it.

#### What Was the Fault With the Old Covenant?

Paul said the fault with the old covenant was not in the laws, but in the people with whom it was made. Why?

Because it was *not* possible for them to remain faithful to the righteous conditions God had prescribed in His covenant. "O that there were such an heart in them, that they would fear me, and keep all my commandments always, that it might be well with them" (Deut. 5:29).

Here was the weakness of the old covenant. *The people did not have the strength of character to be faithful to their vow*. The law was "weak through the flesh" (Romans 8:3). The righteousness under the first covenant was to be accomplished only through human obedience, fleshly effort, because *there was no spiritual promise of receiving the Holy Spirit*.

Israel was unable to serve the Lord because they did not have a God-fearing nature within them. This condition will be changed in the new covenant.

#### How the Fault Will Be Corrected

Remember that the first covenant had the spiritual laws written on two tables of stone and the civil laws in a book. Obedience had to come from carnal flesh alone. Now notice what will happen in the new covenant.

It won't be according to the agreement made with ancient Israel. Observe the differences: "For this is the covenant that I will make with the house of Israel after those days, saith he Lord; *I will put my LAWS into their mind, and write them in their hearts*" (Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:33).

So there will be *laws*, GOD'S LAWS, the *same* laws which stand fast forever and ever (Psalm 111:7,3); but this time they will be written in the hearts and minds of the people. They will be "written not with ink, but with the Spirit of the living God; not in tables of stone, but in the fleshy tables of the heart" (II Cor. 3:3).

Then the new covenant will be made only with those who have God's law indelibly written in their thoughts and actions.

And what is the power that writes God's laws in our hearts and minds? "The Spirit of the living God."

The love of God which fulfills the law is "shed abroad by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5). The Holy Spirit is one of the *better* prom-

ises of the new covenant (Heb. 8:6).

Also notice that the new covenant will be made with ISRAEL—the house of Israel and the house of Judah. The new covenant will not be made with those who remain Gentiles as most people falsely assume. The covenants and the promises pertain to Israel (Rom. 9:4).

Since the new covenant will be made with Israel, what about the Gentiles? Are they totally left out? Or has God provided some way by which they may receive that same blessings which are promised to Israel?

#### How Gentiles Can Enter

In Ephesians, the second chapter, Paul wrote to those who were "in time past Gentiles in the flesh . . . that at that time ye were without Christ."

##### Why?

"Being aliens from the commonwealth of Israel, and strangers from the covenants of promise, having no hope, and without God in the world."

How then can Gentiles come into the same promises that were granted Israel? The next verse tells us, "But now in Christ Jesus ye who sometimes were far off are made nigh by the blood of Christ" (Eph. 2:11-13).

So it is *through Jesus Christ* that Gentiles "are no more strangers and foreigners, but fellowcitizens with the saints" (Eph. 2:19). Paul says in Galatians 3:29, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed (no longer considered Gentiles) and heirs according to the promise."

So Gentiles have to *belong to Christ* in order to become part of the spiritual commonwealth of Israel—the church. Paul, in Romans 11:17-18, pictures the Gentiles as branches of wild olive trees who are grafted into the natural olive tree—Israel begotten of the Spirit. Gentiles can be partakers of the same Spirit of promise and of the blessings to Israel.

But carefully notice, the Gentiles by nature do *not* receive the promise. They must become transformed into the Spirit-begotten commonwealth of Israel before they can receive any of the blessings.

How could Christ make it possible for Gentiles to be heirs to the promises made to Israel?

#### Christ, the Heir of Abraham

The promise of eternal inheritance of the earth was unconditionally made to Abraham and his "seed" (Gen. 26:3). But Abraham died without inheriting the promises (Hebrews 11:13). It remained for Jesus Christ the *one* heir who was without sin—the promised "seed" through the lineage of Abraham—to inherit the promises (Gal. 3:16).

Jesus came in the flesh to confirm the promises made to the fathers (Rom. 15:8). He also was the minister of a new *testament* or *will* by which he would bequeath His entire inheritance to His heirs in case of death. Remember the new testament contained the promise of *eternal inheritance* (Hebrews 9:15).

Christ's *testament* or *will* did not have any force until his death. "For a testament is of force *after* men are dead" (Heb. 9:17). When Christ died, then His heirs have the right to the eternal inheritance made possible through the Holy Spirit which imparts eternal life. But who are the heirs of Christ?

No one is Christ's *unless* one believes, repents, and is baptized (Act 2:38; Gal. 3:27). So you can become an heir of Christ if you fulfill this condition and receive the Holy Spirit which puts—immerses—you into the church whether you are Israelite or Gentile (I Cor. 12:13). We are Christ's because Christ *bought* us by giving His life in our stead to pay for our sins (I Cor. 6:20).

#### New Covenant Not Yet Completed

Christ is the Mediator of the new covenant (Heb. 8:6). According to the prophecy of Daniel 9:27, Christ *has not yet completed* His work of confirming the covenant. Therefore the new covenant must yet be completed *in the future*—"For this is the covenant that I *will* make with the house of Israel AFTER THOSE DAYS, saith the Lord; I *will* put my laws into their mind, and write them in their hearts" (Heb. 8:10; Jer. 31:31-34).

The new covenant will not be made with fleshly, carnal Israelites who can still sin—it will correct that fault. This time it will be made with Spirit-born Israelites who have been forgiven their

sins and who have God's laws written in their minds and hearts so they can't sin and break the covenant. The apostle John reveals that it is only at the resurrection when we are *born again*—composed of spirit—that we won't be able to sin because we will have God's nature permanently implanted in us (I John 3:9). Jesus told Nicodemus also that we must be born again—of the Spirit—before we can inherit the kingdom and gain eternal life (John 3).

Bear in mind that the new *testament* or *will* of Jesus Christ has been in force since His death. But His *testament* or *will* has conditions which we must meet before we can inherit the promises. The Greek word for "testament" also means "covenant." Since the new *testament* involves our agreement to fulfill these conditions, it also becomes a *covenant*—and that new covenant will not be confirmed with us—we won't *inherit* the promises—until we are first made immortal and have God's nature so we can't sin (II Peter 1:4).

#### New Covenant a Marriage Agreement

All that the Scripture says concerning Israel and the promises under the new *testament* pertains to the *church*. It is the *church* that is Israel begotten and soon to be born of the Spirit (Acts 26:6, 7). Under the old covenant Israel could have become a kingdom of priests (Ex. 19:6), under the new covenant the church will become a kingdom of priests governing the *physical nation* Israel (I Peter 2:9; Rev. 5:10; Acts 1:6).

As the church is Israel—Abraham's seed and heirs of the promise—then it is the church with whom the new *covenant* will finally be made. But we read in II Corinthians 11:2 and Ephesians 5:32 that Christ Jesus at His second coming will marry the church which is now his espoused bride. Therefore the new covenant will be **ANOTHER MARRIAGE AGREEMENT!** Christ will be the husband, the church will become His wife.

Remember that the **ETERNAL** was the husband of ancient Israel. Under the old covenant Israel could never remarry her husband once the divorce was given and she was defiled by relationships with heathen gods. So the Lord—not the Father—but the Word who became Jesus

was born into human flesh to die so that Israel would be free to remarry. That's why we read in Revelation 19:7, that before the coming marriage between Christ and the church takes place it will be said: "The marriage of the Lamb is come, and His *wife* (*not bride*) hath made herself ready." This could not be said of the church unless it was Jesus and not the Father to whom Israel had once been married.

#### New Testament Has Promises and Curses

The new covenant has better promises—eternal promises—but there are also curses!

We know that during the time of the old covenant a violator of the law died without mercy under two or three witnesses. What about the person who spurns the terms of the new testament? "Of how much sorcer punishment, suppose ye," continues Paul in Hebrews

10:29, "shall be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing?"

Under the old, they perished at the hands of men. Under the new the wicked will perish at the hand of God in the lake of fire.

How important it is that we understand the truth about the new covenant! In no place does God say that He will take away His laws or give us different laws. The new covenant doesn't abolish the commandments, it established them in us according to the spirit and intent, not just in the letter. I hope you will not be found rebellious toward God because you haven't awakened to the fact that God wants to pardon you through the sacrifice of His Son and give you the Holy Spirit so you can live by His commands for your own good.

## How YOU Can Become a CHRISTIAN

(Continued from page 8)

grave and come up to walk in newness of life—following Jesus' example.

Then we are promised the "gift" of the Holy Spirit to guide us in obeying and following Christ—our *real* Lord and Master.

God's Spirit is a part of His own character placed within us to enable us to live as we should. Paul explains that, "the love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us" (Rom. 5:5).

There are many *human ideas* about how we should express this love every Christian should have. *But God Himself tells us clearly in His Word.*

"For this is the love of God, THAT WE KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

Yes, God's love will always lead us to obey Him, to follow Jesus' example, and thus to be a *real Christian*.

Perhaps the best definition of a "Christian" contained in any one verse of the Bible is found in I John 2:6. The Weymouth translation makes the intended meaning more clear than the

older King James wording. It reads: "He who says that he abides in him is bound to live as he lived."

How many of today's professing "Christians" feel BOUND to live as Jesus did?

#### Key to Conversion

The complete, unconditional surrender of one's self to God and to Christ as Savior and Master is the key to real conversion.

If you would really be a Christian—examine yourself. Have you come to the place where you believe in the Creator God and in the Bible as His Word—His inspired revelation to man? Are you willing to totally SURRENDER your will to obey His Word—to study it honestly, zealously, and to live by it?

Are you ready to actually GIVE your life to Christ—yielding completely, willingly, so that He may live His life in you through the Holy Spirit? Are you willing to quit arguing and say, "Yes, Lord, THY will be done"?

If you sincerely feel this way, you should be *baptized* immersed in water

—as an outward sign of your willingness to completely BURY the old self in full surrender to Christ. "Sprinkling" or "pouring" do not picture this burial. Christ taught water baptism, and so did all the apostles and the inspired New Testament church.

If you are in doubt about this point, or if you want more information about the necessity and meaning of water baptism, write today for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet on "Water Baptism."

To really be *Christians*, we need to study the Bible as most of us never have before, noticing especially the example and teaching of Christ, and *repent* of our ways and surrender our lives to God in *baptism* that we may receive His Spirit to guide us.

If you feel that this is the very *work of God*—preaching Christ's message as a *witness* to this dying world, perhaps you would like to write us about being baptized. Each summer we send out teams of ministers or advanced, competent ministerial students from Ambassador College to baptize people all over the United States who request it. And you readers in Britain may now have this same opportunity by contacting our London office.

So if you would like to make the decision to give your very life to God, send us your name and address today to be put on our baptizing list.

May God help you to take this step if you are truly ready—and may He help you to find the glorious new and happy life of a *true Christian*—led by the Holy Spirit—and fulfilling the great *purpose* of human existence.

#### 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!

# America Owes \$30 BILLION DEBT TO GOD for the Year 1955

**Because of easy credit, Americans are tumbling head over heels into debt. But the largest DEBT of them all we seem to know nothing about!**

**by Herman L. Hoeh**

**A**MERICANS are the richest people who have ever lived! Our people possess more developed resources and national wealth than any people ever had before. Yet we are teetering on the brink of economic ruin.

Why?

We know that we owe a public and private debt SO HUGE that the next ten generations could not pay it off. But what we don't know is that we owe an even GREATER DEBT to the God who made us and gives us everything we possess.

And God is going to collect that debt within 20 years!

## People Are Going too Deep in Debt

Private debt resulting from credit and installment buying is rising dangerously. It now stands at an all time high. Last year—1955—installment debts rose \$5 billion. And mortgage debts rose an average of \$1 billion each month!

This ballooning of private debt has provided us with an ARTIFICIAL prosperity. We are borrowing from future generations in order to enjoy the material pleasures of the moment. But the day of reckoning is fast approaching.

Notice what is actually happening:

A new report of the U. S. Census Bureau recently revealed that the individual States of this country are adding to their heavy debts about \$1.7 billion a year. They already owe about \$11.6 billion.

Add to this the fact that county and city debts already amount to \$31 billion. The Federal Government owes the paltry sum of \$275 billion. The total debt of Americans is over \$600,000,000,000! —in public and private debt.

BUT THIS IS NOT ALL! During the last

10 years alone Americans have accumulated—beside their public and private debt—another 130 billion dollar debt to God which we apparently know nothing about. *And this debt is climbing at a faster rate than all other debts combined!*

In England and elsewhere the same story is being repeated. The world owed every Briton, prior to World War I, the equivalent of \$500. Today, just forty years later, Great Britain is in debt to the rest of the world more than \$500 for each Briton. That means a net loss of over \$1000 per person for the entire nation in forty short years! And this does not include the debt every Briton owes to God!

## Who Owns the Gold at Fort Knox?

Americans take for granted that we could never have a financial crisis because of all the gold stashed away at Fort Knox. It is time we quit taking facts for granted—when those facts are NOT TRUE!

True, we have \$21.8 billion in gold on reserve. But out of that, foreign nations hold claims against our gold totaling \$13.8 billion! That leaves us owning only \$8 billion.

Most of that \$13.8 billions which other nations claim has been given to other nations. In many instances, the U.S. government buys weapons from one foreign nation and gives them to another for its armed forces. We pay the country manufacturing the weapons in dollars. That country in turn can exchange the dollars, printed on paper, for gold we own.

Uncle Sam is left holding the money sack *without the money!*

And what does America receive in return for its generosity—or perhaps we ought to call it financial stupidity?

American aid to Greece is a good example. In 1947 Greece became the first nations to receive U.S. aid as a weapon to halt communism. From that year until 1956 America has poured \$2.8 billion into Greece, a nation of 8 million people. The results? One Greek voter out of two voted for Communist and fellow-traveling parties in the latest elections! Americans are disliked everywhere.

*When will we learn we can't buy the friendship of quarreling allies with money?*

## Why Such a Stupendous Debt?

Something must be wrong in our economic planning. We have lost all sense of the value of money. Notice, for example, what we did with our income last year:

In round figures America had a net income of \$300,000,000,000—that is 300 billion dollars. It averages about \$1,800 per person, man, woman and child. How did we spend it? The government took away approximately 22% in taxes—that does not count all the hidden taxes. Out of what was left, Americans spent 33% on tobacco, alcohol and food. How much did we spend on all religious and welfare activities? Only 1.4% of what remained after taxes!

That is part of the reason why we are in such tremendous debt. Most people are so far removed from God that they don't realize that the Eternal Creator set definite LAWS in motion—invisible, yet inexorable laws, which regulate our personal economic conditions. A KNOWLEDGE of these laws would teach us to recognize the right value of money—would KEEP US OUT OF DEBT—and would give us life-long financial security!

But that is only part of the reason.

Here is the rest of the answer:

### Over 400 Religious Counterfeits

Out of the \$3 1/3 billion which Americans spent for all types of religious and welfare work—that is 1.4% of the national income after taxes—99.97% *did not go to God for His Work! God received only 3/100 of 1% of all the money spent for religious and welfare work.* The remainder was given to religious organizations and worldly institutions *masquerading* as the churches and the work of God.

Did you know that there are over 400 denominations and sects in the United States—all claiming to be the Church that Jesus built? Each of them claims a right to God's money. But unless they are all the churches that Christ built, *most of them have been taking money under false pretenses!*

Is it any wonder that we still owe God a debt of \$30 billion for last year alone? That is only 10% of our national income.

Out of every \$3,300 spent for religious and welfare purposes, God's work—*His one and only work*—received \$1. That's all!

Let's put it another way. Out of every \$3,000 earned, God was paid 1¢! God's work should have received 30,000 times as much! And God is going to *collect* that amount in less than 20 years. This nation is going to pay and pay dearly for *stealing* from God. Whatever amount we have refused to pay God He is going to deprive us of until we learn our lesson and pay our debts!

It is time we opened our eyes to see **WHICH** is the *only work on earth* that is carrying out Jesus' commission to preach and publish the "gospel of the Kingdom of God to all nations." There are *many counterfeits* preaching about *another gospel*—a perverted gospel—but there is *only one work*, God's work, which is performing the task Jesus said must be done before the end of this age closes in upon humanity. **THIS IS THAT WORK**—bringing you the good news of the *World Tomorrow*—the gospel of the Kingdom and the rule of God.

Many are not yet hearing God's message because *God's treasury on earth is being robbed by a pleasure-mad, sensual generation that's going deeper into debt*.

*every hour because it can't lay its hands on money fast enough!*

*Man's first debt is to God*, yet He is the last one we want to pay. How much better off we would have been had we paid the 10% we owed God instead of paying about 33% in direct and hidden taxes to support a top-heavy government and a gigantic armaments race that is destined to boomerang on human civilization and obliterate it, if God does not intervene in world affairs to save us.

### People Deprive Themselves of Blessings

Happiness and joy cannot be purchased by money. Money may increase them, but it cannot create them. What this entire generation needs to realize is that we are spending our money at the wrong end. Instead of squandering money in a mad rush to buy happiness, we need to pay only a fraction of what we are now spending and we would find the source of happiness, as well as the source of national protection.

Many of you are right now heavily in debt because you have cut yourselves off from the only source that could have given you wisdom to keep out of debt—God. And you are not going to deliver yourself from debt until you make direct contact with God. You will never learn the laws that regulate your financial prosperity *until you begin to practice them.*

Yes, strange as it seems, we can prosper and be free from debt *if we pay God to be our financial partner.* In this partnership *God gives you 90%* of the income. Think of how much this country would have saved if we made God our *national partner!*

The 10%, which God reserved for Himself since the creation of the world, is called a *tithe*. It is an old English word meaning "tenth." The tithe belongs to God. Since God uses His—not "your"—tithe for the furtherance of His work on earth, it ought to be paid to His work. God's ministers are merely the agents who *receive* God's tithe and who spend it for the good of the people as He directs.

If this nation had been faithful in tithe paying, God's work would be growing 30,000 times faster each year than it is presently growing. Everyone

could then hear and understand the laws that regulate our financial well-being. There would be no private or national debt. There would be no communist menace threatening the free world. All the nations would see our prosperity and *tremble at our feet for help.* Today, because we have failed to pay God His tithe, we seek Gentile nations as partners and *we tremble* before them whenever they slap us in the face for meddling in their internal affairs.

Why can't we learn what a Friend God is? Notice what God says of the tithe payer Abraham: "And he—Abraham—believed God, . . . and he was called *God's friend*" (James 2:23). Abraham believed God meant what He said. God said the first tenth is His. Therefore Abraham "gave Him"—God's high priest Melchizedek—"a TENTH of all" (Genesis 14:20). Abraham paid God's tithe to God's representative. God was Abraham's partner. Notice how Abraham was blessed:

### It Paid Abraham to be God's Friend

"Fear not, Abram, I am thy shield, thy *reward* shall be exceeding great" (Gen. 15:1). There is a **REWARD** that comes of tithing. God prospers the tither and delivers him out of debt. Do you believe God can do for you what He did for Abraham? Or are you a *doubter*? or a robber of God's treasury? Do you want His blessings or His curses? Notice Malachi 3:9-12: "Ye are cursed with a curse, Yet ye rob Me, even this whole nation. Bring ye the whole tithe into the store-house," says God, "and try Me now herewith, saith the Eternal of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall be more than sufficiency . . . And all nations shall call you happy; for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the Eternal of hosts."

That is God's promise—and God cannot lie. Isn't it about time you take God up on His promise?

### This Work Must Grow Hundreds of Times LARGER

This work of God, carrying God's message to the nations, must grow hundreds of times bigger before our job in this age is completed. It never will unless

(Please continue on page 18)

# Wrong Education

(Continued from page 6)

had he proceeded from the beginning as God intended!

## Not All Education Is Wrong

I do not say everything taught in this world's educational institutions is erroneous and false. On the contrary, MUCH of it is true, accurate knowledge. Insofar as scientific men have stuck to pure observation, measurement, laboratory tests and definite practical experiments, they have been most cautious, conscientious and accurate. It is where they have mixed human speculation of "The UNKNOWN" with observed and known facts—rejecting the revelation of God—that they have gone into gross and ridiculous error.

"The fear of The Eternal is the beginning of wisdom; a good understanding have all they that do His Commandments" (Psa. 111:10). Jesus said, "Ye shall know the TRUTH, and the TRUTH shall make you FREE." Notice: "Ye shall KNOW." Knowing is KNOWLEDGE—EDUCATION!

Ignorance and a false education have enslaved the human race in fear, inequality, discontent, unhappiness, poverty, sickness, suffering and DEATH! It is only the TRUTH that can now set men FREE!

And what is TRUTH? "Thy Word," Jesus said, "is TRUTH." The BIBLE is God's Word! It reveals the way to WORLD PEACE. It leads men out of fear into FAITH; out of the bondage of sin into the freedom of GRACE; out of sickness into HEALTH; out of suffering and death into LIFE! It reveals the LAWS OF LIFE which alone can lead to peace, prosperity, happiness, joy and eternal life.

But this precious fund of KNOWLEDGE the wise of this world REJECT! God's laws and ways they flout and disobey!

Instead, the learned of this world have become so steeped in the fables of a God-rejecting materialism masquerading falsely under the attractive names of "rationalism," "modern science," "higher education," that it has become impossible to UNlearn these deceptions and come to a knowledge of the TRUTH!

## Sad Results of MISeducation

That's why so many of the highly educated are agnostics or atheists.

That's why so FEW of those educated in this world become converted, living truly spiritual Christian lives!

Today the TRUTH appears mere FOOLISHNESS to the highly-educated of this world! "Howbeit . . . we speak not the wisdom of this world . . . but we speak the wisdom of God . . . which none of the princes of this world knew . . . For the wisdom of this world is FOOLISHNESS with GOD!" (I Cor. 2:6-7; 3:19).

And that's WHY the statesmen and the leaders of THIS world are unable to bring us WORLD PEACE—that's WHY this world's human LEADERS are unable to usher in HUMAN HAPPINESS AND JOY! Today the world's ONLY HOPE is the supernatural intervention of GOD ALMIGHTY.

But there is also something the Eternal God made it possible for me to do about it, specifically and definitely, HERE AND NOW! The vision of a new and different college of higher learning, recognizing these fundamental TRUTHS, came like a revelation straight from God, in the spring of the year 1946. Circumstances positively providential made it possible for me to FOUND just such a college, in cultural, beautiful Pasadena, California, in the fall of 1947.

## AMBASSADOR COLLEGE

Ambassador College is a co-educational liberal arts and theological institution, distinct in a number of ways.

It holds the distinction of being one of America's youngest colleges, at the same time maintaining an exceedingly high ratio of competent, experienced faculty personnel, with academic standards at highest levels, a spiritual atmosphere that is unique, and providing a cultural setting of tone and character, with a magnificently landscaped campus. It is guided by a sound educational philosophy both progressive and unique, unfettered by the errors and evils of tradition. The college offers superior facilities within its field.

At Ambassador the emphasis is upon character building. To that end the small student body and current ratio of one full time professor to each six students provides a distinct advantage.

The Ambassador policy is based upon the recognition that true education is not of the intellect alone but of the whole personality—not of technologies, sciences and arts alone, but an understanding of the purpose of life, a knowledge of the spiritual laws which govern our lives, our God-relationship and human relationships; not a memorizing of knowledge alone but a thorough training in self-discipline, self-expression, cultural and character development; not book learning only, but broadening travel and experience; not only hearing and learning, but doing.

Truly, without vision, the people perish. But when The Eternal builds the house, we have assurance He 'will not drop the work He has begun,'—it shall remain forever! Ambassador started the smallest of all colleges, but, like the grain of mustard seed, its destiny is unlimited growth and greatness! Already it has multiplied in size 14 times over!

Here at Ambassador young men and women from all over the United States come to know WHY they were born—very few in the world, today, know that—their REAL PURPOSE in life! They learn to recapture the TRUE VALUES of life. They learn the real SUCCESS SECRETS of life—the principles for achieving SUCCESS — ACCOMPLISHMENT! They learn to REALLY UNDERSTAND the BIBLE! They lead jam-packed lives—they have to budget their time in order to get in the necessary hours of study, of work, of recreation and play.

## Young People—Note

To the young people of college age who really hunger and thirst for true KNOWLEDGE to really learn what LIFE is all about—its purpose, its laws, its true values, who are ambitious not only for this rare quality of higher education, but also for a life of ACHIEVEMENT, and who have the will to WORK for it, the self-discipline to acquire it, I extend an invitation to write for the Ambassador College Catalog for the 1956-57 year.

High School graduation in good standing is required. Most of our students are working their own way through. The college provides unusual opportunities for ambitious students in the way of employment on the campus. The college catalog will bring you full information.

# Can it be BROKEN?

**Skeptics say it can. Christ said, "the Scripture cannot be broken." HERE IS THE PROOF!**

**by Herbert W. Armstrong**

**T**HE GREAT, startling headlines of WORLD NEWS for the next 15 to 20 years are already written in advance—yet heads of governments, and most of the people, IGNORE them.

Tomorrow's news is written in Biblical PROPHECY before these world-shaking events occur—but then, the world today has gotten away from believing in the AUTHORITY of this world's greatest seller. Few really believe the BIBLE means what it says—still fewer UNDERSTAND its prophecies.

We are living now in an age of skepticism. I am going to show you how God Almighty dares the skeptics to disprove the divine revelation—the divine inspiration of the Bible.

## The Challenge of God Almighty

If the Bible is not the inspired word of God, if the Bible prophecies are not absolutely sure, then that fact can be very easily demonstrated.

Here is how!

A month ago, I gave you proof of fulfilled prophecy in the case of Tyre, one of the ancient cities of the world.

Ezekiel also wrote about another city, Sidon. Sidon is a city about 30 miles north of Tyre, on the Mediterranean, still more ancient. It was the mother city. Tyre was merely originally one of Sidon's colonies.

Sidon had been declining for centuries while Tyre had been building up as the great city of the world. In the year of 351 B.C., Sidon was in a state of decay.

I want to read to you its present condition from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, the current edition, article, "Sidon." "Sidon, once the principle city of Phoe-

nicia, now the principle town of the southern district of Great Lebanon . . . is today a city of 10,000 inhabitants—the majority of whom are Moslems."

Continuing about Sidon: "History: Older than Tyre and acknowledged as its mother . . . the Philistines destroyed its fleet and laid the city in ashes. Assyria and Babylonia . . . led armies against her to disturb her peace and loot her treasures . . . The Persian yoke . . . supplanted the Babylonian and an injudicious revolt against Artaxerxes Ochus met with condign punishment."

In 351 B.C. Sidon was absolutely destroyed for its revolt. But Sidon rose again. Further, *The Britannica* says: "Unlike Tyre, (Sidon) submitted without resistance to Alexander the Great."

If Ezekiel's prophecy were merely human speculation, do you think it would have been a logical guess, about 350 B.C., that Old Tyre would never be rebuilt, and New Tyre would finally be destroyed, that Sidon, on the other hand, would remain? That is exactly what was prophesied.

Now let's turn to the prophecy in Ezekiel 28 beginning with verse 20: "Again the word of the Eternal came unto me saying, Son of man, set thy face against Sidon, and prophecy against it and say, Thus saith the Lord Eternal, Behold, I am against thee, O Sidon. And I will send into her pestilence and blood into her streets, and the wounded shall be judged in the midst of her by the sword

on every side, and they shall know that I am the Eternal."

Now you will notice that there isn't one word saying that Sidon was to be destroyed and never rebuilt. God's judgment on Sidon was not of utter extinction as it was on Tyre, but blood in her streets, wounded in her city, the sword on every side—a continuously existing city—but reduced and in constant trouble!

## Not To Be Utterly Destroyed

No city on the face of this earth has ever undergone so much suffering, except the city of Jerusalem. Sidon has been often destroyed and again rebuilt, destroyed and rebuilt, destroyed and rebuilt. It is there today with 10,000 population.

How did the prophet Ezekiel—how could any human man—if this was not divinely inspired, have known that Sidon would continue to exist, suffering all the while, but that Tyre, the big city, would never be rebuilt? There is every reason why Tyre should be rebuilt—wonderful soil all around, water, a wonderful harbor, every reason in the world why it should have been rebuilt. BUT GOD SAID THAT IT WOULD NOT!

Sidon, however, is a city today of 10,000 population. All is exactly as prophesied. There has been blood in her streets, wounded in the city, the sword on all sides. The article that I quoted to you in the *Encyclopedia Britannica* will



give you the history up till now. Sidon still lives—exactly as prophesied.

But Tyre suffered utter desolation. No city is there today—exactly as this prophecy said. Was this divine inspiration, or was it human guess? *How did it happen that whoever wrote this prophecy prophesied exactly as it was going to happen BOTH TIMES?*

NEVER HAS ANY UNINSPIRED HUMAN MADE SUCH A PROPHETIC FOR 2,000 YEARS INTO THE FUTURE AND BROUGHT IT TO PASS. Nothing in those two cities would have indicated the fate at the time the prophecy was written. Neither in 590 B.C., nor, if the skeptics would prefer to say it was written about 330 B.C., at that time.

#### Another Prophecy Defies Skeptics

There is yet another striking prophecy

bearing ample testimony of Biblical inspiration. It is about another famous city in the ancient world—the city of Ashkelon.

The prophet Zephaniah lived and wrote about 630 B.C. It was before the captivity of Judah. He was warning the Jews in the first chapter of his prophecy of the captivity that was coming. There is a principle of duality in this book as there is in most prophecies, a type and anti-type. The prophecy refers literally to the Jews of that time, six hundred years before Christ; but it refers also to our time now, in the twentieth century A.D. in the years just ahead of us. Almost no one understands this type and anti-type, this duality in the prophecies. You can't understand prophecy unless you understand it. That is one of the vital keys to Bible knowledge.

**The busy harbor of Sidon. Prophecy foretold that the decaying city of Sidon would be inhabited through the centuries whereas its prosperous sister city, Tyre, would become a rock for casting fishing nets. BOTH prophecies have been exactly fulfilled.**

Chapter 2 in this book of Zephaniah foretells the fate of the nations neighboring on Judah, and hostile to Judah, especially the sea coast cities of the Philistines: Gaza, Ashkelon, Ashdod and Ekron.

Notice Zephaniah 2:4-7: "Gaza shall be forsaken, and Ashkelon, a desolation: they shall drive out Ashkelon at the noon day, and Ekron shall be rooted up."

Now verse 7: "And the coast shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah, they shall feed thereupon."

My friends, that has happened! That very territory is today in the nation that is called modern "Israel."

Observe the seventh verse once again. "And the coast (of the Mediterranean, in Palestine) shall be for the remnant of the house of Judah: they shall feed thereupon." The *remnant is the last gen-*

—Westminster Films Photo





—Westminster Films Photo

eration. In other words, the twentieth century, right now, in our time!

#### Prophecy Absolutely Fulfilled

Turn quickly to Zechariah 9:3-6. "And Tyrus did build herself a strong hold, and heaped up silver as the dust, and fine gold as the mire in the streets. Behold the Eternal will cast her out, and He will smite her power in the sea, and she shall be devoured with fire." There is another prophecy showing what happened to Tyre. Continuing: "Ashkelon shall see it, and fear; Gaza also shall see it, and be very sorrowful; and Ekron, for her expectation, shall be ashamed; and the king shall perish from Gaza, and Ashkelon shall not be inhabited."

Ashkelon was never to be rebuilt, the same as Tyre. "And a mongrel people shall dwell in Ashdod, and I will cut off the pride of the Philistines." (Moffatt translation.)

All that has happened. In the year of 520 B.C., God prophesied that He would smite Tyre into the sea to be devoured, as it was in 332 B.C. Gaza shall be "sorrowful, forsaken," but not destroyed. Gaza rebounded—it is still there today, a population of 21,000 people. No king has since dwelt there. Ekron has about 1000 people today. In Ashdod, a mongrel people abide.

The ruins of Ashkelon. Over 2500 years ago the prophets foretold that this once-flourishing city would be desolate and belong to the Jews today. This has happened, confounding the skeptics.

From the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, here are the facts of how that prophecy has been fulfilled. "With the Moslem conquest after the 6th century A.D., (Ashdod) generally sank into insignificance." Mongrel people are there today. The city has sunk into insignificance, but it is there.

Remember "Ashkelon shall not be inhabited"—"a desolation" (Zech. 9:5 and Zeph. 2:4).

Notice what the *Encyclopedia Britannica* says: "Ashkelon, now a desolate site"—the same words that God uses in the Bible—and further, "protruding from this sand-swept terrain, shattered columns and the remnants of ruined buildings and broken walls bear ample testimony to a past magnificence.

You can go to that desolate site of Ashkelon today and see with your own eyes—absolute desolation. You can see nothing is there. Does God Almighty exist? Could any but a divine God, a Creator, foretell these things and bring them to pass all as He has?

Here is proof that no skeptic can doubt. And God dares and challenges any skeptic to try to refute these prophecies. If you can refute them, you can refute the authority of the Bible!

## America's Debt to God

(Continued from page 14)

hundreds and thousands of people like you begin to pay their debt to God and ask for God's mercy to be shown to the rest of the nation before it is too late. Time is fast running out!

As a financial partner, God is not interested in money for money's sake. He is interested in your welfare—"that in all things you prosper and be in health" (III John 1). Whatever you owe God as a past debt, HE IS WILLING TO FORGIVE AND CANCEL OUT. But what God does expect is your obedience from here on. When the knowledge of God's ways reaches your mind, He holds you accountable.

Anyone who refuses to obey God will have to pay Him every debt, material and spiritual. But for those who REPENT of transgressing God's spiritual and physical laws, there is forgiveness through the death of Christ, and the promise of material and spiritual blessings without end.

What are you going to do about it?

# The World's ONLY HOPE for Peace

**The nation that delivers the FIRST BLOW in the next war  
is almost assured of victory. We have promised NOT to  
strike first. Where will we turn for protection?**

by Roderick C. Meredith

**T**HE NIGHTMARISH details of how the next war will be fought are just beginning to dawn on the average American.

Next time rockets will come hurtling down out of the stratosphere at over 2000 miles per hour. They will be equipped with *hydrogen* warheads! Entire industrial areas will be *obliterated*. Millions of human beings will be *burned to death* or *vaporized* overnight.

Our enemies are rapidly acquiring these weapons. General Nathan F. Twinning, Air Force Chief of Staff, is a man who *knows* these facts. Speaking of the race to produce long-range hydrogen bombers and guided missiles, he recently stated: "The Soviets are narrowing our margin of superiority."

Our scientists and generals now realize that the nation which waits for the other side to attack *may never be able to strike back*. Yet this has *always* been the policy of America, Britain and our allies.

Speaking of this terrifying situation, Lt. Gen. Ira C. Eaker (USAF, ret.), recently told a large group of business and civic leaders: "This talk of our never launching a war is foolish. *The one who gets in the FIRST BLOW in the next war is very likely to WIN.*"

A pretty terrible situation, isn't it? *Attack—or PERISH!*

But our nations *won't* attack. We *don't want war*—and rightly so. But we want *protection* and *peace*. Then where will we turn for help?

Where will **YOU** turn?

It's time for *you* to *wake up!* It's time for *you* to *THINK!*

Do you believe God is concerned with humanity's threat of self-extinction?

Stop and *think!* Will the Creator of

heaven and earth allow man to completely destroy this world as we know it—or is there a great PURPOSE being worked out here below of which most men are in ignorance?

## Modern Attitude

Most of the educated people of this world have come to regard the prophecy of the second coming of Jesus Christ, the Son of the Living God, as a *myth* or *superstitious idea* held by a few ignorant folk. They smile knowingly at one another whenever the subject is mentioned.

Very few of our modern ministers ever speak about Jesus' return. Most of those who do preach on this subject often bring discredit on themselves and their message by making startling statements to frighten people, or by setting exact dates for certain events for which they have no Biblical basis whatever. Their particular exposition of this subject is so obviously in error that the educated listener usually winds up disbelieving the entire doctrine.

It has come to the place that most so-called "Christian" churches in our time no longer teach their members about the hundreds of passages in the Bible which speak of the second coming of Jesus Christ to rule this world. Most of the larger denominations do not directly deny this doctrine, they just carefully avoid mentioning it, or else they try to "allegorize it away."

Is the "sure word of prophecy" which Peter speaks of to be relied upon as a *fact*—or can we relegate these prophecies to the rubbish heap as of no consequence?

Are these prophecies actually taking place *right now?* Does the continu-

ance of human life on this planet *demands* the intervention of God which prophecies in His Word foretell? Is God's intervention a *logical* solution to mounting *world chaos*?

## The Popular Idea

"By Christians everywhere working together to bring peace, tolerance, and brotherly love, the kingdom of God may at last be established in the hearts of all mankind."

Haven't **YOU** heard that kind of vague, spiritual-sounding talk about the *kingdom of God*? Probably you have because this is the kind of philosophy set forth by hundreds of the more "modern" Protestant ministers throughout the world today. In spite of the gripping *fact* of the prophesied *DOOM* of this present world, these men apparently see no need of God's intervention in human affairs. They try to "spiritualize away" this prophesied intervention, and to hide their eyes from mounting *world cataclysm*.

The "kingdom of God" is often used as a sort of catch-all phrase to define the state of idealism which men hope to attain some day *through their own efforts*. Of course, the name of God is employed to give the idea a more "spiritual" flavor, but everyone knows that the results depend on *man's ingenuity*.

What about this? And what about the many other ideas of men which make the "kingdom of God" Jesus spoke of seem rather vague and unreal? Is the kingdom of God just a change in the hearts of men? Is Christ already here ruling secretly in the midst of His enemies as some believe?

Does the Bible really speak of Christ's *literal* coming as a world-ruling King?

### Jesus' Purpose

Before Jesus was born, an angel told Mary of His destiny: "He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest: and the Lord God shall give unto him the THRONE OF his father DAVID; and *he shall reign over the house of Jacob for ever*; and of his kingdom there shall be no end" (Luke 1:32-33).

This inspired angelic messenger from God revealed to Mary important truths of which most of this world is in *total ignorance*. He revealed that Christ would someday take over a *literal throne*—the THRONE OF DAVID. History and prophecy both prove that David's throne is in existence *today*—awaiting Christ's return! (If you do not already understand this truth, write at once for Mr. Armstrong's free booklet, *The United States and British Commonwealth in Prophecy*.)

The angel also said that Christ was to rule over the *house of Jacob* FOREVER. This certainly indicates in *plain language* that Christ is returning to this earth to sit on a *literal throne here*. This reign is not to last for just a few years, but FOREVER.

After being taught of Christ for over three years, His disciples knew that He would return to set up a world-ruling kingdom. When He appeared to them after His resurrection, they asked, "Lord, wilt thou *at this time* restore again the kingdom to Israel?" (Acts 1:6).

His answer indicates that He *will*—but that they were not to know of the *exact time*. He said, "It is not for you to know the *times* or the *seasons*, which the Father hath put in his own power" (verse 7).

A short time later, God's angel affirmed their belief in His return. As they beheld Jesus ascending into heaven, an angel said, "This same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven" (Acts 1:11).

All these things reveal that Jesus' purpose is to *return to this earth* as a ruling King on *David's throne*. Jesus clearly explained this when Pilate asked Him if He were a king. He replied, "Thou sayest that I am a king. To this end was I born, and for this cause came I into the world" (John 18:37).

As Jesus and the angels stated, He was born to be a King. Yet, at His first coming, He did not take over world rule. But He did qualify to rule righteously by resisting the power of Satan, which now influences the kingdoms of this world (Luke 4:1-13). He also gave His life to make it possible for all men to be reconciled to God. And He founded His church, which was to preach His message as a *witness* to all nations before His second coming (Mat. 24:14).

Do the Bible prophecies clearly reveal that Christ is *literally* coming again as a *world ruler*?

### God's Plan

God has planned from the beginning that He would set up His government here on this earth. But His purpose has been to let man go his *own way* first—for a 6000 year period—and learn by *experience* that man's rule *always* leads to war, strife, competition, suffering, misery and death.

God sent the prophets of old, and He is now sending His called ministers to warn the people of their sins and to show them God's way *IF they want it*. But *very few* will accept the real *truth* of God. The majority *never* have at any time in history. They have always preferred to follow their *own* ideas, customs, and religious practices—although today they often masquerade under the name of "Christianity."

So men will have to learn by *SUFFERING* until God sets up His kingdom, or *government*, and *forces* men to learn the right ways.

Where is this described? Does the *Bible say this*?

Over seven hundred years before Christ's first coming, the prophet Isaiah was inspired to write of a time when God's government would rule over the entire earth (Is. 2:1-4).

Notice that the nations will "go up to the mountain (kingdom) of the Lord, to the house of the God of Jacob" (verse 2). Remember that the angel told Mary that Christ "shall reign over the *house of Jacob for ever*" (Luke 1:33). Here, then, is a prophecy of this coming rule. Christ is pictured as being *literally on this earth* because He has to *rebuke* the nations until they quit learning the ways of war.

*There are no sinful, warring nations up in heaven!* Isaiah is describing Christ's future *rule ON THIS EARTH*.

Study Isaiah 11. This chapter gives another clear picture of the coming rule of Christ over the entire earth. These events could *never* transpire in heaven, and they have never yet occurred on earth. This prophecy cannot be "spiritualized away" without doing *violence* to the context and to the *Word of God*.

God revealed to the ancient king Nebuchadnezzar the remarkable fact that only *four* great world-ruling empires would hold sway over the earth before God would intervene and set up His everlasting kingdom (Dan. 2:36-45). After describing the last kings of the fourth great kingdom, the Roman Empire, Daniel told Nebuchadnezzar, "And in the days of these kings shall the *God of heaven set up a kingdom*, which shall *never* be destroyed: and the kingdom shall not be left to other people, but it shall break in pieces and consume all these kingdoms, and it shall stand for ever" (verse 44).

Here again, we see clearly revealed the fact that God's kingdom is to be *on this earth*, that it is a *literal kingdom or government*, and that—for a while at least—it will rule other nations with *force* until they submit to God's way.

The prophet Micah was inspired to write of the time "in the last days" when God's kingdom should be established and bring peace to the earth at last (Micah 4:1-5). Notice again that Christ will have to "rebuke strong nations afar off" (verse 3) until they heed the *law* that goes forth from Zion and learn the *ways of peace*.

### Christ's Message

Having seen that the prophets clearly reveal the coming world-ruling kingdom of God, let us turn to Christ's own teachings on the subject.

First of all, understand that Jesus came into the world not as a *human* philosopher or idealist, but as *MESSENGER direct from God*, the Creator of heaven and earth, the One who gives *you* your very *life and breath*, the One who is All-Wise, and who knows the end from the beginning. Realizing this, you had better *heed His message*!

Jesus was the prophesied "messenger

of the covenant" (Malachi 3:1). Jesus said, "I proceeded forth and came from God; neither came I of myself, but *He sent me*" (John 8:42). And again, "For I have not spoken of myself; but the Father which sent me, he gave me a commandment, what I should say, and what I should speak" (John 12:49).

Jesus came bringing a MESSAGE from God to all mankind. What was that message?

From the beginning to the end of the New Testament, that message—that gospel—is repeatedly taught. And yet we have hundreds of different denominations each teaching a different message—and all of them appropriating Christ's name.

#### Why?

The truth of the matter is that men seem unwilling to take Jesus' message literally. Men fail to realize that the same God who inspired Isaiah, Daniel, Micah, and the other prophets to write of His coming kingdom, was the One who sent Jesus into the world to prepare the way for that kingdom. Many modern preachers also think that when Jesus spoke of a literal kingdom, He was just preaching to the Jews.

But we shall see.

#### The True Gospel

Jesus began His ministry when He came into Galilee, "preaching the gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and BELIEVE the gospel" (Mark 1:14-15).

Jesus proclaimed *repentance* in connection with the gospel of God's kingdom, or government. You have to be willing to change—to *repent* of your ways—to enter that kingdom.

Notice that Jesus didn't say, "Just believe in me." He said, "Believe the GOSPEL." What was this gospel—or good news? Jesus came preaching the good news—not about Himself—but about the KINGDOM of God. That is the true gospel! That is the message Jesus brought to this earth from God the Father!

Jesus said, "I must preach the kingdom of God to other cities also: for therefore am I sent" (Luke 4:43).

Christ taught that God's kingdom will be a LITERAL kingdom. It will rule

over cities and peoples on this earth. True Christians who are zealous and faithful to God's calling now, will then be awarded positions of authority and RULERSHIP, under Christ, when He returns to establish the kingdom of God.

THIS IS THE TRUE GOSPEL! It is the good news that Christ will soon return to establish God's kingdom and bring PEACE and JOY to this war-weary world. And it involves the method by which we can enter that eternal, joyous kingdom.

Jesus preached the gospel of the kingdom of God throughout His entire ministry. Before He ascended into heaven, He commanded His disciples: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations . . . Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you" (Mat. 28:19-20).

The apostles, then, were not to preach some different gospel—but the same message Jesus had taught them—the good news of God's spirit-filled coming kingdom which will bring peace to this earth at last. This was the gospel the early spirit-filled New Testament church did preach continually.

Contrary to modern teachings, the apostle Paul was still preaching the KINGDOM OF GOD to *Gentiles* at Rome in the last verse of the inspired history of Acts (Acts 28:31).

#### BELIEVE the Gospel

There can be only one true gospel. The gospel of the kingdom of God, which Christ preached, is that gospel. It is the message spoken by the Old Testament prophets and later by the apostles and evangelists, that God is Creator and active Ruler of the universe, and that He is soon going to take over and rule this earth through Jesus Christ, His Son.

Here is good news of real peace, prosperity, and abounding joy which will come to all men under God's perfect and righteous government. Here is the world's last and ONLY true hope for peace!

Let us BELIEVE the gospel!

Christ is coming to take over the kingdoms of this world before they erase human life from this planet.

As Jesus prophesied (Mat. 24:14), this gospel of the kingdom, the RULE, of God is being proclaimed as a "wit-

ness" to all nations. As thousands of you recognize this as the work of God and come to know the true God—yours is the solemn responsibility to accept or reject God's final warning.

## DISEASE EPIDEMICS

(Continued from page 4)

would ravage our people (verses 16 and 17). In World War I, Belgium, Luxembourg, France and England suffered the ravages of war. In World War II these same nations, together with Norway, Finland, Denmark and Holland, saw themselves temporarily devastated. Vast areas of the British, Dutch and French empires were battered to ruins. American soldiers also gave their lives on the battlefields for their Israelitish allies.

Despite initial military reverses, we always gained the victory!

Even after Fascism was crushed, we gained victories over the communists in the Greek civil war which lasted until 1949. We forced the Russians to leave Persia in 1946. We successfully defended our control over West Berlin in the famous airlift of 1948-1949. As late as 1950 we drove the communists in Korea almost to the border of China.

But in 1951 our sins caught up with us!

That year, as Mr. Armstrong has often said, marked the TURNING POINT IN OUR HISTORY. We had to ask our enemies for a truce! We had won our last war!

#### We Entered a New Era in 1951

The year 1951 saw the "handwriting on the wall" for America and for the whole Western World. Like Belshazzar of old (Dan. 5:5-7), we have failed to understand its significance.

Today, we are riding heedlessly to total collapse and we do NOT know it! Notice what Ezekiel wrote: "Thus saith the Eternal God: An end is come, the end is come; behold, it cometh. The turn is come unto thee"—the turning point in our history—"the time is come, the day of tumult is NEAR . . . Now will I

shortly pour out My fury upon thee, and will judge thee according to thy ways" (Ezek. 7:5-8).

From 1951 we have seen nothing but trouble—at home and abroad.

Now read Leviticus 26:18-20: "And if ye will not yet for these things hearken unto Me,"—we refused to repent despite all our troubles—now God is going to punish us more severely—"then I will chastise you **SEVEN TIMES** more for your sins. And *I will break the pride of your power*; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass. *And your strength shall be spent in vain*; for your land shall not yield her produce, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruit."

Notice the parallel punishments as recorded in Deut. 28:24: "The Eternal will make the *rain of thy land powder and dust*; from heaven shall it come down upon thee, *until thou be destroyed*."

Seven more years of punishment!

In a prophetic sense the word "times," as understood by Hebrew scholars, means "years." Turn to Rev. 12:6, 14 for proof. You will see by examination that these verses show  $3\frac{1}{2}$  "times" equal  $3\frac{1}{2}$  literal "years."

Thus God promised that if we—America, Britain and the democratic nations of northwestern Europe—refused to heed His initial warnings He would punish us *for seven literal years more* to make us come to our senses! (This prophecy applied to our ancestors only in type when God punished them for seven prophetic years or 2520 literal years.)

What has happened since 1951? We lost in French Indo-China; the British lost their favored control of Iranian oil in 1951; we have poured our money around the world, but "our strength is spent in vain" as God said it would be. Communism is stronger than ever!

Russia has entered upon an arms race with us and already has the potential power to blast us off the map. The "pride of our power is broken" as God said it would be.

But 1951 is especially noteworthy for another reason. *That is the year America's drought began!*

I have before me a copy of the August 6, 1954 issue of "U.S. News and World

Report." On page 68 I read this headline: "4 YEARS OF DROUGHT—AND MORE TO COME."

This article contains the prophetic fulfillment of the beginning of the present seven years of punishment by drought and floods. In 1951, the article states the drought "began in a small way" in Texas, Louisiana, Georgia and the Carolinas.

In 1952 it "hit most of the country."

In 1953 it was "not quite as widespread." But our Israelitish brethren in Holland suffered terrific devastation from tidal waves.

In 1954, when this article was written in the news magazine, the drought was "bad and getting worse."

In 1955, the drought continued in many areas but was coupled with terrific floods in New England and the Pacific Northwest—regions of normally heavier rain fall. Floods are still ravaging the Pacific Coast in this the beginning of the 6th year of punishment.

In the meantime our European cousins have just suffered the coldest winter of the twentieth century.

These natural catastrophes do not seem to phase us. Our people are not turning to God *in genuine earnestness*. We are not changing our ways and beginning to keep His laws, statutes and commandments. We are rejecting the ONLY way to happiness, health and prosperity. We are bringing upon ourselves continued drought and floods—UNTIL SOMETHING WORSE HAPPENS!

#### A Frightful Epidemic

No, the drought and floods won't stop. God is about to add something far worse! Notice:

"And if ye walk contrary unto Me, and will not hearken unto Me"—we have not listened to God—"I will bring SEVEN TIMES MORE PLAGUES upon you according to your sins. And I will send the beast of the field among you, which shall *rob you of your children and destroy your cattle, AND MAKE YOU FEW IN NUMBER*; your ways shall become *desolate*" (Lev. 26:21-22).

God means what He says! A few doctors and scientists and public officials know what is in the offing.

We are already beginning to bring upon ourselves man-made diseases. But that is not all! PLAGUES are coming—

and, according to this prophetic warning, *in about two years from now!*

Our cattle have already suffered from the drought. Soon we shall find that the hoof-and-mouth disease *will spread out of control!* Rabid foxes, squirrels, muskrats will attack our children.

For seven long and frightful years, we are going to suffer as never before—until we be left "*few in number*." We have about reached our population peak, despite the guesses of our political and industrial planners.

#### What Next?

What happens by the middle of the 1960's if we still won't turn from OUR CRIMES, OUR WANTON DESTRUCTION OF NATURE, and OUR REBELLION AGAINST GOD? Notice:

"And if in spite of these things"—the punishments which God is already sending for our own good—"ye will not be corrected unto Me; then I will also walk contrary unto you; and I will smite you, even I, **SEVEN TIMES FOR YOUR SINS.**" Another seven years of catastrophic punishment!

"And I will bring a sword upon you, that shall execute the vengeance of the covenant"—we have broken the covenant which God made with our ancestors in the days of Moses—we have lived contrary to God's laws which were given for our own good—"and YE SHALL BE GATHERED TOGETHER WITHIN YOUR CITIES; and I will send the pestilence among you; and ye shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy. When I break your staff of bread . . . ye shall eat, and NOT BE SATISFIED" (Lev. 26: 23-26).

This is a horrifying prophecy! But it is coming, unless we wake up!

This SEVEN YEARS of national trouble takes us—if the dates which appear so definitely indicated by these prophecies are correct—from 1965 to 1972! Many of you will remember that over three years ago we told you of the strong indication that the last half of this—God's—work of spreading the gospel of the Kingdom of God to all the world would probably end in 1972!

God began this work in 1934. For 19 years it continued until we began to go around the world in 1953. We are now well into the last 19-year cycle God has



Cattle die in the worst drought to hit the Southwest in 50 years.

allotted for His work. God allotted a similar period of two 19-year cycles to the prophet Jeremiah during the fall of Judah. He allotted again two 19-year cycles, beginning in 31 A.D., to the inspired apostolic New Testament Church before that Church had to flee Jerusalem in 69 A.D.

Notice what God says is going to happen to our people in about ten years from now!

Drought and floods will drive destitute farmers into the cities in search of jobs to keep them alive. This is going to be far worse than the drought and depression of the 1930's. That was only a foretaste of what is coming. *God delivered us from that debacle—but He will NOT deliver us from what is coming unless we repent in real earnestness.*

The sword (verse 25) of communism and of a revived fascism in central and southern Europe will begin (by 1965) to bring us to our knees. Soviet leaders are doing everything short of World War III to destroy us. Already communism is engulfing the fragments of the once proud British Empire in Asia and Africa. In another ten years for fear of communist terrorism *it won't be safe to live in Asia or in Africa!*

*Communism is out to stir up RACE WAR.* And that war is already smouldering here in the United States! The white English-speaking world—God

says—will be forced to gather into cities for self protection. This is how God is going to punish us.

Read Deuteronomy 28:43-44: "The stranger"—the Gentile in our midst—"shall mount up above thee higher and higher; and thou"—the Israelites, the white English-speaking people—"shalt come down lower and lower. He (the Gentile) shall lend to thee, and thou shalt not lend to him; he shall be the head, and thou shalt be the tail"—why? because of our sins.

#### Trading with America and Britain to be Prohibited

Until the present time we have been able to impose trade embargoes on foreign nations and force them to submission. But the tables are now being turned. Red China and Russia are becoming stronger each year *even though America refuses to trade with them.*

In about another ten years, the Gentile nations are going to impose trade embargoes upon us! Here is what is prophesied:

"A nation of fierce countenance, that shall not regard the person of the old, nor show favor to the young . . . shall besiege thee in all thy gates, until thy high and fortified walls come down, wherein thou didst trust" (Deut. 28:50 and 52).

An astonishing revival of fascism in

Europe will cause the strangulation and starvation of Great Britain and the other democratic nations that must trade to survive! Just as England and America have starved the fascist nations of Europe into submission, so they—with communist help—will begin to starve us into submission. This time whole nations will lie besieged, just as cities were besieged in ancient times.

We think our radar screen to detect enemy weapons is a wall of defense today. But that wall of defense is soon going to prove utterly useless! We are going to be left defenseless, *starving and torn by racial violence!* This is prophesied!

**THERE IS A MEANS OF ESCAPE FOR YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL, if you heed.**

Here is what Jesus said:

"But *watch*"—don't hide your head in the sand—WATCH world events continuously—"making supplication" or "praying"—why? "that ye may prevail" or "be accounted worthy to ESCAPE ALL THESE THINGS that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man" (Luke 21:36).

#### NATIONAL SLAVERY in World War III

Let us recapitulate world events, for the moment, as they are already beginning to take shape. We are nearing the END of seven years of weather changes. Just as the Cold War with communism is continuing through this period, so will the droughts and floods continue from here on until we are destroyed.

But in about two years we are going to face the beginning of man-made PLAGUES that will ultimately reduce our population by one third in perhaps 16 years! "A third part of thee shall die with the pestilence and with famine shall they be consumed" (Ezek. 5:12).

After seven years of plagues and drought, real hunger will set in. Life won't be safe. We will be gathered into cities for protection. Trade will be cut off with foreign countries as a result of a gigantic confederation of Gentile nations which will wrest world control from us by breaking up all our money-bought alliances. We haven't learned we can't buy friends with money.

Remember, this most important work on earth—God's work—of preaching the

good news of the Kingdom of God—the rule of God and His laws which alone can bring peace and prosperity—this most important work will in all probability be completed in 1972! That is the year that opens the fourth period of "SEVEN TIMES" or years of punishment.

Notice the prophecy!

Where will this Western World be in 1972?

"And if ye will not for *all this* hearken unto Me, but walk contrary unto Me," says God, "then I will walk contrary unto you in **FURY**, and I also will chastise you **SEVEN TIMES** for your sins."

Here is another seven years of *furious national punishment*. There has never been a time like this before. "And ye shall eat the flesh of your sons, and the flesh of your daughters shall ye eat" (Lev. 26:27-29). Cannibalism! Notice also Deut. 28:56-57.

Daniel wrote of this time, "There shall be a time of trouble, **SUCH AS NEVER WAS SINCE THERE WAS A NATION** even to that same time"—seven long years of **NATIONAL SLAVERY, STARVATION, TORTURE AND DEATH**.

Notice Leviticus 26:31-39:

"And I will make your cities a waste"—atomic and hydrogen warfare will bring an end to our western civilization. We stupidly have already announced to our enemies that we will **NEVER STRIKE THE FIRST BLOW—even though we know that whoever strikes the first blow can win the next war!** We are inviting our own destruction! We are *not* winning the arms race with our enemies!

Continuing: "And I will bring the land into desolation . . . And you will I scatter among the nations, and I will draw out the sword after you . . . Then

shall the land be paid her sabbaths, as long as it lieth desolate, and ye are in your enemies' land; *even then shall the land rest . . . As long as it lieth desolate it shall have rest*"—we have overworked our soil and brought drought and floods upon ourselves!

"And as for them that are left of you, I will send a faintness into their heart in the lands of their enemies; and the sound of a driven leaf shall chase them; and they shall flee . . . and shall fall"—or faint—"when none pursueth; and ye shall have no power to stand before your enemies. And *ye shall perish among the nations*, and the land of your enemies shall eat you up. And *they that are left of you shall pine away in their iniquity in your enemies' lands.*"

Miserable end! But it is prophesied. We will learn our lesson in no other way!

#### One Last Ray of Hope

What will happen to those who survive in the land of our fascist and communist enemies?

"They shall *confess their iniquity*, and the iniquity of their fathers, in their treachery which they committed against Me . . .," says God.

"If then perchance their uncircumcised heart be humbled, and then they be paid the punishment of their iniquity; then will I REMEMBER My covenant with Jacob . . . and Isaac . . . and Abraham . . . I will not reject them, neither will I abhor them to destroy them utterly . . . for I am the Lord their God" (Lev. 26:40-44).

God will leave us **SEVEN YEARS** in abject slavery, destitute of food, shelter and clothing, suffering fiendish tortures.

Our nations are going to **PAY FOR THEIR SINS**. We have gone contrary to the laws of God long enough!

Thank God He will not reject us utterly. When our people have learned our lesson, He will intervene in world affairs to punish those who are to take our peoples captive. That day of God's intervention is called scores of times in the Bible the "Day of the Lord." It is a time of world-wide destruction when God sends the communist world upon the coming fascist-religious revival of Europe that will conquer us within a prophetically indicated 17 years!

Following six of the "trumpet plagues" of Revelation, God will finally have to send His Son the second time to liberate us from our enemies. "For the Lord will set His hand again the second time"—as He first did in Egypt in the days of Moses—"to recover the remnant of His people . . . And He will set up an ensign for the nations, and will assemble the dispersed of Israel, and gather together the scattered of Judah from the four corners of the earth" (Isaiah 11:11-12).

Then we will have peace at last—a thousand years of peace and prosperity, health and happiness.

But *first we have terrible lessons to learn*. We are too proud for our own good. We rely upon ourselves instead of God for wisdom. We refuse to obey His laws and surrender our lives to Him. For that reason He is going to surrender us into the hand of Gentile enemies who hate us for the way we have mistreated them. These events are coming as sure as the world stands—unless we first repent of our sins and turn to God with our whole heart.

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