

*the*  
**PLAIN TRUTH**  
*a magazine of understanding*

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VOLUME XXIII, NUMBER 9

SEPTEMBER, 1958

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**AMERICAN TROOPS LAND IN LEBANON**

Led by a tank, a column of United States Marine amphibious vehicles makes way toward Beirut, capital of Lebanon. They occupied the harbor area and the city's airport. The troops were called into Lebanon by that country's retiring President, Chamoun, in order to protect the Lebanon's independence. The landings touched off bitter debate among the nations. Read in this issue what's behind the present Arab Crisis!

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VOL. XXIII

NO. 9

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**Letters to the Editor  
 from the British Isles—**

“Dear Mr. Armstrong:

“I heard your son, on the Radio on Monday. He just spoke like you, straight from the heart, and such Bible truths. I’ve never met a true Christian or talked to one. I know they’re on earth somewhere, for Christ said it would be but a small group. In my heart, I hope to find it by your Radio programmes, and your Bible course. I’ve found out things I never thought were in the Bible. Someday soon, I pray God willing, I’ll find my way into your personal fellowship and to Christ, and the Father. God bless your ministry. May it bring more to the fold.”

Man from Lancashire

“To be honest I could have revolted at first, but I confess that what you say is found in the Bible . . . Already some of our folk know there is a change in my ministry. Send me anything that will help me, I do want to preach the truth and live it.”

Pastor from Notts, England

*Editor’s Comment: Here is a man of courage. May God strengthen him!*

“Dear Mr. Armstrong:

“Just a few lines, to say, how I enjoyed listening to you on Monday night, how I enjoy our meeting on the air every week. Some day, I’ll meet you all in person, because I believe it’s God’s way . . . Keep shouting the Truth and proclaim the Kingdom of God . . .”

Man from Manchester

“I listened to your programme on Radio Luxembourg, and though being previously a sceptic I was most convinced by your arguments.”

Man from Glasgow

“Thank you for the magazine the ‘Plain Truth.’ It certainly is the plain truth.”

Woman from Birmingham

“My aunt gets your magazine every month, the Plain Truth (she lives in the same house with me). I read it and I put down all other magazines when I get hold of it and can’t put it down until I have read it right through. I think it is the most interesting magazine I have ever read.”

Man from Dublin, Ireland

“Enclosed I send cheque . . . being part of my tithes, as explained in Plain Truth. Although I have attended church services regularly for over sixty years, I was unaware of this law.”

Woman from Port St. Mary

“I have been much blest by The PLAIN TRUTH. It certainly lives up to its name, and has opened my eyes to much which was a mystery.”

Woman from Yorks

“Thank you very much for introducing to me ‘The PLAIN TRUTH.’ I have never seen anything like it before, and I am really looking forward to every issue.”

Man from Edinburgh, Scotland

“Through a very kind friend who loaned me a copy of ‘Plain Truth’ magazine, I was greatly blessed by the prophetic and gospel message within its pages and the varied topics of interest so much so that I would be grateful to receive further copies of your inspired

magazine, also particulars of the Ambassador College Bible Correspondence Course. The Lord bless you in your labour. Thanking you in anticipation.”

Man from Belfast, N. Ireland

“I enjoy listening to your broadcasts, also reading the Plain Truth magazines and your Bible course. They are all so different, so full of meaning. You know it must be a fact and unlike other religious teachings, they never contradict themselves.”

Man from Co. Antrim, N. Ireland

“Please accept my thanks for so faithfully sending ‘The PLAIN TRUTH’ and ‘Bible Correspondence Course.’ They are making the Bible a new and up to the minute Guide Book to me.”

Man from Edinburgh, Scotland

**Letters from the United States**

Cancer gone

“Dear Mr. Armstrong:

“We received your letter and the prayer cloth. I used it according to your instruction. In just a few days my wife’s cancer was gone. Oh how I thank God for His wonderful goodness and mighty power. I had grieved a lot over her being afflicted with cancer as I love my wife as any man should. How I do thank you for being a man that God can use in this way. I had been thinking that surely there was someone on earth that God could use as He did the apostle Paul. May God help and bless you and yours in this wonderful work.”

Man from Oldfort, Tennessee

We thought we knew the Bible

“We received the booklets ‘What Kind of Faith is Required for Salvation?’ and ‘Why Were You Born?’ and ‘All About Water Baptism.’ They are so inspiring. We do not have a Bible but we sure are going to get one. That’s why your booklets help us so much. We thought we knew the Bible as well as God and the Lord Jesus . . . Thank you and may God bless you and your wonderful work.”

Man and Wife from Boulder, Colorado.

*Editor’s Comment: We certainly hope that these people will really prove what they read by purchasing the Bible.*

# What's Behind the ARAB CRISIS?

Unseen forces are at work undercover in the Middle East! Here is what prophecy says about the startling turn of events that led to American and British intervention in Lebanon and Jordan.

by Herman L. Hoeh

THE PRO-WESTERN King Faisal of Iraq has been murdered. American troops have landed in Lebanon. British troops have descended on Jordan. A summit meeting has been scheduled.

These are the *visible* signs of unrest.

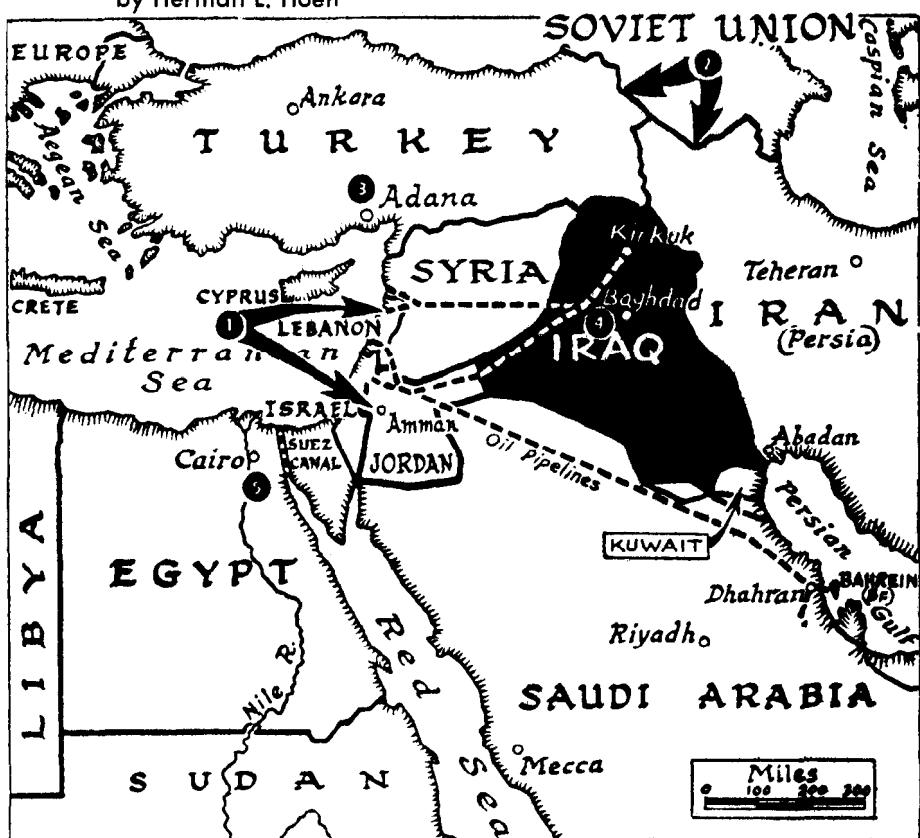
But there are *invisible* forces at work in the Middle East. These forces have begun to come out in the open in the Iraq crisis. Their spokesman is Captain Ali Din, a small, intense army man who has been assigned to the Baghdad Radio as *propaganda* officer.

## It Began 17 Years Ago!

Captain Ali Din is one of several men who have finally succeeded in regaining power in Iraq after 17 years of underground activity! The story behind the present Iraq revolt goes back to 1941—years before Nasser ever thought of making himself Egypt's modern "pharaoh." In 1941, pro-Nazi Iraqi leaders were ousted by a British-engineered revolt during World War II. Iraq was barely saved from German clutches.

For 17 long years the ousted leaders have plotted secretly, underground, to return to power. The plot finally succeeded with the assassination of Iraq's pro-Western King Faisal. Immediately the Iraqi Government extended cordial overtures to the West German Government. Now German dreams of controlling the Arab world—momentarily dashed at the end of World War II—are blossoming again.

At the precise moment that American and British troops landed in Lebanon and Jordan to quell the apparent spread of Nasserism, Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer demanded that U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles fly immediately to Bonn, Germany, to give guarantees that the United States would not intervene in Iraq to quell the



Adapted from THE MONITOR

Key points in the troubled Middle East today. The arrows from figure 1 show movements of Allied troops who landed in Jordan and Lebanon from Cyprus. The Soviet Union has announced that it is holding military maneuvers in Transcaucasia (2). At 3 is the gathering point of United States forces in Turkey. Iraq (4) is in black. Here is where the recent Middle East trouble was sparked. Egypt (5) hopes to make Iraq another member of the United Arab Republic. The dotted lines represent the vitally important oil supply lines from which Europe is supplied.

rebellion. Dulles flew to Bonn and gave the guarantees!

Why this German interest in Iraq and the Arab world? What's really happening **UNDERCOVER** in the Middle East?

Captain Din revealed the answers shortly ago. Ali Din is the avowed exponent of the underground forces that led to the Iraqi revolt. Here is part of his message to the Arab and the Western world, broadcast over Iraqi Radio:

"Our revolution will spread to Jordan

as soon as British troops leave, and Jordan's King Hussein will go the same way as our King Faisal."

But this is not all!

## "I Hate the British and Americans"

Captain Ali Din also declared bluntly: "I hate the British, Americans, and French. I have nothing to hide. I am NOT a Communist, but a NAZI. Our revolution will spread to Jordan as soon as British troops leave. When our Arab



Moslems are not going Communist. They despise atheism. Here you see what is behind present Arab nationalistic feelings. This is the inside of the Omayyad Mosque, in Damascus, during prayer time. The Mosque was once a Christian Church.

—Wide World Photo

Russian Air Force Officers, wearing their trim new uniforms, march in Moscow's Red Square, ready for any eventuality in the Middle East. Kremlin leaders would rather talk than start a big war, but they think a show of force can frighten little nations into anti-Western alliances.

—Wide World Photo



countries are united as far as the Persian Gulf, we will unleash a war on Israel and destroy that country and kill all Jews."

Here is the invisible force behind the Arab crisis—*Nazism!* While we have had our eyes on the sinister spread of Communism, we have been overlooking the secret revival of Nazism within the anti-Communist Western World!

Nazism is not dead! It is alive, working secretly, underground, to wreck Western unity and to seize control of the whole Western world! It is happening right now before our very eyes, but our leaders do not seem to see it!

Not many months ago the Communists thought they could take over the Middle East. But they miscalculated. When the Communist Party was about to take over Syria, Egypt took over instead, and outlawed the Communist Party. Nasser welcomes Russian support in his plans to drive out the British, French and Americans, but he will not



Wide World Photo

**U.S. Marine tanks churn through the sand after being put ashore on beach near Beirut, Lebanon. Tanks, trucks and other vehicles and ammunition and equipment poured ashore during Marine landings on July 15.**

*tolerate Communist control.*

In the April issue of THE PLAIN TRUTH we revealed that the real power behind Nasser is a group of Nazi officers and advisors. They are using Nasser as a tool. Through him, they have translated Hitler's *Mein Kampf* into Arabic. If you want these facts, and did not receive that issue of THE PLAIN TRUTH, then write in immediately for it. It will be sent as long as the supply is available.

In Europe, meanwhile, Germany's papers are warning the Allies that their intervention in the Middle East "may lead to disastrous consequences." At the same time, Germany's Justice Minister, Fritz Schäffer, is demanding that Germany's annual reparations payment to the Jews in Palestine be greatly reduced.

Though Communism remains the West's No. 1 *visible* enemy, it is time we looked undercover to see what the Nazis and Fascists—whom the Allies thought were destroyed in World War II—are now secretly plotting underground.

**GERMANY in Prophecy?**

But where is Germany mentioned in Biblical prophecy? Or are the German people mentioned at all?

Will the Nazis and Fascists once again succeed in taking over Germany and all Europe, this time from within, and seize the Middle East *before we realize what is happening?*

It is high time we faced these questions!

The German people stand today in the very shadow of the Iron Curtain.

Germany at this moment holds the key to Europe's destiny and to Western defense. German industry and transportation constitute the heart and arteries of Europe. Without the beating of the German heart, Europe would quickly stagger and fall before the ravages of atheistic communism.

Germany has been the center of the world's two greatest wars and of the scourge of Nazism. Thirteen years ago, *two years after the Nazi movement went underground*, Germany appeared destroyed forever as a mighty nation. It seemed she could never rise again. Yet today—thirteen short years after Germany was completely destroyed—today, with the Iron Curtain still dividing her people, Germany is once again the vibrant heart of Europe. We commonly hear of the economic "miracle of Ger-

many." Never has there been anything like Germany's revival in history.

#### WHY?

#### Could Bible Prophecy Ignore Germany?

Consider also that Germany has set itself up as the bulwark of European civilization for well over a thousand years. Germany for centuries has stood as the eastern wall of defense against the barbarism of Asia. It was on German soil and through the shedding of German blood that the hordes of Asia, sweeping across eastern Europe, were stopped.

The German Reich or Kingdom was the oldest political institution in Europe—older than the government of France or England by centuries. The German people called their Reich the Holy Roman Empire. It bore rule over Europe for a thousand years. This "Holy Roman Empire of the German People" was officially designated by the Church in the Middle Ages as "The Kingdom of God" on earth. Its citizens, the Germans, felt themselves true Romans and bearers of the Christian Reich of Kingdom. They were therefore the *chosen people* of the Christian era, entrusted with a world-mission to be the protectors of Christianity.

The German leaders and philosophers have never forgotten this notion of the Middle Ages that the German, in place of the Jew, has a special mission from God. German politicians know that their dream of a world Empire can be created only if they maintain this claim of a world-mission.

This strange concept, which lies behind political thinking in Germany today, is plainly stated in a German work which I have before me as I write this article. The book is entitled *Die Tragödie des Heiligen Reiches*, or, translated, *The Tragedy of the Holy Kingdom*. It is by Friedrich Heer. It is a remarkable volume. It lays bare the reason for the *secret moves of the Nazi Underground in Iraq and other Arab nations*.

Bible prophecies definitely mention such minor nations as Egypt, Libya, Jordan, Lebanon. It clearly mentions Russia, China, Italy, Turkey, Great

(Please continue on page 12)

## RADIO LOG

### "The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

#### TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WLAC—Nashville, Tenn.—1510 on dial—7:00 P.M., Mon. thru Sat.

WABC—New York—770 on dial—11:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.; 9:30 A.M., Sun., E.D.S.T.

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—10:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.; 11:00 A.M. & 8:30 P.M. Sun.

WWVA—Wheeling, W. Va.—1170 on dial—10:30 A.M.; 11:15 P.M., Sun., E.D.S.T. 10:00 P.M., Mon. thru Fri.

CKLW—Windsor, Ontario—800 on dial—6:00 P.M. Sundays.

KVOO—Tulsa, Okla.—1170 on dial—daily, 7:30 P.M., Central Standard Time.

KHOW—Denver, Colo.—630 on dial—9:30 P.M. every night.

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

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

WCAE—Pittsburgh, Pa.—1250 on dial—6:30 P.M. Sundays.

WPIT—Pittsburgh, Pa.—730 on dial—7:00 A.M., daily.

KGBX—Springfield, Mo.—1260 on dial—6:15 A.M. Mon. thru Sat.; 7:00 A.M. Sundays.

KSTL—St. Louis, Mo.—690 on dial—7:00 A.M. Mon. thru Fri.

WEW—E. St. Louis, Ill.—770 on dial—4:30 P.M., Sat. and Sun.

WKYB—Paducah, Ky.—570 on dial—11:00 A.M. Mon. thru Sat.; 7:00 P.M., Sun.

KCTN—Berryville, Ark.—1:15 P.M. daily.

WKYR—Keyser, W. Va.—1270 on dial—5:30 A.M., daily.

#### HEARD ON PACIFIC COAST

XERB—1090 on dial—7:00 P.M. every night.

KRKD—Los Angeles—1150 on dial—10:00 A.M. Mon. thru Fri.; 1:30 P.M., Sundays.

KARM—Fresno—1430 on dial—6:30 P.M. Mon. thru Sat.; 12:30 P.M. Sun.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 on dial—7:30 A.M. & 12:30 P.M. daily.

KPDQ—Portland—800 on dial—8:30 A.M. daily.

KWJJ—Portland—1080 on dial—9:00 P.M., Mon. thru Sat. 10:00 P.M., Sundays.

KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 P.M. Sun. thru Fri.

KVI—Seattle-Tacoma—570, first on dial—10:30 P.M. every night.

#### TO EUROPE AND NORTH AFRICA

RADIO LUXEMBOURG—208 metres. Mondays and Tuesdays: 23:30 Greenwich time.

RADIO TANGIER INTERNATIONAL—1232 kc. & S. W. Saturdays: 22:00 Greenwich time.

#### TO SOUTH AFRICA

RADIO LOURENCO MARQUES, MOZAMBIQUE 10:00 P.M., Mondays and Saturdays; 10:30 P.M., Tuesdays.

RADIO ELIZABETHVILLE (Belgian Congo)—OQ2AD—7150 k.c., 9:30 P.M. Fridays.

#### TO ASIA

RADIO GOA—60 metre band, 9:30 P.M. Mondays; 9:00 P.M., Fridays.

RADIO BANGKOK—HSIJS—4878 k.c. Monday thru Friday: 10:35-11:05 P.M.

RADIO TAIWAN (FORMOSA)—840 k.c. 7:00 P.M. Wednesdays and Fridays.

RADIO OKINAWA—KSBK—880 k.c. Sundays: 12:00 noon.

#### ALTO BROADCASTING SYSTEM

#### —PHILIPPINE ISLANDS

9:00 P.M. Sundays—DZAQ, Manila—630 k.c.; DZRI, Dagupan City—1040 k.c.; DZRB, Naga City—1060 k.c.; DXMC, Davao City—900 k.c.

#### TO AUSTRALIA

2AY—Albury—Sun., 10:00 P.M.

2CH—Sydney—Sat., 10:15 P.M.

2GF—Grafton—Sun., 9:30 P.M.

2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 P.M.

3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 P.M.

3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 P.M.

4BQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 P.M.

4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 P.M.

4TO—Townsville—Fri., 10:15 P.M.

4WK—Warwick—Tues., 9:30 P.M.

6BY—Bridgetown—Sun., 10:30 P.M.

6IX—Perth—Sun., 10:00 P.M.

6MD—Merredin—Sun., 10:30 P.M.

6WB—Katanning—Sun., 10:30 P.M.

7HT—Hobart—Wed., 10:25 P.M.

#### TO SOUTH AMERICA

7:00 P.M., Sundays—HOC21, Panama City—1115 k.c.; HP5A, Panama City—11170 k.c.; HOK, Colon, Panama—640 k.c.; HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 k.c.

RADIO AMERICA—Lima, Peru 6:00 P.M. Saturdays—1010 k.c.

The WORLD TOMORROW in Spanish with Benjamin Rea.

RADIO LA CRONICA—Lima, Peru —7:00-7:15 P.M. Sundays

RADIO COMUNEROS—Asuncion, Paraguay — 8:00-8:15 P.M., Sundays

RADIO SPORT—CXA19—Montevideo, Uruguay — 4:00-4:15 P.M., Sundays

# Is Jesus God?

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**S**TARTLING as it may seem, there is great *confusion* today among religious leaders concerning the true nature and office of Jesus Christ—the Saviour of the world. *You* need not be in doubt! The Bible was divinely inspired to impart **TRUTH** to those who seek with *honest* hearts and minds. But even this all-important subject has become jumbled in today's troubled and chaotic world.

What is the *real* answer? Is Jesus God? Is He the same as Jehovah? Is there more than one God? Here you will find *God's* answer—from His own Word—as revealed in *your* Bible.

## Is Jesus God?

Jesus Christ came to pay the penalty for sin in our stead. He gave of *Himself*, that we might be reconciled to God. *How was this made possible?*

First, if Jesus had been *only* human, His death could have paid the penalty for but *one* other human who had incurred that penalty by transgression of God's spiritual law (Romans 6:23). Since God the Father created all things by Jesus Christ (Eph. 3:9), and since *all* things, including man, were made by Jesus Christ, He is our Maker and therefore God, and His life which He gave was of *greater value* than the sum-total of all human beings. For we read, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God and the *Word was God*. He was in the beginning with God; *all things were made by him*, and without him was not anything made that was made" (John 1:1-3). "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth; we have beheld his glory, glory as of the only Son from the Father" (verse 14). Also, "He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world knew him not" (verse 10). Compare these scriptures with I Cor. 8:6 and Col. 1:12-19.

Life alone can *beget* life. This is the absolute law of biochemistry. Since *Eternal* life is the **GIFT** of God (John 3:16), only a **GOD** possessing immortality

could give it. If Jesus were only human, *we could not receive eternal life thru Him* and He could not be our Saviour. Man *does not* have eternal life inherent in himself. But, as God "the Father hath life in himself; so hath He given to the Son to have life in Himself." And, "God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in His son. He that hath the Son hath life; and he that hath not the Son hath not life" (John 5:26 and I John 5:11-12).

## He Was Also Human

On the other hand, Jesus was also human. Since it is *human* life which has transgressed God's Law, the Law claims *human* life as its penalty. Contrary to popular present day teaching, the Word of God states that the wages—the penalty—of sin, is **DEATH**—not eternal life in a so-called "hell-fire" (Romans 6:23). When we sin, we break God's perfect, spiritual law, "for sin is the transgression of the law" (I John 3:4). The penalty for this sin is *death*. The penalty *must be paid*. God the Father will not compromise. It must be paid *by man*. Therefore, Jesus, who is and was God, who has always existed (John 1:1-2), was actually *made flesh* (verse 14). He, who was God, actually *became* human flesh because I John states, "By this you know the Spirit of God: every spirit which confesses that Jesus Christ *has come in the flesh* is of God, and every spirit which does not confess Jesus is not of God." He was conceived in and born of the human virgin, Mary. "Now, the birth of Jesus Christ took place in this way. When his mother, Mary, had been betrothed to Joseph, before they came together she was found to be with child of the Holy Spirit" (Mat. 1:18). He was made not only flesh, but *human* flesh and blood. Notice Heb. 2:14: "Since then the children are sharers in *blood and flesh*, himself also in like manner partook of the same."

Jesus called Himself the Son of **MAN** repeatedly, and also the Son of God. Matthew wrote, "Now when Jesus came into the district of Caesarea Philippi, he

asked his disciples, "Who do men say that the Son of man is?" And they said, 'Some say John the Baptist, others say Elijah, and others Jeremiah or one of the prophets.' He said to them, 'But who do you say that I am?' Simon Peter replied, 'You are the Christ, the Son of the living God.' And Jesus answered him 'Blessed are you, Simon Bar-Jona! For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my Father who is in heaven'" (Mat. 16:13-17).

Jesus, in nature, is equal with God—"Jesus Christ: who, existing in God's form, counted not the *being on an equality with God* ought to be grasped at, but emptied himself . . . being made in likeness of men (Phil. 2:6).

He is *called* God in Titus 2:10, 13. Therefore He *is* God. The Bible contains so much on these points that the above is a mere fragment of the evidence.

Yes, Jesus is also "Jehovah," altho this word is a *mistranslation* used in the Revised Version. The original name, in the Hebrew, contained the consonants "YHWH." In writing in Hebrew, vowels were omitted, supplied only in speaking. Thus the precise pronunciation of the name is not definitely known, but today it is commonly assumed to be "Yahveh," or "Yahweh." The *meaning*, in English, is "THE ETERNAL," or "THE EVERLIVING," or the "SELF-EXISTENT." It is commonly supposed that "Yahveh," or, as commonly called, "Jehovah," or, as in the Authorized version, "The **LORD**," of the Old Testament was God the **FATHER** of Jesus Christ. *This is a flagrant error!*

"Yahveh" was the God of Israel, the only One of the Godhead known to Israel. When He came in human flesh they did not recognize Him. "He was in the world, and the world was made by Him and the world knew Him not" (John 1:10-11). Neither did they know God the Father (Mat. 11:27 and Luke 10:22). "No one knoweth . . . who the Father is, save the Son, and he to whomsoever the Son willeth to **REVEAL** him."

In Genesis 1, the Hebrew name trans-

lated "God" is "Elohim." This is a uniplural name, such as "church," or "family." A church or a family consists of more than one person, yet is *one* church, or *one* family. In this same sense "Elohim"—the God kingdom—includes both God the Father and Yahveh, who was the "Logos" or the WORD of God, and also their Spirit emanating from them, the Holy Spirit, the LIFE, CHARACTER, and POWER of God. Jesus, in praying for the welfare of the Church, prayed that its many members might "be ONE, as we are One" (John 17:11, 21). The Church is ONE body, yet composed of many members (I Cor. 12:12). A husband and wife are ONE FLESH, yet two persons.

The word God has two meanings—the God kingdom or the family of God AND the *persons* composing that kingdom or family. Christ and the Father are ONE God, *not two* Gods—one "ELOHIM." That is why "Elohim" said, "Let US make man in OUR image" (Gen. 1:26).

Yahveh was the "WORD" or spokesman of the Godhead—its second member. As soon as God began to SPEAK to man, it was always "Yahveh" who spoke (translated "LORD" in the Authorized, and "Jehovah" in the Revised version. See Gen. 2:16, 18 and Exodus 20:2). Always it is "Yahveh" in the original Hebrew—the "WORD" who was made flesh. The proof of this is a long study involving hundreds of passages.

As a fragment of the evidence, compare Isa. 8:13-14 with I Peter 2:7-8. Isaiah said, "The LORD of hosts"—YHVH shall be "a stone of stumbling and a rock of offence." Peter said, in quoting this text in reference to Christ, He is "a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence." Jesus is the LORD—the Eternal of the Old Testament.

Now compare Isaiah 40:3 with Mat. 3:3 and Mark 1:3. John prepared the way before "YAHVEH" (Isa. 40:3) who was CHRIST (Mark 1:14-15).

In Rev. 1:17 we read, "When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand upon me, saying, 'Fear not, I am the first and the last.'" And in verse 8, "I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, who is and who was and who is to come, the Almighty." Again Rev. 22:13, "I am

the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end." Study also Rev. 22:16 for proof it was Jesus speaking. Jesus Christ calls Himself the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the First and the Last. Now compare these texts with Isaiah 44:6: "Thus says the LORD, the King of Israel and his Redeemer, the LORD of hosts: 'I am the first and I am the last; besides Me there is no God'" (Isa. 44:6).

Now turn to Isaiah 48:11-12. "For my own sake, I do it, for how should my name be profaned? My glory I will not give to another. 'Hearken to me O Jacob, and Israel, whom I called! I am He, I am the first, and I am the last'" (Isa. 48:11-12). Verses 17-18 show it was YAHVEH speaking. And also in Isa. 41:4, "Who has performed and done this, calling the generations from the beginning? I, the LORD, the first, and with the last; I am He." All of these scriptures show that YAHVEH is the First and Last. Christ is the YAHVEH of the Old Testament.

#### Christ Is the ROCK—the God of the Old Testament

In I Cor. 10:14, the "ROCK" of the Old Testament is called Christ. "For they drank from the supernatural Rock which followed them, and the Rock was Christ (verse 4). II Sam. 22:2-3, "He said, 'The LORD—YAHVEH—is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer, my God, my rock, in whom I take refuge, my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold and my refuge, my saviour; thou savest me from violence.'" See also verse 32.

In Ps. 18:1-2, *this* same "ROCK" is YAHVEH. When Moses was talking to YAHVEH, and asked Him His name (Ex. 3:4-5, 13), He answered that His name was "I AM" (verses 6, 14) and "YAHVEH"—the Eternal One (verse 15). See also Ex. 6:2-3. In John 18:5-8, as soon as Jesus identified Himself to the mob led by Judas as "I AM" (the "he" in italics is added without inspiration, and was not in the original), they went backward and fell to the ground. Again in John 8:56-58, Jesus called Himself: "I AM." For we read, "Jesus said to them 'Truly, truly, I say to you, before Abraham was, I am'" (verse 58).

The person of the Godhead who is our REDEEMER is Jesus Christ. John 4:

42 contains this: "They said to the woman, 'It is no longer because of your words that we believe, for we have heard for ourselves, and we know that *this is indeed the SAVIOUR of the world.*'" "But our commonwealth is in heaven, and from it we await a *Saviour*, the Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil. 3:20). Read also Tit. 2:10-14, Luke 1:68-69.

That Jesus, the Savior, is YAHVEH, see Isa. 49:7 and Isa. 60:16, where He—YAHVEH—is also "the mighty One of Jacob"—to be OF Jacob means a son, or descendant of Jacob—the Mighty One of all Jacob's children. Also in Isa. 48:17, YAHVEH is called the *Redeemer*, and the Holy One of Israel—the One of Israel who is Holy! The same is expressed in Isa. 43:14, "Thus says the Lord, your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel . . ." Also note the next verse (15), YAHVEH is Israel's Holy One, Creator of Israel, Israel's King. Now notice in Acts 3:14 that the Christ the Jews denied was the same "HOLY ONE"—YAHVEH! "But ye denied the Holy and Righteous One . . . the Prince of life." See also Acts 2:27 and Mark 1:24.

#### Christ Was David's SHEPHERD

Who was David's *shepherd*? (Psalm 23:1.)

In John 10:11, Jesus said *He* was the Shepherd. Open your Bibles also to Heb. 13:20: "Now may the God of peace who brought again from the dead our Lord Jesus, the great *Shepherd* of the sheep . . ." Compare this text with I Pet. 2:24-25, which says, "For you were straying like sheep, but have now returned to the *Shepherd* and Guardian of your souls." We also read, "Tend the flock of God that is your charge, not by constraint but willingly, not for shameful gain but eagerly, not as domineering over those in your charge but being examples to the flock. And when the chief *Shepherd* is manifested you will obtain the unfading crown of glory" (I Pet. 5:2-4).

It is JESUS CHRIST who is coming again in person as KING of kings to rule, and to RESTORE. In Rev. 19:13 John writes, "He is clad in a robe dipped in blood, and the name by which he is called is The WORD of God." "From his mouth issues a sharp sword with which to smite nations, and he will rule them

(Please continue on page 11)

# Did JESUS Teach Tithing?

Are you having financial difficulties? Many Christians are just beginning to experience the BLESSINGS that come from obeying God's financial laws!

by Roderick C. Meredith

RECENT articles in popular national magazines indicate a *revival* in the idea of *tithing*. Have you read about it? Have you heard of the BLESSING that comes from obeying this Biblical command?

As reported in a recent issue of *Reader's Digest*, thousands of church members have recently discovered that they are financially *blessed* for tithing. They *gave more* but they still had *more left!*

## Tithing Brings Blessings

This remarkable paradox would have been even more pronounced if these people had followed the *Bible* instruction on tithing. Instead, they were following a "watered down" version of tithing now being adopted by many denominational churches. Nevertheless, to the extent that it was carried out, this nation-wide experiment in "modern tithing" clearly indicated that if the tithing principle is followed—the tither is *blessed in many ways!*

If there is one principle that runs through God's Word, it is that *obedience* brings BLESSINGS. And it is *doubly* so in the matter of *tithing*.

To those Christians who have obeyed God's tithing law for years, the *happy results* of tithing will be familiar. Let us consider some of them.

First, it is an absolute *fact* that the faithful tither is *PROSPERED* by God. Here at the headquarters of God's work, we receive word of literally *scores* of people who have started prospering after they began to tithe!

In some cases, this can be attributed *in part* to the fact that people begin to budget their income more wisely once they begin to tithe. But this is *NOT* the whole story.

Another important factor is that when you start tithing, you are forced to realize that you are in a literal type of partnership with God. Almost *automatically*, this helps you obey Jesus' command: "Seek ye first the kingdom

of God, and his righteousness; and all these things [your material needs] shall be added unto you" (Mat. 6:33).

Thus, by seeking God's kingdom *first*, your life takes on more real *purpose* and *meaning*. You become a better worker or employer—a better human being. Your horizons take on greater dimension. You are soon able to *accomplish* more—and your resultant financial *reward* is naturally greater.

Actually, though, the *biggest* reason that tithers prosper is that God Almighty really and *literally* BLESSES them! The true God is Creator and *Ruler* of heaven and earth. He *CONTROLS* the forces of nature. He has the *POWER* to change circumstances and men's hearts.

Yes, God is *REAL!* And His blessing on the tither is *real*. It works! It is a *fact!*

The Almighty promises: "Honour the Lord with thy substance, and with the firstfruits of all thine increase: So shall thy barns be *FILLED* with plenty, and thy presses shall burst out with new wine" (Pro. 3:9-10).

Now notice that in the last book in the Old Testament, in a chapter looking toward the future and the New Covenant, God says: "Bring ye all the *tithes* into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and PROVE me now herewith, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a BLESSING, that there shall not be room enough to receive it" (Mal. 3:10).

Here is a blistering CHALLENGE from Almighty God!

God says He *WILL* bless you if you begin tithing—as He commands—through *faith* in Him and in His Word. Hundreds of case histories may be cited to show that God certainly *does* bless the tither even in *material* ways. He may not do it *immediately*. You may have to obey Him and exercise *faith* for a while. But as you *serve* Him, *obey* Him, *trust* Him, God *will* keep

His part of the bargain. Your blessing is *CERTAIN* to come!

## The Spiritual Benefits of Tithing

Even more important than the absolute promise of material and financial blessing, is the *spiritual* blessing received by the tither.

For one thing, tithing builds *faith*. The tither learns to look to God and His Word in a realistic manner. In tithing, He is worshipping God in a tangible, *literal* way. This tangible act of faith in turn *builds more faith* in God. And it brings a new inner confidence and peace of mind.

In like manner, tithing strengthens your relationship with God and with His work. Through the renewed *faith* in God which tithing brings, you come to regard *God's* interests and *God's* ways more as *your* interests and desires. Your *partnership* with God assumes deeper proportions than a purely material thing. Because you have made it a *real* thing through tithing, your relationship with God soon becomes your *first* interest in life.

Remember Jesus' words: "For where your treasure is, there will your *heart* be also" (Mat. 6:21). Tithing puts your *HEART* in God's work!

In this great work which God has raised up to proclaim His last warning message to a dying world and the good news of the World Tomorrow, we find that those who *faithfully* pay their *tithes* and give liberal *offerings* besides as God has commanded (Mal. 3:8) are the ones who are *GROWING* spiritually and who are best preparing themselves for a place in God's kingdom. Because both their *hearts* and their *pocketbooks* are *YIELDED* to God, His spiritual *blessing* and *POWER* is at work in their lives!

Jesus warned: "Ye cannot serve God and mammon" (Mat. 6:24). You cannot "half-way" worship the true God! But when your whole *LIFE* is dedicated to God's will—and to doing *your* part in the great *WORK* He has commis-

sioned His servants to perform—*you will then truly worship and serve the living God. Your earnest prayers, your time, your talents, your tithes and offerings—all will be freely offered to further the work of God.*

God's work is warning the world of its sins, and preaching the *good news* of His soon-coming kingdom, or world-ruling government (Mat. 24:14). If your *treasure* is in God's work and in His kingdom, your *HEART*—as Jesus said—will also be there. And if you *overcome self* and are *faithful*, soon—at Christ's coming—**YOU** will be there!

### Jesus Christ's Teaching

Most people understand and know that God commanded His children to pay the *tithe*, or *first tenth* of income, to His ministers during Old Testament times. But many have heard that God's *financial law* for that time has been **CHANGED** in the New Testament.

Since Christ came as the mediator of the New Covenant, He would be the one to authorize such a change if one were made. It is *certain* that the apostles had *no authority* to authorize any such change in God's law, and that they did not do so. Notice that after His resurrection from the dead, Christ commanded the apostles to go to all nations, "Teaching them to observe *all things* **WHATSOEVER I HAVE COMMANDED YOU**" (Mat. 28:20).

They were *nowhere* authorized to teach **ANYTHING** different!

What, then, was Jesus Christ's teaching on the subject of *tithing*?

First, consider the import of Jesus' statement in Mat. 4:4, "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by *every word* that proceedeth out of the mouth of God."

Remember that the *only* written Word of God at the time Jesus spoke was the *Old Testament*! In the Old Testament, tithing is referred to as a principle of God even *before the Old Covenant was made with Israel* (Gen. 14:20). And the *New Testament* book of Hebrews refers to this very act of Abraham **PAYING TITHES** to Melchisedec as a *proof* of the *superiority* and *spirituality* of the Melchisedec priesthood over the temporary Levitical priesthood (Heb. 7:1-8).

Since this entire chapter in Hebrews is speaking of the *taking of tithes* as a **RIGHT** of God's true ministry in each age, verses 9 through 16 clearly indicate the right of *Christ* and His *spiritual priesthood* to take tithes under the New Covenant.

### Direct Statements on Tithing

Not fully understanding that Jesus Christ is the "Word" of God—the One who *inspired* the Old Testament, not realizing that the laws of God are fully listed **ONLY** in the Old Testament and are merely spiritually magnified and explained in the New Testament, some will still insist: "We want some **DIRECT STATEMENTS** by *Christ* which show that He approved of the tithing law."

All right—you shall have them! Will you **BELIEVE**? Will you **OBEY**?

In speaking to the scribes and Pharisees, who often made a self-righteous display of strictly keeping some of the smaller points of God's law, Jesus said: "Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye pay tithe of mint and anise and cummin, and have omitted the weightier matters of the law, judgment, mercy, and faith: *these ought ye to have done* [these weightier matters], and **NOT TO LEAVE THE OTHER** [carefully tithing!] **UNDONE**" (Mat. 23:23).

Isn't that clear enough? Jesus said that spiritual qualities such as *mercy* and *faith* ought to be put ahead of carefully and strictly paying tithes on every little plant that might grow in your garden—*especially* when that strictness led to *self-righteousness*. But Christ said "NOT to leave the other undone"—NOT to fail to pay your full tithes as God has commanded!

In Luke 11:42, this *same command* is repeated in a similar manner—inspired to be placed here also by God's Holy Spirit!

Men would like to regard God's tithing law as of *least* importance. But speaking of even the smaller points of God's law, Jesus continued: "Whosoever therefore shall break one of *these least commandments*, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the *least* in the kingdom of heaven. But whosoever shall **DO AND TEACH** them, the same shall be called *great* in the kingdom of heaven" (Mat. 5:19).

How plain! If we are looking for an argument, we will always find one. But if we are willing to "hunger and thirst" for righteousness, to obey even the *smaller* points of God's law, we will be **BLESSED** for so doing.

### How to Obey?

Yes, Jesus Christ taught *tithing*! And, as we have seen, He commanded His apostles to teach the nations "**ALL** things whatsoever I have commanded you." He then promised: "I am with you always, even unto the end of the world" (Mat. 28:20).

We are very **NEAR** the end of this age! Christ commands us to *tithe* to His spiritual priesthood—His true ministers—to carry out *His* work of *preaching* the good news of God's government, and *warning* a rebellious, God-rejecting world of the Divine **PUNISHMENTS** soon to come.

Jesus referred to this time of world convulsion and fear of human annihilation. He spoke prophetically of the great world-wide work His true ministers would carry out in this last age: "And this gospel of the kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a *witness* unto all nations; and then shall the **END** come" (Mat. 24:14).

Somewhere on earth today are the true ministers of God. As the end of this age approaches, they will be carrying out Christ's commission with increasing **POWER**. They are making plain the good news of the soon-coming *kingdom of God*. Without fear or favor, they are explaining the *laws* of that kingdom. And they are making plain and clear the hundreds of prophecies referring directly to this end-time. Through God's Spirit, they alone can be *definite* and **SPECIFIC** about the tremendous events soon to occur on this earth.

*This very work* which you are now reading about and whose message you hear over "*The World Tomorrow*" broadcast is the **ONLY** work which is fulfilling Christ's commission! If this is not yet clear to you, then just keep an open mind and let the fruits **PROVE** to you where Almighty God is really working! For God's *true* ministers are carrying on His work. They represent Him—and as God's representatives it is to them that you should pay your

tithes and cheerfully give your offerings. God then directs them to use His money for *His* work—not the devil's, or some counterfeit work of men! And this dying world desperately NEEDS to be reached with God's *truth* and with a knowledge of the *way* to *peace, happiness and prosperity*.

So once you have made your decision to tithe, be sure you pay your tithes to *God's* representatives who will be doing *His* work and preaching *His* message!

*Don't* get to thinking you cannot afford to pay tithes. *You cannot afford not to!*

If you *obey* through love and faith, your very Creator says He will *BLESS* you for it. And, as we have stated, that blessing is just as *REAL* as God is real! It is both a *physical* and a *spiritual* blessing.

Frankly, if you hope to enter God's Kingdom and inherit eternal life, *you had better learn to do what Jesus Christ says!* Speaking of *tithing*, He definitely states that you had better NOT leave it undone!

## IS JESUS GOD?

(Continued from page 8)

with a rod of iron; he will tread the wine press of the fury of the wrath of God the Almighty" (verse 15). And again in Rev. 17:14 John writes, "They will make war on the *Lamb*, and the Lamb—Christ—will conquer them, for he is Lord of lords and King of kings, and those with him are called and chosen and faithful." The Great Shepherd who is coming to RULE as King over all kings is YAHVEH. "And ye My sheep, the sheep of My pasture, are men, and I am your God, saith the Eternal"—YAHVEH or Christ! Read it for yourself in Ezek. 34:11, 30-31.

Now notice Isa. 2:1-4 and Micah 4:1-4. "It shall come to pass that the Kingdom (mountain) of YAHVEH's House shall be established in the top of the kingdoms"—ruling the world. "And He, YAHVEH (Christ), shall judge among the nations, and rebuke strong nations," and then they shall have PEACE.

How plain that in almost every Old Testament passage, the *LORD* Yahveh—the Eternal—is Jesus Christ. He is the God of Israel.

## THE BIBLE ANSWERS

# Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

### Should a Woman Wear a Covering on Her Head in Church?

Some churches require women to wear veils or hats in church. They claim I Corinthians 11:1-16 as supposed scriptural proof. They quote verse 6 specifically, "For if the woman be not covered, let her also be shorn: but if it be a shame for a woman to be shorn or shaven, let her be covered."

Other churches use this same scripture as support for their doctrine that women should never cut their hair.

Modernists contend that whatever Paul taught the Corinthian Church is not for us today anyway—and they proceed to do as they please.

#### What is the truth?

Some contend Paul required women to wear veils because it was the custom of the day for women to wear veils in public places of worship. This is NOT true! Let's get our facts straight.

Smith's *Dictionary of the Bible*, article *Veil* gives us the answer. "In ancient times, the veil was adopted only in exceptional cases, either as an article of ornamental dress . . . or by betrothed maidens in the presence of their husbands, especially at the time of the wedding . . . or by women of loose character for purposes of concealment (Gen. 38:14). But generally speaking, women both married and unmarried appeared in public with their faces exposed, both among the Jews . . . and among the Egyptians and Assyrians, as proved by the invariable absence of the veil in the sculpture and paintings of these peoples."

It was not customary for women to wear veils in Paul's day. It is interesting to note that the fallen church pictured in Revelation 17, the fountain-head of *harlotry*, commands its women to wear coverings over shaven heads in their religious orders.

What Paul taught is this: as man is the head of woman, it is improper for

men to have a covering in a religious service as a symbol of subjection (I Cor. 11:4). The only exception was long hair in the Nazarite vow, a token of subjection to God for a special time (Num. 6:5). Men are otherwise commanded: "Doth not even nature itself teach you, that, if a man have long hair, it is a *shame* unto him?" (verse 14.) Men wearing long hair, a fad with the younger generation, are effeminate and no effeminate man shall inherit God's Kingdom! But what about a woman?

"But if a woman have *long hair* it is a glory to her: for her HAIR is given her for a covering" (verse 15).

Notice! Paul, under inspiration, speaks of *LONG HAIR* as the "covering," or veil. The Greek word for "covering" in verse 15 means "veil." See the margin of the King James Version. So the covering is not some hat, or piece of cloth.

Paul does not say that women must wear something *over* their hair. Instead, he says, "Doth not even *nature* itself teach you, that . . . if a woman have *long hair*, it is a glory to her: for her hair is given her for a covering."

Because "long hair" is mentioned, some are afraid to cut their hair at all. The text doesn't read uncut hair; it reads only "long hair." Long hair is an indication that a woman is willing to be in subjection to a man, and that she acknowledges the special need for protection by angels—beyond the ordinary protection which angels give to men (verse 10). Hair, *cut long enough to look feminine and honorable*, is appropriate. About shoulder length, or longer, is a satisfactory standard. If a woman wears her hair so short that it looks like a man's, *then she ought to be shorn or shaven*—the symbol of a fallen woman.

To be "shorn" (verse 6) means to be *closely clipped*. Some small sects contend that any cutting of hair means to

(Please continue on page 24)

# What's Behind the Arab Crisis?

(Continued from page 6)

Britain and the United States. Could Bible prophecy, then, ignore Germany? Could it overlook the German people who have played such an outstanding part in human history?

Assuredly not! Nor are the German people ignored! The fact is that the German people are revealed in the Bible to be the protectors and perpetuators of *this world's* civilization—its religious, social, political and military customs!

Dozens of Bible prophecies are devoted to the German people. Yet the prophetic identity of Germany and Austria have remained hidden from the world. Why?

Because modern nations are not usually spoken of in Bible prophecy by their modern names, except in a few cases. Names often change over the centuries.

Usually modern peoples in Bible

prophecy are named after the ancestor from whom they sprang. Nations are merely families grown BIG. For example, the Kingdom of Jordan—in which British paratroops have recently landed—is spoken of as "Ammon and Moab," because the descendants of ancient Ammon and Moab live in Jordan today (Genesis 19:37-38). The Spanish people are usually referred to as "Tarshish" in prophecy, because the bulk of the Spanish people descended from Tarshish (Genesis 10:4). The Great Russians are designated "Meshech and Tubal" in prophecy (Genesis 10:2). And joined with them in a Communist league is "Magog," the ancestor of the Mongolian hordes of Eastern Asia. Other nations, such as Egypt and Ethiopia and Greece and Persia, are referred to by their modern names, which they have retained unchanged over the centuries.

But where are Germany and Austria

mentioned in the Bible prophecies?

The story of the ancestry of the German people, and their role in prophecy, is one of the strangest stories ever written. It is gripping with interest, amazing—yes, astounding!

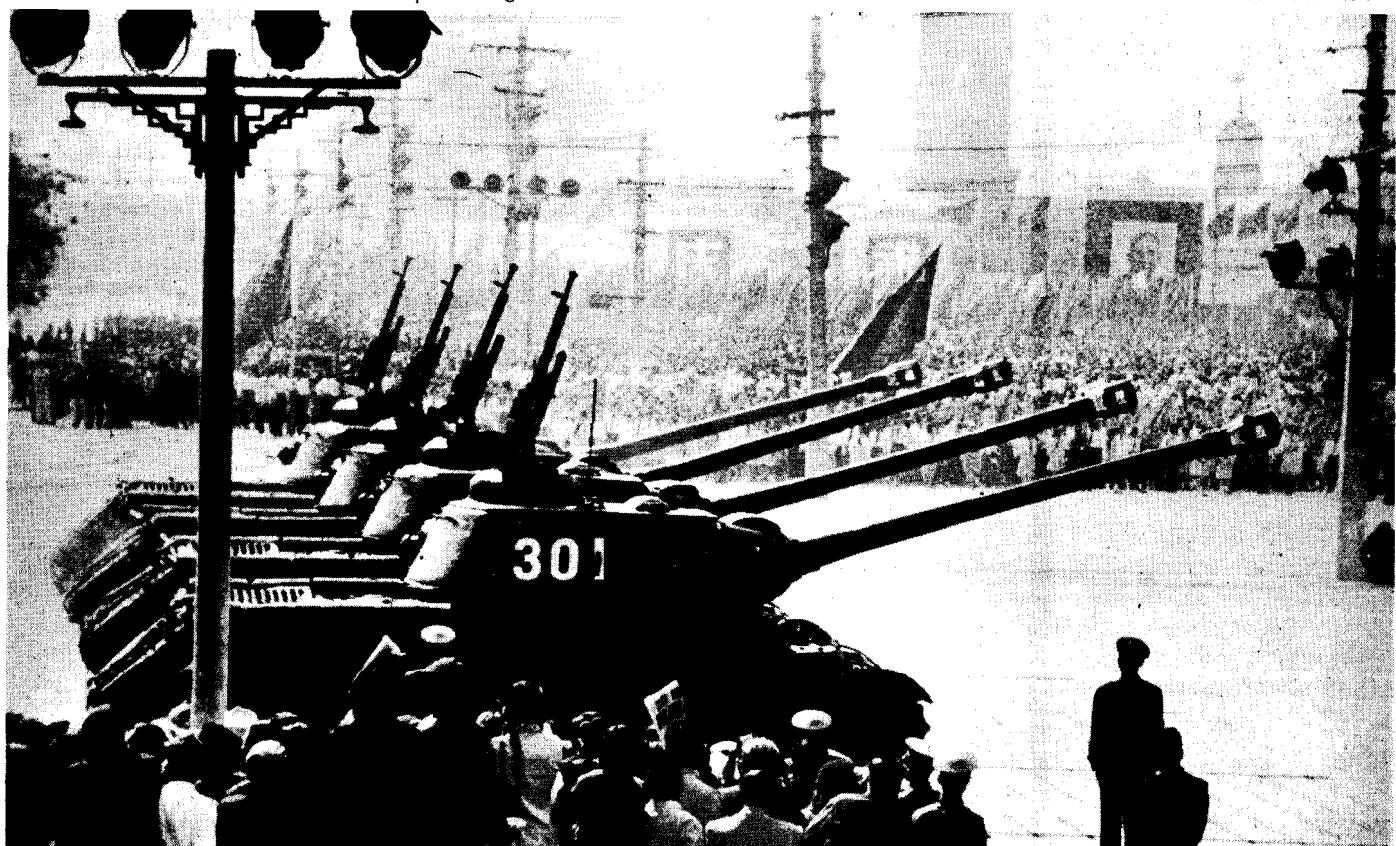
## Germans Shape World Affairs

The German people have been the civilizers of Central Europe. It is they who have fundamentally carried the torch of this world's civilization from Roman to modern times. It is the German people who, often by the sword, brought the pagans of Europe into the fold of the Catholic Church.

"The History of Germany," writes Bayard Taylor, "is not the history of a nation, but of a race . . . Thus, even before the fall of the Roman Empire, it becomes the main trunk out of which branch histories of nearly all European nations, and . . . the connecting link between ancient and modern history. The records of no other race throw so much light upon the development of all civilized lands during a period of fifteen hundred years" (from *History*

**Secret meetings between Russian and Chinese Communist dictators show solidarity of anti-Western powers. Here you see Red Chinese-built tanks, with guns raised, during Peiping parade. While Russia heats up the "Cold War" in the Arab world, Red China is planning new moves in Southeast Asia!**

—Wide World Photo





Wide World Photo

**United States Marine Corps tanks and troop carriers pass a group of Lebanese women on their way to Beirut from the beaches. People were relatively undisturbed by troop landings.**

of Germany, page iii).

Germany has been a center of learning for generations. From German inventions developed one of the most powerful means of mass communication ever produced—the printing press.

Many of the world's most renowned musicians have come from Germany and Austria — Bach, Beethoven, Brahms, Handel, Haydn, Mozart, Schumann, Schubert, the Straussses and Wagner.

German inventions have contributed greatly to the modern industrial world —Daimler invented the motorcycle (in 1885), and the gasoline-driven automobile in 1887; Rudolf Diesel invented the Diesel engine; Siemens, the furnace for steelmaking; Bäyer, the synthesis of chemical dyes; Fahrenheit gave us the mercury thermometer; Benz, the internal combustion engine; Mitterhoffer, the typewriter; and Röntgen discovered the X-ray.

And think how many children have read Grimm's fairytales, translated from the German. German dramatists, essayists, historians, philosophers and poets—too numerous to mention—have mightily moulded world thinking.

Germany has contributed more military leaders than any other nation in history. Its governments have in the past, claimed the right to rule the "Christian world." The German State, from its beginning, has nearly always been a confederation of states—often an Empire of German ruling over non-German. It is the German people who, more than once, have believed themselves to be the "Herrenvolk"—the Master Race.

German leaders once again—just as in centuries past—openly are attempting to unite all Europe in a United States of Europe—and, through Europe, to reshape the world in order to fasten

German leadership and culture on all nations and peoples. German philosophers still regard this as a special calling from heaven itself.

Certainly the German nation, which now holds the key to the survival of civilization, *could NOT be overlooked by the Bible!*

#### Where DID the Germans Come From?

The German people—who number over one hundred million throughout the world today—are one great family. But they are composed of numerous small tribes. Nations, remember, are families grown BIG. Take Israel for example. The nation Israel descended from one man Jacob (who was renamed Israel upon his conversion—Genesis 35:9-10). But Israel had 12 sons. His family therefore was divided into 12 tribes. You read so often in the Bible about "the 12 tribes of Israel"—Judah,

Dan, Ephraim, Levi, etc. (Genesis 49:28).

The same is true of the German people.

The Germans are composed of numerous small tribes divided today into three nations, Austria and East and West Germany. Of all these tribes, perhaps the most famous name to Americans is that of the *Hessians*. The British hired numerous Hessians in their effort to put down the American Revolution which began in 1776. But the Hessians are not the only German tribe. When the Germans poured into Europe nearly 2000 years ago, they were known to the Roman historians by various tribal names. Among the most important German tribes were the "Hatti" (the ancestors of the modern Hessians), the "Alemanni" and "Suabi," the "Quadi," the "Casuari" and others. The Romans called them collectively *Germani*, meaning "War-men" (from the *Encyclopedia Britannica*, article, "Germany").

The ancestor of the Germans was glorified as their God of war. The ancient Germans called him Thor or Thur from which our word "Thursday" comes. Thursday means the "day of Thur or Thor," the thunderer.

But from where did all these Germanic people come?—for Europe was not their original homeland!

Here is the answer of history: "There can be no doubt that they . . . migrated into Europe from the Caucasus and the countries around the Black and Caspian seas," states *Smith's Classical Dictionary*, article "Germania," p. 361.

The Germans, then, can be traced in historical records to the regions surrounding the Black and Caspian seas, which border on the ancient *Biblical land of Mesopotamia*. This is the region where civilization commenced and from where the Bible patriarchs came!

In this very region we find in ancient times cities bearing such names as *Germanopolis*, meaning "the city of the Germans," and *Germanicia*! (See *Lemierre's Classical Dictionary*, p. 282.)

#### Germans Spread Out from Bible Lands

Most of the ancient Germans moved westward from the Bible lands into Europe. But one small tribe moved east-

ward and settled among the Persians. Historians called them the *Germanii* (Herodotus' *History*, bk. 1, § 125). The region where they settled is today called Kharmania or Carmania. The oriental Kerman rugs, recognized the world over for their fine quality, are made by this region. Last year, Dr. Meredith and I had the opportunity to visit Persia, where this one small branch of the Germanic people anciently settled.

But the bulk of the warring Germanic people moved westward into Europe from Mesopotamia (the present-day Iraq, where the Nazi Underground is working). Mesopotamia was the central home land from which the Aryans of history sprang. Notice that under Hitler the Germans were thoroughly indoctrinated in the concept that *they* were the true "Aryans" or "the Master Race"!

Now consider another key to discovering Germany's place in Bible prophecy! The ancient city of Germanicopolis was located in *Cilicia*, in southeastern Asia Minor, according to Ammianus Marcellinus, book 1, § 27. It belonged of old to the Hatti. Cilicia is mentioned several places in the Bible. Paul was born in Cilicia (Acts 21:39 and 22:3). Now look at a map of Europe. We find that one of the eastern provinces of *pre-World War II Germany* is called *SILESIA*!—spelled slightly different, but pronounced the same!

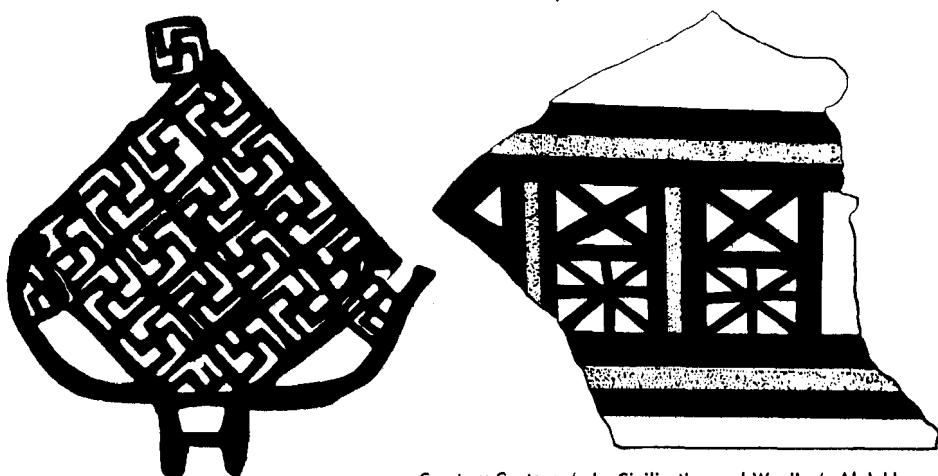
Ancient Cilicia in Asia Minor was

included within the land of *Hatti* (sometimes spelled "Chatti" or "Khatti"). When the Germans came into Europe, one of their tribes were also called *Chatti*—the ancestors of the modern Hessians. (The modern German territory of Hesse is but a modern spelling for the Old High German word *Hatti*.)

The ancient Hatti claimed to be "the Master Race." They lorded it over other peoples who lived in the same region. So have the modern Germans! These people were the inventors of the *double-headed eagle* which has always been a symbol of the German Empire! Professor A. H. Sayce states it was left to these people "to invent a double-headed eagle" (page 116 of his book *The Hittites*). These were the same people who apparently invented the swastica as a political symbol (page 142)—also a symbol of Nazi Germany. They also gave the world the use of the military cross, another symbol of the German Empire (see § 36 in G. Contenau's *La Civilisation des Hittites et des Hurrites du Mitanni*).

In the same Bible lands was the ancient district of *Alman*—the modern Aleppo in Syria. Is it a coincidence that among the Germans in Europe were the *Alemanni*?

In south-central Mesopotamia lived the ancient *Akkadians*. And when the Romans found the Germans in Europe, one of the German tribes was called the



Courtesy Contenau's *La Civilisation* and Woolley's *Alalakh*

The swastika was chosen by the Nazis under Hitler as the symbol of their regime. But over 2500 years ago the swastika was also a common symbol throughout the western Assyrian Empire, where the Germans anciently lived. The swastika-decorated object here was found in Euyuk, in present-day Turkey. By contrast, one finds in Palestine—where the House of Israel dwelt—the symbol of the union-jack, as seen on this fragment of pottery. And is it any wonder that their descendants today—the English-speaking peoples—should still be using the same symbol!

*Quadians* by the Romans! Merely another coincidence?

Further, ancient Mesopotamia was for a long time dominated by the ancient Cossi or Kassites—historians spell the name in different ways. When the Germans came into Europe, among them were the *Cassuari*—meaning “the league of the Cassi or Kassi”! Another coincidence?

Here is clear evidence of where the Germans came from—and where they lived in Bible times!

All these tribes, in Bible times, were called by the general term of “Cari” or “Gar-men” or “Kari” or “Khar people.” Several historians incorrectly spell the name “Hurri” (see the *Cambridge Ancient History*). These people who once dominated ancient Mesopotamia bore the name of “Ghar-men” because they were “men of war.” Is it merely another coincidence that when these tribes from this very region came into Europe they were all called *Germannii*—signifying “men of war”—by the Romans?

#### The Bible Answer Is Found!

Ancient German records claim that their oldest city, Trier, was founded by a son of Ninus—the Nimrod of the Bible who founded civilization (Genesis 10:8-12). “The inhabitants of Trier maintain that their city is the oldest in all Europe,” writes Josef K. L. Bihl in his textbook *In deutschen Landen*, page 69. “Trier was founded,” he continues, “by Trebeta, a son of the famous Assyrian King Ninus. In fact, one finds . . . in Trier the inscription reading, ‘Trier existed for 1300 years before Rome was rebuilt.’”

But how is it possible that the oldest German city, Trier, founded over 2000 years before Christ, should be built by a son of Ninus, the renowned King of ancient Assyria?

Notice! Ninus (his Bible name was Nimrod), according to Genesis 10, led the ancient Assyrians from Babylon and supervised their building of Nineveh, the capital of ancient Assyria. Last summer Dr. Meredith and I viewed in Iraq, the ancient Mesopotamia, the very cities originally settled with the Assyrians by Nimrod. From there the Assyrians began their conquest of the

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ancient world. They, too, called themselves “the Master Race.” Now why do the German records speak of this son of an Assyrian King building their first city? What connection have the German tribes with the Assyrians of history?

Jerome, who lived at the time when the Indo-Germanic tribes were invading Europe, gives the answer: “For ‘Assur (the Assyrian) also is joined with them’!” (Letter 123, § 16, quoted from Psalm 83:8; from *Nicene and Post-Nicene Fathers*.)

#### Did the Assyrians Invade Europe?

Yes! Jerome said so! But how did he know?

He saw them! He was an eyewitness to their migrations from Mesopotamia and the shores of the Black and Caspian seas!

Only 300 years before Jerome, the Roman naturalist Pliny the Elder declared the “Assyriani”—the Assyrians—were dwelling north of the Black Sea (*Natural History*, IV, § 12, page 183). But the Assyrians did not remain there! They are not there today! Of course not—they migrated into Central Europe—where the Germans live today!

History lost sight of the Assyrians, just as it did of the “Ten Lost Tribes of Israel” whom the Assyrians took captive (II Kings 17 & 18). But when we rediscover the “Ten Lost Tribes of Israel” as they migrated to the British Isles, the Low Countries and Scandinavia, they were separating from the Assyrians or Germans, who took them captive.

#### Germans Are Assyrians

Just as the family of Israel was divided up into 12 tribes, so the ancient As-

syrians were divided up into numerous tribes. The Assyrian kings wrote of the tribe of Hatti—the ancestors of the Hessians: “As Assyrians I [ac]counted them” (D. D. Luckenbill, *Ancient Records of Assyria and Babylonia*, Vol. II, § 29). The ancient capital of the land of Hatti was popularly known among the Romans as “Ninus Vetus—the old Nineveh” (*History of Art in Sardinia, Judaea, Syria and Asia Minor*, by G. Perrot and C. Chipiez, Vol. II, page 272).

Nineveh was Assyria’s capital!

The Germans, remember, came into Europe from the shores of the Black Sea and its environs. Now consider what Sylax, the author of the “Periplus,” who lived about 550 B.C., writes of this region: “The coast of the Black Sea . . . is called Assyria” (from page 261 of Perrot and Chipiez’s work).

How plain! The Germans came from Assyria! And the “Khar-men” or “Cari”—the men of war or Germans—“dominated for a long time the land of Assyria” (page 89 of the French work, *La Civilisation des Hittites et des Hurrites du Mitanni*, by Dr. G. Contenau Payot).

It was the Gar-men—or Germans—who populated “Mesopotamia and all the territory of Assyria to the Zagros Mountains,” writes the same author on page 64.

#### The Assyrians in Scripture

The Assyrians—the ancestors of the German people—are first mentioned in Genesis 10:22. In this verse you find the father or ancestor of the Assyrians is named “Asshur.” The word Asshur is often translated as “Assyrian” or “Assyrians” in the Bible, because Asshur



Courtesy Iraq Museum

These surprising statues (in the Iraq Museum) picture the King and a Nobleman of the city of Hatra in the second century after Christ. These men were not Arabs, but Nordics. Many scholars are now beginning to realize that Mesopotamia was once widely populated with fair-skinned people, whose descendants have since migrated into Europe!

is the father of the Assyrian nation. When some of the children of Abraham and Keturah later migrated to Mesopotamia, they too were called "Asshurim"—the people of Asshur. They are related to the Letushim or Lettish people living on the Baltic. Another branch from Sheba apparently gave their name to the Swabian Germans (Genesis 25:3). The Assyrians later called their ancestor "Thur," or "Thuras," and glorified him as their god of war (*Lempriere's Classical Dictionary*, Article, "Thuras").

When the Germans appeared in Europe, they, too, claimed Thur or Thor as their god of war!

Asshur was a son of Shem. But after the tower of Babel, when the languages of the world were confused (Genesis 11), the Assyrians no longer spoke a Semitic tongue, but rather an Indo-Germanic tongue! The Germans, therefore, are Semitic by race, but *not* by language!

In the days of Abraham, the Germans or Assyrians formed a great confederation of states or tribes (*Josephus' Antiquities of the Jews*, book 1, ch. 9). The king of the Assyrians then was "Tidal, king of nations" (Genesis 14:1). The name Tidal is Indo-Germanic, not Semitic. The Assyrians anciently called their land *Athur*—the Indo-Germanic form of the Semitic word *Asshur* (*Encyclopedie Britannica*, article, "Mesopotamia").

What did the ancient Assyrians look like? Here is the answer: "In the Zagros hills and across the plain to the Tigris, there lived a . . . fair-haired . . . people akin to the Guti [the Goths] who . . . remained in what was afterwards Assyria, the neighbour land to Akkad" (page 5 of *The Sumerians*).

#### What Language Did They Speak?

But what about the common assumption that the Assyrian language was Semitic, not Indo-Germanic? How is it

that the Hebrew-speaking House of Israel, who were carried into Assyrian captivity, spoke an Indo-Germanic language when they arrived in Northwestern Europe? The answer is, they were forced to learn it as a result of their captivity! The common tongue of the Assyrians was not Semitic, but Indo-Germanic! Here is the proof!

Scholars admit that *for centuries the language of the people who inhabited Assyria was not Semitic*. Semitic was the LITERARY LANGUAGE of Assyria—the language of scholars. And it is this language of international commerce and literature which has made the scholars *assume* that the common tongue of the Assyrian people was Semitic.

The same circumstance occurred during the Middle Ages all over Europe. The language of almost all European scholars—and even their names—until the time of the Protestant Reformation was *LATIN*—but Latin was *not* the common tongue of the people! Because most of the literature of Germany was in Latin during the Middle Ages does not prove that the common people spoke Latin.

And because a few of the libraries and monuments of ancient Assyria contain records that were written in a Semitic tongue, does not demonstrate that the common people spoke the same language.

European scholars have thoroughly studied the language of the land of Hatti—the ancestors of the Hessians. They found it to be an Indo-Germanic tongue—numerous words of which were akin to Old High German! So many similarities were found that Edgar Sturtevant had to declare: "To me it seems incredible that so remarkable a situation developed in two languages independently. I feel compelled to trace the Germanic . . . to a common origin" with the language of Hatti—common tongue of the Assyrian Empire (from *A Comparative Grammar*, page 240).

The land of Hatti was the *western* part of the Assyrian Empire. The ancient Assyrian Empire was divided just as the modern Germans are divided between East and West Germany and Austria. *The ancient kings of Assyria* called themselves *Khatti-sars*—meaning the "Kaisers of Hatti," or "Kings of



—Wide World Photo

View of the historic city of Aleppo, in Syria. This most important commercial center, anciently called Alman or Halaman, was an Assyrian center where the Alamani anciently lived before migrating into southern Germany in Roman times.

These stone carvings were uncovered in the desert of upper Mesopotamia by an expedition under Baron Max von Oppenheim, German archaeologist. They were part of the temple palace in the provincial capital of the Kingdom of Hatti, part of the ancient Assyrian Empire.

—Wide World Photo



Hatti." The chief people of Hatti regarded themselves as *Assyrians* (see Luckenbill's *Ancient Records of Assyria* already quoted). The Armenians lived in the same region and they are also often pictured with the Assyrian Hatti on the monuments.

The language of the Hatti was the language of the Assyrians. Scholars today, who are steeped in the theory of evolution, refuse to recognize that both people were one and the same—because if they did admit it, their whole system of chronology would fall like a house of cards, and their view of world history would burst like a pricked balloon.

The Empire of Hatti and the Empire of Assyria were the same Empire—not two empires existing five centuries apart as historians assume. Excavated records from Bible times prove that the local rulers of the land of Hatti were contemporary with the famous kings of Assyria, with whom they were federated (see the evidence in the French work *Les Hittites*, by Eugène Cavaignac, page 86). Assyrian kings were called the "kings of Hatti." They are even mentioned by this title in the Bible in I Kings 10:29 and II Kings 7:6. The Hebrews called them "kings of the Hittites." They were not the same as the Canaanitish Hittites who migrated to Palestine from the region later settled by the Assyrian Hessians or Hatti.

#### World Is Blind to Origin of Nations

It is Satan himself who has blinded the world as to the identity of the Assyrians. If it were known that the language of ancient Assyria was indeed Indo-Germanic—and that the fabled Empire of Hatti was actually the western part of the Assyrian Empire—and that the Germans are actually the descendants of the Assyrians, then Satan could no longer hide the prophecies of the Bible from the people!

The scholars of this world have been blinded. Most of them have never been conscious of the fact that the use of the Semitic language in Assyria was due to the Aramaic people (Genesis 10:22) who first dwelt in Mesopotamia. Mesopotamia is often called "Padan-Aram"—the plain of Aram—in the Bible (Genesis 28:2). These dark-complexioned Aramaic people still dwell there,

and they still speak a Semitic tongue. We call them *Syrians* today because they once composed part of the Assyrian confederation of nations. The dual Empire of ancient Assyria and Aram was similar to the pre-World War I European Austro-Hungarian Empire.

When the ancient Greek writers wanted to distinguish the Assyrians from the Arameans or Syrians, the Greeks called the Assyrians, "Leucosyri"—meaning "WHITES" or "BLONDS" as distinct from the very *brunette Syrians* who still live in Mesopotamia.

It is the Arameans or Syrians, still living in their ancient homeland, who today have joined with Nasser of Egypt to form the United Arab Republic. But the Assyrians have long since migrated into Europe. They are known as Germans today!

#### Prophecy Unveils Middle East Events

Ten years ago almost no one would have guessed that the Arab World would suddenly become the vortex of the "Cold War!" Almost no one took Nasser serious when he declared he was out to unite the Arab world under Egypt's rule. He succeeded in Syria and Yemen.

But when the revolt in Iraq occurred, the Western powers stepped in to rescue Lebanon and Jordan from his clutches.

Nasser has hoped to make Iraq the next of his conquests. But old rivalries underlie *Iraq-Egyptian* relations. For centuries Cairo—Egypt's capital—and Baghdad—Iraq's capital—struggled for power over the Arab world. Now that a new government has gained control in Iraq, the question its leaders face is this: Shall Iraq surrender to Egyptian control? Shall the Iraqis give Nasser the final say on who receives the income from Iraq's immense oil fields?

Iraq leaders are being mighty cautious about joining hands with Nasser.

Iraq potentially has far more wealth than Egypt and the new Iraq regime knows it! The new rulers of Baghdad are proud Iraqis and fully conscious of their country's history and potential. They are not going to surrender lightly their hegemony to Colonel Nasser. Even should they join hands with Nasser of Egypt, their alliance will not be permanent. It cannot last! Prophecy declares it!

Notice an amazing prophecy about the Middle East in Psalm 83:1-8. It is a time of war. "Hold not Thy peace, and be not still, O God. For, lo, Thine enemies . . . have taken drafty counsel against Thy people." They have dealt treacherously with Judah and Israel—with the Jews and with America and Britain! We are God's people, Israel. The Jews are merely the tribe of Judah. But to continue:

"They have said, 'Come, and let us cut them off from being a nation.'" Isn't this exactly what the Iraqi leaders have said? "For they have consulted together with one consent: they are confederate against Thee . . ."

What nations are these in confederation against God's people? Here is the answer of this prophecy! Here is what is yet going to take shape in the Middle East!

"Edom (Turkey), and the Ishmaelites (Saudi Arabia); Moab (part of Jordan), and the Hagarenes (part of Arabia); Gebal (this is the ancient name for Byblos in Lebanon), and Ammon (Jordan) and Amalek (part of the Turks); the Philistines (the displaced Moslems from Palestine) with the inhabitants of Tyre; ASSUR IS JOINED WITH THEM: they have helped the children of Lot (Jordan and part of Iraq)."

Who is Assur? GERMANY!

So Germany—not atheistic, communist Russia—is ultimately going to support an Arab union against the Jews and against Israel—Britain and America! This is what prophecy foretells. This is God's warning to us today. The West's intervention may temporarily save certain Arab countries from Nasser, but the very countries we are now trying to rescue are yet to turn upon us!

Notice that there is no Syria or Egypt mentioned in this prophecy. Egypt (Please continue on page 23)

#### NOTICE

As Mr. Armstrong was preparing the next installment of his "AUTOBIOGRAPHY" a tragic accident struck. His son Richard David was critically injured in an auto accident. About a week later he died. This tragedy has necessitated postponement of the next installment one month.

# The Plain Truth about the PROTESTANT Reformation

Was the Protestant revolt a purely religious movement? Was it a sincere attempt to "reform" the Church which Jesus built? Here are astounding FACTS in this third of the series of articles based on Mr. Meredith's eye-opening book!

by Roderick C. Meredith

THE FIRST two installments in this series revealed the startling fact that a *radical change* came over nominal "Christianity" soon after the days of the original apostles. *Pagan* ceremonies, customs and traditions were quickly accepted into the professing Christian Church.

We learned of the *corruption* and *debauchery* of the Catholic Church during the Middle or "Dark" ages. We learned how men like Wyclif, Huss and Savonarola were *unable* to purge this wickedness from *within* the organized church of their day. They *paid with their lives!*

Now let us consider the real factors which caused men to *revolt* against the authority of the Roman Catholic Church. Again, let us ask ourselves these questions: Was this a sincere, Spirit-motivated return to the "faith once delivered to the saints"?

## Immediate Causes of the Reformation

Many modern Protestants have assumed that the Reformation was purely a *religious* movement. They see visions of multitudes of sincere men throughout Germany and Europe wholeheartedly seeking a return to apostolic faith and practice.

But this is not a true picture.

It is an historical fact that there were many selfish and materialistic reasons why the Reformation took place when and how it did. Many of them were entirely divorced from a pure religious motive.

There is no doubt that political, intellectual and financial considerations played a prominent part in bringing about the Reformation of the sixteenth century. A rising sense of nationalism

caused men to feel that, as Germans, Frenchmen, or Englishmen, they had common interests against all foreigners, even the pope himself.

As the cities of Europe grew in size and influence, the increased intelligence, wealth, and political influence of the middle class prepared them to play a decisive role in the coming upheaval. They began to grow restive under the constant ecclesiastical interference in temporal affairs (Walker, p. 289).

Coupled with this national feeling, the growth of absolutism had made the various rulers feel more independent of the See of Rome, and they often attempted to secure unfettered control of ecclesiastical appointments within their realms. This was the beginning of a tendency which later culminated in state-controlled churches in many lands.

The marked friendship between the popes and the kings of France during the Avignon period gave rise to a general suspicion of papal motives in other nations. This scandal was heightened by the increase in papal taxation during this period, when "the removal of the papacy to Avignon largely cut off the revenues from the papal estates in Italy without diminishing the luxury or expensiveness of the papal court" (Walker, p. 292, 296).

Many complaints were voiced, not only by individuals, but by the most powerful kings and by whole nations against the imperious domination of the popes, the frauds, violence, avarice and injustice of Rome. The insolence and tyranny of papal legates, the crimes, ignorance and moral depravity of priests and monks made men everywhere wish for a reformation of the church "in its head and members" (Mosheim, p. 559).

Acting in concert with all these forces was that remarkable movement known as the Renaissance, or the awakening of Europe to a new interest in science, literature and art. It was a movement that brought the change from medieval to modern ideals, culture, and methods of thought.

If we would understand the reformation that followed, we must first examine the interplay and action of each of these factors which played such an important part in its direction and final outcome.

## Political and Financial Causes for Reform

As we have seen, the papal power reached its height under Hildebrand (1073-1085), who, even more than his predecessors, aimed at the complete subordination of the empire to the Roman church. The prosecution of this enterprise caused a protracted struggle for power between the papacy and the empire. In this struggle, the popes had great advantages over the emperors—whose actual dominions were far from being coextensive with the area dominated by the church. One very effective support was found in the disposition of the German princes themselves to put checks upon the power of the emperors. And in the crusades the popes had the opportunity to direct the religious enthusiasm of the common people in all nations (Fisher, *The Reformation*, p. 26-28).

Eventually, the papacy was triumphant in this struggle and the penitent Emperor, Henry IV, was forced to humble himself before Pope Hildebrand in order to retain the allegiance of his subjects. Thus, we behold the spectacle of the church *ruling over the state*, and

dictating its will to the Roman emperors.

Indeed, the church had long dominated the empire to some extent, but never so completely. "In the eighteen years (1198-1216) in which Innocent III reigned, the papal institution shone forth in full splendor. The enforcement of celibacy had placed the entire body of the clergy in a closer relation to the sovereign pontiff. The Vicar of Peter had become the Vicar of God and of Christ . . . The king was to the Pope as the moon to the sun—a lower luminary shining with borrowed light" (*Fisher, The Reformation*, p. 29).

Thus we see that the popes were making themselves out to be *God on earth*. They taught Christ was setting up His millennial reign on earth *through them*.

However, before this papal power could long be exercised, it became evident that there were new forces rising in Europe to challenge its supremacy. In many lands, the patriotism of the people was resulting in an unwillingness to submit to foreign domination over their own national churches and a reluctance to pay "Peter's pence" for the construction of magnificent cathedrals in Rome (Hurlbut, p. 151).

#### Abuse of Religious Office

In the exercise of its political and financial power, the Catholic Church was riding for a fall. The popes seemed to have an insatiable craving for money. This wealth was not only used to further their quest of voluptuous and easy living, but to purchase *friends and power*. The Roman pontiffs were able to extract this money from their unwary subjects by various means concealed under the appearance of religion.

Mosheim describes this abuse of power: "Among these artifices, what were called indulgences—that is, liberty to buy off the punishments of their sins by contributing money to pious uses—held a distinguished place. And to these recourse was had as often as the papal treasury because exhausted, to the immense injury of the public interests. Under some plausible but for the most part false pretext, the ignorant and timorous people were beguiled with the prospect of great advantage by the

hawkers of indulgences, who were in general base and profligate characters" (*Eccl. History*, p. 560).

These scandals provided a very adequate reason in the eyes of many German princes, for instance, to throw off the papal yoke—whether by "reform" or revolt—in order to free themselves from papal taxation and interference, and to seize the wealth of the churches and monasteries. Luther's later attack on the papal financial policy and taxation instantly made him a champion of the German middle class and, indirectly, of all his countrymen, who had long harbored feelings of resentment toward the crafty and easy-living Italians.

In England, relatively the same situation prevailed. King Henry VIII had squandered most of the royal treasury inherited from his more astute father. At the same time, there was growing discontent among the nobles in particular with regard to excessive papal taxation, and the abundant wealth of the monastic orders would be prize pickings if the papal authority were cast off. It is significant that one of Henry's first actions after having himself recognized as the "supreme head of the Church and clergy of England" was to order the *confiscation* of the wealth of the church, particularly that of the monastic orders.

Through royal negligence and extravagance, there arose a class of sharers in the monastic loot whose vested interests lay in continued separation from the church of Rome. This faction was a powerful guarantee against any later movements for reconciliation with the papacy (*Walker, An Outline History of the Catholic Church*, p. 56).

In view of these many temptations, and the nationalistic tendency already underway, it should have been the primary interest of the popes to reconcile the political and financial objections of the various nations. But such was *not* the case.

While the papacy should have been doing everything possible to avoid aggravating the peoples of Europe with its ruthless financial policy, it did just the opposite. In order to enrich their own relatives or to strengthen the states of the Church, the popes often applied the wealth they received from indul-

gences and the sale of church offices.

Fisher describes the wretched character of some of these popes: "Innocent VIII, besides advancing the fortunes of seven illegitimate children, and waging two wars with Naples, received an annual tribute from the Sultan for detaining his brother and rival in prison, instead of sending him to lead a force against the Turks, the enemies of Christendom. Alexander VI, whose wickedness brings to mind the dark days of the Papacy in the tenth century, occupied himself in building up a principality for his favorite son, that monster of depravity, Caesar Borgia, and in amassing treasures, by base and cruel means, for the support of the licentious Roman Court. He is said to have died of the poison which he caused to be prepared for a rich cardinal, who bribed the head cook to set it before the Pope himself" (*The Reformation*, p. 44-45).

Thus, it is evident that when the reformers began their pleas for a break with the papal authority, the wide response was often not so much from sincere religious motives as from the practical and natural desire of many to appropriate to themselves the political and financial rewards hitherto withheld or controlled by the Roman church.

#### The Renaissance

Another important factor in preparing the way for the Reformation was the revival of learning, literature and art called the Renaissance. The leaders of this movement were not usually priests or monks, but laymen. It opened as a literary movement and was not yet openly anti-religious, but only skeptical and inquiring. It was greatly aided by the invention of printing in 1455, by Gutenberg. For the first time books could now be disseminated by the thousands, and it is significant that the first book printed was the Bible.

The Renaissance stimulated patriotism and served to inspire the production of a national literature. It encouraged independence in thought and national policies, and led to the development of the modern European nationalistic concepts as we know them. As strong national governments arose, this naturally tended to curb the authority of what

had been regarded as the universal church. The influence of the pope and clergy became more and more limited to the religious sphere, and the diplomatic policy of each nation pursued a more independent course.

Increased interest in the pagan classics exerted a marked influence upon the educated classes, and caused them to break with medieval scholasticism, and, in many cases, with all serious concern with religion as such.

The medieval ideals had been otherworldly and encouraged self-abnegation. The Renaissance introduced humanism and the expression of the inherent tendencies in man. The attitude of ascetic seclusion gave way to the search for full enjoyment of all the world can offer.

A rational search into the history and literature of the past subjected many documents of the church to critical examination. A school of historical criticism was started by Lorenzo Valla (1405-1457), who exposed the falsity of the Donation of Constantine and denied the apostolic origin of the Apostle's Creed. All this inquiry and revival of human interests served to undermine the authority and influence of the Catholic Church.

For about two generations before the Protestant Reformation, the popes themselves tried to enter into the spirit of the Renaissance and the popes of that time were marked by culture rather than religious faith. This naturally resulted in the papal court becoming even more worldly, and brought about an increased demand for a reformation of the church.

"One very beneficial result of the Renaissance was the revived interest in the study of Hebrew and Greek. This promoted a better understanding of the Bible on which the great reformatory work of Luther, Zwingli, and Calvin was based. Without this preparation their work would not have been possible" (Qualben, *History of the Christian Church*, p. 199).

Perhaps the most outstanding Renaissance scholar was Desiderius Erasmus, who had been accused of "laying the egg that Luther hatched." He studied in several different European nations. Although he was primarily a Roman Catholic, yet his provocative satires of the clerical abuses of his time and his

appeal to return to the simplicity of original Christianity had a profound effect on the educated classes of his time, and, through them, reached the masses of people.

Erasmus was convinced that the Roman system was filled with superstition and corruption. Yet he had no wish to break with Catholicism. He looked upon it, sentimentally, as the "mother" of society and the arts. And he was too intellectual to sympathize with the Lutheran revolt, the brutal excesses of which repelled him.

"Hence neither side in the struggle that opened in the latter part of his life understood him, and his memory has been condemned by polemic writers, Protestant and Catholic. His own thought was that education, return to the sources of Christian truth, and flagellation of ignorance and immorality by merciless satire would bring the church to purity. To this end he labored" (Walker, *A History of the Christian Church*, p. 329).

Thus, we find that the humanists helped prepare the way for the Reformation. They discredited much of the Catholic theology. They encouraged men to study the Bible and early Christian writers from a new point of view. They helped release the minds of men from medieval traditionalism, and began an era of independent scholarship and thinking centered around the desires and needs of man.

With the rise of nationalism, the invention of printing and increased distribution of knowledge, this intellectual movement would have eventually brought about tremendous changes in medieval Catholicism and in the freedom of the individual, even had there been no Luther, Zwingli, or Calvin. So when the Reformation did begin, it was helped to success by forces that were purely intellectual and often irreligious in nature.

#### Religious Abuses Calling For Reform

The details of the degenerate morals and ecclesiastical corruptions in the period immediately preceding the Reformation are so well known that they need only brief summarization and analysis here. But one vitally important question arises which is usually over-

looked or pushed aside. That is the fundamental question of *whether* the paganized, radically changed and corrupted religio-political machine dominating the nations of Europe, called the Roman Catholic Church, was in actual fact the rightful and legitimate successor of the original apostolic church—the *one true church* Jesus Christ said He would build.

For, as we shall later see, the Protestant churches, as a whole, base their claim of historic unity with the apostolic church upon their direct descendancy from the Roman Catholic Church, their "mother" church.

*Was this church* the Church Jesus built? Were its leaders and its members filled with and led by the *Spirit of God*? This is a vital point, for as the apostle Paul states: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Romans 8:9).

We can do no better than draw our conclusions from the statements of recognized historians in this field. A direct comparison is made by Plummer: "And as soon as the revival of letters caused the contents of the New Testament and the teaching of the Fathers to be known, it was seen that what passed for Christianity at the close of the fifteenth century was scarcely recognizable as such, when placed side by side with what we know of Christianity at the close of the Apostolic Age" (*The Continental Reformation*, p. 11).

A picturesque and comprehensive description of this state of things as it affected the daily lives of the people is given by the noted historian D'Aubigne: "Let us now see what was the state of the Church previous to the Reformation. The nations of Christendom no longer looked to a holy and living God for the free gift of eternal life. To obtain it, they were obligated to have recourse to all the means that a superstitious, fearful, and alarmed imagination could devise. Heaven was filled with saints and mediators, whose duty it was to solicit this mercy. Earth was filled with pious works, sacrifices, observances, and ceremonies, by which it was to be obtained" (*History of the Reformation*, p. 17).

Christ was regarded as a *stern judge*. He was prepared to condemn anyone who did not invoke the intercession of

the saints or resort to the papal indulgences.

Many intercessors appeared in Christ's place. First was the Virgin Mary, like the Diana of paganism, and then the saints—whose numbers were continually augmented by the popes.

Religious pilgrimages were prescribed as a penance for sin. There were almost as many religious resorts for pilgrims as there were mountains, forests and valleys. On these pilgrimages, the people brought to the priests money and anything that had any value—fowls, ducks, geese, wax, straw, butter and cheese.

D'Aubigne continues: "The bishops no longer preached, but they consecrated priests, bells, monks, churches, chapels, images, books, and cemeteries; and all this brought in a large revenue. Bones, arms, and feet were preserved in gold and silver boxes; they were given out during mass for the faithful to kiss, and this too was a source of great profit.

"All these people maintained that the pope, "sitting as God in the temple of God," could not err, and they would not suffer any contradiction."

It is related that in the very church where Luther preached, at Wittenberg, was shown a supposed fragment of Noah's ark, a piece of wood from the cradle of Jesus, some hair from the beard of St. Christopher, and nineteen thousand other relics.

These religious relics were hawked about the countryside and sold to the faithful for the spiritual merits they were supposed to bestow. The wandering salesmen paid a percentage of their profits to the original owners of the relics. "The kingdom of heaven had disappeared, and in its place a market of abominations had been opened upon earth" (D'Aubigne, p. 17).

### The Debauched Clergy

If the members of this professing Christendom may be partially excused, as many historians try to do, because of the prevailing ignorance and lack of right spiritual guidance, none of these excuses carries any weight when applied to the higher clergy and to the popes themselves. For these men had every advantage of education and knowledge if they had rightly desired to take advantage of these.

The deplorable corruption of the

Roman Church during the century just before the Reformation is appalling. Many of the popes were no more than "respectable" gangsters.

No trace of the Holy Spirit of God is to be found in their words or actions. Yet they headed and represented what was supposed to be the only Church of God on earth!

Regarding two of these popes, Wharey states: "Sixtus IV had sixteen illegitimate children, whom he took special care to provide for and enrich. But of all the popes of this age, perhaps Roderic Borgia, who assumed the name of Alexander VI, excelled in wickedness. He has been called the Catiline of the popes; and the villainies, crimes, and enormities recorded of him, are so many and so great, that it must be certain that he was destitute, not only of all religion, but also of decency and shame" (*Church History*, p. 211-12).

It was a common practice in those times for the priests to pay the price of blackmail to their bishops for the illegal concubines with whom they shared their beds, and for each bastard child thus produced (D'Aubigne, p. 18). The Roman religion no longer contained anything that would cause it to be esteemed by those who were truly pious, and nearly the whole worship of God consisted in outward paganized ceremonies. Such sermons as were occasionally addressed to the people were not only destitute of all taste and good sense, but were stuffed with fables and nauseous fictions (Mosheim, p. 547).

### Had God's True Church Become Corrupted?

And yet, after themselves relating these accounts of the spiritual stench, utter depravity of morals, and total ignorance or disregard for all Christian truth and virtue that had characterized the Roman church for many generations, these very Protestant writers attempt in the next breath to label this reprobate system the "church of Christ"—the church Jesus said He would build, the Spirit-filled body of which He is the living Head! (Eph. 1:22).

Notice D'Aubigne's pitiful lament: "The evil had spread through all ranks: 'a strong delusion' had been sent among men; the corruption of manners corresponded with the corruption of faith.

A mystery of iniquity oppressed the enslaved Church of Christ" (*History of the Reformation*, p. 20).

Of the fact that a purifying and cleaning up of this society was needed, there is no doubt. But of the supposed fact that this *totally paganized* system was the Church of God on earth there is *great doubt*.

In fact, the description of the true Church as given in the New Testament is in *total contradiction* to the faith, practice and life of Roman Catholicism as it has existed for hundreds of years!

The inspired command of Peter to "repent and be *baptized*" (Acts 2:38) was replaced by the Roman injunction to "do penance"—confess and pay the priest. The apostolic way of life of *love* and *obedience* to God's spiritual laws was replaced by a pattern of *fear* and a superstitious observance of special fasts, feasts and church festivals utterly foreign to Christ and the early true Church.

In place of the inspired form of church government instituted by Christ and carried on by the apostles, we find a corrupt hierarchy of priestly offices which are not so much as mentioned in the Bible. And over the whole corrupted system we find the Roman pope, "sitting as God in the temple of God" (II Thes. 2:4), often disobedient himself to all the laws of God and man, yet holding forth with authority as the "Vicar of Christ," and permitting and encouraging men to prostrate themselves before him in a kind of worship that Peter and the other apostles would have feared to allow (Acts 10:25-26).

Was this utterly debased religio-political system the legitimate descendant of the Church Jesus and the apostles founded? Would a "reformation" of this foul system constitute a continuation of the true Church?

These are the really *basic* questions that we need to consider. And let us not hide our eyes from the inescapable fact that it was *directly* from the Roman Catholic system that the Protestant churches have sprung.

As we have now seen, there were political, economic, social, intellectual and religious factors throughout the nations of Europe which presaged a universal upheaval. And *political* and *financial* considerations played a very important part in the coming reformation.

When it came, what was its true significance in the overall *plan* and *purpose* of the eternal God?

Was it a recapturing of the "faith once delivered" to the saints? We need to face this question squarely.

In the next installment, we will deal directly with the beginning of the Protestant Reformation under Martin Luther. Many of the *hidden facts* about *what* actually took place and *why* are truly eye-opening! Be sure to read it!

## Behind Arab Crisis?

(Continued from page 18)

and Syria shall be overthrown by a Nazi-Fascist revival in Europe. Anciently the Assyrians conquered Egypt and Syria. It is going to happen again (Isaiah 17:3 and Daniel 11:42). This prophecy was fully explained in the April, 1958 issue of The PLAIN TRUTH. We have a few copies still available if you have never read the full explanation of these prophecies.

### Germany and World War III

But Germany is not only going to be imbroiled in the hot Middle East controversy, she is going to spark World War III!

Notice the prophecies!

"O Asshur, the rod of Mine anger," declares God. Here is a prophecy concerning Germany—the descendants of Asshur today! "The staff," says God, "in their hand is Mine indignation. I will send him against an hypocritical nation (that is, Israel—America and Britain today), and . . . I will give him a charge to take the spoil, and to take the prey, and to treat them down like the mire of the streets" (Isaiah 10:5-6).

Our sins are mounting to heaven itself. And God is going to punish us by the very nation whom we have tried to buy for an ally! It is God who is going to permit the revival of Nazism to punish us in World War III. We have won two major wars against Germany in one generation. But the third time God is going to punish us as we have never been punished before! The sword of war is going to strike us "the third time" (Ezekiel 21:14), and we are going to be led away captive to Assyria and to all nations (Isaiah 11:10-12).

When our people have learned their lesson, and repented of their sins and quit breaking God's law—the Ten Commandments—and surrender their lives to their Creator, we read in Isaiah 10: 12-22: "Wherefore it shall come to pass, that, when the Lord hath performed His whole work upon Mount Zion and on Jerusalem"—when His people Israel and Judah have gone through trial and tribulation—"I," declares God, "will punish the fruit of the stout heart of the king of Assyria, and the glory of his high looks. For he saith, 'By the strength of my hand I have done it, and by my wisdom; for I am prudent: and I have removed the bonds of the people, and have robbed their treasures, and I have put down the inhabitants like a valiant man: and my hand,' continues the coming dictator of Germany, "'hath found as a nest the riches of the people: and as one gathereth eggs that are left, have I gathered all the earth; and there was none that moved the wing, or opened the mouth, or peeped.'

"Shall the ax," responds God to the coming revival of Nazism in Europe, "boast itself against Him that heweth therewith? or shall the saw magnify itself against Him that shaketh it? . . . Therefore shall the Lord, the Lord of

hosts, . . . burn and devour his thorns and his briars in one day"—by sending the Communist hordes of Asia upon Europe!

"And it shall come to pass in that day, that the remnant of Israel, and such as are escaped of the house of Jacob"—that is Britain and America, today—"shall no more again stay upon (rely on) him that smote them"—we are relying on Germany and a United Europe today to keep Communist hordes from overrunning us—"but shall stay upon the Lord, the Holy One of Israel, in truth, The remnant shall return . . . unto the Mighty God."

### Germany's Final Repentance

God sent the prophet Jonah to ancient Nineveh, the capital of ancient Assyria. The Ninevites repented. After World War II, Germany was faced with the question of national repentance. Had America and Britain repented of their sins, they could have been used as was Jonah to bring the Germans to repentance. But our people refused. We did not show the Germans God's Way. We tried to convert them to democracy—our human way. But God's way is not democracy! As we refused to perform our national mission to Germany, God

**West Germany is building up a vast merchant fleet. Here is a view of the Hamburg shipyards. Much of Germany's miraculous recovery is due to her sea-going trade with other nations. Prophecy declares Germany will head a united Europe and become the world's biggest commercial power ever to dominate the world!**

—Wide World Photo



will punish our people as He did Jonah!

In the meantime, God will warn Europe of what their fate is *through His Church*. "And this gospel of the Kingdom shall be preached in all the world for a witness unto ALL NATIONS; and then shall the end come," declared Jesus in Matthew 24:14. Germany is to be warned of her sins. Because she will not now repent, God will use her to punish us first. Then He is going to punish her.

The entire book of Nahum—one of the so-called Minor Prophets—is devoted to the final punishment of the German-led Church-State Nazi union yet to arise in Europe. The setting of the prophecy is the original fall of Nineveh about 612 B.C. What happened to Nineveh, the ancient capital of Assyria, was a type of what will happen in our day! Notice that the actual setting of this prophecy is the time of God's "wrath"—the Day of the Lord (Nahum 1:2, 6). That day of God's intervention is *yet future*. It has not happened yet! This prophecy, then, is for our day!

Now notice Zechariah 10:11. Here is another prophecy against Assyria. This prophecy was written almost a century *after* the original fall of Assyria. It has never been fulfilled since. Yet God declared it would happen: "The pride of Assyria SHALL BE BROUGHT DOWN." Compare this with Isaiah 14:24-27. This could not happen *unless there were an Assyria today*—a nation so powerful as finally to be able to carry our people captive in world war (verse 10).

These prophecies are to happen "in that day"—the climactic time of the end, when God intervenes in human affairs (Isaiah 30:31 and 31:8).

When the nations learn their lesson—learn that war does not pay, then, "In that day shall there be a highway out of Egypt to Assyria, and the Assyrian shall come into Egypt, and the Egyptians into Assyria; and the Egyptians shall serve with the Assyrians. In that day shall Israel be the third with Egypt and with Assyria, even a blessing in the midst of the land: whom the Lord of hosts shall bless, saying, 'Blessed be Egypt my people, and Assyria the work of my hands, and Israel mine inheritance'" (Isaiah 19:23-25).

Yes, that wonderful day of peace is

coming. No more war, no more international friction!

But before that time there are mighty big lessons to learn, and much suffering to be endured. Human beings, it seems, will learn no other way! But for those who do repent now, who do seek God's protection—no matter in what nation they live—God promises: "I also will keep thee from the hour of temptation, which shall come upon all the world, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Revelation 3:10).

## Short Questions

(Continued from page 11)

be shorn. *This is untrue*. Properly cut long hair is *not* shorn hair. There is no Bible command anywhere against cutting hair within the length which looks feminine and honorable.

Many women today are, however, wearing their hair too short. They are not allowing their hair to be "a *covering*" (verse 15). It is a *woman's long hair that is her covering*—not some piece of cloth to hide a mannish, modern hair-do!

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