

the PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

VOL. XXI, NUMBER 11

NOVEMBER, 1956



Gorgeous facade of a rock-hewn temple in Petra, the mysterious city carved out of solid rock cliffs.
Note Mrs. Armstrong standing at entrance.

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VOL. XXI NO. 11

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Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

A BEGGAR is always a man of this world. Never is a beggar a man who walks with God and TRUSTS God to perform that which He has promised in His Word!

David, under inspiration from God, wrote: "I have been young and now am old; yet have I never seen the righteous forsaken, nor his seed begging bread." (Psalm 37:25).

Two Reasons

Why? Because, in the first place, the righteous man is industrious, diligent in his work or business, doing all he can do toward supplying honestly his own needs. "The Lord will not suffer the soul of the righteous to famish: but He casteth away the substance of the wicked. He becometh poor that dealeth with a slack hand: *but the hand of the DILIGENT maketh rich*" (Prov. 10:3,4).

And in the second place, the righteous has the faith to TRUST in the Lord to keep His Word, and, if he should find himself in a tight place, to open the way and supply his every need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus. He does not beg. He asks of GOD, not of man, and has the faith to receive the answer. "Whatsoever is not of faith is of SIN." (Rom. 14:23).

Even the careful, prudent, industrious

man may, in a time of depression be reduced to poverty and want. He may, thru circumstances out of his control, find himself in dire need, and utterly helpless. Most men have to "take the count" and meet reverses, at least once during life. The man who has been so fortunate as not yet to have met such a reverse will do well to avoid giving too much credit to his own careful management and diligence, or to criticize or to scorn his less fortunate brother.

But when a righteous man comes to such a predicament, he never needs to beg or suffer want. Even tho his plight be the result of his own folly, still he need neither beg nor suffer any lack. God has promised us to deliver us out of every trouble. Even tho we brought it on ourselves. Read Psalm 107:4-31. He does not deal with us after our sins (Psalm 103:10), and promises to satisfy our mouths with good things, (verse 5).

But, do not mistake the mercy of God. He is a God of justice, as well as of love and mercy. There is always this CONDITION: that we repent of our own sins—which means to turn from them.

If a family is in want because of shiftlessness, laziness, wastefulness, or spendthriftiness, they must first REPENT of these things, and make a determined effort to correct them, before God's promises may apply. If due to poor management, this, too, must be acknowledged, and a determined effort made to overcome it.

But God's plan for the Christian is to cast ALL our cares upon Him, (I Pet. 5:7), and He promises that we shall suffer no want. (Ps. 34:9).

Why We Do Not Receive The Answer

Another reason for a great deal of

The WORLD TOMORROW heard in Australia!

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

misery and suffering today is unnecessary debt. Many are careless about charging things, or buying on the installment plan. Buy only that which you already
(Please continue on page 23)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

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Are Christians Again to Be MARTYRED?

It's time you learned of the fiendish, diabolical torture NOW being planned in the name religion. YOU are among its intended victims! Here's the truth!

by Herman L. Hoeh

IMAGINE—if you can—a time when millions of Christians in the United States and Britain will be MARTYRED—and *that* within the next 16 years!

Imagine—if you can—decrees being issued *by a foreign government*—not even as yet in existence—pronouncing the death sentence upon good and upright and sincere people for no other crime than believing in the plain Word of God—and holding fast the commands of Jesus Christ.

Such an eventuality in this 20th century seems absurd—impossible! Is not this the most enlightened age humanity has ever witnessed? WHO would ever want to martyr Christians *again*?

Yet such an eventuality IS PROPHECIED!

Communists Torture Millions!

Most people in our Western English-speaking world know little about what really goes on behind the Iron Curtain. But it is time you KNEW!

I have before me the official English translation of "THE CRIMES OF THE STALIN ERA," by Nikita Khrushchev, the present Russian dictator. It is a *shocking report*—an unbelievable account of the seizure, torture and brutal murder of tens of millions of people!

It is almost unbelievable—but it is true (except for the fact that Khrushchev does not admit *his part* in the same crimes)!

And this mass torture and mass murder has occurred in this "enlightened" twentieth century! NEVER IN THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD HAVE SO MANY PEOPLE BEEN TORTURED AND MURDERED IN SUCH A FEW SHORT YEARS!

This policy of torture by fiendish atheistic communism has now spread to

China. Latest reports prove that China's communist regime, in its effort to stamp out freedom and religion, are murdering frightened Chinese peasants even faster than Stalin was ever able to.

And have we so soon forgotten the scientific, diabolical tortures—illustrated in this article—which were perpetrated by the Nazis against the Jews in the concentration camps and against the slave-laborers?

Why can't we wake up to see that the cruel tortures of the Middle Ages are again sweeping the world—only 1000 times more *terrible*!

The handwriting for America and Britain is on the wall NOW! In less than 16 years it will be TOO LATE! It is time you understand NOW—*before it is too late for YOU*—what is prophesied to happen. *YOU are among the intended victims* of the most terrible time of torture and tribulation that will ever occur on earth! It is being planned *now*, secretly, undercover!

Another Martyrdom?

For over a thousand years—during the Dark and Middle Ages—faithful, obedient Christians were martyred by the State in the name of religion. That was the *first* MARTYRDOM. Notice the prophecy about *that* martyrdom—a prophecy written centuries before it occurred.

It is pictured symbolically in Rev. 6:9-11. The apostle John records, "And when He [Christ] had opened the fifth seal"—a seal covered part of the book which Jesus had in His hand, and in that book this prophecy was originally written—"I," John continues, "saw under the altar"—the altar by the throne of God in heaven where John, in vision while on the Isle of Patmos, saw the events

prophesied in Revelation symbolically occur—notice: "I saw . . . the souls of them that were martyred for the Word of God, and for the testimony which they held: And they cried with a loud voice"—symbolically, in this vision—"saying, 'How long, O Lord, holy and true, dost Thou not judge and avenge our blood on them that dwell on the earth?' . . . And it was said unto them, that they"—who were martyred during the Dark and Middle Ages for obeying the Word of God—"that they should rest yet for a little season, UNTIL THEIR FELLOWSERVANTS ALSO AND THEIR BRETHREN, THAT SHOULD BE KILLED AS THEY WERE, SHOULD BE FILLED."

Here is a prophecy *for our day*! There has never been a martyrdom of millions of true, obedient, faithful Christians since the Middle Ages. Yet here is a prophecy of *another* martyrdom—yet to occur—in which millions more would be killed AS THEY WERE IN THE MIDDLE AGES!

John saw, in vision, those martyrs who WERE slain. They are now long dead. They were killed "for the Word of God, and for the testimony"—the gospel message of the rule, the Kingdom of God—"which they held."

They were put to death for no greater crime than believing THE BIBLE and holding fast to the TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST, written and recorded in the Bible. History records their martyrdom. At least fifty million were martyred within the Holy Roman Empire and adjoining nations. In the name of religion they were declared "anathema from Christ"—accursed of Christ, heretics—and were given the death sentence, after which the State executed them.

But notice what is said, in vision, to

those dead martyrs: "They should rest yet for a little season, UNTIL"—what?—"their fellowservants also and their brethren . . . *should be killed as they were!*" Another martyrdom!

The Prophecy for OUR DAY

And notice, this coming martyrdom will be *like the previous one*—only 1000 times more terrible in intensity. Christians living today are to be martyred "as their brethren were" in past ages. They are to be put to death *in the name of religion*, but the State will be the power that actually kills them.

Remember what Jesus said? "Yea, the hour cometh, that *whoever killeth you shall think that he offereth service to God*. And these things *will they do . . .*" (John 16:2-3).

This is not a martyrdom by atheistic communists. They do not even believe God exists. They murder their enemies for the sake of the Communist Party, not because they think they are serving God! BUT THE COMING MARTYRDOM OF CHRISTIANS WILL BE A RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION! It will be done as a supposed act of service to God! Deceived people, professing Christianity, murdering faithful Christians whom they call "heretics." This is the persecution that's prophesied!

WHY Religious Persecution?

These are the final days the prophecies warn us of—days when the people will not endure sound doctrine—days when the vast majority have been deceived into believing FABLES (II Tim. 4:1-4). It is a time when the people want their preachers to hold back the truth and to preach the "soft and smooth things" instead. Here is what God inspired Isaiah to write:

"Now go, write it before the people on a tablet, and inscribe it in a book, that it may be for the time to come for ever and ever"—for *our day* as an everlasting witness—"For it is a rebellious people, lying children, children that refuse to hear the LAW of the Lord; that say to the [ministers]: 'Prophecy not unto us right things, speak unto us smooth things, prophecy DELUSIONS'" (Isaiah 30:8-10).

The MANY are deceived. Satan, the invisible spirit ruler of this present age has HIS MINISTERS IN THE PULPITS

masquerading as the ministers of Jesus Christ (II Cor. 11:14): "His ministers also fashion themselves as ministers of righteousness." They pose as the ministers of Jesus Christ, but they are unwittingly the ministers of Satan the devil who is the *real author* of religious persecution—the real instigator of the COMING GREAT TRIBULATION.

Notice, in Revelation 12:9, that Satan "deceiveth the whole world." He has his human agencies on earth—religious and political—that have "deceived all nations" (Rev. 17:2 and 18:3). Satan's false ministers will, "if it were possible, DECEIVE THE VERY ELECT" (Mat. 24:24). Satan's work is a labor of deception!

The VERY ELECT, who constantly cry out to God for help day and night in prayer, are the only ones whom Satan has been unable to deceive. He hates them. He persecutes them, not directly, but through human agencies—especially through the instrumentality of religion.

In Revelation 12:12, we read: "The devil is gone down unto you, having GREAT WRATH because he knoweth that he hath but a short time." Satan is furious. Six thousand years of deception are about up! He knows his time is now

very short. He has great wrath—against whom?

"The dragon was wroth with the woman [a symbol of the true Church of God] and went to make war with the remnant of her seed, WHICH KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS OF GOD, and have the TESTIMONY OF JESUS CHRIST"—the true gospel (Rev. 12:17).

Satan's Human Agency

And notice the *human agency* which persecutes the martyrs of Jesus Christ: "I saw," wrote John, "the *woman drunk with the blood of the saints, and with the blood of the witnesses of Jesus*" (Rev. 17:6). This is another woman, a fallen woman, a great harlot or whore. This is an apostate Church—a woman in Scripture is the symbol of a church (II Cor. 11:2). It is a religious power which has relationship with "the kings of the earth"—which "reigns over the kings of the earth" and uses them as her tools (Rev. 17:2,18).

This false religious power refuses to OBEY THE COMMANDMENTS. It goes about to establish *its own* righteousness. It becomes infuriated, suffers from a feeling of self-condemnation, when it sees the righteousness of God manifested in

Dachau, where hundreds of thousands were cremated, hanged or beaten to death, is merely a forerunner of the concentration camps to be used during the time of "Jacob's Trouble."

—Wide World Photo





—Wide World Photo

Executions under Nazis were so numerous that hundreds were buried in huge graves at one time.

the true Church. It resorts to persecution in order to destroy the righteous. It uses religion as a deceptive cloak. It deceives itself into believing it serves God by persecuting, torturing and sentencing to death those who OBEY God.

The whole western world is being deceived by Satan with a *pretense of religion*. People want to think themselves righteous, when they are not. Satan is going to stir up this religious guilt-complex into another GREAT MARTYRDOM of saints, called prophetically in Scripture "The Great Tribulation" (Rev. 7:14).

This coming horrifying tribulation is now being plotted in secret, underground, by a *fascist Babylonish religious political system*—the same powers which have always persecuted the faithful Christians! True Christians are yet to

be martyred "as they were" during the Dark and Middle Ages.

The Tribulation Is the Next Prophesied Event!

Jesus has given us the time sequence of events which lead up to the GREAT TRIBULATION. This sequence you will find in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. These three chapters, as we have explained in The PLAIN TRUTH before, contain the order of events at the close of this age.

Following false teachers, proclaiming a false gospel—though coming in the name of Christ, saying that Jesus is the Christ—would be wars, famines and pestilences—occurring in that order. These events have already once been fulfilled and already culminated in the tribulation

of the Middle Ages. *That* fulfillment was merely the *forerunner* of the PRESENT FULFILLMENT—the present host of false teachers, proclaiming false gospels—the present series of wars and rumors of wars inspired by Communist intrigue—the present spread of drought in America, Russia, China and elsewhere which will soon lead to famines and disease epidemics of devastating proportions.

Then what comes next—amid this world-wide suffering and hatred against the English-speaking world and against true Christians in particular?

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . and famines shall be and earthquakes in divers places . . . THEN"—the very next event—"shall they deliver *you* up unto TRIBULATION, and

shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations for my name's sake" (Mat. 24:6-9).

Did you notice that? Jesus' own disciples—those who follow Him—"YOU"—are to be delivered up to tribulation, martyrdom!

Jesus said that it is "FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE" that the nations would hate you. This could only be referring to believers, not non-believers.

Mark records the same warning of Jesus: "And ye shall be hated of all for my name's sake" (Mark 13:13). A martyrdom of Christians! Luke records the same diabolical persecution (Luke 21:12,17).

The Tribulation is NOT the Time of God's Wrath

There is one prime distinction which you need to understand. It is a common teaching today that the "tribulation" is the wrath of God—that the

"tribulation" is the same as the "Day of the Lord"—that since God would not vent His wrath upon true Christians, only non-Christians will suffer in the GREAT TRIBULATION.

This is NOT true!

The "tribulation" is the wrath of Satan the devil, the deceiver of the present world. Revelation 12, which we have already read, explains that *Satan* has great wrath. *He* persecutes the true Church!

Notice what Jesus said would immediately happen after Satan's wrath—the great tribulation—is cut short: "IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Mat. 24:29).

Here God supernaturally intervenes by supernatural signs in the heavens to cut short the Great Tribulation. "For

then shall be GREAT TRIBULATION, such as hath not been from the world's beginning until now, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days had been shortened, no flesh would have been saved [alive from that religious persecution]. But for the elect's sake those days"—which other prophecies show would have lasted 7 years—"shall be shortened"—to 3½ years (Rev. 12:6, 14).

Notice that in these verses—Matthew 24:21-22—Jesus calls the final fulfillment of the prophesied martyrdom "The GREAT tribulation." There have been tribulations before. And there is to be a GREAT one in this generation the like of which has never been before. This GREAT tribulation could not have been that of the Middle Ages. God did not shorten that time of tribulation by intervening with supernatural signs.

Now what happens when God intervenes to cut short the tribulation? Turn to Joel 2:31: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood BEFORE THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COME."

The "Day of the Lord" is the time God steps into world affairs directly. It is the time of His wrath against those who have persecuted His people.

This "Day of the Lord shall come like a thief in the night," wrote Paul under inspiration in I Thes. 5:2. This is not speaking of the coming of Christ, but of the time when God supernaturally intervenes in world affairs shortly before Jesus returns.

Compare this with Rev. 6:12,16-17: "The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the whole moon became as blood; and the stars of the heaven fell to the earth . . . and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall upon us, and hide us from the face of the One sitting on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: because the great day of their wrath is come; and who can stand?'" The day of God's wrath will come unexpectedly—like a thief in the night—just as Satan's wrath will soon come upon an unsuspecting English-speaking world in which Christians are being lulled to sleep by religious delusions.

How clear, The Tribulation occurs *be-*
(Please continue on page 19)

Hundreds of slave laborers perished when they were herded into this barn and the straw on the floor, sprayed with an inflammable fluid, was ignited. This is just one method of fiendish torture.

—Wide World Photo



Just What IS the KINGDOM of GOD?

Is the Church the Kingdom of God? Is the Kingdom merely an emotional feeling inside your heart? Here is the Bible answer—**God's answer—made plain!**

by **Garner Ted Armstrong**

PERHAPS no subject excites more curiosity—and creates more *confusion* than that of the "Kingdom of God."

Many *differing* ideas have been taught concerning God's kingdom.

Here is an example:

"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." HAVE YOU heard this kind of talk?

Probably you have, because these vague, spiritual-sounding ideas about the kingdom of God are widespread.

Is the kingdom of God something *you* can *really* understand? Or must it remain buried in a mire of nebulous, spiritual-sounding phraseology, or couched in vague, hazy theories about physical empires or churches?

How can you KNOW what it is?

Jude exhorts every one who earnestly desires the real, *plain truth*, "... it was needful for me to write unto you, and *exhort* you that you should *earnestly contend* for the faith which was ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS" (Jude 3).

The kingdom of God cannot be understood by laboratory tests, nor through the physical sciences! *Neither can it be understood by reading the writings of men about the Bible*, or listening to the vague *ideas* of mere men!

WHAT ABOUT IT? Do you really know what the BIBLE says about the kingdom of God, or have *you*, like thousands of others, just *taken for granted* what is taught today? Most of you have been hearing a vague, sentimental gospel which DENIES the message Jesus Christ brought from the Father about a soon-coming *world-ruling* kingdom — the *kingdom of God!*

Let's begin *getting back* to the faith ONCE delivered! Let's *search the scriptures* and PROVE all things!

What Is a Kingdom?

The same people who just glibly accept nebulous ideas about the actual kingdom of God *all know* what is meant when one speaks of, for example, "The United Kingdom." We immediately visualize the British Commonwealth—a literal, actual *government* of one of this world's great nations. Is the British Commonwealth REAL? Is it something that is just "set up in your heart," or some hazy, unrealistic "spiritual" term?

OF COURSE NOT!

And neither is the kingdom—THE GOVERNMENT—of God a hazy, unrealistic spiritual term!

Primarily, *any* kingdom is a GOVERNMENT—a NATION and the GOVERNMENT which rules it. And especially in this Biblical sense, there is the DUAL meaning of the NATION, or that which is governed, the citizens or subjects, and the GOVERNMENT *by which the citizens are ruled!* Often, in the BIBLE usage, a Kingdom is a *family* from a single parent grown into a NATION.

Four things are necessary to constitute a KINGDOM. 1) The *territory*, with its specific location and definite boundary lines, of 2) a KING or Supreme Ruler or governing agent, ruling over 3) SUBJECTS or citizens *within* that territorial jurisdiction, with 4) LAWS and a form of GOVERNMENT. If we leave out ANY of these vital requisites, we do not have, and cannot BELIEVE, the true GOSPEL for this time!

The Territory of the Kingdom

Let's go through the subject step by step, point by point, proving the *truth*

from the BIBLE, and not carelessly assuming what *seems* to be acceptable.

Any kingdom, as has already been explained, *must* occupy a certain, given TERRITORY. It must *govern* its subjects within a marked boundary which constitutes the *limits* of that kingdom.

Many try to "spiritualize away" the real meaning of the kingdom of God—in *spite* of the gripping fact of the chaotic times in which we live, and of the prophesied DOOM of this present world by God's intervention in human affairs! The "kingdom of God" is 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*. Many believe that the CHURCHES will someday "evangelize" the entire world, or will unite into a common group—and *this*, they feel, would become the "kingdom of God."

ALL OF THESE CONCEPTIONS DEPEND UPON MAN'S INGENUITY!

Luke writes: "The law and the prophets were UNTIL JOHN: since that time the KINGDOM OF GOD is preached." (Luke 16:16). The Gospel Christ brought as a messenger from God the Father was the message of the coming KINGDOM (*government—rule*) of God! (John 14:24.)

WHERE did Christ say this kingdom would *be*?

Jesus likened himself to a certain nobleman who went into a far country to RECEIVE for himself a kingdom and to return! (Luke 19:12). He very plainly told His disciples He would COME AGAIN, "... that where I am, there you may be also." (John 14:3). Where is Christ going to be? Notice Acts 1:10-11. The angels said to the disciples, "Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? *this same Jesus*, which is taken up from you into heaven, *shall*

so come in like manner as ye have seen Him go into heaven."

Jesus Christ is going to return—LITERALLY—TO THIS EARTH!

The prophet Daniel writes of the stone (Christ) which was cut out without hands, and smote the image (which represents the four successive world-dominating kingdoms down through history) upon the feet. The feet were representing the last world-ruling kingdom to exist, at which time Jesus Christ is to RETURN to this earth! "... and the stone that smote the image became a great MOUNTAIN, and filled the whole earth!" (Dan. 2:35.)

God speaks of a kingdom as a MOUNTAIN in the Bible. Notice Micah 4:1.

God's kingdom—God's NATION will finally fill the whole earth! This stands proved—your Bible says so!

Christ's Return to Earth

When Jesus Christ comes to this earth, He will bring His reward with Him, (Rev. 22:12) and will render to every man according to his works! Many cite I Thes. 4:16-17 to infer the elect shall return to heaven with Christ. Notice; "For the Lord Himself shall DESCEND (come down) FROM Heaven . . . the dead in Christ shall rise first: Then we which are alive and remain shall be caught up together with them . . ." WHERE? Into heaven? NO! NOTICE: "... in the clouds, to meet the Lord IN THE AIR; and so shall we ever be with the Lord." He is coming with CLOUDS (Rev. 1:7). Clouds, the AIR, are physical, earthly compositions of certain gases and vapours. It is a PART of this earth's atmosphere!

The Bible tells us what takes place immediately after Christ gathers His elect, "And His feet shall stand IN THAT DAY upon the Mount of Olives . . ." (Zech. 14:4).

If a friend of yours is coming to your home, and you go out to MEET that person, wouldn't it be STRANGE if you were to then accompany that friend back where he came from? Of course it would! When you go to MEET someone, you accompany him back to his destination—your home! The elect will MEET Christ in the AIR (this earth's

atmosphere) and then accompany Him TO the Mount of Olives!

Is that not enough proof? Notice Rev. 20:4, "and they lived and reigned with Christ a thousand years . . ." Wherever Christ IS—there are the saints also, living and reigning, GOVERNING, with Christ for a thousand years! "And we shall reign ON THE EARTH." (Rev. 5:10.)

"But in the LAST DAYS it shall come to pass, that the mountain of the Eternal shall be established in the top of the mountains, and it shall be exalted above the hills, and people shall flow unto it.

"And many nations shall come and say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain of the LORD, and to the house of the God of Jacob . . ." "And the Eternal shall reign OVER them, IN MOUNT ZION from henceforth, even forever." (Micah 4:1-2 & 7.)

God's kingdom is going to be set up, LITERALLY, on this earth! Jesus Christ is going to return, LITERALLY, to this earth!

This EARTH is the TERRITORY that will be occupied by the kingdom of God!

Its King or Supreme Ruler

At Christ's return, He will come as KING OF KINGS, and Lord of Lords, to put down the stiff-necked rebellion of sinning mankind who want their own way. (Rev. 19:16.) Christ said to His disciples, "ALL POWER is given unto me in heaven and in earth." (Mat. 28:18.) Christ came to this earth to QUALIFY as its future ruler, to DEPOSE Satan the Devil by withstanding him in the greatest contest ever fought! Notice Matt. 4:1-11. Jesus had fasted forty days and forty nights, and Satan played on His emotions, on His human nature. Christ WON that great battle! He said: "GET THEE HENCE, SATAN!" Christ was the One in command, He was the One in authority—and the Devil OBEYED that authority!

Jesus, by crying out to God constantly, with tears, was able to resist the human nature, the desires of the flesh. (Heb. 5:7.) He was tempted in EVERY POINT like as we are, yet without sin! (Heb. 4:15.)

By living a life of PERFECTION, without sin, Christ condemned sin IN THE

FLESH (Rom. 8:3) and DISQUALIFIED SATAN, the author of sin, or LAWBREAKING (John 8:44). Christ revealed Satan as the god of THIS WORLD (II Cor. 4:4) who actually has a kingdom! (Mat. 12:26). Satan is the present ruler of this world, soon to be removed at the literal return of Christ.

Christ triumphed in the great day-to-day BATTLE He fought to become your Saviour and mine! He qualified to become the very One to RULE this earth. HE will be the KING of God's coming kingdom. (Zech. 14:9.)

Its Subjects or Citizens

Perhaps no other question has excited more controversy and argument than the IDENTITY of those within God's kingdom.

The prophet Daniel wrote of the time when "... many of them that sleep in the dust of the earth shall awake, some to everlasting life, and some to shame and everlasting contempt." (Dan. 12:2.) Jesus taught His disciples during His earthly ministry of the coming RESURRECTION of the dead! Notice Christ's statements in John 5:28-29. "Marvel not at this, for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves (dead and buried) shall hear His voice, and shall come forth . . ." Christ spoke of the RESURRECTION of the dead!

The Apostles constantly stressed the RESURRECTION of the dead! When they were preaching in Jerusalem immediately after the Day of Pentecost, the Sadducees were disturbed because "... they taught the people, and preached through Jesus the resurrection from the dead." (Acts 4:2).

The Apostle Paul, when disputing with the "learned" men of Athens, "... preached unto them Jesus and the resurrection!" (Acts 17:18).

Jesus Christ came preaching a message that you and I may be BORN INTO the Kingdom of God! That rebirth is by a resurrection! When the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection, tried to trick Christ, He revealed the NATURE of those who are raised from the dead by the coming resurrection. "Jesus answered and said unto them, Ye do err, NOT KNOWING THE SCRIPTURES, nor (Please continue on page 21)

Were the *Ten Commandments* Nailed to the Cross?

Are Christians saved by faith without obedience to God's law? Does grace do away with the law? Are the Ten Commandments the "law of Moses"? Here's the truth about this pivotal question!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

JOHN DOE is a Canadian subject. He was born, let us say, in Canada, and has resided since boyhood in Vancouver, B.C.

But now, because of a recent marriage to an American, John Doe wishes to become a citizen of the United States. He has been impressed with the country. Mr. Doe, we will say, endeavors to attain this new citizenship by studying the laws of our country, and rigidly setting himself to obey them.

Our point is this. Can John Doe, *merely by observing the LAWS of our land*, become a citizen here? The question seems foolish. The answer is obvious. He cannot.

But it illustrates the point. A man does not become an accepted citizen in Christ's Kingdom merely because that man lives *within the law* and rigidly observes it.

Does Grace Abolish the LAW?

The Law, in other words, is not the means thru which sinners of the worldly kingdom of Satan become converted into citizens of the spiritual Kingdom of Christ.

If John Doe is to become a United States citizen, he must undergo a certain prescribed process. This will include laying aside his allegiance to Canada, pledging his allegiance to the government of the United States, accepting ours as HIS government, and taking out certain papers.

And that is the manner in which a man becomes a Christian. *Before* he becomes a Christian, he is a subject of a different kingdom—the kingdom of this world—ruled over by Satan, who is described in the Scriptures as "Prince of this world." If a man, born of the flesh and a part of this world and of Satan's rule, desires to attach himself to Christ's

Kingdom—the kingdom of the spirit, and of the world to come—he must undergo a certain prescribed process. We call that process **CONVERSION**.

It includes acknowledgment, and repentance of sins, acceptance of Jesus Christ as his new ruler, or Savior, renouncing his allegiance to Satan's kingdom and pledging allegiance to Christ's Kingdom. Since he was begotten and born of the flesh and of this world, he is thus now "begotten again" of the spirit and of the world to come—to be born again at the resurrection.

Now let us suppose John Doe has moved down to California, fulfilled the required process, and has become a citizen of the United States. Does that mean that Mr. Doe is exempt from obeying the laws of our land, merely because he has become a citizen?

Not at all! If the man is going to live here, be one of us, and enjoy the **BENEFITS** of United States Citizenship, *he must obey our laws!* And unless he does, he will find himself before a judge, who will pronounce his fate!

Conversion Means Obedience

When a man becomes a Christian, he receives great **BENEFITS** thereby, including everlasting life in the world to come. And now the question is, can a man *remain* a Christian, and receive the blessings and benefits of Christian citizenship, *while he disobeys the laws of the Kingdom?*

Just a moment, some will say. Christ's Kingdom has no laws. Christ abolished the law, nailing it to the Cross. We are now "under grace," and not "under the law." But let's examine that point very carefully.

Did you ever hear of a government being run without laws? Does it sound reasonable that the Government Christ

came to set up would be run in hit-and-miss fashion, **WITHOUT ANY RULES OR LAWS?**

The Bible emphatically tells us that Christ's Kingdom has its laws, just as every civil government has its laws. It is time we understood what was nailed to the Cross, and what is still binding upon us today.

God's Basic LAW

The laws of Christ's Kingdom are Ten, simple, fundamental, universal Commandments, written by the very finger of God upon tablets of stone! And what a contrast the divinely written code is from our woefully inefficient man-made codes! A hopeless mess indeed has man made of his law-making efforts. Contrast it to God's ability as a law-giver. In Ten brief Commandments, so simple, so direct, that a small child can understand and memorize the whole code, God gave all mankind a **COMPLETE** law which covers the whole duty of man toward, first, his Creator, and secondly, his fellow-man. So fundamental and universal—God's laws apply alike to the most sophisticated metropolitan civilization, and the most wild and barbarous jungle civilization.

They are, by their very nature, eternal, and never could become obsolete or out-of-date. **NO MAN COULD WRITE SUCH A LAW.** This Law is **NOT** the law of Moses, but the Law of God.

Most assuredly, as we shall see presently from the Scriptures, Christ's Kingdom has its laws. And unless Christians, the begotten citizens of His Kingdom, are willing to obey the laws of the Kingdom they have professed to enter, they, like our friend John Doe, will find themselves before the Judge, who, at the Judgment Day, will pronounce their fate! Remember, then:

The Law is not in any sense the means thru which a man obtains salvation. *We do not obtain salvation thru the law—we observe the law thru the process of conversion.* It is failure to understand this important distinction which is the cause of much misunderstanding upon the whole question.

The facts are these: Both those who maintain the Ten Commandments, God's Law, are immutable and still binding upon Christians today, and those who assert this Law was nailed to the Cross, can quote much Scripture in an effort to prove their different contentions. Our Question now is, *why this apparent contradiction in the Bible?*

The Scriptures do not contradict in any instance. The Mosaic law *WAS* nailed to the Cross! Faith, the atonement, the gift of the Holy Spirit, *DID* take the place of, and therefore abolish, the old Mosaic law. That law was a law of physical ordinances, ceremonies, and sacrifices which were "added" because of sin and as a reminder of sin (Gal. 3:19). But the Ten Commandments are an entirely different, separate, and distinct Law. The Commandments are spiritual principles which define sin. Moses' laws were sacrificial and ceremonial.

Both laws were given by God, but they were given in entirely different manners, and for entirely different purposes. The Ten Commandments were God's basic spiritual law *from the beginning*. It was sin to transgress its points from Adam to Moses. Death is the penalty of sin and "death reigned from Adam to Moses" (Rom. 5:14 and 6:23). The law of Moses was not added until the days of Moses. In his day the Ten Commandments were merely repeated because the children of Israel had forgotten God's spiritual law—just as the world today has forgotten it.

Let us now examine briefly the history of the Law and of the real meaning of salvation. Let us stand off and visualize the subject from a distance, in its entirety, rather than having our viewpoint muddled by a too close familiarity with any one point or passage.

Salvation NOT Offered Under Old Covenant

It may come as a surprise to you, but

spiritual and eternal salvation was never offered under the Old Covenant to the nation Israel as a whole. The only promises were material and fleshly—for the present age. They were promised national dominance, power, and wealth. But they were not promised eternal life.

The law of physical works—the law of Moses—was not given as a means of salvation, **BUT AS A REMINDER THAT THEY NEEDED SALVATION.** There has been one and only one means of salvation—through faith. No one has ever been or can ever be saved thru the works or rituals and ceremonies of the law.

During Old Testament times only the prophets and a faithful few obtained a promise of eternal salvation. They looked forward to the shed blood of Christ, just as we look back to it.

But the people as a nation were given the rituals of Moses to begin to develop within them the habit of obedience to God's spiritual law—the Ten Commandments. The shedding of the blood of a lamb was a reminder that Christ would come to shed His blood to pay for our sins. Notice Hebrews 10:1-4:

"For the law"—of Moses—"can never with those sacrifices which they offered year by year continually, make the comers thereunto perfect. For then would they not have ceased to be offered? . . . But in those *sacrifices* there is a *remembrance* again made of sins each year. **FOR IT IS NOT POSSIBLE THAT THE BLOOD OF BULLS AND GOATS SHOULD TAKE AWAY SINS.**"

How plain! Salvation was not through the works of the law. Paul's whole argument throughout the New Testament was against the teaching of Judaism that salvation could be gained without faith in Christ, but thru the works—the hard physical labor of offering sacrifices—of the law of Moses. The Ten Commandments never contained ordinances prescribing sacrifices. They are an entirely separate and distinct law.

The Mosaic ordinances were, in other words, substitutes and shadows for the reality of Christ's atonement and the Holy Spirit. They were wholly subordinate to the spiritual law of God. Paul warned the Galatians that whoever sought to be justified by the works of the law—whoever sought salvation through animal sacrifices—was rejecting

the sacrifice of Christ.

It is important that we understand here that *Judaism* is not the teaching of the Old Testament but a **PERVERSION** of it. Judaism is a mixture of the ordinances of the Old Testament with the false doctrines of the Jewish elders. While in Persian and Greek captivity, the Jews were influenced by the pagan idea that salvation could be gained thru penance—thru giving a physical sacrifice to pay for sins, thru enduring the hard physical labor of offering animal sacrifices. The pagans thought that God would be pleased by human suffering—that salvation came through denying ourselves the right and honorable pleasures of life. The Jews took over this idea and applied it to the sacrifices which Moses had commanded merely as a reminder of sin.

The Ten Commandments Define RIGHT from WRONG

Let us, first, clearly understand just what the Law of God is, and what it means. No one will say that Christians today are to continue in sin. But how can sin be avoided, unless defined? **WHAT IS SIN?** John tells us—and John wrote this definition of sin about A.D. 90, in the very closing days of apostolic times. Turn to I John 3:4, and you will read that "**SIN IS THE TRANSGRESSION OF THE LAW.**"

WHAT law? It could not be the Mosaic sacrificial and ordinance law. That could never define sin. It is, of necessity, God's Law—the spiritual Law. Thus about A.D. 90, the apostle John established the fact that God's Law was not, in that late day, abolished—for an abolished law could never be the definition of sin!

In A.D. 56, Paul made it clear that the definition of sin is the transgression of the Law. In Romans 4:15, he says, "Where no law is there is no transgression," and he amplified this in the 7th chapter 7th verse, "Nay, I had not known sin, but by the law: for I had not known lust except the law had said, Thou shalt not covet."

Here Paul makes clear **WHICH** law defines sin. It is the Ten Commandments—the Law which includes "Thou shalt not covet."

Paul could not have written that, had
(Please continue on page 24)

Mrs. Armstrong's Diary

Have you ever wanted to visit the mystery city of Petra? In this second installment Mrs. Armstrong takes you through this stupendous city of rock lined with 2000-year-old temples. It's thrilling!

**. . . from the diary kept during their tour
by Loma D. Armstrong**

THE FIRST installment of Mrs. Armstrong's diary took us from England to Rome, across the historic Mediterranean Sea to Egypt, the land of the Pharaohs.

From Cairo, Egypt, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and their son Dick journeyed to ancient Thebes, the city of kings. While there, they descended into the fabulously rich tomb of King Tut, hidden centuries ago deep underground and camouflaged by false entrances.

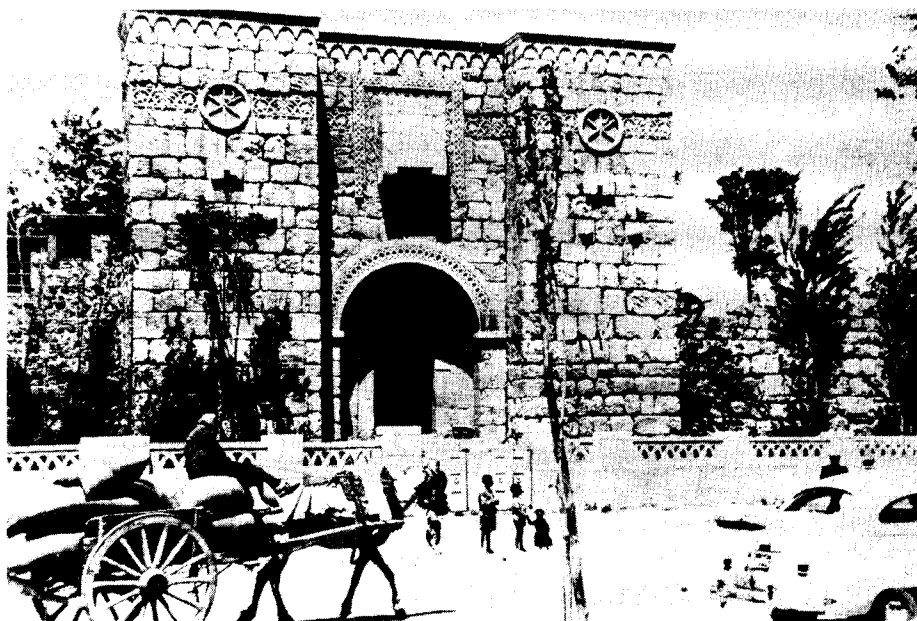
Next, Mrs. Armstrong took us to the pyramids. We viewed, from inside, the famous Great Pyramid at Gizeh, which purportedly contains a "divine message" in stone. From there, we returned to Cairo, then flew over the Jordan River to the airport in the Arab section of Jerusalem. The next leg of their Middle East journey took us to Bagdad in Iraq, near the site of ancient Babylon, now totally desolate. There, too, we saw the very den of lions into which the prophet Daniel was cast! From Bagdad, Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Dick flew to Damascus, the capital of Syria.

Now comes the second installment!

Part II

THE CITY of Damascus is a mixture of beautiful modern buildings in the new city and dilapidated, old structures of the old city inhabited by Arabs. The fine apartments are the foreign Embassies and the residences of English, American and other business men.

Our American Express guide here in Damascus looked like ex-King Farouk of Egypt. He met us at the airport and took us to our Hotel. The building was beautiful and modern, but the dining room was so filled with fly spray that it was difficult to breathe. We still had Arabian food, some of it very strange. We were served licorice leaves in the hors d'oeuvres.



The "traditional" gate at the city of Damascus where the apostle Paul was let down by means of a basket. On each side of this Catholic-constructed gate may be seen parts of the original wall which surrounded the city of Damascus in Apostolic days.

We went to bed early and arose early the next morning to see the city. Damascus is said to be the oldest continuously inhabited city on earth. And early as it was, the streets of this ancient city were crowded—as they were in Cairo—with people, donkeys, carts, dogs and cars. The car horns were continually being honked.

We first went through the market place with its narrow streets packed full of people as were the streets in Bagdad. Then we went through the Arch of Jupiter to a large mosque. This mosque has an intriguing history. Centuries ago, after the worshippers of Jupiter were driven out of it, the Romans made a church out of it. When the Turks took over, it was changed to the present mosque. It is a large building and many, many beautiful oriental rugs completely covering the floor. On or along the east wall were niches to show the people which way to face Mecca when they

pray. Many of the people were sitting on the floor in scattered groups bowing with their heads touching the floor. Many beggars were also among them.

We Visit a Harem

We were then taken to the former Palace of the early Turkish rulers and also to the harem of the Sultans. In their different rooms were life size wax figures dressed in their native costumes and representing the different uses that each room was put to. In one, a woman was portrayed rocking a baby in a low cradle. In another the seamstresses were fitting a bride for her wedding dress.

Each room was beautifully furnished. There were many pieces of furniture inlaid with mother-of-pearl and camel bone with ivory. There were also Persian rugs covering the floors and one room contained the usual Turkish coffee pots in five sizes. They have five pots for this reason: first, the coffee is put into

a large pot then boiled down to the size of the smaller and so on until there is just enough remaining to fill the smallest pot. By that time it is thick and black and very strong!

In the court yard of the Palace was a beautiful fountain and pool, surrounded by porches and couches where the women of the harem used to lounge. This court yard is enclosed and kept from view from the outside.

"Street Called Straight"

Later, we were taken to the "Street called Straight" where Paul, on his way to persecute the Christians, entered Damascus after he was stricken with blindness by Christ. The old street Paul walked on and the gate through which he entered was 14 feet below the pres-

surely would have seen bats on the walls!

We were then driven by an Arab to a refugee camp—the most miserable place we had yet seen. We saw one-hundred thousand Arabs living in huts made from old oil cans or anything else they could find. The dust was thick under our feet and the people were filthy and sickly and ragged. They were covered with flies. Most of them were beggars.

We were told that they had been driven out of Palestine by the Jews but Palestine does not seem large enough to hold the thousands of Arab refugees we saw in all the different places which the Arabs claim were driven out by the Jews from Palestine. America had an "Atoms for Peace" display in Damascus while we were there but there was any-

ness men, oil men and others, along with ambassadors, live. This area was such a contrast to the part of the city we had gone through.

Easter Eggs at Baalbeck

On April 30th, we left our Hotel at 9 in the morning with another guide who had driven down from Beirut in a car. He was sent to take us through Syria to Lebanon.

It was a beautiful drive through the mountains and fertile plains of Lebanon. We were surprised to see the fields of grain and other lush growth. We drove through a large and well-watered valley where the streams came down from Mt. Lebanon.

We arrived at Baalbeck, a city dating from the first to third century B.C. It was the site of the ancient temple of Jupiter, built by Phoenicians, destroyed partially by the Greeks, rebuilt by the Romans, destroyed by them, then rebuilt again, and finally destroyed by God, with far greater devastation, through an earthquake.

Everywhere from Cairo, Luxor, Bagdad, Damascus, and now Baalbeck, we found the pagan Easter eggs carved in the architectural embellishment of buildings and temples. The guides all call them the symbol of fertility. We have many close-up pictures of the Easter eggs on the ruins of Babylon. They are in the temples of Bacchus, of Venus or Easter (Ishtar), and in the ruins of the temple of Jupiter.

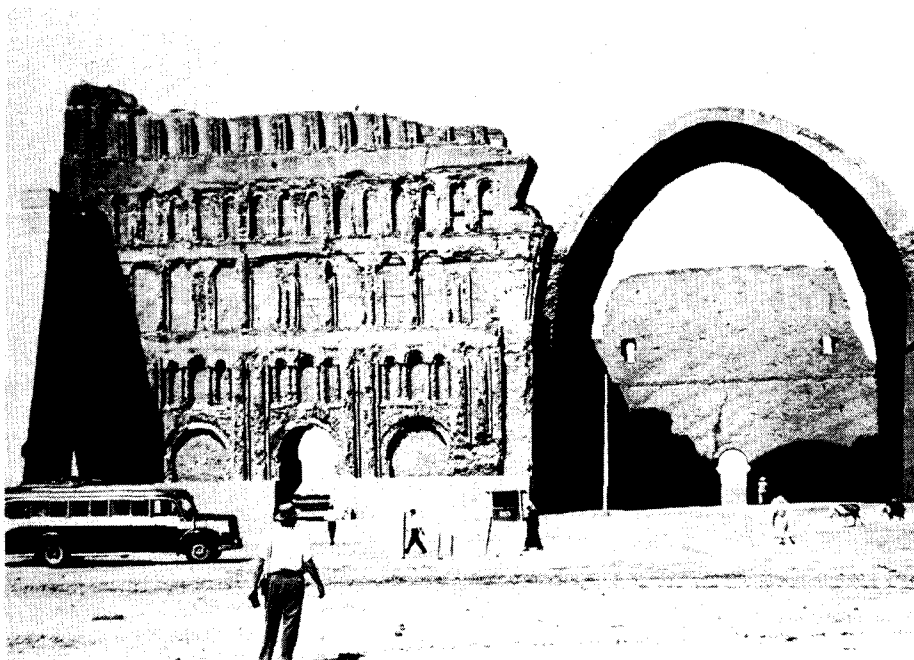
We ate, or tried to eat, lunch at Baalbeck. The food was so bad we left most of it.

After lunch we drove back through part of the beautiful valley then drove into the mountains where we came to a view of the sea-port city of Beirut and the Mediterranean Sea.

When we reached the city of Beirut, capital of Lebanon, we found that most of the people were dressed in western clothes and not in the robes of most Middle Easterners. Very few women were wearing veils over their faces. The streets were crowded but now with hundreds and hundreds of cars. Most of the autos were American.

We Visit Tyre and Sidon

Our first day there, we drove along



The Arch of Ctesiphon outside the city of Bagdad, in Iraq. This remarkable arch built entirely of brick is an architectural wonder of ancient times.

ent street and only the gate and a small part of the street have been excavated.

Our guide took us from there to a place underground which he called the house of Ananias where Paul received his sight. It is obviously a fake, for it is only a cave 21 steps down. It is now a very small religious shrine with the usual idols and the usual hands held out for money.

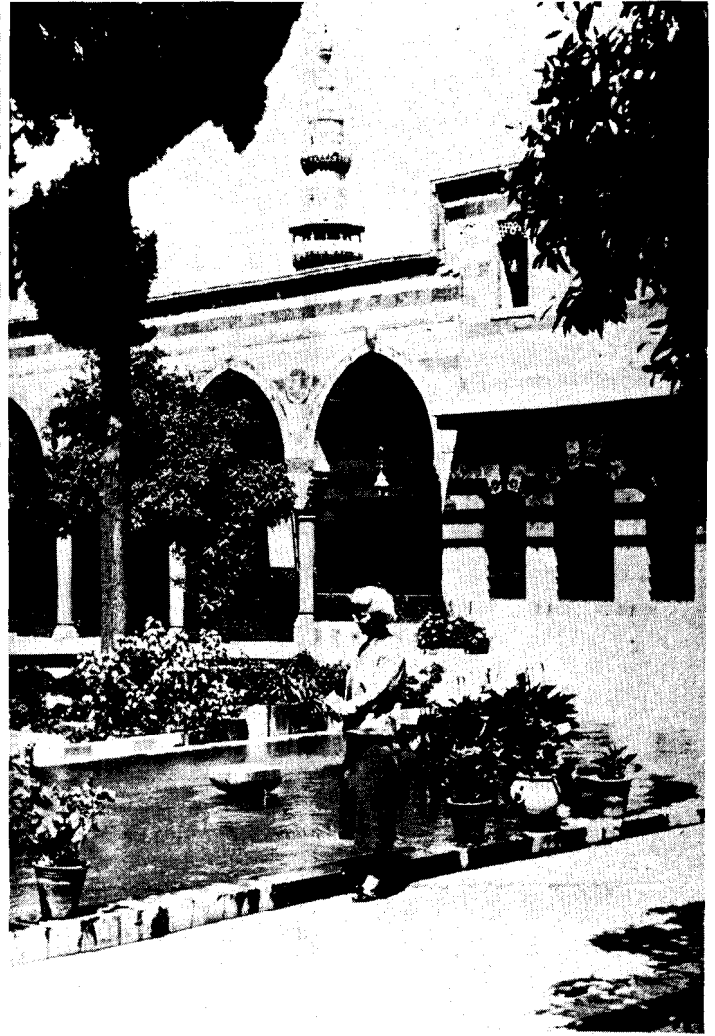
Leading off from this was a smaller, darker cave called the Confessional. It made me think of an evil bird's haunt—and if one were able to see clearly he

thing but a feeling of peace toward Americans or English. The clerks in the Hotel were sullen and very unfriendly as were those in other cities of the Middle East.

We drove by the old wall of Damascus to the possible place where Paul was let down in a basket and escaped from those who plotted to kill him. After seeing the old part of the city, we were driven up winding streets to the top of a hill. Along these high winding streets were beautiful apartment buildings where the American and English busi-



An arch of the Temple of Jupiter in Damascus. Note Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong standing in foreground.



The harem visited by Mrs. Armstrong in Damascus. The Syrian Government preserves it for public view. It once housed about 200 wives of the Sultan.

the Mediterranean Sea to the site of old Sidon and old Tyre. We found old Tyre completely gone and the city the Romans tried to rebuild on the island (now part of the mainland which Alexander joined to the mainland by filling in the channel between with the ruins and top soil of old Tyre) in complete ruin. We walked over the fallen columns and the walls or foundations of the ancient buildings excavated many years ago by the Germans. We found among the ruins pieces of shattered pottery which our guide, who lived nearby, let us take with us.

We were not able to take pictures of Tyre, for it is in a military zone and the guards on the highway leading to Tyre took our cameras until we returned from having visited the place. We were very near the Jewish soldiers' machine gun nests.

When we returned through Sidon, we stopped at what looked like, on the outside, a nice spot to eat. It was a large resort hotel on the sea shore, called "Grand Hotel de Sida." The lunch had been ordered ahead by the American Express guide who went with us from Beirut. It was *much worse* than the lunch at Baalbeck the day before. We just could not eat it!

We drove past great banana, loquat and orange groves. On our return to Beirut, as in all Middle Eastern cities, we saw the usual beautiful apartment buildings and homes. The most outstanding ones were especially near the city of Beirut.

We were so hungry when we arrived at our Hotel that we were ready to eat anything. And we did!

The evening before, when we first entered our Hotel at Beirut and asked

for mail, we found a telegram from our son-in-law, Vern Mattson—our daughter Dorothy's husband—saying that our little granddaughter had arrived and that the baby and mother were just fine. He also said that their 7-year old daughter Carol's only comment was "Shucks!" She wanted a baby brother! It was quite a relief to us. We had expected the baby a whole month before and looked every day on the ship from New York to London, and in every place we had been since then, for a cablegram. Now it had arrived and everyone was all right! We were happy and very grateful to finally receive the news.

That evening, Mr. Armstrong and Dick went down to the office of the American Express to check up on our trip for we had advanced our schedule several days.

(Please continue on next page)

Had Dick Met With Violence?

Around six o'clock, Mr. Armstrong came back to the Hotel alone. I asked where Dick was and he said that he was remaining downtown to see the city and that he would be back by 8 P.M. for dinner. Then Mr. Armstrong, worn out from the trip, took a nap.

Eight o'clock came and Dick had not come! Mr. Armstrong was still asleep. I was not worried then, but kept waiting thinking that Dick would arrive any minute. I was going to let Mr. Armstrong sleep until then.

Nine o'clock came, and ten and still there was no sign of Dick. Mr. Arm-

strong was still sleeping. By this time, I could stand it no longer. I was really worried. So I called Mr. Armstrong and told him that Dick had not come back. He was startled. Our room was directly above the hotel entrance, five floors up. He leaned out the window, looking down, and began to listen for and watch for cars as they drove up to the entrance to see if Dick were arriving by taxi. The window ledge was so wide it was difficult to stretch over it far enough to see.



A view of Karak, a walled city built by the Crusaders in their attempts to wrest Palestine from the Moslems. It is about 1000 years old.

strong was still sleeping. By this time, I could stand it no longer. I was really worried. So I called Mr. Armstrong and told him that Dick had not come back. He was startled. Our room was directly above the hotel entrance, five floors up. He leaned out the window, looking down, and began to listen for and watch for cars as they drove up to the entrance to see if Dick were arriving by taxi. The window ledge was so wide it was difficult to stretch over it far enough to see.

Around midnight, although I had had Dick paged in the lobby with no results, Mr. Armstrong walked down the five flights of stairs (the elevator was not running) to see if he could possibly be in the lobby. I had kept our room door open and had made dozens of trips to

look down the stair well for Dick, but Mr. Armstrong's trip down to the first floor was fruitless.

I had called at Dick's door, adjoining ours, a number of times and knocked, but there was no answer. I had them to ring his room but still no answer.

Mr. Armstrong finally called a bell boy to come up and let us in Dick's room. He was unable to unlock the door. By this time it was one A.M. Three bell boys came up. One came into our room and again phoned or tried to get Dick's room. Still no answer. Had Dick been attacked in down-town Beirut? Had he met with foul play or violence?

The other two men decided to walk out on the window ledge from our window to Dick's window. His room was next to ours but it was quite a distance to be walking on a window ledge five stories above the street. One fellow reached Dick's open window and yelled and came backing hurriedly into the other fellow. Both came quickly crawling back into our room saying, "There is someone in there all right! He threatened to shove me off the ledge!"

All of us with that news ran quickly down the hall to Dick's door and pounded hard on it.

It was Dick! He called out, "What's going on around here?" His father said, "Open the door Dick," and a touseled, sleepy, but startled Dick opened the

door to ask again, "What's going on?" He had come to the Hotel before 8 o'clock and had gone directly to bed. He was as tired and exhausted as his father, and so sound asleep that he knew nothing of the excitement he had caused until he saw and heard the two men at his open bedroom window standing on the ledge high above the street! Dick was startled to see a prowler peeking into his room from outside and said "Shove off!" The bellman on the ledge thought he had said "I'll shove you off!"

Prior to coming to the hotel, Dick had met a man in downtown Beirut with whom he had talked about conditions in the Middle East. This man told him that if he really wanted to know, he would take him where several men were meeting.

Dick, being an American, was not too welcome. They expressed their views and evidently Dick expressed how he felt about their views of America.

When he saw these two men at his open window late in the night, he thought for a moment they were men who had followed him from that meeting and were there to do him bodily harm. We then learned why they so hurriedly scrambled back through our window into our room. Because Dick was so suddenly roused from his sleep, he sprang up in bed and yelled, "Shove off!"

They saw that he was startled and that he sounded as if he meant business, so, like scared rabbits they tumbled back through our windows. After all the excitement was over, we finally got to bed and to sleep—but not for Dick. He said he got no more sleep the rest of the night.

How American Tourists Cause Other Nations to Hate Us

May 2, 1956.

On Wednesday morning, we went through the Museum at Beirut. All the museums in all the ancient cities are an education. Although we saw them all, the most outstanding in our memory is the Cairo Museum with its immense amount of loot taken from King Tut's tomb.

We left Beirut after lunch to fly to Amman, the capital of the kingdom of Jordan. Our plane stopped for 20 min-

utes at Jerusalem, at the filthy airport on the Arab side of the city. I really believe that in order to get rid of all the dirt they would have to burn the place down.

It is not a long flight from Jerusalem but after all the flying we had done I still gave a sigh of relief when I felt the first bump of the wheels of the plane touch the runway.

Again, an American Express agent named Yasser met us at the airport and took us to our hotel. Then came a surprise.

When we were in Baalbeck, a number of tourists were there walking over the ruins of the temples and among them was a tall, austere, gray-haired American lady with a cane, traveling alone. A guide was showing her around and with such a torrent of complaint! She scolded him because there was no railing built

on the steep stair leading to a lower level and she criticized the people of his nation and everything else she could think of. When we reached the hotel in Amman, *here was the same woman*. She came up to us and our guide and loudly complained about the staff there in the hotel. Yasser asked her what they had done to displease her. She replied they had heckled her. All the clerks were sullenly listening to her and we had felt the antagonism to Americans in a most direct manner. We noticed this in a number of places. We became quite concerned listening to her tirade, but all we could do was to walk away and leave her.

On to the Rose-red City of Rock

Yasser soon followed us and we made our plans for the next day—our longed-for trip to Petra.

Yasser told us we would leave the hotel at six in the morning by car. We went to sleep until 3 A.M. when, from the Minarets of the Mosques of the town, the Koran was read over loud—(and I mean *loud*) speakers.

Why at that time in the morning they read the Koran, I'll never know. I got no more sleep.

On our way to Petra, I asked Yasser if anyone ever listened to the reading at 3 A.M. in the morning? He said that the Koran used to be read by the Priests, but now it was on recordings and was automatically read every so often and sent out over loud-speakers from the Minarets.

We were ready to leave, with our lunches all packed, by 6 A.M. Our driver was also an Arab in robes and a cloth over his head. Yasser was dressed in a suit.

A ten-year-old Bedouin girl standing with Mrs. Armstrong in Petra. Notice the girl's herd of goats in the background.



The most beautifully carved façade of the Temple Kazneh el Firaun—which means the Treasury of Pharaoh. This is the first building that comes to view upon entering Petra through the Siq.



It was quite cool when we started out at sunrise, but as the sun grew higher it warmed up as we drove over the plains of Moab.

We drove almost due south from Amman, along the plains to the east of Mt. Nebo. This whole area east of the Dead Sea is a hilly plateau. Here the Israelites camped before entering the Promised Land. It was in this locale that King Balak ordered Balaam (Numbers 23:13) to curse the advancing Israelites and where, instead, God caused him to give them blessings rather than cursings.

I do not remember the order of all the towns through which, or around which, we passed, but all were on the ancient trail of the Israelites, where Moses, as their leader, suffered their grumbling and rebellion against God and against him.

However, one of the towns was Madaba. In this small town there was a Greek Orthodox church that was built in 1896 on the site of an ancient Byzantine church. On the floor, which was a part of the ancient church, was a map made in mosaic. It covered a large area and depicted biblical Palestine as well as the northern regions of Damascus and Byblos; Memphis and Alexandria in the south; the Mediterranean Sea in the west; and in the east were Amman and Petra. It is said to be the oldest map of Jerusalem in existence. (I believe they said it was constructed in the 6th century.) Also on the map were depicted vegetable and animal life. Among the animals shown were lions, which prove that these animals were inhabiting the region of Moab until that late date.

This land was where Moab and Amman, the sons of Lot's daughters, settled in the days of Abraham. It was so level, here, that the grain waving in the wind could be seen for miles. However, the grain fields thinned out as we neared the Wady Arnon.

Actually, the Wady Arnon is a river at the bottom of a deep canyon. As we approached the fords of Arnon by way of the flat plateau country to the north, we could not see the Arnon until we arrived at the canyon rim. It looked like the Grand Canyon as it had a sudden drop of four thousand feet.



An ancient monastery, called **ed Deir**, overlooking the Wadi Musa which means the Valley of Moses in Arabic. It is an hour's climb into the mountains from Petra.

We descended to the bottom over the narrowest winding road we had ever been on. No car could possibly have passed us.

Looking down on my side of the car it seemed as if we were in space. It was hours, it seemed, before we reached the bottom of Arnon. Yet, on that lonely barren road, which was very high and miles from an inhabited place, we would meet a lone Bedouin walking. A few miles later there was another one riding a donkey.

We had passed many Bedouin tents before we reached the fords of Arnon. All of their tents are made of black goat skins. They are open on one side, and all are surrounded with herds of black goats and camels.

We also passed many herds of camels feeding on the hillsides and along the road. Our car had to slow down to make way for them in many places.

The gorge of the Arnon, however, was barren until we reached the bottom. There we found a small stream with the most beautiful and luxuriant oleanders lining its banks. All were in full bloom. We took color pictures of them.

After a few minutes rest, we started on the long climb up the opposite side. When we reached the top, we passed through another area of green fields. Feeding in one of the fields was a flock of eight storks. We tried to get pic-

tures of them but they were startled by the car and flew away.

When I expressed how thankful I was that all that climbing was behind us now that we were on level ground, our guide informed us that we would have still another deep canyon to cross.

Between these two canyons we drove up to the ancient city of Karak to refill the gas tank of the car. It was built with adobe or mud on top of a dry, desolate, dusty hill, inside the ruins of a high ancient wall.

The agricultural lands surrounding Karak are rich and green, but the city itself, with a population of 5000, is desolate, dirty and built of stone and adobe. We saw the green trees and fields below the city and we marvelled at the choice that the people had made for their city and their homes. The guide, however, explained that the city had been built on the hill as a protection from other tribes; and that the people used to leave their homes and work in the fields, always returning to the safety of the city in the evening.

This city is the ancient city of Kir-Moab of the Bible (Isa. 15:1); also called Kir-Haresh (Isa. 16:11) and Kirheres (Jer. 48:36).

The people of the city today, seem about half Roman Catholic (or Greek Orthodox), and the rest Muslim.

We reached the bottom of the next

canyon safely, however, and found a larger stream flowing across the road. We had to drive through this one.

It was now noon and we ate our lunch under the ancient fig trees that grew along the banks. Nearby was a Bedouin camp and, as we walked up the stream to eat, there followed several children, peeking shyly from behind large boulders or trees.

Our guide handed each of us a sack which contained a sandwich of hard coarse bread with beef, also one of cheese, and one with butter. There was also an orange and a tiny banana. I gave part of my sandwiches to a little Bedouin girl, but I felt safe in eating the cheese, a hard boiled egg and the fruit. I had learned by this time to eat only what I could peel or to drink only what had been boiled.

Approaching Petra

At the small town of Shaubak built within the walls of an ancient fortress, we descended to Ain Musa (the Spring of Moses), the traditional site of the rock which Moses struck to bring forth

water for the Israelites. However this is *not* the true spot. It is merely the story of the local inhabitants. We stopped at the spring where there was a green and cool garden.

From Ain Musa the road descends to Wady Musa and to the Police station at Eljy. When we arrived we found all arrangements had been made by our guide for our horses, to ride into Petra. It was mid-afternoon when we arrived—dusty and tired. What a relief it was to leave the car and mount the horses.

Our bags were piled on a small donkey (poor thing—he was almost hidden, with luggage for four people). I wondered if he would ever make the trip, but he did—allowing only one suitcase to fall.

A bridle path leads from Eljy to the entrance of the Siq—the narrow ravine leading into Petra. It was rough going over rocks and rills to the Siq. Then we entered the winding path of the ravine itself. It is a dry stream bed of rocks and boulders with sheer cliffs of 200 to 300 feet in height on each side. At no place in the ravine is it wider than ten or

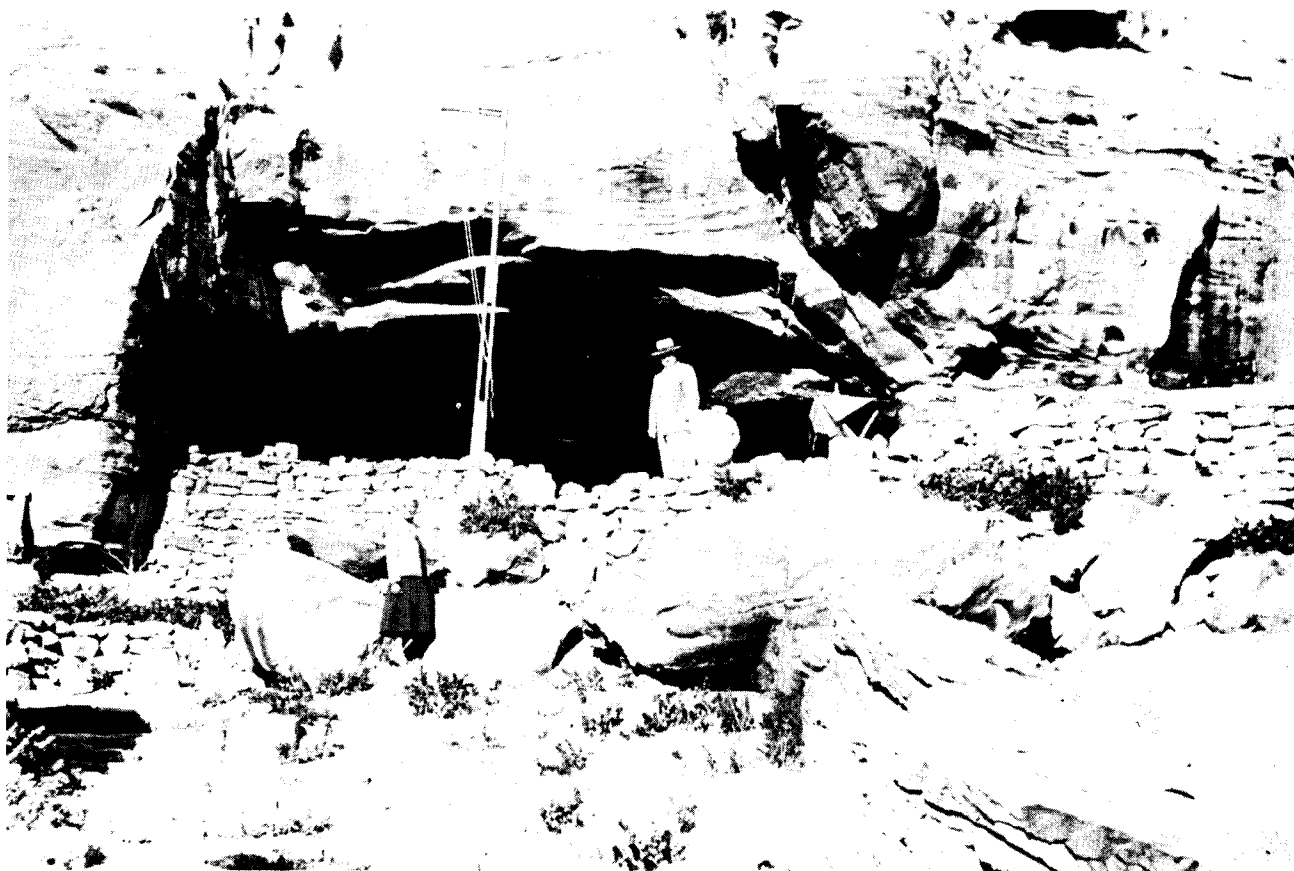
twelve feet. The walls are of fantastic shapes and colors and in places appear almost to meet high above. We often brushed by oleanders in full bloom growing in the Siq in every crevice. It was such an inspiring and interesting trip through the Siq. My horse stumbled several times and I lost my hat a time or two but it was recovered by the Arab boy who led my horse. We had to go single file all the way and the little overloaded donkey plodded along behind.

It is impossible to express the feeling that one receives from going on the trip to Petra. It was a different world altogether—as if someone had turned back thousands of years and we were living in history.

Suddenly we came to the end of the narrow part of the Siq and there before us, carved out of the mountain side, was the immense Kahzneh—a temple to Isis (Easter). It is called the Treasury of Pharaoh by the local people, and is the best preserved temple in Petra. Some believe that it was hewn out of the rock by some Nabataean King.

As we passed the Kahzneh, the val-

The campsite of Mr. and Mrs. Armstrong and Dick in Petra. It is a cave of immense proportion hewn out of solid rock.



ley widens a little with great tombs or caves on either side. Further, on the left, were the remains of an ancient theatre—a sort of amphitheatre cut out of the mountain side. There were half-circular rows of stone seats for the audience. We could see how the Romans had sliced away many tombs in constructing this amphitheatre.

From here on the valley widens and we soon saw the ruins lining an ancient paved street. As we started to go north on this street I could hardly help but think of some of the history of this great city.

This was the ancient city of the family of Esau and later of the Nabataeans. Five hundred years before Christ, this place, now in ruins, was occupied and was a hustling, thriving city. Then came the Romans who built some of the buildings and constructed some paved streets. (One of these streets we later walked on.)

Along the way we saw the walls of the only real building standing in Petra. It was formerly a Roman Temple to a pagan god. We also viewed hundreds and hundreds of caves and façades of temples carved out of the mountains, but not a one of them could be called a building.

As we came to the north end of the ancient street, we saw many white tents. It was a camp for tourists that was called Nazzal's Camp. In the center was a large dining tent. On the north side of the camp and sheltering it is the great rock mountain el Habis. The whole side of this mountain is dotted with caves.

We had the choice of a tent or a cave in which to sleep. Because a cold stiff wind was blowing we chose the shelter of one of the caves. It looked as if the tents would not be able to stand in the wind. So we climbed up a stairway cut in the side of the mountain to a large cave. It was sectioned off into rooms by canvas sheets. There were two cots in each section and a large room in the center space.

I was so thoroughly chilled that I went right to bed. Soon, though, I found that I had to get up and put on part of my clothes and call for an extra blanket.

The Arabs cooked for the other guests

in a cave below our tier of caves and served the food in the dining tent. I had learned by this time *not* to eat, so I tacitly ate an orange that our guide had given me before and then went to bed. With hunger and cold I began to see that Petra was no bed of roses but a place to really *rough* it.

I had gone to bed quite early and despite the hunger and cold was sound asleep when suddenly I was awakened by a crowd of twenty-eight people that had just arrived from Eljy who had come into the cave to hear a lecture by an English woman archeologist who was here from the English Antiquities Society. She, with a number of Bedouins, were carrying on excavations in Petra. It seems it was too cold in the dining tent to hear the lecture so she brought them to the large cave where we were. It must have been after ten o'clock when she completed the lecture and all was quiet in the cave again.

Soon after everything had settled down, I heard other occupants of the cave, including my husband, Dick and our guide, come in and go to their cots. Once more quietness prevailed until all but I in the cave were sound asleep.

Suddenly I was startled by frightening sounds. A number of dogs began barking which startled a number of donkeys so that they began to bray. That, then, started the jackals and the hyennas to yelping and screaming. I never heard such bedlam before. I was certainly thankful that I was in the cave and not in a tent.

Next morning I learned that the animals were scattered over Petra and not near the camp. In fact, as we walked throughout Petra, we saw none of them save the donkeys.

After having tea and an orange, we started the climb to Petra's famous "high altar." We began the climb behind the ruins of the ancient Roman temple.

Soon we came across a little Bedouin girl about ten years old, herding a flock of black goats. I gave her some money to have her stand beside me and have her picture taken. She was dressed in black robes with a piece of black cloth over her head, a ring in her nose, beads around her neck and bracelets on her arms. All were made of cheap materials.

After she had stood for her picture, she called in an ordinary tone of voice to someone way across the valley, and in her Arabic tongue told them of the coin she had received. The incredible acoustics of Petra carried her voice as if by a super loudspeaker. She held her hand high, with the coin, to show it as she called. I am sure that their sight is not as clear in Petra as the sound, for many of the Bedouins have diseased eyes. But we were amazed at being able to hear sounds so clearly over great distances.

One evening Dick was across from our cave on another hilltop quite a distance from us. Mr. Armstrong tried out the carrying power of his voice and in a quiet tone asked, "Can you hear me, Dick?" Dick answered, "Very clearly."

There are very few of these Bedouins in Petra. Children were more in evidence than adults. They are the ones that herd the black goats over the hills and even up the sides of the mountains. We were surprised to see them no more than nine or ten years old skipping around from rock to rock on a steep mountain side as nimble, almost, as the goats.

After getting the little Bedouin girl's picture, we continued on our climb to the "high altar." The going became more difficult and we had to stop and rest often. It was quite frightening to look down and we began to wonder whether to go on further. Our guide told us that it would be dangerous to try to descend now. He said if we would just keep climbing we could go down on the other side of the mountain. The climb was difficult. In some places we had to crawl on all fours.

As we ascended, we came face to face with a sculptured lion cut in the face of the rock. We rested here and took pictures of this beast which had been carved out of the stone many centuries ago. It was not in the best of condition for the weather had almost erased his head.

At last we reached the top. Here were two giant obelisks. They had been made by hewing away of the whole top of the summit of the hill. These were two of the gods of the ancient Nabataeans.

(Please continue on page 23)

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

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

What Should a Lay Member Do Toward Spreading the Gospel?

Most people, when they are converted, feel it their responsibility to argue their friends, neighbors and relatives into conversion. Others want to preach.

YOU CANNOT ARGUE OR TALK ANYONE INTO CONVERSION! The best way to bring another to conversion is to quit talking with that person and pray to God instead! It is the responsibility of the ministry to preach the gospel to the world. If anyone in the world does not want to listen, he can close his mind and turn from the truth. God does not force him to listen.

The responsibility of lay members is to set a good example before the world, and before their relatives and friends. That is the way you can influence other people most. Notice I Peter 3:1-2: "Likewise you wives, *be submissive* to your husbands, so that some, though they do not obey the Word, may be won *without a word* by the behavior of their wives" (RSV).

Here is the instruction of an apostle of Jesus Christ. Wives, influence your husband by deeds, NOT WORDS. Do not try to argue your mates—or anyone else—into conversion. That will only drive them further away from the truth. Set them the right example by living by every word of God, by being *submissive* to your husbands, instead of trying to dominate them. This is the greatest mistake most women make. And husbands ought to *love* their wives and be considerate of them, but not force them to be converted. That never works. The

time to speak is when another *asks you* a question. "Conduct yourselves wisely toward outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious"—not argumentative—"so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone" (Col. 4:5-6, RSV)

Lay members first ought to, above all things, be able to set a good example, be able to *answer* questions when asked, pray for others, pray for the ministry, and pay their tithes and offerings. That is their duty.

Should a Minister be called "Reverend?"

Many readers continue to write Mr. Armstrong, addressing him as "Reverend." THIS SHOULD NOT BE! Let us understand how and when it became the custom to give ministers this title.

The word "reverend" is applied only to God in the Bible—it is *not once* applied to man. In Psalm 111:9 we read: ". . . He [God] has commanded his covenant forever; holy and REVEREND is HIS NAME." Another translation renders it: "Holy and awful"—that is, "full of awe," "worthy of worship"—"is his name."

God alone has a *name* which may properly be addressed as "Reverend." No man will have such a name until born again in the resurrection. No minister has a name which is worthy of reverence or worship.

You cannot find one place in all the New Testament where Paul, Peter, James, John—or any other minister—were ever addressed as "Reverend." If we follow the Bible example—which we

are commanded to do—then we ought not ever use the title "Reverend" for any minister. (See also Mat. 23:9.) Since many ministers of this world's religions would take offense were you not to give them some title, you may properly address them as "Pastor," or "Elder," or "Evangelist," or "Bishop," depending on what office they hold. These are proper titles of office given in the New Testament. They may be applied—out of respect—to ministers, whether or not those ministers are serving the true God.

The use of titles such as "Reverend" began when the great apostasy set in the Church at the close of the first century. Ministers put themselves "*in the place of Christ.*" Hence they took upon themselves the attributes and titles of divinity. God's ministers have never done so.

Another MARTYRDOM?

(Continued from page 6)

fore the "Day of the Lord." They are two different events—two different periods of time!

Tribulation ALSO a National Captivity

Here is what very few understand. The GREAT tribulation is not the result of internal religious persecution conducted by the English-speaking world on Christians. It is a result of a foreign invasion—a captivity of our English-speaking people in World War III! The Gentile-fascist power that takes us captive will be dominated by a great religious system. That religious-political system will persecute our peoples nationally and martyr those Christians who are not accounted worthy to escape the tribulation.

Luke's description in the Moffatt translation makes this very clear: "For sore anguish will come *upon the land* and wrath on this people"—Satan's wrath on the people of our nations—"they will fall by the edge of the sword, they will be carried prisoners to all nations"—in World War III—"and Jerusalem will be under the heel of the Gentiles TILL the Times of the Gentiles expire" (Luke 21:23-24).

It is a time of national captivity—of

which the Roman conquest of Judah in 70 A.D. was merely a *forerunner*. If you have not yet learned our national identity—the proof that our people are included in this prophecy—write today for Mr. Armstrong's free, and revealing booklets "The UNITED STATES and the BRITISH COMMONWEALTH in Prophecy" and "1975 in Prophecy!" which explain this part of these prophecies fully.

Remember that the tribulation is a time of trouble such as has never occurred, nor will it ever occur again. Now turn to Jeremiah 30:4-7: "These are the words which the Lord spoke concerning *Israel*"—the so-called "lost ten tribes"—and *Judah*: "Thus says the Lord: We have heard a cry of panic, of terror, and no peace . . . Alas! that day is so great *there is NONE LIKE IT*; it

is a time of distress for Jacob'"—a time of Jacob's troubles.

Here is also a time of trouble such that no other compares to it. There could not be two different times of persecution each greater than the other. They must be the same time of trouble. The times of Jacob's or Israel's trouble—the national captivity of the English-speaking world—must also be the time of the GREAT tribulation on Christians!

The same powers, now secretly plotting in Europe, that have persecuted Christians in ages past are about to emerge as the conquerors of our democratic civilization and of true Christianity! This religious-fascist power is even using our American sponsored Radio Free Europe to promote the last revival of a ten-nation restored Holy

Roman Empire! This fact was revealed in "Facts Forum News," March, 1956, page 45!

It is time we awaken to what is happening about us!

Though Jesus prophesied that Christians would be persecuted in a coming great tribulation, HE ALSO SAID THERE IS A WAY OF ESCAPE!

"But watch," said Jesus, "and pray always that ye be accounted worthy *to escape all these things that shall come to pass*, and to stand before the Son of man." (Luke 21:36). You can escape all the troubles soon to fall on a heedless world—but *you must watch world events and pray!*

Jesus repeated this same promise to His Church today: "Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will

These bones are the result of a single day's killing at the Buchenwald concentration camp. It is going to happen again—only on a far more horrifying scale!

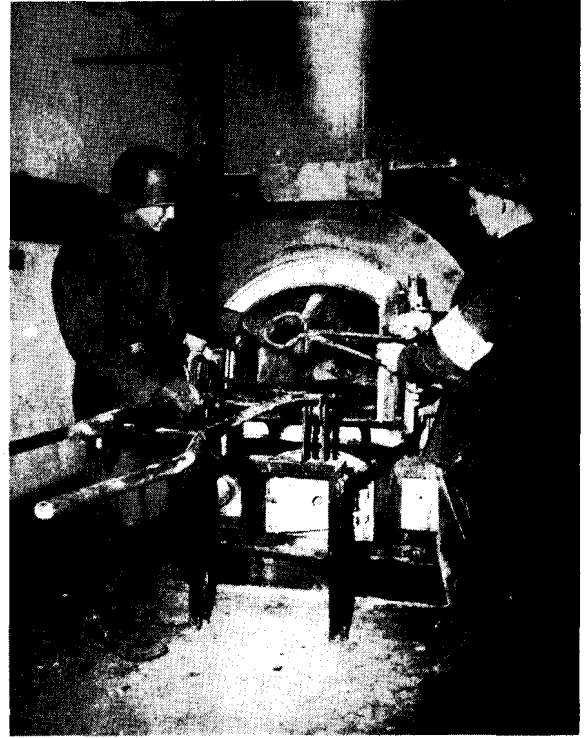
—Wide World Photo





These are urns for holding the ashes of those cremated.

—Wide World Photo



Cremation was used extensively by Nazis because of the lack of space for graves.

—Wide World Photo

keep thee from the hour of trial"—the tribulation and events that follow—"which is to come upon the whole inhabited earth to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

But how and where are the Christians who watch and pray going to escape? Turn to the 12th chapter of Revelation. Here we find the answer!

Here we find the true Church—the Church of God—pictured. A woman, remember, is the symbol of a Church (II Cor. 11:2). This chapter pictures the true Church, whereas the 17th chapter of Revelation pictures the false churches—a mother church and her daughter churches. Notice verse 6 of chapter 12. In the tribulation during the Middle Ages "the woman (the true Church) fled into the wilderness, where she hath there a place prepared of God." That tribulation is merely a type of the coming great tribulation—a time of trouble of such magnitude as has never occurred on earth before. Now turn to verse 13:

"And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman"—this is the persecution that is yet in the future, a persecution that is being secretly planned at this very moment! How

does the Church escape? "And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman that she should fly TO THE WILDERNESS to her place" for 3½ years.

The Church is NOT taken to heaven, but to the *wilderness*—to a desert region *here on earth*. "And the *earth* helped the woman" (Rev. 12:13-16).

Could anything be plainer? It is time you open your eyes to what's coming. Unless you do, YOU AND MILLIONS WITH YOU ARE PLUNGING STRAIGHT FOR THE MOST FIENDISH, DIABOLICAL TIME OF TORTURE EVER INSTITUTED BY MAN! IT IS NOW BEING PLANNED! There is only one way of escape—"Watch world events and pray constantly."

Just What IS the KINGDOM OF GOD?

(Continued from page 8)

the power of God. For in the Resurrection they neither marry, nor are given in marriage, *but are as the angels of God in heaven.*" (Mark 12:25).

Angels are SPIRIT BEINGS (Heb. 1:7) and are not capable of marrying or reproducing. That which is *spiritual* is

eternal—and Christ said WE will be LIKE the angels in the kingdom of God.

A Re-Birth

When Nicodemus came to Christ privately, after dark, Jesus explained the *condition* of those who are finally REBORN into His kingdom. "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, except a man be BORN AGAIN, *he cannot see the kingdom of God.*" (John 3:3). Christ went on to explain: "Except a man be BORN of water, and of the SPIRIT, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." (v. 5).

Before anyone may enter the kingdom of God, he must be REBORN, of the SPIRIT!

ONLY ONE PERSON HAS BEEN BORN OF THE SPIRIT AT THIS TIME!

That One is Christ!

"That which is BORN of the FLESH IS FLESH, and that which is BORN of the spirit IS SPIRIT!" Many who believe they have had a "born again" experience can perform a simple test to PROVE whether or not they have actually been BORN OF THE SPIRIT! (vs. 6). Can such persons be SEEN? Are they VISIBLE? Do they still have BLOOD in their veins?

CERTAINLY!

Remember! That which is BORN of

the Spirit *IS*—they *are* literally COMPOSED of—SPIRIT!

But Christians today are still FLESH—BORN OF THE FLESH—FLESHLY, PHYSICAL, HUMAN BEINGS!

But that which is BORN of the Spirit will be just as the *wind* is, INVISIBLE! Notice verse 8, "The wind bloweth where it listeth, and you hear the sound there of, but cannot tell whence it comes, and where it goes: *SO IS EVERYONE THAT IS BORN OF THE SPIRIT!* They will be INVISIBLE to the natural human eye—just as WIND is invisible!

The Church is NOT the kingdom of God! The British Empire is NOT the kingdom of God! "Now this I say brethren, that FLESH AND BLOOD *cannot inherit* the kingdom of God; neither does corruption inherit incorruption." (I Cor. 15:50). The physical, fleshly people of Great Britain are HUMAN beings, and so cannot inherit the kingdom of God so long as they are human! The Church is composed of HUMAN beings, and so has not as yet INHERITED the kingdom of God!

The kingdom will be composed of those who are BORN of God, just as Christ was BORN of God, either by a *resurrection*, or by an immediate CHANGE at the second coming of Christ (I Cor. 15:51-52). They will be no longer human, but now CHANGED—transformed INTO spirit! Jesus Christ is the FIRSTBORN of MANY BRETHREN! (Rom. 8:29; Col. 1:18, I Cor. 15:20).

Those who will be BORN of God, who will be finally CHANGED into spirit beings, will be a part of the actual *governing agency*—co-rulers *with* Christ. (Rev. 20:4). The subjects, or those being governed, will be physical, carnal nations on this earth! Notice again Zech. 14:16-19. God will send *plagues* to chastize those physical, carnal nations who do not want to OBEY His immutable laws! The scripture already quoted from Micah the 4th chapter shows God's KINGDOM which is COMPOSED of those who will be BORN of God, actually doing the RULING OVER the nations of this earth, who are physical, *human beings*! "And many NATIONS shall say, Come, and let us go up to the mountain (nation, or kingdom) of the LORD . . ." God shows through Isaiah that the INHABITANTS, or the *citizens* of the earth shall be scat-

tered abroad, and, although He will furiously punish the inhabitants of the earth for their sins, there will be a FEW MEN LEFT to repopulate the earth in the 1000 years. (Isa. 24: 1, 5-6).

A Job to be Done

When God's literal kingdom is established, those who are co-rulers *with* Christ will be instrumental in TEACHING all nations the correct WAY TO LIVE. Notice Isaiah 2:2-4, "And it shall come to pass *in the last days*, that the mountain (kingdom) of the Eternal's house shall be established in the top of the mountains (earthly kingdoms) and shall be exalted above the hills; and *all nations* shall flow unto it."

"And many *people* shall go and say, Come ye, and let us go up to the mountain of the house of the LORD, to the house of the God of Jacob, and He will *teach us HIS WAYS . . .*" (vs. 3). God's government will then be ENFORCED on those who still choose to be disobedient! "And He shall JUDGE among the nations, and shall rebuke many PEOPLE, and they shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks, nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war any more."

Whenever physical, sinning people begin to turn out of the WAY of God, those who are in the very kingdom of God WITH Christ will say, from their INVISIBLE vantage point, "THIS IS THE WAY—WALK YE IN IT." (Isa. 30:21).

Laws and a Form of Government

God's kingdom will be a world-ruling governing kingdom, set above the kingdoms of THIS earth, judging and carrying out the RIGHTEOUSNESS of God! God's government is accomplished through HIS LAWS! God *alone* is LAW-GIVER! (James 4:12).

God's immutable laws, summed up in the ten commandments, STAND FAST *for ever and ever!* (Psalms 111:8). Jesus Christ was a living example of God's laws—and taught that man is to live by "*every word* of God." (Mat. 4:4). Jesus set us the perfect example, that we should follow in HIS steps (I Pet. 2:21).

Since Jesus Christ is the SAME *yesterday, today and forever*, He will be KEEPING the Ten Commandments of

God within YOU and within ME just as He kept them within the Apostle Paul! (Gal. 2:20). "I am crucified with Christ, nevertheless I live, yet not I, but CHRIST LIVETH IN ME . . ."

Paul also wrote that God's law is SPIRITUAL (Rom. 7:14). He said that HE SERVED the law of God with his mind, with his volition, his will-power! (Rom. 7:25). When a young man came to Jesus Christ and asked him the way to eternal life, Christ turned to him and said, "KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS!" (Mat. 19:17).

The only ones who will finally *inherit* eternal life, who will be BORN of God, are those that have a contrite spirit, and TREMBLE at God's word! (Isa. 66:2). The keynote of the entire Bible from cover to cover is OBEDIENCE to God's laws! God's method of governing is through His perfect laws, which express, in the first four points, HOW to love God—and in the last six, HOW to love your neighbor! John tells us if we PROFESS we *know Christ*, and yet do not KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, we are LIARS, and the truth is not IN us! (I John 2:4).

Solomon, in his excellent wisdom, summed up the matter when he wrote, "Let us hear the conclusion of the whole matter: FEAR GOD, and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS, for *this is the whole man.*" (Eccl. 12:13).

God's kingdom, His own FAMILY of persons who will have been BORN *into* that God FAMILY by a resurrection or by being CHANGED while yet alive, will RULE WITH CHRIST *on this earth*. The LAWS with which they will rule will be the SAME laws God instituted at creation! For God says, "I CHANGE NOT!" (Mal. 3:6). HOW PLAIN!

And what glorious, GOOD NEWS! God is going to STEP IN, He will soon *intervene* in His almighty POWER to SAVE man from his wretchedness, his poverty and crime, his total degradation and degeneracy! The kingdom of God will NOT be a teetering, disease-ridden, chaotic system set up by MAN.

Instead, it will be the PERFECT, joyous, happy, UTOPIA OF THE WORLD TOMORROW—the time of GOD'S RULE ON THIS EARTH! God grant that YOU will strive with *all your heart* to qualify as a citizen of this soon-coming kingdom!

Mrs. Armstrong's Diary

(Continued from page 18)

Ascending to another high point we came to the ruins of a temple situated high above the whole rock city of Petra. A wonderful view!

Yet still higher up was the "high altar." By this time Mr. Armstrong and I were perfectly willing to sit and rest by the temple ruins and let Dick and Yassar, our guide, who had been with us all the trip, and the native Bedouin guide, go on up to the "high altar."

The "high altar" is a platform with an altar hewn out of the rock. It is forty-seven feet by twenty-one feet. On one side, a bench was cut in the rock for those who brought their sacrifices.

As we sat on the mountain-top, we looked across to a mountain called Jabel Haroun—on the top of which Aaron, according to tradition, is buried.

When Dick and Yassar and the Bedouin rejoined us, we started our precarious descent downward. The going was not too difficult, that is, until we came to a large boulder much taller than any of us, down which we had to go. The Bedouin hopped down to a ledge below. Yassar, too, hopped down but not too easily—the Bedouin had to help him. There was not too much room left for us on the ledge, but I was finally lifted down by the two of them and was placed at a little distance away. Now the problem was, how was Mr. Armstrong going to get down?

On the sheer side of the rock there was nothing to hold on to. If he slid down and did not land on the narrow ledge, he would fall a great distance. Dick had gone on far ahead of us. We called to him but he was too far below to return. Finally, the Bedouin bent his back and encouraged Mr. Armstrong to step on him. Yassar stood near to steady him. We spent some time getting out of this predicament and were very thankful when we got out without accident.

The descent was not so difficult from this point.

Dick had waited for us and we stopped often to view the city of caves,

temples and tombs. Far across we could see Bedouin children here and there with their herds of black goats. We marveled at their ability to climb around on the steep places with seemingly no difficulty at all, while we had to be so careful.

We continued down, finally coming to a narrow stairway hewn out of the rock. Here we saw and photographed an exquisite blue lizard with the most beautiful amber eyes. I hope that the picture comes out good.

We finally emerged near the Roman theatre and then walked back to camp.

Dick explored much more of Petra than we did—at least in the higher mountains. One mountain climb was enough for us.

We spent the afternoon in the lower hills, photographing a number of the colorful natural caves as well as many that were man-made.

We were rather weak from lack of food, most of our stay in Petra. We drank tea because the water had been boiled. Perhaps the water as it came from the spring was good, but it was brought to camp in square tin cans slung over the back of a donkey that was led by a very dirty Bedouin.

We could not see far into the "kitchen" cave, but what we saw did not look too clean. However, Mr. Armstrong and Dick both ate dinner. I stuck to the tea and as a result spent the next night in wakefulness. Even without the tea I would have not been able to sleep because the same bedlam of the night before broke loose. The blood curdling sounds of wild animals seemed to continue for hours.

Early the next morning, we arose and found that our horses had already arrived from Eljy and along with them had come our faithful little pack donkey.

We left the camp before sun up and soon reached the Khazneh. It was still too dark to take pictures so we waited until the sun began to shine on the marvelous carved temple. We obtained some clear pictures of it.

Once more we mounted our horses and bade farewell to Petra. We rode single file through the Siq on our way back to civilization—that is, Arabic Civilization.

(To be continued next issue)

Heart to Heart Talk with the Editor

(Continued from page 2)

have on hand the money to pay for. If you do not have the money, and the thing is a NEED, do not unnecessarily charge it or go in debt—but ask GOD to supply the need, TRUST Him, and deny yourself until He does!

No one can deny that the Bible definitely PROMISES that God will deliver us from every trial and trouble. The Scriptures definitely promises that God will supply every NEED—whether financial, spiritual, or otherwise. The Word plainly and definitely promises God will heal us when sick. Then why are our prayers for financial things unanswered in so many cases? It may be because we ask amiss (Jas. 4:3), and not according to God's will as plainly expressed in His Word. The first thing to do is be sure we are asking what God has PROMISED to do.

It may be that we are not obedient to God, and He is trying to teach us a lesson. If we refuse to live by EVERY Word of God, rejecting part of the TRUTH of the Bible, we are living in rebellion and need expect nothing from God till we surrender. "Whatsoever we ask we receive of Him, *because we keep His Commandments*, and DO those things that are pleasing in His sight." (I John 3:22).

But more often it is simply UNBELIEF, lack of FAITH. Whatsoever is not of FAITH is of SIN. He that doubteth is damned. "Let him ask in FAITH, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth . . . *let not that man think that he shall receive anything of the Lord.*" (Jas. 2:6,7).

WHY this general lack of faith? It is almost impossible implicitly to trust anyone, or anything which seems unreal to us.

The more we live in the things of this world, allow them to occupy our thoughts, absorb our interests, and become part of our lives, the more REAL these material things seem to us—and in exact proportion the more UNREAL God and the spiritual things seem.

Most people do not KNOW God. To KNOW Him is to TRUST Him. The more

we LIVE in the spiritual realm, the more our thoughts are filled with the things of God as found in His Word, the more we PRAY, the more we WALK in the Spirit, the more we can trust Him! If your faith is weak, probably this is the secret of it.

The remedy: Come OUT from the world—all the way. Seek only GOD's will. Spend much more time in honest Bible study and earnest prayer. Read and study Jas. 4:7,8, and Mat. 6:33.

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

Ten Commandments Nailed to the Cross?

(Continued from page 10)

the Law been abolished. And certainly he did not consider it abolished when he wrote, in the 12th verse of the chapter above quoted, "Wherefore the law is holy, and the commandment holy, and just, and good." And the idea that the Ten Commandments were abolished is emphatically rejected in Romans 3:31—written in A.D. 56, long after the crucifixion!—"DO WE THEN MAKE VOID THE LAW THRU FAITH? GOD FORBID: YEA, WE ESTABLISH THE LAW."

In Romans 8:4, Paul, in making it plain that the New Testament church is to fulfill the righteousness of the law—that is, right doing ordained by the law—says: "That the righteousness of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not after the flesh, but after the spirit." It is THRU the spirit that Christians are to observe the law, and not thru Mosaic ordinances, which were abolished.

Still later, in A.D. 60, writing to the Ephesians, Paul said (Eph. 6:1-3), "Children, obey your parents in the Lord: for this is right. Honor thy father and mother; which is the first commandment with promise; that it may be well with thee, and thou mayest live long on the earth." Thus another of the Commandments is named, preached, and represented as offering a promise if observed, by the apostle Paul in A.D. 60. Paul could not have written that had the Law been abolished.

That ought to establish the fact that the apostles did not abolish the Ten Commandments, or understand them to be abolished. But, on the other hand, the apostles did understand that the typical rituals—the physical "works" of the law of Moses—were nailed to the Cross!

Now let us examine one special passage, to see whether it contradicts those already quoted.

We will examine Acts 15:23-24. It says, "The apostles and elders and brethren send greeting unto the brethren which are of the Gentiles in Antioch and Syria and Cilicia: Forasmuch as we have

heard that certain which went out from us have troubled you with words, subverting your souls, saying, Ye must be circumcised and keep the law: to whom we gave no such commandment."

Certainly here is one law which was not in effect. But WHICH law? Why, as the passage says, the law of physical ordinances—the law which included *circumcision*! The 22nd verse indicates the message quoted was written by Paul and Barnabas, and it was written in A.D. 49—years before its co-author, Paul, distinctly wrote that the Ten Commandment Law was NOT void.

Certainly the Mosaic laws of ordinances and sacrifices were nailed to the cross and abolished. The reason for this is quite evident. Christ's example, faith, sacrifice, and the Holy Spirit, gave us a far superior aid and help and atonement. There could be no further possible need of that law of ordinances and sacrifices. That is REASONABLE.

But can you think of any REASON under the sun for doing away with the Law which defines sin—the Law which establishes our relation to God and to our fellow-men? Can you think of any sane reason for abolishing the Law which says "Thou shalt have no other Gods before me"—"Thou shalt not kill"—"Thou shalt not commit adultery"—"Thou shalt not steal"—"Thou shalt not covet?" Are THOSE laws out-of-date, obsolete, unnecessary?

No, there is no sane REASON for abolishing them, and there is nowhere in the Bible a passage of Scripture which clearly says THOSE laws were abolished. Not a single passage that names a single Commandment, or anything associated with one of the Commandments, says that the spiritual Law was abolished.

The laws abolished were the carnal, physical laws associated with sacrifices and offerings which were reminders of sin to teach the habit of obedience. Now we have the *Spirit of God* to enable us to form the habit of obedience. As Paul said: "For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the DOERS OF THE LAW shall be justified" (Rom. 2:13). Salvation, like national citizenship, is a free gift, BUT IT GOES ONLY TO THOSE WHO ARE WILLING TO BE LAW-ABIDING MEMBERS OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD.