

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

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The AMBASSADOR CHORALE under the direction of Leon Ettinger. Listening attentively is the Ambassador Orchestra and part of the large audience. Ambassador's fine Music Department is but one of the many outstanding activities of the College. Prospective students should especially read about the unique advantages of AMBASSADOR in the accompanying article in this issue.

# The COLOSSAL LIE!

The world has swallowed one of the greatest LIES of all time!  
YOU have come to believe it! SEE, with your own startled eyes,  
how the LIE has been used to further the aims of a HIDDEN,  
UNSEEN enemy!

by Garner Ted Armstrong

**W**HY do our national leaders fear Communism? *Why* is the threat of Red invasion constantly in the minds of much of the world? *Why* is the United States so concerned about Russia's missile program, her development of atomic aircraft, her space satellites and nuclear weapons?

Yes *WHY*?

## A Fantastic Super Weapon

Russia's greatest weapon in the "cold war," and the constant war of nerves between East and West has been the Lie! With it, a second-rate power has swallowed millions of acres, gulped millions of hapless humans, shouldered her way to a position of one of the "dominant" nations of the world, thrown cold fear and terror into the hearts of western leaders, and is presently hurling vodka-reeking threats of war to a trembling, shaken West!

What *is* it, this fantastic hypnotism with which the Bolsheviks are cowing the world? What *is* this mysterious hold the pig-eyed, thick-necked Kremlin laughing boys have over the leading nations of the world?

It's the Lie. Perhaps the most colossal lie ever told—a lie most of *you* have come to believe.

You need to understand the plain, stark TRUTH about Russia—and you need to see EXPOSED, laid bare before your eyes, one of the greatest lies ever foisted upon an unsuspecting generation!

## Russian Claims

The Communists boast that most of the important inventions in industry and science were actually made by *Russia*, and *not* the United States, Britain, France and Germany. The Soviet magazine *Literary Gazette* supposedly "exposed" the false claims of the western nations when it reported: "The Italian Marconi shamelessly appropriated the

radio invented by the Russian scientist Popov. The German Siemens literally stole the blueprints for the telegraph from Yakobi. [The name of Morse isn't anywhere to be found.] The Wright brothers usurped the glory of Mozhaisky."

Mozhaisky was credited with flying an airplane twenty years before the Wright brothers' successful flight at Kitty Hawk.

The article continued the ridiculous claims of the swaggering Russians by giving Yablochkov, not Edison, credit for having invented the electric light bulb, which was originally known as "Russian Light." A Russian called Polzunov was purported to have designed and built a steam-driven locomotive well ahead of Stephenson. Another Russian is claimed to have beaten Robert Fulton to the steamboat. The first submarine was said to have been floated in Russia early in the nineteenth century. They claim the first tractor, pioneered by Blinov, another "Russian Inventor" long ahead of anyone else.

The list is exhausting! The first steel rolling mill, the law of the conservation of chemical mass, the balloon, internal combustion engine, tank, television, synthetic rubber, helicopter, penicillin, radar—and myriad others are all claimed to have been Russian firsts.

Mostly, people seem only to *laugh* at these claims!

But how incongruous it is — that NEARLY EVERYONE SEEMS TO BELIEVE IT IMMEDIATELY WHEN RUSSIA CLAIMS MISSILE SUPERIORITY, HUGE STOCKPILES OF BOMBS, AN ULTRA MODERN AIRFORCE, AND SWINGS HER WEIGHT AROUND WITH THREATS OF ANNIHILATION OF ENEMY NATIONS!

What are the real facts?

RUSSIA IS ACTUALLY A SECOND-RATE POWER, WHICH DOES NOT NOW HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF WAGING A FULL-

SCALE WAR — A SECOND-RATE POWER WITH A THIRD-CLASS AIRFORCE, WITH A MISSILE PROGRAM *FAR* BEHIND WHAT IT IS CLAIMED TO BE, WITH A WORLD-WAR-II EARLY WARNING AND DEFENSE SYSTEM, AND A MULTI-LINGUAL POPULACE OF POORLY EDUCATED, POORLY HOUSED, ILL-FED AND POORLY CLOTHED PEOPLE!

## Outdated Detection and Warning Systems

Consider the now infamous occurrence on the border of Soviet Armenia, when an unarmed, luckless American transport crew, either driven off-course by strong winds, or deliberately lured from their assigned area by a Russian radio signal, was mercilessly attacked and shot down by members of the "invincible" Red Air Force.

A *tape recording* was made of the actual pilot conversations taking place during the attack made on the American plane. Here is the story.

The "Hercules," as the American plane is dubbed, had been flying through bad weather along the Turkish-Armenian border. It wandered over Soviet Armenian territory.

After Soviet radar had detected the presence of the slow-flying plane, Red jets hurtled into the sky, searching for the wandering craft. The jets were forced to *search at various altitudes* for the U.S. plane, until, finally, one of the Red pilots sighted the Hercules, flying at about 33,000 feet. The jets gathered for the kill. One pass by the first jet apparently completely missed the lumbering Hercules, and on the second pass by another plane the unarmed American began burning. Afterward—the following conversation took place, and was recorded:

"The target is burning . . ."

"The target is banking."

"It is going toward the fence [the

border]."

"The tail assembly is falling off the target."

"Look at him, he will not get away, he is already falling."

"Yes, he is falling. I will finish him off, boys, I will finish him off on the run."

"The target has lost control, it is going down . . ."

"The target has turned over . . ."

This authentic text was actually taken from a tape recording made by a person who was tuned in to the frequency being used by the Red jet fighters.

This tape reveals a great deal more than you might realize.

First, remember Soviet Armenia is in an area to which—should Russia expect immediate retaliatory blows from U.S. bombers of the Strategic Air Command, or a direct attack—the Americans would almost certainly send their fastest and best bombers toward major Russian cities. Therefore, being of such a highly strategic location — it is only simple logic to believe the Soviets would have based in that portion of their borders their most advanced, most effective military equipment for detecting and destroying any approaching enemy aircraft.

But notice! The Hercules was a very slow-flying, unarmed transport. The Red pilots *did not know* at what altitude the Hercules was flying, but had to use World War II technique of searching *visually* for the "enemy" plane. There were no ground to air, or air to air anti-aircraft rockets or missiles used — no automatic electronic gunsights, which would have "locked on" the target, firing the Red jet's guns automatically — and the Red pilots made World War II type "passes" at the plane—which is also an outdated technique.

Notice too! HAD this been a fast jet bomber, bent on destroying Russian cities, it would have streaked past the Red pilots, craning their necks in the bad weather, so fast they wouldn't have SEEN it, let alone shot it down.

#### An Eye Witness

Author Lloyd Mallan, a top science writer, and author of five startling books, *Men, Rockets and Space Rats*, *Supersonic Project Officer*, *Secrets of Space Flights*, *A Guide to Astronomy*, and



—Wide World Photo

Collective farmers from Southeastern Russia. Soviet Russia is exceedingly backward in farm production. Her farm economists often come to the U.S.A. to seek out new ideas and improve means of production.

*Space Satellites*, recently spent a good deal of time in Russia—traveling 14,000 miles through various parts of the Soviet Union. Mr. Mallan talked to top Soviet scientists. He talked to more of them than any other western observer has been able to, saw things, startling and revealing things, that others hadn't been able to see.

Mr. Mallan reports in full his remarkable findings in a series of three articles appearing in "True" magazine for May, June and July, 1959.

Among other things, writer Mallan exposes the great hoax of the supposed "invincible" air might of Soviet Russia.

#### Russian Copies of Western Designs

The Russian Air Force is largely made up of *copies of various U.S. designs!* And the designs used for the copying are mostly of models the U.S. Air Force began considering inadequate for combat as early as 1949!

The Reds lack the U.S. systems of weapons aiming, dead-accurate navigation, and show no real designing skills, vision and imagination. Author Mallan states the Red Air Force is at least 15 years behind the U.S. Air Force in total combat effectiveness.

One important point: Mr. Mallan didn't go into Russia deliberately *looking* for an inferior Air Force — but he

traveled there fully believing the Lie—expecting to find the largest, most powerful and modern air force in the world. What he actually saw was something entirely different.

In the closing months of World War II, for instance, four of our Boeing B-29A bombers, on a mission over Japan, crash-landed in Russia at the port of Vladivostok. The U.S. never laid eyes on its airplanes again. Then two years later the Soviet news agency, Tass, proudly proclaimed its government had developed a heavy bomber of advanced design—designated the TU-4. In comparing the "TU-4" with the B-29A, it is impossible to discern any difference whatsoever—and the TU-4 turned out to be an actual bolt-for-bolt *copy* of the B-29 "Superforts."

#### Now Look at U.S. Power

What would happen if a Red plane crossed U.S. borders? Consider the *vast difference* in the techniques!

First, you must assume there is an immediate decision to *shoot the plane down*—as was true in the case of the unarmed American plane. Having decided the plane was unfriendly, and should be destroyed, there would be NO hunting for the target, wondering at what altitude it was flying, making "passes" and missing it with many of

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By the Radio Church of God

them. Here's what would happen.

Giant radar screens would get an accurate "fix" on the target from the ground. Two F-102A Delta Dagger interceptors of the latest type would take off. The Dagger is loaded with the latest electronic "brain" type of equipment that makes it a virtual flying laboratory, capable of supersonic speeds. The pilot would be guided by ground radar to a point perhaps miles from the enemy craft. The pilot probably hasn't seen the target—and, for that matter—*may never see it!* The pilot, guided by the ground, picks up the target in his radarscope, and turns his plane over to electronic controls. From this point—the pilot becomes an observer, a mere passenger, while the highly intricate machine around him does the work. The Dagger is locked on the target by its own radar. Sensing and navigation devices set the plane's missiles, called the "Falcon," an air-to-air type antiaircraft missile, into a firing attitude. A missile is released—speeds directly toward the target. The missile is guided by its own computer and navigation system—streaking unerringly toward the impulse sent back by the enemy plane. No evasive tactics can save the enemy plane. No amount of maneuvering can escape the falcon. It follows wherever the Red plane goes—

striking it with the power of an exploding bomb, blasting it from the sky.

The important thing is this! If the Russians *have* such equipment—having already decided to "scramble" their interceptors—especially at one of the most strategic points along their borders—WHY DIDN'T THEY USE IT? The answer is self-evident. Such advanced equipment is not now possessed by the Red Air Force.

## Another Amazing Lie

Consider this. Some months ago, the Western world was electrified by the shocking announcement that Russia had actually perfected an atom-powered bomber! Immediately it was swallowed up, and the public began buzzing again about the great and powerful Red Air Force—its supposed superiority above that of the United States and other Western powers. Later, President Eisenhower said, "There is absolutely no reliable evidence of any kind that indicates the Soviets have flown a nuclear-powered airplane . . ." Mr. Mallan, in his exposé appearing in "True" magazine, tells why they won't!

Of course, the mere incident of the out-dated methods used by the Soviet fighters in downing the unarmed American transport does not in itself prove very much. However, in air battles over the Formosa Strait, another situation where the Communists should certainly be expected to put out their efforts, U.S. pilots came up against the *very latest* MiGs (the 17s and the newer 19s). But, even though engaged in aerial dog fights with these latest Russian jets, there was no evidence whatsoever of any high-grade electronic controls being used by the Soviets. Nor did anyone see any Soviet missiles being displayed. As a matter of fact our Navy, during that conflict, tried out six sidewinder missiles against MiGs. The missiles scored 100% hits. In each case, the missiles flew up the tailpipes of the MiGs and destroyed them.

Mr. Mallan was shocked to find that the greatest Russian ace during World War II, Ivan Kozhedub, had actually flown in what was an old crate. Mr. Mallan went to *the* air museum of the U.S.S.R. He had been told by Professor Leonid Sedov, head of the Russian space

flight commission and a foremost aviation expert, that the museum was a *must* if he wanted to learn anything about Soviet air technology. He said, "On display was a canvas-covered monoplane. I studied it, guessed that it was pretty ancient. 'Good-looking planes, these old World War I jobs,' I remarked to my interpreter, Natasha." Mr. Mallan received a shock when his interpreter turned and said somewhat indignantly, "This is a motherland war (WW2) aircraft!" In other words, this was a plane that the Soviets' greatest ace had flown *during World War II*.

You must remember that Russia had practically *nothing* with which to begin building its air force at the close of World War II.

Of course, United States Lend Lease had sent mostly medium bombers into Russia. It was contrary to our policy to send the Russians our bigger, heavier long-range bombers.

It was for this reason the Russians never managed to introduce a really good heavy bomber until 1947 when the bolt-for-bolt copy of our big B-29 was unveiled by the Russians two years after capturing five of our American B-29's which had crash landed in Russia.

And so it goes—in dozens of ways the Soviets are *far* behind the United States in actual air power. It is only because of the colossal *lie*, YOU have come to believe otherwise. And the amazing *truth* is—it is *not only* Russia who is spreading the Lie.

## Who Else?

Make no mistake! Communism is the arch-enemy of Democracy! Communism is fighting against God! Communism is a major threat to world peace! But the Communists are not the *ONLY* enemy of free men—and *this* fact seems little understood or believed today!

With the Lie, fed to us in small bits, a little at a time, a *hidden, unseen* enemy has been keeping our frightened eyes fixed with glazed terror on the supposed might of *Russia*, while the *real* enemy which is even more of an *immediate* threat, drains us of every possible dollar!

*Who* else is spreading the LIE? Strange though it may seem, there is a

secret *hidden* enemy which is trying its best to spread the Lie, and make it even bigger and more fearsome to Americans and the other Western powers in order to fulfill its own secret ends!

For years, the PLAIN TRUTH magazine has been telling you how it is to be a rearmed, revitalized GERMANY which is to rise to a position of great industrial and military power in the world, with the capability of striking at the United States *before* Russia is ready!

Without realizing it, our policy-shapers have fallen for the same hoax which was foisted upon Western diplomats after World War I.

Hiding behind a general, blinding fear of Communism, the Germans dangled their bait before the ashen-grey faces of Westerners. The Germans, too, said the Russians were a *tremendous threat* to the world's safety. The Germans said *they* would be glad to become a "vassal" of the West.

As mercenaries, the Germans would be willing to take Western money, to begin to bear Western arms, and to become a "Western ally" as a bulwark and a safeguard against Communism.

The vast reparations demanded of Germany as a result of the Treaty of Versailles subsequent to World War I finally disappeared. No one seemed very concerned when the civilian busses and other vehicles in Germany came out with high chassis and four-wheel drive.

No one paid very much attention to Hitler's rantings and ravings after he was designated Chancellor prior to the end of the Weimar Republic.

And then Germany went to war!

After World War II—"the war to end all wars"—the Western powers *repeated* their mistake, once again swallowing the big Lie, hook, line and sinker.

In a book by Schulz, entitled *The Germans Will Try It Again*, it was amply explained how Germany actually *rearmed*, enabling her to attack towards the West, all the while holding herself to be an ally of the West and a protector of the West from Communism.

And now, look what is happening!

### The German Plan

It has been according to geo-political plans of the German General Staff to *exploit the fear of Communism* in order

to re-arm Germany.

In a captured geo-political document circulated from Madrid in 1950, the Nazis said: "Germany has exploited the tension between the East and the West to the utmost and she must continue her efforts in that direction."

In the same circular letter; it was stated, "The Americans fondly hope that we will one day repay with our blood all the benefits we received from them. They want us to sign a pact whereby we, as mercenaries and vassals, shall back American power politics . . . However long we may continue to milk the Americans of millions of dollars, there must come the inevitable moment when we shall have to make it crystal clear to them that we are not willing to join the fight against Russia for American interests."

And who was it who spread one of the greatest lies of the modern age—that the Soviets had developed a nuclear-powered airplane? *Wolfgang Wagner*, editor of an aviation magazine in *Cologne, West Germany*!

Wagner has set himself up as an expert on Soviet air and space technology—and claims to receive "hot tips" on Russia, which are of course very much in demand by the jittery West. They are very hard to prove or disprove—and Wagner is making a huge success of selling stories about Russia to Western publications. No one seems to know the source of his information—no one seems to care very much. His stories are about Russia, Russian space and air technology, and they "sound" authentic—so they're simply gobbled up wholeheartedly, and reprinted in the United States.

This was behind the so-called atomic plane story! An American aviation magazine reprinted the story which Wagner had printed earlier, and it was immediately snapped up and believed by the gullible public in this country.

*And so it goes around the world!* Germany has been using the *fear* of Communism to gain its own ends—that of launching a far-reaching trade war ultimately aimed at the capitulation of the West, of uniting Europe into a single power block called "the United States of Europe," and of ultimately dominating the world!

### The Bible Identifies Communist Russia and China!

*Notice!* The amazing prophecy of Ezekiel 38 and 39 tells what *Russia* and *China* would be doing *during the latter days!* "And the word of the Lord came unto me, saying, Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the chief prince [or "Prince of Rosh"] of Meshech and Tubal, and prophesy against him . . ." (Ezek. 38:1-2).

Gog was always believed by the Arabians to be the peoples to the far NORTH and EAST of Palestine, inhabiting originally the regions around the Caucasian Mountains. Josephus, the Jewish historian, rendered the word "Magog" in the Hebrew to mean a collective tribal name for the peoples of Asia, once living around the Caucasus. "Interpreters . . . have generally understood them [Gog and Magog] as symbolical expressions for the heathen nations of Asia." (Kitto, *Cyclopaedia of Biblical Literature*, Art. "Gog.")

Notice! This prophecy is directed toward GOG—which is the Communist Empire! Now see the further proof. "Son of man, set thy face against Gog, the land of Magog, the PRINCE OF ROSH!" (Ezek. 38:2). The correct Hebrew rendering, as given in most margins, is "Rosh" from which, with only a minor variation, comes RUSS, or RUSSIA!

Mentioned *with* Gog in this prophecy are "Meshech and Tubal." *Meshech* is found today in the form of "Muskva" or "Moscow." *Tubal* became "Tobalsk," in the Urals—the Great Russians of today.

Meshech, Tubal, Gog and Magog are understood by nearly *all* students of Biblical prophecy to mean RUSSIA, MONGOLIA and CHINA!

Notice how each one of these names leads us to the vast Communist Empire. And, showing the exact developments taking place right NOW, the prophecy further proves European Russia and Russian Mongolia and other *oriental peoples would be allied together!*

"All of them with shield and helmet. Gomer and all his bands, the house of Togarmah of the north quarters, and all his bands, and *many people with thee*" (Ezek. 38:5-6).

Notice these peoples, having settled far to the north and east of Palestine,

are to be *allied together* in the last days—with Togarmah still living in the "NORTH QUARTERS"—in Siberia.

But what are these hordes of Russians, Chinese, Mongols and others prophesied to *do*? Are they to strike America? WHEN does God say they will launch

their attack?

### Russia NOT to Attack America

Most men are seemingly ignorant that GOD is working out a PLAN here below!—that God has caused to be *written* specific prophecies for OUR time—NOW!

Fully ONE THIRD of your Bible is prophecy—and prophecy states POSITIVELY what *Russia* will do in these latter days!

For years, the pages of The PLAIN TRUTH magazine have been bringing you the plain, clear, dramatic *meaning* (Continued on page 16)

# RADIO LOG

## "The WORLD TOMORROW"

### TO THE U.S. & CANADA

WABC—New York—770 on dial—9:30 a.m., Sun., E.S.T.; 11:30 p.m., Mon. thru Sat.

WNTA—Newark, N.J.—970 on dial—9:00 a.m. Sun.—7:00 p.m. Mon. thru Fri.—9:00 p.m. Sat.

WLS—Chicago—890 on dial—1:00 p.m. & 8:30 p.m. Sun.; 10:30 p.m., Mon. thru Fri.

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XEG—1050 on dial—every night, 8:30 p.m. C.S.T.

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WFAA—Dallas, Tex.—570 on dial—6:00 a.m. Mon. thru Sat. 820 on dial—8:30 p.m. Sun. (Note frequency difference)

KGBX—Springfield, Mo.—1260 on dial—10:30 a.m. Sunday; 6:15 a.m. Mon. thru Sat.

KSTL—St. Louis, Mo.—690 on dial—11:00 a.m. Sun.; 7:00 a.m. Mon. thru Fri.

WEW—St. Louis, Mo.—770 on dial—1:00 p.m., Sun. and Sat.

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KUGN—Eugene—590 on dial—7:00 p.m. Sun. thru Fri.

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2GN—Goulburn—Sun., 10:00 p.m.  
3AW—Melbourne—Sun., 10:30 p.m.  
3BO—Bendigo—Thurs., 4:15 p.m.  
4CA—Cairns—Sun., 10:00 p.m.  
4KQ—Brisbane—Sun., 10:30 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

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HOK, Colon, Panama—640 kc.  
HP5K, Colon, Panama—6005 kc.

## The World Tomorrow in Spanish

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

# To Prospective Students of Ambassador College

A heart-to-heart talk with the President. Here are important things you ought to know.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

**F**ELLOWS! GIRLS!! I want to sit down right now and have an informal chat with you. I want to tell you a lot of things you ought to know—many of them never published before—about Ambassador College.

You've heard me say a lot of things, over the air, about the *happy, joyful*, World Tomorrow. Well, there is one fantastically beautiful place on earth *today* where there is a fore-taste, right now, of that very state! Students on this campus will tell you that place is the Ambassador College campus!

I am not exaggerating when I tell you that I sincerely believe there is no other place on earth like it. No other place on earth where young people of college age are as happy — where they live as *abundantly*, as enjoyably! There is a REASON for this. I will tell you later in this little chat what it is.

## NOT Just a "Bible School"

But first, I wonder if you understand that Ambassador is not just a "Bible School." It is a college of Liberal Arts. It is a *co-ed* institution. It is maintained on the very highest academic standards of college-level work. The PURPOSE of Ambassador training is to teach young men and women, not only how to earn a living, but *how to live*—what is the real PURPOSE of life—and how you can fulfil that purpose with *happy, abundant living!*

Of course we teach students to UNDERSTAND the Bible. The Bible, in fact, becomes the most interesting book by far you ever read or studied. One required major is the course in Bible and Theology—and then, there is the Graduate School of Theology on the graduate level offering the advanced degrees of Master of Arts in Theology and Doctor of Theology.

But there are other majors. Many students major in *music*. Our music

faculty is staffed with seven members, outstanding in the field. I want to tell you a lot about the Department of Music we have never published before.

Many are majoring in one of the *foreign languages*. Many girls major in *Home Economics*—and our newly built and equipped Home Economics department, we believe, is probably the finest in America today.

If you would like to major in *History* you may gain world-wide recognition and fame in the future. Under the scholarly research abilities of Herman Hoeh, you will be privileged to participate in a pioneering activity that is at last bringing to light amazing and shocking discrepancies, misrepresentations, and errors in supposed historic records deliberately written to discredit Biblical history. These have been gullibly accepted and endorsed by the world. A study that, as now taught in most of the world's institutions, is dry, dull and uninteresting to so many students becomes a live, exciting, and thrilling study at Ambassador.

Some girls have chosen a major in *Librarianship*. Today girls are learning to be librarians in a *fast-growing* Library Department.

Many, men and girls both, are majoring in our *Teacher's Education* Course. I believe it is the soundest, and best course in teacher training in the world. Frankly, this course has not been spawned by William James' pragmatism. It does not follow what is today called "Progressive Education," which has swept the country, and under which students apply for college admission untrained in reading, writing, and other basic and vital fundamentals of education.

## Educational CRIME!

And before I proceed to tell you the thrilling things I want to say about life on the Ambassador campus, let me say right here there is something *criminally*

*WRONG* with this world's education—in elementary and secondary levels as well as on the college level. National magazines such as *Life*, *Saturday Evening Post*, and many others, have recognized this and published shocking articles exposing the situation.

Don't write to ask me whether our teachers' training course will prepare you to teach in the public schools. It definitely will not. We want no part in poisoning the minds and murdering the spiritual eternity of young children our graduates shall teach. But the Ambassador course, under competent faculty members possessing Masters degrees from highest recognized teachers' educational institutions, yet having become fully aware of these *dangers* and *fallacies* in today's educational systems, *will* prepare you—IF you have teaching ability—for permanent well-paying positions on the staffs of our own system of Imperial elementary and high schools. There are now two of each of these schools.

Others are to be established as our output of competent teachers, and finances for the purpose, make possible.

## Campus LIFE

Now before going into detail on some of these seven major departments, I want to tell you some things about campus life here. It is something utterly *different* from that of any other college.

Of course, in many respects it is like campus life in other colleges—but there are vital and important differences.

This fall we expect the undergraduate college enrollment to reach our planned ceiling—about 225 full-time students, besides a few special students (those taking less than 10 hours) and the Graduate School, which may number about 25 or 30. There is a *reason* for limiting our enrollment to this comparatively small number.

That reason is *not only*, as stated in



our catalog, to avoid the evils of mass "assembly-line production" in education. There is an important additional reason. We have no frats or sororities here. Yet social life is a very important part of education at Ambassador. But here, *every student* participates in *every* social event. You, as an individual student, will actually find more doing, in social, recreational, and other extra-curricular activities, than you would in a large university of from 3,000 to 20,000 students.

It is literally true that our students lead jam-packed, busy lives. Most are working their way through. They find it necessary to plan a right balance between hours they are employed on the campus, class hours, study, sleep, and still have sufficient time for recreation, diversion, and social or other extra-curricular activities. Time must be strictly budgeted. Students must keep constantly alert mentally, or lag behind. There is never a dull moment.

Another thing that prevents monotony, you are going to notice a *change* taking place, every week — sometimes almost every day—in the physical appearance of the campus. Our physical college plant is far from completed. Students here have the exhilarating feeling that they are helping to *build* Ambassador College. The ultimate campus is to comprise some 30 acres or more in the very heart of Pasadena's finest residential district. At present it includes some 15½ beautiful acres.

### WHY Life Here Is Happy

Students have remarked that the Ambassador Campus is coming to look like we must imagine the Garden of Eden appeared. Certainly it is replete with an *interesting variety of trees* that are beautiful and pleasing to the eyes. And as God created a river running through and out of the Garden of Eden, so we are creating a rippling, cascading stream across and down the slopes and terraces of this campus.

But the physical beauty of the campus, the tone and character and even elegance of some of the buildings, are only background. The real reason why life here is like a *fore-taste of the Kingdom of God* is that the very laws which God set in motion to *produce* happiness are

being observed. Students come here to learn *how to live*. They learn by *actually living that way!* Neighbors in the surrounding residential areas often remark about the fine character and deportment of Ambassador students.

We learn to live here, even in these cultural and beautiful surroundings, as people shall live after Jesus Christ returns to earth and establishes a *new* system of society based on the *WAYS OF GOD*. These ways are practical. They really *pay off* in peace, happiness, *JOY!*

We are just one large family, busy, doing what we do with our might, enjoying our work and study as well as our play, and getting the most out of life! I know of no place on earth where people are as happy.

By the way, I neglected to mention the several projects remaining to be accomplished before our campus—the physical college plant—is complete. These projects include a \$350,000 addition to Ambassador Hall, providing a large recreational hall for social occasions, seven additional classrooms, and the new assembly room; the new dining hall; the new much larger administration building, joining onto a greatly enlarged Ambassador College Press building; a new 1500 or 2000-seat auditorium; an enlarged athletic field, about five times larger than the present one, providing a larger track, additional new tennis courts, a baseball diamond, and other facilities; and a new gymnasium. These projects, besides the maintenance of all buildings and grounds, are expected to provide employment for many new students who need to work their way partly or mostly through college.

### The MUSIC Department

I feel that our music department is outstanding. Whether you are a beginner or far advanced in voice, piano, organ, violin, or some other instrument of band or orchestra, you will receive here *competent* instruction.

For example, we have three or four students of piano who are quite advanced, and one who is outstandingly accomplished in violin. One, who entered Ambassador as a freshman last fall, has been studying piano since she was six. She has been Guest Soloist for the Portland, Oregon, Junior Symphony;

won a contest to represent the State of Oregon in concert before the national convention of the National Music Teachers Association; and during our mid-year vacation gave a benefit concert in Portland for the Oregon division of the National Music Teachers Association. Yet, advanced as she is, she is continuing her study of piano at Ambassador under Mrs. Martin.

We have three men students who have led their own professional dance bands, before coming to Ambassador. Another young lady violinist holds a degree in music from the University of Kansas, and was concertmistress with the University Symphony Orchestra. Even though she already holds two Bachelors degrees, she has entered Ambassador for the *different* liberal arts and Bible education one receives *only* here, and continues her study of violin under Camille Marcan of the Ambassador Music faculty staff.

Of course we have many beginners in music. I merely want to make the point that, whether you are a beginner or of professional level, the Ambassador music department is adequate.

This next school year we hope to have an enlarged orchestra, under the baton of Russell Reiner. I'm sure you already know of the excellency of the Ambassador Chorale, under the talented and able direction of Leon Ettinger.

I think we have never told you anything about our equipment in the Department of Music. The entire north wing of the lower level, Ambassador Hall, is given over to the Music department, and other rooms in addition. Actually, only the studio of Mrs. Martin has been equipped and occupied, in Ambassador Hall, as yet, and that very recently. It is a charming studio, panelled in one of the rare rich woods that make Ambassador Hall the finest building in Pasadena, artistically decorated, with two Steinway pianos, one a semi-concert grand, and the other a new studio upright.

However, the lower two floors of Manor Del Mar are mostly given over to the Music department pending the completion of the permanent quarters in Ambassador Hall—and these rooms at Manor Del Mar are so outstanding in decor that our staff is in no hurry



to leave them. A Steinway grand and two new Everett conservatory pianos are used at Manor Del Mar. Four more new Everett conservatory uprights are either in use or on order, besides an additional Steinway, in use for practice, and a semi-concert grand Steinway in the assembly room. Thus our facilities are entirely adequate.

### Home Economics Department

Ambassador is very fortunate to have at the head of its Home Economics Department Mrs. Velma Van der Veer, a graduate of Kansas State College with a major in Home Economics, and experience teaching in high school before coming to us. During this past semester we have finished construction of the new cookery department occupying the north wing, ground level, of Ambassador Hall. It is ultra modern. We believe no college has anything finer, and few, if any, as fine, though many are larger. We are now

equipped with six units, amounting to six kitchens. Opening off these delightful kitchens is the fabulous dining room, richly panelled in rarest mahogany burl, artistically carved mahogany trim and mantle, parqueted mahogany floor covered with an elegant Sarouk oriental rug; with a fabulous marble fireplace, and large crystal chandelier. The Board of Directors of the United States Steel Corporation, then the largest corporation on earth, have been dined in this room, possibly the finest room of its kind in America.

Home Economics students are privileged to serve many special luncheons to invited faculty members and other guests in this elegant room, with finest china, sterling silver dinner ware, and carved crystal glassware. I am sure the Home Economics girls of no other college have such a rare opportunity.

And having been a guest at the very first of a series of these luncheons this

spring, I can assure you our girls are learning *not only* to cook health meals, but also appetizing meals exceedingly delicious to the palate, and most delightful to the eye.

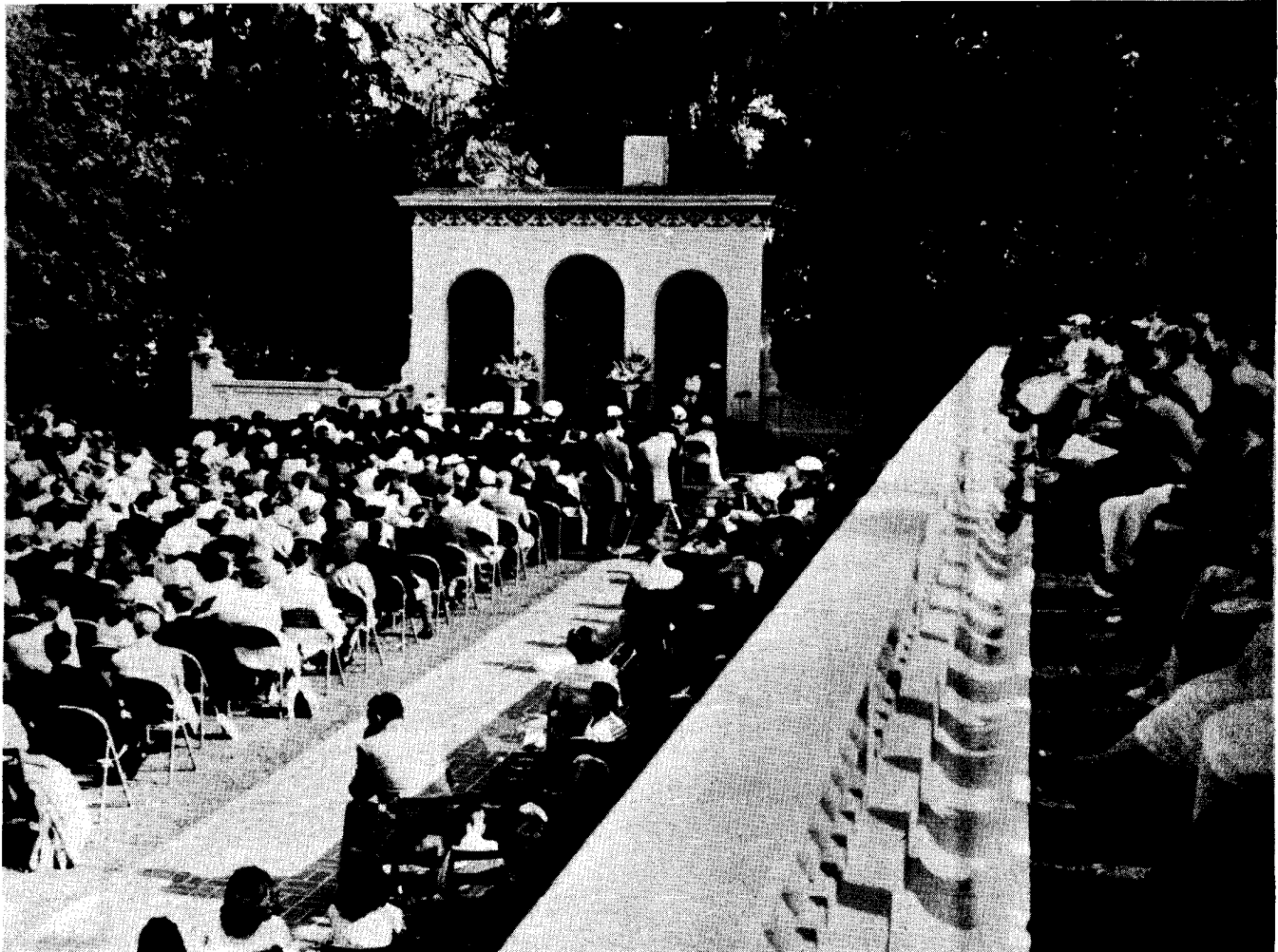
### Teachers' Education

Perhaps the most honorable profession you can choose is the teaching profession. You see, in GOD's ministry *you* cannot choose the ministry as a profession—GOD must choose *you*! God does choose a goodly proportion of our men students. But not all are called to preach. Many are fitted to be teachers.

I covered the information of this course earlier in this little written chat, but let me add that although salaries paid teachers in public schools and even in most colleges are unjustly low, we are doing all in our power to correct that situation in our schools and in Ambassador College. Teaching ought to be one

*(Please continue on page 20)*

The 1959 commencement exercises of the College held in the beautiful Lower Gardens of the campus. Mr. Armstrong is delivering the commencement address.



# The SEVEN KEYS to understanding the Bible

*Because of the requests of so many of our readers,  
we are again publishing this eye-opening article*

by Herbert W. Armstrong

Reprinted from July 1953 PLAIN TRUTH

**D**O YOU realize God has purposely closed much of the Holy Bible from human understanding, *until now?*

Look at the pitiful spectacle!—hundreds of different sects and denominations, all confused and mixed up, each with its *own* different ideas, beliefs and practices—all disagreeing as to what the Bible says—none understanding its full true Message!

WHY?

Because none of them possesses the *keys* needed to open the doors to understanding, and therefore this spiritual Treasurehouse is closed to them.

## Locked Up Until Now!

Even the prophets inspired in writing the Word of God did not understand much of what they wrote. Daniel records, in his last chapter:

"I heard this, but I did not understand it." When he asked the meaning of what he was inspired to write, he was told: "Go thy way, Daniel: for the words are *closed up and sealed* till the time of the end"—or, as Moffatt translates it, "*till the crisis at the close*" (Daniel 12:8-9).

The whole world is now in chaos—we have now entered the world-*crisis*, at the CLOSE of this age! But even now, Daniel was told, "the wicked shall do wickedly; and none of the wicked shall understand; but the wise shall understand" (verse 10).

Since this very Word of God reveals that "Sin is the transgression of the law" (1 John 3:4), those who encourage the breaking of God's law, teaching that it is done away—as nearly all sects and denominations do—are, in Bible terminology, "the wicked." And who

are "the wise," who shall now understand?

"The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom: a GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that *do* His Commandments" (Psalm 111:10).

Again God's angel caused Daniel to record: "But thou, O Daniel, shut up the words, and seal the book, even to the time of the end: many shall run to and fro, and knowledge shall be increased." Yes, much of the Word of God especially the prophecies, were shut up and sealed until now. Today people *run* to and fro, all over the world, in automobiles, trains, and planes. Today knowledge has been increased. We have reached the world-CRISIS AT THE CLOSE of this Age! The wise—those who fear God and keep His Commandments, can now UNDERSTAND!

Even forty years ago this true understanding *was still closed and sealed!* None of the established church denominations has been willing, in these forty years, to admit error, correct false teachings or accept new light now suddenly revealed! No wonder they all disagree! They are in "BABYLON"—CONFUSION!

In the first place, none can understand by himself. The carnal mind cannot "see" spiritual things. These Truths are *revealed* thru the indwelling of the Holy Spirit—and God gives His Spirit *only* to them that OBEY Him and keep His commandments! Only the truly converted can even *begin* to understand.

But even having that beginning, there are SEVEN KEYS needed to unlock these closed doors of Truth! And just as one key alone will not unlock your safety deposit box at the bank, so no one, no two, or even six of these

keys will open the scriptural doors to full UNDERSTANDING. It requires ALL SEVEN KEYS.

## Church Leaders Threw Away the Seven Vital Keys

Christ gave His apostles *the keys* of true UNDERSTANDING, which unlock the Door to the KINGDOM OF GOD.

To Peter and the others, He said: "And I will give unto thee *the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven*" (Mat. 16:19).

But He prophesied apostasy. "Many false prophets shall rise," He said, "and shall deceive many." Paul foretold the great "falling away" from God's Truth and Christ's Gospel, turning unto FABLES (II Thes. 2:1-9; II Tim. 4:1-4). It had even begun in Paul's day (II Thes. 2:7). Church leaders only used *the keys* to lock up the Door of the Kingdom, and then threw the keys away, even as the Pharisees and rulers did before them:

"Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites!" said Jesus to them, "for ye shut up the Kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are entering to go in" (Mat. 23:13).

And so naturally, today no organized denomination, sect, or church possesses these seven KEYS!

Here they are: How many of these necessary "keys" do *you* have?

## 1) The True Gospel

Almost no one has this first Key, believe it or not! The Gospel of Christ is the Gospel Christ preached—a particular Message sent from God by Jesus Christ as Messenger. The Gospel of Christ is CHRIST'S OWN GOSPEL—not a story *about* His Person!

Today people are led to believe that

the Gospel is telling the story *about* Jesus—telling people *about* a Saviour; or, they believe it is “the Gospel of salvation,” not understanding the true way of salvation themselves! No wonder there is NO POWER in what is falsely preached as “the Gospel” today! The Gospel of Christ “is the POWER OF GOD unto salvation.” Today most popular denominations do away with all that is vital in Christ’s Gospel, saying He was preaching only to Jews under the Old Covenant! WHAT IGNORANCE!

What is Christ’s Gospel? What is the Message God sent to mankind by Jesus Christ? It is the GOOD NEWS of the KINGDOM OF GOD! “Kingdom” means GOVERNMENT! It is the Message of *Divine Government* — government by GOD’S LAWS!

It is the prophetic proclamation of the coming WORLD GOVERNMENT to rule all nations and bring today’s confused, chaotic, war-weary earth PEACE, and JOY! It is the vital, dynamic, powerful living Message of GOD’S GOVERNMENT, first in individual hearts now in this world, later over all nations internationally in The WORLD TOMORROW!

Of course that power-filled Message includes the knowledge about the Saviour, High Priest and coming King! Of course it includes the true way of salvation, which the churches seem to have lost! And it includes also knowledge of the location of the TERRITORY to be ruled over by the King of the coming Kingdom—the fact it is *this earth*, and not heaven!

But there can be no GOVERNMENT without LAWS, and so the TRUE GOSPEL also must proclaim the LAW of God, which alone can bring peace to the world and success, happiness and joy to the individual!

The TRUE GOSPEL has to do with the nations of today’s world, world conditions today, and Christ’s reign over all nations in The WORLD TOMORROW! It is a full, complete, dynamic and POWERFUL Gospel which has been kept by the powers of darkness from the world for 1800 years! *This knowledge is the first KEY!*

## 2) Salvation IS Creation

The idea preached in this dark, confused world is that salvation is God’s

Plan for *repairing the damage* caused by Satan in “the fall of man” in the Garden of Eden.

God, so the world has been taught by church leaders, had *completed* His work of creation—man was a *finished* creation, spiritual, immortal, perfect in character. Then along came Satan, and by cunning he wrecked God’s handiwork, thwarted God’s purpose, caused man to fall to the low plane of sinful human nature, ruined God’s perfect creation! Then God is supposed to have looked down upon this colossal smash-up, and to have thereupon thought out THE PLAN OF REDEMPTION as a means of *repairing the damage*.

Salvation, then, is presented merely as God’s effort to *restore* man to a condition *as good as* Adam was in the first place. The picture is that God has been doing His very best for 6,000 long years, but Satan has resisted Him! God has found Himself unable to avoid a CONTEST with Satan—a “GREAT CONTROVERSY” as one writer phrased it—in which God has done His best, but Satan has continued to outsmart Him and now today, with TIME ABOUT UP, the vast majority of people on earth are still unsaved—still on Satan’s side! The contest is almost over, and the best God can now do is take revenge, and soon to send Christ to DESTROY ALL THE WICKED whom Satan has kept on his side!

Can you see that *that* picture could only have come from the deceiving false GOD OF THIS WORLD, Satan himself? It presents Satan at every turn as more powerful than God—as succeeding in his rivalry! This entire concept is a damnable LIE!

The TRUTH is the second important KEY—and it explains GOD’S PURPOSE in placing humanity on this earth!

Salvation is *not* a “repairing of the damage” done by Satan in the Garden of Eden. Satan never did alter or change God’s Purpose or Plan. The devil has never thwarted God’s will. All has gone always, and always will, exactly according to GOD’S PURPOSE!

Salvation is merely the COMPLETING of CREATION! Creation was *not* completed 6,000 years ago, at the time described in Genesis 1! That was merely the *first*, or *material phase* of a Creation

*now still going on!* What God then created was *physical—material*. The spiritual creation is a process, continuing, according to God’s Plan, today!

Man was created PHYSICAL, not spiritual—MORTAL, not immortal—of the dust of the ground—the “clay model” which God the Master Potter is now fashioning and shaping, *spiritually*, into the FINAL image! Man was created purposely, with the same human nature he now has! He was first made in the mere PHYSICAL image of God, a free moral agent, with possibility revealed to him of *receiving* as God’s gift the very spiritual nature of God, so that he may by God’s power be made into a perfect, righteous, spiritual character, then given immortality as God’s gift! *There is no contest!* Satan does nothing except what God *permits!* And God permits it FOR A PURPOSE.

Character is created by experience, and experience requires time, and therefore it is a process! As Christ our example learned by suffering, so do we! The fact that SALVATION IS THE COMPLETING OF CREATION—the *spiritual* phase of Creation—that GOD’S PURPOSE is to create in us, as free moral agents who make our own decisions, the supreme Masterpiece of all His Creative acts—holy, righteous, spiritual, immortal CHARACTERS—resisting the downpull of self-desire, building character by LIVING GOD’S LAWS—that knowledge of GOD’S PURPOSE is *the second vital KEY!*

## 3) God’s Dual Method

A duality runs thru every phase of God’s Plan. First, the *material* creation of Genesis 1, completed; second, the *spiritual* creation still in process pictured finally complete in the *prophecy* of Revelation 21 and 22. There was the *first* Adam, material—of the earth; and there is the *second* Adam, Christ Jesus, spiritual, from Heaven. There was the *first* Covenant with Israel, material and national, devoid of salvation, based upon the Birthright promise; and there is the NEW Covenant, spiritual and individual, with a spiritually begotten Israel, based upon the Sceptre promise. God made man mortal, of the dust, in order to convert him into immortality, composed of Spirit.

In this very salvation process is the

DUAL METHOD—the very word “salvation” means, first, rescuing from the penalty of eternal death, and second, the act of preserving, or imparting eternal life as God’s gift. And so, in being saved, we first are now *begotten* of God by the indwelling of His Spirit in our mortal bodies as the temple, or house of the Spirit—and are now merely the *heirs* of salvation; and second, we shall finally be fully *born* of God at the Resurrection of the just, when we shall *inherit* the Kingdom.

This same DUAL PRINCIPLE runs all thru prophecy! First, a former, or preliminary fulfillment which is merely the type or forerunner of a second, the final climactic fulfillment occurring, usually, during this CRISIS AT THE CLOSE we already have entered! And positively *none* can understand the Bible prophecies unless this DUALITY of fulfillment is understood. It is a vital key!

#### 4) God’s Holy Days

These were given to God’s people to picture, and to keep them in the understanding of, God’s PLAN for bringing about His purpose—His reign over all the earth whose people shall have been converted to righteous immortality!

Every sect, organization or denomination which has lost God’s holy days and fastened its eyes upon the pagan Romish holidays instead, has lost the knowledge of GOD’S PLAN!

God’s holy days picture:

1st, Passover, the crucifixion of Christ;

2nd, Feast of Unleavened Bread, putting sin out of our lives, or, keeping God’s Commandments—and during this festival was the “wave-sheaf” picturing the Resurrected Christ accepted of God as our High Priest;

3rd, Feast of Firstfruits, or Pentecost, picturing the coming of the Holy Spirit and the completing of this, the merely *first* and preliminary harvest of souls;

4th, Feast of Trumpets on first day of seventh month, picturing the Second Coming of Christ at the beginning of the seventh millennium, at the *last Trump*;

5th, Day of Atonement, picturing justice done by laying Satan’s guilt in our sins upon his own head, removing him and chaining him in the symbolic “bottomless pit,” making us finally AT ONE

with God. Atonement means at-one-ment.

6th, Feast of Tabernacles, for seven days, picturing the KINGDOM OF GOD during the seventh millennium, the “great fall harvest” of souls.

And 7th, the Last Great Day, immediately following the Feast of Tabernacles, picturing the final Great White Throne Judgment which almost nobody today understands—and the final COMPLETING of God’s Plan!

#### 5) The Truth about Israel

The fact that the nation Israel became divided into two nations, the Ten-Tribed Kingdom, called The Kingdom of Israel, possessing the Birthright promises, and The Kingdom of Judah, composed of Judah and Benjamin and a large portion of Levi, possessing the Sceptre; and, secondly, the fact revealed during this “Time of the End” that the Jewish people today are merely a portion of the descendants of the Kingdom of Judah; and the Americans, British, and Democracies of Northwestern Europe are the so-called “Lost Ten Tribes”—or descended from the House of ISRAEL—and that Britain is Ephraim, and the United States is Manasseh, co-holders of the Birthright, which is the true explanation of our sudden rise to the greatest national power and wealth ever possessed by any nation.

*Prophecies cannot be understood without this vital key.*

#### 6) Bible Interpretation of Symbols

God has concealed until now His prophecies of these colossal end-time world events now occurring by means of SYMBOLS used to describe these events—as well as by the fact of His dual principle, and that our Israelitish identity has been hidden from men.

Symbols, like parables, were used, *not* to make meaning clearer, but to *hide* and *conceal* God’s true meaning until the time came for *Him* to reveal the interpretation of the symbols. Just as Jesus’ parables were not understood until Jesus Himself explained them in plain language, so with symbols. For generations men have been putting human interpretations upon God’s symbols. An important KEY, therefore, is that these symbols are interpreted in

plain language in the Bible itself, if not in the context, then elsewhere, and we must search for *God’s own interpretation*, never apply our own.

#### 7) God’s Sabbath

Since this is the *test* commandment—the one most professing Christians refuse to obey—the one which causes the greatest *test of faith* and reliance upon God to be able to keep it, it stands as the final completing *basic key*—for “A GOOD UNDERSTANDING have all they that *do* His Commandments!”

Also it is the basic key to the *identity* of the true God—the CREATOR OF ALL (Ex. 31:12-17) and the key to the *identity* of ISRAEL. The House of Israel threw away this key to their identity—and thereby became the “lost Ten Tribes!” The great majority of the House of Judah likewise threw it away, and lost their identity—not known even today! The Jews who returned to Palestine under Ezra and Nehemiah became strict Sabbatarians, and have remained so to this day—and therefore the world looks upon them as ISRAEL (because they carry Israel’s *identifying* SIGN) although they are *not* Israel, but only a small portion of JUDAH!

This completes the KEYS TO UNDERSTANDING—the KEYS to the KINGDOM OF GOD!

The churches have lost these KEYS! No wonder they are all mixed up, in confusion, each claiming the Bible says something *different*, none understanding ITS TRUE MESSAGE!

### ¡UN ANUNCIO IMPORTANTE!

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# False Conversion – A MORTAL DANGER!

This article affects YOU! The really GREAT DANGER for most professing Christians is here revealed. You NEED to know!

by Roderick C. Meredith

THE END of this age is very near! The "World Tomorrow" is at hand!

Through His work, God is WARNING His people of impending *destruction* and national *punishment*. This warning particularly affects the United States and the British Commonwealth of nations.

We have been materially BLESSED by Almighty God above other peoples. Our people also have been *spiritually blessed* by having *free access* to the Bible—and literally *hundreds* of Bible study helps, and by the complete *freedom of worship* we have been granted. Also, through the material blessings, we have had *more time* to pursue the spiritual things, to *find* God's TRUTH, and to *live it*.

But we have FAILED!

## A Dead Religion

Although we cherish favorite opinions and man-made traditions—and *although we hate to be told we are wrong*—our modern religion is a DEAD thing.

Some of us realize it.

But most people hate to ADMIT it. It is painful to admit they have been WRONG. But the END of this civilization is near!

God says He is going to have to PUNISH our people for our national and individual sins. "Therefore thus will I do unto thee, O Israel: and because I will do this unto thee, PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD, O Israel" (Amos 4:12).

Are YOU prepared? God tells us to *get ready!* The time is NOW!

Most of you who read The PLAIN TRUTH regularly realize that before this you had been LACKING something *for many years*.

Now you have come to understand a great deal of *new truth*. A *new way of life* is opening up before you.

Now you are beginning to really

UNDERSTAND Bible prophecies, and the great PURPOSE being worked out here below.

WHY have you been in almost total *ignorance* of the real meaning of Bible prophecy and of world affairs all the years before this?

If you were truly a Christian—a begotten child of God—WHY weren't you given to understand these things before? *Why* didn't God seem more REAL? *Why* didn't you really *study* and UNDERSTAND the Bible all these years?

And WHY didn't your minister really *understand* and preach the Bible and its prophecies all these years? If he is a true minister of God, *why doesn't he do so now?*

Why does he almost NEVER admit he has been *wrong* about some points? Why doesn't he constantly study, and *change*, and GROW in *grace* and in *knowledge*?

Again, what about YOU? *Why* haven't you been doing these things — IF you have *really* been a Christian and a child of God for many years?

Let's FACE the FACTS! Excusing ourselves will do no good whatever when we are brought before the judgment seat of God!

## Does This Mean Someone Else?

The little word *my* is a precious one to most people. They lovingly speak of *my* opinion, *my* job, *my* house, *my* country, *my* religion and *my* God.

We RESENT being told that *our* opinion, *our* faith, or *our* religion is wrong. We like to continue to believe what we have been accustomed to accept as true. Everyone HATES to admit he has been wrong.

Yet, in all this maze of religious babylon, *somebody* HAS to be wrong!

Are you willing to admit that *it could be* YOU?

May God help you to do so! Because

*if we will believe our Bibles*, we will find that MOST of the people on this earth are steeped in *religious error*. And even most professing Christians are DECEIVED!

One of the *least understood* principles in all the Bible is that God has purposely *blinded* this world and is letting it go its own way and *learn lessons* during this first six thousand years of human history. In Revelation 12:9, God describes Satan as, "that old serpent called the Devil, and Satan, which DECEIVETH THE WHOLE WORLD."

Hard to believe, isn't it?

Yet—in *many places*—your Bible indicates that this *whole world* has been completely DECEIVED in spiritual things. Remember that a deceived person *doesn't know* he is deceived. He is sincere. But he is *sincerely* WRONG!

The great false religious system dominating our western world today is pictured in Revelation 17. God describes this apostate church as a fallen woman—a *great whore*: "With whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the *inhabitants of the earth* have been made DRUNK with the wine of *her fornication*" (verse 2).

Because of false teachings and false concepts assumed since childhood, people are *spiritually* DRUNK—having a distorted outlook so that they are *unable to see spiritual truths*. Like a *drunk person*, they are stupidly SATISFIED in the foggy, hazy, confused spiritual state in which they find themselves.

They THINK they are all right—on the surface at least. But deep down inside is the haunting realization that *something is missing* — their religion seems EMPTY — God seems UNREAL somehow, and so very, very far away.

## A Counterfeit Christianity

The GREAT RELIGIOUS DECEPTION that has gripped this world is the

result of Satan the Devil working through false ministers who preach a *counterfeit Christianity*. After all, a deceiver is a counterfeiter. And Satan the Devil is the *supreme COUNTERFEITER* of the ages! Therefore, his ministers have a doctrine that *appears to be* the TRUTH.

The apostle Paul describes these false Christian ministers—who were already prevalent in his day: "For such are *false apostles*, deceitful workers, transforming themselves into the apostles of Christ. And no marvel; for *Satan himself* is transformed into an angel of light. Therefore, it is no great thing that his (*the devil's*) ministers also be transformed AS the ministers of righteousness; whose end shall be *according to their works* (II Cor. 11:13-15).

Yes, Satan the Devil has MINISTERS! They *appear to be* the ministers of Christ! But actually, they teach a doctrine of "no works"—*no obedience to God's law*. Therefore, they themselves will be judged according to their EVIL works!

God warns us to "try" or *test* every spirit or spiritual doctrine that comes through men. "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but *try the spirits* whether they are of God: because *many false prophets* are gone out into the world" (I John 4:1).

Unknowingly, and in most cases sincerely, most of YOU have in the past been deceived by false preaching — which originated and proceeded forth from Satan the Devil through his demon spirits which inspire and influence the religious system and false ministers of our day! It is time to WAKE UP!

In these last days before the second coming of Jesus Christ, you need to KNOW whether or not you are *prepared to meet your God*! With an open mind, you should be willing to *prove* whether or not you have ever been *really converted*.

Your *misplaced confidence* in a FALSE CONVERSION is a *great* and MORTAL deception which could very easily cause you to forfeit *eternal life*! It is such a *dangerous* deception because your own personal VANITY will in many cases prevent you from admitting that *you have never been converted*!

Are you willing to FACE this possibility? Are you willing to CHANGE if

God shows you *through His Word* that you have never really been converted before?

### What Conversion Really Is

God's Word says: "Now if any man have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his" (Rom. 8:9). In plain language, you have to have Christ's *Spirit* in you or you are not a Christian—you have NEVER been converted.

A truly converted person is *filled with* and LED BY the Holy Spirit of God. God places and lives His very *life* within us through His Holy Spirit. By this means, we are *begotten of Him* as children and thus partake of *His very nature*! "For as many as are led by the Spirit of God, *they are the sons of God*" (Rom. 8:14).

Frankly, in the past most of you didn't even know WHAT the Holy Spirit was, what it was supposed to do in your life, and *what* was the real result of your being led by God's Holy Spirit.

In Romans 5:5, God tells us: "The *love of God* is shed abroad in our hearts BY the Holy Spirit which is given unto us." Through His Spirit, God gives us *His love*. Thus we partake of *His nature*—His character. And God's character is expressed in the *spiritual principles* contained in the Ten Commandments — *obedience to God's Law*. "For *this is the love of God*, that we *keep His commandments*: and His commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

God's Spirit leads us to OBEY Him as our Maker and Ruler.

The apostle Peter was inspired to write of "the Holy Spirit, whom God hath given to them that OBEY him" (Acts 5:32).

Real conversion, then, involves a real *surrender to obey God and His Laws*. In Acts 2:38, Peter was inspired to tell HOW to be converted. He said: "*Repent, and be baptized* every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and you shall receive the *gift* of the Holy Spirit."

You *repent* of SIN. And what is the Bible definition of sin? "*Sin is the transgression of the law*" (I John 3:4). That is the Bible definition of sin — breaking God's Law! So to really be converted, you must REPENT of breaking God's Law. Remember that in the New Testament, this Law was *magnified*

by Jesus Christ — particularly in Matthew 5 and the Sermon on the Mount as a whole. We are to keep not only the letter but the *spirit* or intent of God's Law *in every phase of our lives*.

Jesus said: "Man shall not live by bread alone, but by EVERY word of God" (Luke 4:4). You must *repent* of disobeying God's Law—His Word—His RULE over your life. Then you need to be baptized as an outward sign of your willingness to completely BURY your old self—and literally *give* your very life to God and to Jesus Christ as your personal Savior, High Priest, and Master.

In Romans 6:1-4, the apostle Paul describes baptism as a *burial* of the old self. It is to be a complete *immersion* of the body under the water as a type of the burial of the human body in the grave.

### False Conversion Is Very Common

But frankly, most people attending the churches of this world and having been baptized by them never really knew WHAT to *repent of*! They didn't know WHAT sin really is.

At the time of baptism in most churches, most people sincerely intend to "do better" or to "make their peace with God." But since they have not been taught what sin actually is they completely fail to realize how ROTTEN and SINFUL they have really been!

They don't really REPENT! They aren't broken up about the wretched state of their lives and their own human VANITY and selfishness which expresses itself constantly in all of us.

And such people don't immediately begin to *study* and UNDERSTAND the Bible. They just continue to go along with the customs, the ways and the traditions of this world. Their lives are not actually CHANGED. They don't come to *personally* KNOW GOD!

Speaking of *converted* people, Jesus said: "Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, *he will guide you INTO all truth*: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will show you *things to come*" (John 16:13). A truly converted person, then, will be guided into *new TRUTH* by God's Spirit. He will come to *understand* and GRASP Bible prophecy—or *things to come*!

Genuine *conversion* actually REVOLUTIONIZES a human being's life! It

is a *renewing* of his *mind*—his *attitude*—his *character*!

He comes to really **KNOW** God—to constantly *study* and **UNDERSTAND** more and more of God's Word—and he is able to *pray* and talk to God in a personal way. He receives constant *answers* — he is *blessed* — he **GROWS** more like Christ every month and year of his life!

*The sad truth is that most professing Christians haven't even begun to get ready to START on the road to this kind of Christian life!*

Are you willing to face this fact and **ACT** on it?

### Face Up to Human Nature

The Almighty God Who created our minds and our human nature repeats twice a warning for us in the book of Proverbs. He warns: "There is a way which *seemeth* right unto a man, but the end thereof are the *ways of death*" (Prov. 16:25; 14:12).

It is only human nature to believe that *your way* is right. But God says that the way that **SEEMS** right to a man ends up in *death*! Remember that the wages of sin is **DEATH** (Rom. 6:23).

The greatest stumbling block that prevents most people from accepting the *truth* and being *truly converted* is their own **VANITY**. Most people have grown up in and attended some church or another. And they hate to admit that they have *never been converted*! Human nature makes them want to maintain their **OWN** righteousness.

God has inspired an *entire book* in His Word to deal with this common problem of human beings. It is the book of Job — one of the least understood books in all the Bible.

The primary lesson in this entire book is that God **HATES** our own human *self-righteousness*!

Notice Job's attitude throughout this book! "God forbid that I should justify you: till I die I will not remove *mine integrity* from me. **MY righteousness** I hold fast, and will not let it go: *my heart shall not reproach me* so long as I live" (Job 27:5-6).

Job again voices his real attitude in Job 31:6: "Let me be weighed in an even balance *that God may know MINE integrity*." Even Job's carnal friends could sense his own self-righteousness

and vanity. "So these three men ceased to answer Job, because he was righteous *in his OWN eyes*" (Job 32:1).

Finally, after dealing *personally* with God and learning a little more about his own *insignificance* and utter *weakness* and *wretchedness*, Job at last **REPENTED**. "I have heard of thee by the hearing of the ear: but *now mine eye seeth thee*. Wherefore I **ABHOR** myself, and *repent* in dust and ashes" (Job 42:5-6).

But the real question remains: Have you ever come to really **ABHOR yourself**? Have you **REPENTED** in dust and ashes? Have you *totally SURRENDERED* yourself to God and given your very **LIFE** to Him to use *as He sees fit*?

God *commands* us to quit justifying the *self*! "Let the wicked forsake **HIS way**, and the unrighteous man his thoughts: and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God for he will abundantly pardon" (Isa. 55:7). But perhaps you don't think you've been wicked?

The Almighty God declares: "There is **NONE** righteous, no, *not one*" (Rom. 3:10). Again, He states: "For **ALL have sinned** and come short of the glory of God" (verse 23).

Yes, we have *all sinned*! We have all *broken God's Law*. And most of us are **STILL** breaking His Law and *trying to justify doing so*!

God thunders: "For my thoughts are **NOT** your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are high above the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isa. 55:8-9).

Our own human *ways* and *reasonings* are always **WRONG**!

This means **YOU**! *Don't* apply this to someone else—apply it to **YOURSELF**!

It is almost certain that most of you reading this article still have what the Bible describes as a "carnal" mind. Many of you think you are already "saved" when the truth of the matter is that you **NEVER** have come to the place of *total surrender* to God and His *absolute RULE* over your lives! Therefore, you have **NEVER** received of God's Holy Spirit and been begotten as His spiritual son.

That is **WHY** you have not been able to understand Bible **PROPHECY** before!

That is **WHY** you never really *understood* the great **PURPOSE** being worked out here below. And that is why God always seemed so far away—so **UNREAL**.

This lack of God's Spirit is the reason that you were not continually **GROWING** in grace and in knowledge—and that you have lacked vital scripture truths so many years of your life.

Now it is time to **AWAKEN**! Now it is time to be *really CONVERTED*!

### What You Should Do

First of all, you should apply this article to your own **SELF**. And you should strive **NOT** to get your feelings hurt by the correction and the exhortation which is here given in deep **LOVE**!

Remember that when Jesus had been showing His disciples that they had to literally "ear" of Him and His message, many got their feelings hurt and drew back. "Many therefore of his disciples, when they heard this, said, This is an hard saying; who can hear it?" (John 6:60). But Jesus asked the twelve, "Will you also go away?"

Then Peter gave an answer which has the *same significance* today. He said: "Lord, to whom shall we go? *Thou hast the words of eternal life*" (verses 67-68).

If God has shown you by the "fruits" that *this is the WORK of His Church*, then you should **FEAR** to turn aside from the *truth*! Where *else* would you go?

*Thousands* of you have come to realize that you are getting the *truth* and *message* of God through this work — The *World Tomorrow* broadcast and The **PLAIN TRUTH** Magazine. You are beginning to realize that this is the true Church of God.

But you have never thought of actually **DOING** very much about it!

If we are the servants of the **MOST HIGH GOD**, then you ought to *follow* and *obey* our teaching and example as you see it is according to the Bible. You ought to apply such articles as this more **LITERALLY** and *personally* in your own private lives.

The apostle Paul was inspired to write: "Be ye *followers* of me, even as I also am of Christ" (I Cor. 11:1). The Greek word here literally means to "imitate." You need to *imitate* the example of God's ministers—and of Jesus Christ.

Frankly, most of you have never been



counseled with by one of God's true ministers about *real conversion* and *baptism*. Even as this article is being written, five nationwide baptizing tours from Ambassador College—directed by God's servants—are preparing to visit personally with hundreds of people from coast to coast who have written in requesting a personal interview with God's true ministers.

These people *know* that this is the work of God's true Church on earth today. They realize the *importance* of *personal contact* with the true ministers of Jesus Christ who are actually *DOING* His work of preaching the message of the Kingdom of God as a last witness to this earth.

If you would *wire* or write *air mail*, it would still not be too late for most of you to be contacted by these tours. If you realize the vital necessity of this personal contact and guidance of the true servants of Jesus Christ, then tell us and send your name and address *immediately* to Mr. Armstrong, Box 111, Pasadena, California. Or, if you live overseas, send your name to our London office, B. C. M. Ambassador, London W. C. 1.

And ALL of you need to realize the vital importance of coming to a *REAL conversion*! *Don't put it off too long!*

Remember that God doesn't have a habit of doing His work through *false ministers*! If you want to be *really SURE* of your spiritual state, you'd better counsel with the true ministers of God who are being used as instruments to preach His message to this dying world. You had better *humble yourself* to take their advice—to follow their instructions—if you are satisfied they are *TRULY* God's ministers. If not, you had better *MAKE SURE* where God is working!

### Be Willing to CHANGE

Never forget that before real conversion comes *real REPENTANCE*. You had better humble yourself until you can sincerely repent as David did in Psalm 51. "Wash me thoroughly from mine *iniquity*, and cleanse me from my *sin*," David cried. "For I *acknowledge* my transgressions: and my *SIN* is ever before me."

Notice that David did not try to justify himself—he *acknowledged* his

sin freely and asked for forgiveness.

He continued: "Against thee, thee only, have I *sinned*, and done this *EVIL* in thy sight."

God didn't have to argue or "reason" David into admitting his guilt! As Job, David had come to see himself as he really was and to *ABHOR* himself. *And you are no better!*

When you are finally ready to *repent* of breaking God's Laws, of following human traditions, of *conforming* to this society and its ways, then here is what God requires of *YOU*. "The sacrifices of God are a *BROKEN spirit*: a *broken* and a *contrite heart*, O God, thou wilt not despise" (Ps. 51:17).

When that time comes you will quit *arguing* and *reasoning* with the ministers through whom God shows you by the "fruits" that He is working. You will not grudgingly hang on to a *false conversion* any more. You will not get your "feelings" hurt at the correction and exhortation of God's chosen servants.

At that time, you will be *humble* and *TEACHABLE* like a little child — not assuming that you are a spiritual giant before you even start on the road to real conversion.

And you will realize the *great DANGER* of *assuming* — because of spiritual pride and vanity—that a previous *false conversion* was the real thing. You will *KNOW* that this kind of vanity could prevent you from ever being *truly converted*—and could *cut you off from God for all eternity!*

You will also *KNOW* that God has *always* given the right advice through the *SAME* ministers He is using to preach His message to the world.

"He that hath ears to hear, let him hear."

### UND JETZT INS DEUTSCHE ÜBERSETZT!

„Die Kindergeschichte der Bibel“

„WOZU sind wir geboren?“

„WARUM müssen die Menschen leiden?“

„Die AUFERSTEHUNG war nicht an einem Sonntag!“

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## The COLOSSAL LIE

(Continued from page 6)

behind world news! And now, for *many years*, in fact, as long as *TWENTY-FOUR YEARS AGO*, this dynamic, straight-from-the-shoulder magazine has dared to tell you the *TRUTH* about *RUSSIA*!

Even though it seems like "crawling way out on the end of a limb" to say so—Russia is *NOT* going to wage all out war against America. Not because she might not *WANT* to, but because *SHE WILL NOT BE ABLE IN TIME!*

By the time slow-moving Russia is finally *ready* to strike, your Bible says America will have ceased to be a nation, her citizens removed into a horrible captivity, and another, totally *different* power will have risen—*GERMANY!*

But notice what Russia and her allies will do!

"In the latter years thou [Russia and China] shall come into the land that is *brought back from the sword*, and is gathered out of many people, against the mountains of Israel, which have been always waste [which have been a perpetual desolation] but it is brought forth out of the nations, and they shall dwell safely all of them" (Ezek. 38:8).

Notice it is in the *latter years* the Communist hordes will invade, *NOT* the United States, but a land only recently "*brought back from the sword*." This land is identified in your Bible as the *MOUNTAINS OF ISRAEL!* That means *PALESTINE!*

*Contrary* to all present *appearances*, *contrary* to the belief of most, the Soviets are *NOT* going to attack the United States—but they *will* attack the land of Palestine *AFTER* Jesus Christ has returned to this earth to regather captive Israelites from all nations, bringing them back into safety to the "land brought back from the sword!"

It's time we began to *wake up!* It's time we began to *STUDY* these Biblical prophecies, and to really come to *understand* world conditions—and where they are leading us. There is no other magazine on the face of this earth where you will be able to see, clearly, the *real MEANING* behind these startling world occurrences. Don't miss a single issue of *The PLAIN TRUTH!*

# The "SECRET RAPTURE" *fact...or fiction?*

Will Jesus return invisibly, secretly to "rapture" or take away the Church to heaven BEFORE the coming tribulation?

by Herman L. Hoeh

A COMMON idea being preached today is that Christ may return "at any moment," *invisibly, secretly*, to "rapture" or "catch away" the Church *before* "the great tribulation" and the appearance of a superhuman "Antichrist." This *secret* return of Christ is called "the first phase" of Christ's second coming.

## Coming in Two Phases?

Jesus, we are asked to believe, may suddenly descend from heaven this very night! But He will stop in mid-air!

Immediately, the righteous dead will be raised and all true Christians who are alive will be "translated." Then Christ returns to heaven — some say for 3½ years, others say for 7 years.

During this period, according to this teaching, God will vent His wrath upon the world by permitting an Antichrist to deceive the nations — especially the Jews — and to torture all who won't submit to him. This time of torture they call indiscriminately the "tribulation" and "Day of the Lord."

Then, they say, the "second phase" of Christ's coming will occur. Jesus will come *visibly*, in power and glory, WITH the saints, to conquer Antichrist and to restore the Jews to Palestine!

But is this what the Bible really teaches?

Are there "two phases" to the second coming of Jesus Christ? Will He return *secretly*? WHY IS THE WORD "RAPTURE" NOT MENTIONED ONCE IN THE ENTIRE BIBLE IF THIS THEORY BE TRUE?

When, where and why did the doctrine of the secret rapture *begin*? The answers to these questions will shock you!

It is time you learned the TRUTH!

## A Time Sequence of Events Tells

Jesus has given us a time sequence of

events soon to occur. This sequence you will find in Matthew 24, Mark 13 and Luke 21. These three chapters contain the order of events at the close of this age of man's rule. Notice what Jesus told His disciples — and that includes you and me today if we obey Him.

Following false teachers, proclaiming a false gospel, yet coming in the name of Christ, would be wars, famines and pestilences — occurring in that order. Then there would be what?—the secret return of Christ to take away the Church in a secret rapture immediately before a tribulation? No! Just the opposite! Here are Jesus' own words:

"And ye shall hear of wars and rumors of wars . . . and famines shall be and earthquakes in divers places. But all these are the beginning of sorrows. THEN" — the very next event — "shall they deliver *you* up unto TRIBULATION, and shall kill you: and ye shall be hated of all nations *for my name's sake*" (Mat. 24:6-9).

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

The disciples of Jesus could not be in tribulation if they were secretly raptured to heaven *before* the tribulation and if only unbelievers remained on earth. Besides, Jesus said that it is "FOR HIS NAME'S SAKE" that the nations would hate you. This must be referring to believers, not non-believers.

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

## A Way of Escape?

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

That way of escape is *not* the secret rapture!

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

Jesus repeated this same promise to His Church today: "Because thou didst keep the word of my patience, I also will keep thee from the hour of trial"—the tribulation and events that follow—"which is to come upon the whole inhabited earth, to try them that dwell upon the earth" (Rev. 3:10).

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

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

"And when the dragon [Satan] saw that he was cast down to the earth, he persecuted the woman"—this is the persecution that is yet in the future, a persecution that is being secretly planned at this very moment! How does the Church escape? "And the two wings of the great eagle were given to the woman

that she should fly TO THE WILDERNESS to her place" for 3½ years.

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

Could anything be plainer?

But what happens to those not accounted worthy to escape? "And the dragon . . . went away to make war with the rest of her seed"—the remainder of the Church that did not escape. The people whom Satan hates—and against whom he stirs up the nations—the people who "keep the commandments of God and hold the testimony of Jesus" (verse 17).

How plain! Some of the Church escapes to a place of safety on earth. But there is no "secret rapture"! Jesus told us to "pray that your flight be not in winter, neither on a sabbath: for then shall be great tribulation, such as hath not been from the world's beginning until now, no, nor ever shall be" (Luke 21:21). If there were a "secret rapture" we would *not* have to be concerned about either the winter or the sabbath!

#### Is the Tribulation the Time of God's Wrath?

There is another great mistake that all who believe in the rapture theory have carelessly taken for granted without proof. It is that the "tribulation" and the "Day of the Lord" represent the same period of time.

The Bible reveals that the tribulation is the wrath of Satan, the wicked spirit ruler of this present age. We read of that in Revelation 12.

Notice! The *devil* is angry. *He* is responsible for the persecution of the Christians who are not accounted worthy to escape. Satan hates God's way. So does this world. It is Satan's world — little wonder that it hates the good news of the Kingdom of God.

What did Jesus say would immediately happen after *Satan's wrath*—the tribulation? The rapturists would have you believe that the "second phase" of Jesus' return would immediately occur. This is *not* what Jesus said. Notice:

"IMMEDIATELY AFTER the tribulation of those days shall the sun be darkened, and the moon shall not give her light, and the stars shall fall from heaven, and

the powers of the heavens shall be shaken" (Mat. 24:29).

Now turn to Joel 2:31: "The sun shall be turned into darkness, and the moon into blood *BEFORE* THE GREAT AND TERRIBLE DAY OF THE LORD COME."

The "Day of the Lord" is the time God steps into world affairs directly. It is the time of *His* wrath against the nations!

This "Day of the Lord will come like a *thief in the night*," wrote Paul in I Thes. 5:2. This is not speaking of the rapture, but of the *time* of God's interventions in world affairs very shortly before Jesus returns.

Compare this with Revelation 6:12, 16-17: "The sun became black as sackcloth of hair, and the whole moon became as blood; and the stars of the heaven fell to the earth . . . and they said to the mountains and to the rocks, 'Fall upon us, and hide us from the face of the one sitting on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: because the great day of their wrath is come; and who can stand?'" This day of God's wrath comes unexpectedly—like a thief in the night.

The tribulation, however, occurs *before* the "Day of the Eternal's Wrath"!

Notice that during this "Day of the Lord" the *trumpets* begin to sound — (Rev. 8:6). "And the seven angels that had the seven trumps [or trumpets] prepared themselves to sound." Trumpets are a symbol of war. This is the time when God's restraint over the nations is loosed—when the nations war upon one another with horrifying new weapons till they learn that God alone can bring peace and that His laws make life worth living.

Notice, now, an amazing fact which very few have grasped!

#### The Seventh Trumpet Sounds

What happens when the seventh and last of these trumpets is sounded? "And the seventh angel sounded: and great voices in heaven came saying, 'The Kingdom of the world is become our Lord's and His Christ's, and He shall reign unto the ages of the ages' . . . 'We thank thee, Lord God, the Almighty, who is and who was; because thou hast taken thy great power, and hast reigned.

And the nations were wroth, and thy wrath is come, and the time of the dead, that they should be judged, and that thou shouldst give reward unto thy servants the prophets, and to the saints, and them that fear thy name, small and great; and shouldst destroy them which destroy the earth'" (Rev. 11:15, 17-18).

Notice that this is the time for the prophets to receive their reward. It is the time of the *resurrection*! And this, remember, occurs at the seventh or last trump!

Now compare this with I Corinthians 15:51-52: "Lo, I tell you a mystery: We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, *at the last trump*: for the trumpet" — the seventh and last trumpet — "shall sound, and the dead" —and that includes the prophets (Rev. 11:18) "shall be raised incorruptible, and we shall be changed."

Do you grasp the significance of this Scripture? AFTER the tribulation, *after* the intervening heavenly signs, *during* the Day of the Lord, *at* the sounding of the seventh trump THE DEAD ARE RESURRECTED AND THOSE ALIVE, WHO believe and practice the truth, ARE CHANGED FROM MORTAL TO IMMORTAL!

This is no secret rapture *before* the tribulation. The dead are not resurrected twice! Those who are still living are not changed to immortality twice! Of course not! There is *not* the slightest indication of a "secret rapture" and a resurrection of the saints *before* the tribulation.

But this is not all!

Open your Bible to Matthew 24:30: "And *then*"—after the heavenly signs which *follow* the tribulation — not *before*, but *after* the tribulation and *during* the Day of the Lord—"THEN shall all the tribes of the earth mourn, and shall see the Son of man coming in the clouds of the heaven with power and great glory. And He shall send forth his angels *with a great trumpet* [or "a great sound of a trumpet"], and they shall gather together His elect from the four winds, from one end of heaven to the other."

This verse pictures the second coming of Christ — at the seventh and last trump, the *great* trump. And it is the time of the resurrection! The *ELECT* are

gathered together. Who are the "elect" or chosen ones?

### Who Are these "Elect"?

Luke 18:7 tells us: "And shall not God avenge His ELECT, *that cry to Him day and night?*"

These elect are not the Jews! The Jews will not be converted as a nation *until* Jesus returns. The Jews today are "enemies of the gospel" (Rom. 11:28), not elect or chosen. Any concordance will provide you with many other scriptures (I Pet. 1:1-2, Col. 3:12; Rom. 8:33, etc.) proving that *true Christians* are the ELECT or chosen ones today. These are the ones to be gathered when Jesus returns with the SOUND of a great trumpet!

Paul also mentions the same tremendous noise of the seventh trumpet that will rend the air at Christ's return. "For the Lord himself shall descend from heaven *with a shout*, with an archangel's voice, and with the trump of God: **AND THE DEAD IN CHRIST SHALL RISE FIRST; then** we that are alive, that are left, shall together with them be caught up in clouds to meet the Lord in the air" (I Thes. 4:16-17).

Did you notice that this is the *time of the resurrection*? It is the time of the LAST TRUMP according to I Cor. 15:52. And in Revelation 11:15, 17-18 the seventh or last trumpet is **ALSO THE TIME OF THE RESURRECTION**. And the time order of Jesus' Mount Olivet prophecy and of the book of Revelation places the sounding of the seventh trumpet and the resurrection **AFTER THE TRIBULATION** — at the very climax of the "Day of the Lord"! These verses describe the *same trumpet*, not different ones.

There is no possible room for a "secret rapture."

One famous text used to contradict these plain passages of Scripture is the 14th verse of I Thes. 4. "For if we believe that Jesus died and rose, even so them also that are fallen asleep"—the dead are *asleep* in their graves, not awake in heaven, according to Paul—"will God through Jesus bring **WITH HIM**." This verse is supposed to teach that 3½ or 7 years before Christ returns a "secret rapture" occurred, the dead were secretly taken to heaven and now they return

*with* Jesus from heaven.

But *is* this what the Scripture says?

How is Jesus going to bring those who are asleep in death **WITH HIM**? Notice: "For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we that are alive, that are left unto the presence [or coming] of the Lord, shall in no wise precede [the Old English word "prevent" meant "precede"] them that are fallen asleep. For the Lord Himself *shall descend from heaven*" — *with* the saints? — NO! "and the *dead* in Christ *shall rise first*."

Observe that Jesus, with the angels from heaven, descends toward to earth, *not* with the saints, but **IN ORDER TO RESURRECT THE SAINTS!** "The Lord shall descend . . . and the dead shall rise"!

After Jesus descends toward earth the dead rise *first*! They meet Christ *in the air*.

Now the dead are *with* Christ in the air — the atmosphere surrounding this earth. "THEN we that are alive and remain shall together with them be *caught up* in the clouds"! We, too, shall be together in the air with those who have just been raised, those whom Jesus is bringing *with Him to this earth*. Notice that being "caught up"—Paul does not say "raptured up" — occurs *after* the tribulation, *at* the last trump when Jesus descends *visibly* in power and glory.

Suppose *you* had a friend who is returning today. You would probably meet him at the bus or rail station or at the airport, wherever he arrives. Then you **RETURN WITH HIM** to your home. In the same way, it is only natural that we should meet Jesus and return *with Him* to this earth at the Mount of Olives by Jerusalem.

If your friend were *returning* today, he would not take you back with him to the place he had already left, and then return all over again, would he? That would be ridiculous!

Yet that is the concept of a "secret rapture"—that Jesus meets you, takes you to the place which he left (heaven) in order to return to this earth!

### Jesus Returns IN LIKE MANNER

How did Jesus leave this earth? "He was taken up; and a cloud received Him out of their sight"—the disciples were looking at Him—"and while they looked

steadfastly toward heaven as He went up, behold, two men stood by them in white apparel; which also said, 'Ye men of Galilee, why stand ye gazing up into heaven? this same Jesus, which is taken up from you into heaven, **SHALL SO COME IN LIKE MANNER AS YE HAVE SEEN** him go into heaven. Then they returned to Jerusalem from the Mount called Olivet" (Acts 1:9-12).

Were there *two* phases of Jesus' ascension? NO! Then there will *not* be two phases to His return—He will come *in the same manner* in which He left.

Notice the prophecy concerning the fulfillment of this very promise: "Behold, the day of the Lord cometh . . . His feet shall stand in that day *upon the Mount of Olives*" (Zech. 14:1-4).

Jesus ascended visibly from Mt. Olivet; He will return visibly to it—but this time in all the might and power of God as King of kings. And notice that it is *in the very day* in which He returns that His feet shall stand upon the Mount of Olives. "It shall be *one day* which shall be known as the Lord's, not day, and not night; but it shall come to pass, that at evening time there shall be light" (verse 7). This is the *climax* of that period called the "Day of the Lord" in prophecy. This one twenty-four hour day will bring an end to this Babylonish civilization. And notice that Jesus sets foot on earth in the very day He returns—not 3½ or 7 or 1000 years later!

That is what the Scripture says!

There is no secret rapture before the tribulation *or at any other time*! The resurrection is at the mighty sound of the seventh trump **IN** the Day of God's wrath which *follows* the tribulation. The tribulation is *not* the Day of the Lord. There are two separate and distinct periods of time. Christ does not return in two phases, one secret, the other visible. He returns in the same manner as He ascended—**AND THAT WAS NO SECRET RAPTURE!** He ascended visibly. He will descend visibly.

Some, of course, seize on minor Scriptures and misinterpret them to attempt to prove their theory. Take Revelation 4:1-2, for example. This, we are told, represents the rapture. But these two verses do not say that! JOHN saw the prophecy in the Book of Revelation unfolded in heaven *because that is where*

*Jesus is*—not because of a secret rapture!

One prominent writer attempts to prove that II Thes. 2:7-8 refers to the rapture. His theory is that this prophecy has *not yet begun* to be fulfilled—that Christ must come *first* "to rapture the Church before the tribulation."

But notice the first part of verse 7: "For the mystery of iniquity **DOTH ALREADY WORK**"—even in Paul's day!

The prophecy *is being fulfilled*.

Let us, however, notice the time setting of this prophecy. The Thessalonians had asked Paul how long they would have to wait until the return of Jesus Christ and the resurrection. Paul answers that the day of Christ's return and the resurrection cannot come "except there come a falling away **FIRST**, and that man of sin be revealed . . ." (verse 3).

Notice the time sequence! An apostasy shall have come *first* and the man of sin shall have been revealed **BEFORE** the day of Christ. Until these two things happen, the day of Christ is being withheld—restrained! Christ is not coming and the resurrection will not occur until *after* the apostasy has commenced and the man of sin, who rises out of its midst, seats himself in the temple of God claiming to be God (verse 4).

Now continuing with verses 6 to 9, *according to the original inspired Greek*: "And now you know what withholds [or, is keeping back the Day of Christ from occurring], so that he [the man of sin] might be revealed in his own [or, appointed] time. For the mystery of iniquity is already working: there is only one who is now withholding [or, keeping back the Day of Christ] *until he* [the man of sin] *comes on the scene* out of the midst [of the apostasy]; and then shall that Wicked be revealed [seated in the temple of God, claiming to be God], whom the Lord shall consume . . . by the brightness of His coming . . ."

Notice that *this must all happen before the resurrection when Christ comes* in "flaming fire taking vengeance on them that know not God and that obey not the gospel" (II Thes. 1:8).

Observe that the Greek words *heos ek mesou geneetai*, translated in the King James Version, "until he be taken

out of the way," mean exactly the opposite in Greek—"until he comes on the scene, or appears, out of the midst" of the apostasy!

Christ cannot return for His saints at the resurrection until the man of sin, who today *heads a great apostasy*—a great fallen Church (Rev. 17)—moves his headquarters to Jerusalem and seats himself there in a temple of God (see Daniel 11:44-45 and Rev. 11).

### The ORIGIN of the Secret Rapture

Now comes the surprise! The doctrine of the Secret Rapture comes from Antichrist!—that man of Sin who claims to be God!

The earliest generally recognized modern adoption of the doctrine of a coming superhuman Antichrist preceded by a "secret rapture" occurred around 1825. Samuel R. Maitland, librarian to the Archbishop of Canterbury, swallowed the theory. Around 1830 J. N. Darby, founder of the Plymouth Brethren, accepted it. The *Scofield Bible* propounded the same erroneous theory—and from there it has spread throughout fundamental Protestantism. And where did these misguided Protestants first learn of this theory?

From the Jesuits in the 16th century! Joseph Ribera and Cardinal Bellarmine and Alcasar were among the first to propound the theory. You can verify these facts in the *Cyclopaedia of Biblical, Theological, and Ecclesiastical Literature*, by McClintock and Strong, and in many other reference works.

It is time you opened your eyes to this HERESY that has stemmed from "BABYLON THE GREAT, the Mother of Harlots and Abominations of the Earth" (Rev. 17:5). Unless you recognize this vile doctrine for what it is, **YOU AND MILLIONS WITH YOU ARE PLUNGING STRAIGHT FOR THE MOST FIENDISH, DIABOLICAL TIME OF TORTURE EVER INSTITUTED BY MAN! IT IS NOW BEING PLANNED IN EUROPE!** There is only one way of escape—"Watch world events and pray constantly."

## Prospective Students of AMBASSADOR

(Continued from page 9)

of the very highest paid professions. We are striving to make it so among our

teachers.

That about winds up the things I had on my mind to say to you at this time. Let me add, I **PERSONALLY WANT TO SEE MORE GIRLS ON OUR CAMPUS!** I believe we have everything here a right-minded girl ought to want in a college. And a girl *ought* to have a college education, just as much as a young man—especially when the *right kind* is available.

A famous Hollywood night club used the slogan: "Through these portals pass the most beautiful girls in the world." I doubt if I should have agreed, but this I believe—that through the portals of Ambassador College and over its majestically landscaped campus pass the finest young men *not only*, but also the finest young women on the earth!

You'll be in mighty good company here—the happiest spot on earth! Not all who desire can be admitted this fall, but if you haven't already done so, write in for the catalog immediately, and if you have, ask for application blank and send it in. Even though you might not be accepted for admission, **GET IN YOUR APPLICATION ANYWAY—at once!** Let us be the judge of whether you are to be accepted. Don't be disappointed if you are not—study the college's Bible Correspondence Course, and other literature, with your Bible—but, in any event, **SEND IN YOUR APPLICATION!** It is not too late, *but hurry!*

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"Qu'est-ce que la Foi?"

"Pourquoi êtes-vous né?"

Prière de s'adresser à:

LE MONDE À VENIR

Box 111

Pasadena, California

# *The Bible Story*

by Basil Wolverton

## CHAPTER NINE

### JACOB FALLS IN LOVE

**I**SAAC had just sent away his son Jacob to stay with Uncle Laban in Haran for a while. With Jacob gone, his brother Esau did not take the trouble to pursue his brother. Instead, he tried to please his parents by marrying a woman who was not a Canaanite, as were his previous wives. This third wife Esau chose was from Ishmael's family, and that still wasn't very pleasing to Isaac and Rebekah. (Genesis 28:6-9.)

#### Jacob Stops at Bethel

As for Jacob, he continued on through the mountains. When he was about fifty miles from home, he stopped for the night on a lonely, rock-covered slope. There he slept on the ground with his head resting against one of the stones.

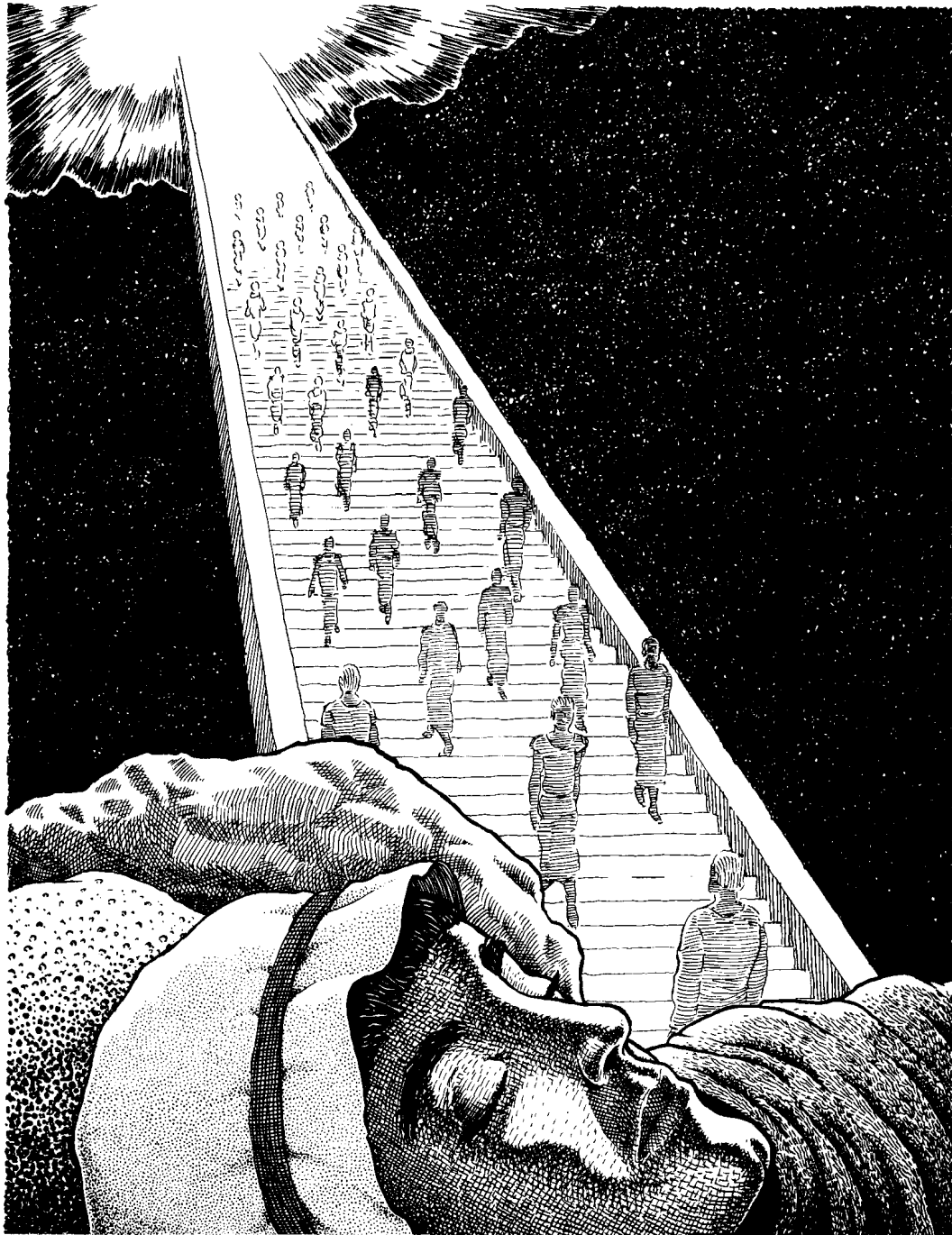
Jacob was very weary because of his long walk during the day. Perhaps that was partly why he dreamed of some very unusual things. He dreamed that he saw a huge stairway that rested on the earth and went very far up into the sky. Many angels moved up and down the stairway, at the top of which stood a very powerful looking being.

"I am the God of Abraham and of Isaac," came a voice from the Figure at the top of the stairway. "I will go with you in your journey, and I will protect you. The land on which you lie will become yours, and those who come after you will own it. They will spread out over the earth, and through them all nations will receive a blessing. I will bring you back to this land again. I will keep all the promises I am making to you now." (Gen. 28:19-15.)

When Jacob awakened from his dream, he was filled with a strange fear. He felt

that it was really God who had spoken to him for the first time. The unusual experience left him weak and trembling. (Verses 16 and 17.)

Using a stone for a pillow, the weary Jacob dreamed of a huge stairway leading from heaven to earth.





Jacob believed that this was such an important event in his life that he should mark the spot where the dream occurred. Therefore he anointed the stone against which he had rested his head, and set it up as a special pillar and a landmark.

Jacob there promised that if God would protect him, provide for him and bring him back to his father's house, then he would give God a tenth or tithe of all that came to him. (Gen. 28:18-22.)

Probably Jacob knew that the first tenth of what any man earns should be returned to God. After all, it is God who really owns all things, and whatever we have comes to us as gifts from our Creator. Even the very air we breathe is a wonderful gift because it keeps us alive.

In asking us to give back only a tenth of what we earn, God is being very generous. On top of that, He promises that He will provide well for those who are faithful in giving back a tithe, or tenth. (Malachi 3:8-11.)

### Jacob Falls in Love

With the pleasant feeling that from there on God would protect him, Jacob continued on his way. After days of trudging over stony mountain trails and hot desert sands, wading across cold streams and crossing the great River Euphrates, he came into the land of Mesopotamia.

Finally, in the distance, he saw a city. Not far away were some shepherds and their flocks of sheep gathered about a well that was protected by a huge, flat stone.

Jacob came up to the shepherds and asked, "Where are you men from?"

"We're from Haran," they answered, pointing to the city in the distance. (Gen. 29:1-4.)

Jacob was happy to learn that his long, wearying journey was almost at an end.

"Do you know a man there called Laban?" he asked. "His grandfather's name was Nahor."

"We know him," the men replied.

"Is he well and prosperous?" Jacob inquired.

"He is," they answered, and pointing to an approaching flock, they added, "Here comes one of his flocks. The girl you see herding them is Rachel, Laban's daughter." (Verses 4-6.)

When Jacob heard this, he was anxious to meet Rachel alone. Meeting one of his own family was such a special event that he didn't want strangers around.

"It's only the middle of the day," Jacob reminded the shepherds. "Why don't you take your flocks back to the pastures?"

"We can't do that till we've watered them," the shepherds answered. "And we

can't water them till Rachel gets here with her flocks so that all the animals can be watered at once."

By that time Rachel's flock was close by. Jacob helped the other men move the stone top from the well. Then he drew water for Rachel's sheep.

All the while Jacob couldn't help noticing how beautiful Rachel was. When he had finished drawing water, he stepped up to her and kissed her. (Verses 9-11.)

"Are you really Laban's daughter?" he asked.

"I am," she replied.

Jacob was so thankful that God had led him to his people that he wept with joy and thankfulness.

"I am Jacob, your cousin," he told Rachel. "My mother is Rebekah, your aunt."

Rachel was so surprised and pleased that she took her flock and hurried to tell her father about Jacob.

When Laban, her father, heard what had happened, he hurried out to meet Jacob and welcome him to his home.

Jacob visited with his uncle's family for a month. During that time he did his part in the work that had to be done around Laban's home and in the fields.

The more he saw of Rachel, the more he loved her. Rachel had an older sister, Leah, who was closer to Jacob's age. But Jacob was interested only in Rachel.

Laban could see in the time that Jacob stayed that he would be a good addition to the family. But Laban couldn't expect Jacob to keep on working for no more than meals and a bed. (Verses 12-14.)

"If you wish to keep on working here, I would like to give you fair wages," Laban told Jacob. "Tell me what you think would be fair pay."

Probably Laban would have been glad to have Jacob continue working for only food and bed. But he was afraid that Jacob might leave, and so he knew he would have to offer Jacob something.

"I shall work for you for the next seven years if you will then give me Rachel for my wife," Jacob said. (Verse 18.)

Laban was pleased at this suggestion. Seven whole years of service from a good worker was like an offer of a great deal of money.

"You shall have her for your wife," Laban heartily agreed. "I would rather have her marry you than some stranger."

### Jacob Marries Someone Else!

Seven years is quite a long time. But to Jacob, who was happy in seeing Rachel every day, time went by quickly.



The bride drew back her heavy veil, and Jacob was amazed to see that he had married Leah—not Rachel!

When the seven years had passed, Jacob reminded Laban that it was time for the marriage. Laban gave a great marriage feast that lasted a whole week. Many people were invited, and it was a time of much celebration.

On the evening of the day of the ceremony Jacob was married to his bride. She was covered with a long, heavy veil that almost hid her from view. This was the custom in those times in that country, and it still is in some eastern nations.

Jacob was very happy. It was well worth seven years of labor, he thought, to finally have Rachel as his wife. But later, when the veil was removed so that he could look upon the woman he had married, his happiness suddenly left him.

It was not Rachel. It was Leah! (Gen. 30:23.)

Filled with anger, Jacob went at once to Laban.

"Why have you cheated me this way?" he demanded. "I asked for Rachel to marry, not Leah!"

"I'm sorry, my nephew," Laban explained, "but it is a custom of this land that the older daughter must marry first. I couldn't change that custom. I had no choice but to give you Leah."

If Laban had been fair, he would have told Jacob about that custom long before. But he wanted to get Leah married, and he chose this dishonest way to do it.

Jacob was very unhappy and disappointed. This trick his uncle had put over on him reminded him of the way he had tricked his brother and his father in order to get a birthright and a special blessing. Perhaps Jacob realized then that it was only just that he should now be the victim of a dishonest act.

"If you must have Rachel for your wife, I will give her to you if you will do two things," Laban told Jacob.

"What are the two things?" Jacob asked, wondering if Laban had some other trick in mind.

"If you will be a good husband to Leah for the remainder of the marriage feast during this week, then you shall have Rachel to wed at the end of the week," Laban replied.

"I am willing to do that," Jacob said. "But that is only one thing. What is the other thing?"

Laban hesitated a little before answering. He was hoping that Jacob loved Rachel enough to agree to what he was about to ask.

"You must work for me seven more years for Rachel," Laban said.

Jacob was stunned by Laban's words. For a while he said nothing, leaving Laban to wonder if he had asked too much of Jacob.

"I agree to both things," Jacob suddenly replied. "Surely Rachel is worth more to me than fourteen years of work!" (Verses 27-28.)

Perhaps the remainder of the first seven days of feasting seemed almost as long to Jacob as were the seven years of service to his uncle. At the end of the week, he and Rachel were married. Thus he had two wives, which was a common thing in those times. Rachel was the one he loved, however.

He willingly carried out his promise to work seven more years for Laban, whose scheme to marry off both his daughters later brought grief to this deceitful man.

### Six More Years of Work

By the time his fourteen years of labor for Laban were finished, Jacob had little more to his name than a large family and tents to live in. As it happened, only one son of his eleven boys was thus far born to him by Rachel.

Meanwhile, because of Jacob's careful planning and willingness to work hard,

Laban became wealthy in flocks. Jacob could see that there wasn't much reason for him to keep on working for Laban, so he told him that he would like to take his family and return to Canaan to visit his elderly father, Isaac, who was still living.

Laban was very upset when he learned what Jacob wanted to do. He didn't want to lose such a valuable man.

"If you will continue working for me," he told Jacob, "I shall pay you any wage you ask."

"I don't want wages," Jacob replied. "In return for my continuing looking after your flocks, let me have any of the cattle or sheep or goats that have spots or ring marks on their hides."

"I agree to that," Laban said. (Verses 31-32.)

But before Jacob could get around to separating one kind of animal from another, Laban had his workmen remove most of the animals Jacob claimed. These he turned over to his sons, who kept them at a distance where Jacob wouldn't notice them. (Verses 35-36.)

You will remember that God had promised Jacob that He would look out for him. God kept that promise. During the next six years, while Jacob managed Laban's flocks, God miraculously helped him by greatly increasing the numbers that had rings or spots on them. This was the opposite of the usual habits of cattle breeding. (Gen. 31: 11-12.)

Thus so many of the cattle and sheep and goats became Jacob's that he soon became wealthy. By carefully trading and buying, he also acquired many camels and burros and tents and much other expensive equipment.

At the same time, Laban's flocks were not increasing as he wanted them to. It had long been plain to him that he, Laban, had become prosperous because a man who relied on God was managing his business. But now that God was causing Jacob to prosper, Laban was not pleased. He feared that Jacob would leave at any time, now that he didn't have to worry about making a living.

### Jacob Leaves Laban Secretly

Laban became less friendly toward Jacob, causing Jacob to have a greater desire to leave. Then one day God spoke to Jacob and told him to return to Canaan. (Gen. 31:13.) Jacob feared that Laban might not let him leave, so he waited till a time when Laban had gone several miles away to oversee the shearing of his sheep. Then Jacob had his workmen take down his tents and pack them and all his belongings on camels and burros.

Jacob was careful not to take anything that belonged to Laban. With all his serv-

ants and family and flocks, it was a big moving job. The animals had to be herded, and thus the caravan couldn't move very fast. (Verses 17-18.)

As for Leah and Rachel, they were glad of the chance to leave. They felt that their father hadn't been fair to them or to Jacob.

It was not until three days after Jacob had left for Canaan that Laban found out what had happened. (Verse 22.) He was very angry at the thought of Jacob leaving him without a word. Then he found that a number of small idols which he prized highly were also missing from his tents. He felt certain that Jacob had taken them.

"Gather my best men together for a fast trip!" Laban roared at his foreman. "Saddle the fastest camels! I will overtake this Jacob if I have to go all the way to Canaan!"

After seven days of hard travel, during which the camels were forced to move as fast as possible, Laban and his men came within sight of Jacob's caravan, which had encamped for the night. (Verse 23.)

"We'll camp back here tonight out of their sight," Laban told his men. "Early

After a week of hard, fast travel on camels, Laban and his men came within sight of Jacob's caravan camped for the night.





Rachel went to her tent and hid her father's little idols under a camel saddle.

tomorrow morning we'll overtake them. Then Jacob will learn that he was most unwise to leave as he did!"



But by next morning Laban wasn't so intent upon revenge, for God spoke to him in a dream. (Verse 24.)

"Do not harm Jacob in any way," God warned. "If you do, I shall suddenly act against you!"

Laban was greatly disturbed by the dream. Perhaps he wasn't absolutely certain that it was God who had warned him. But he felt he couldn't take any chances.

Early in the morning, when Laban overtook Jacob's caravan, his anger had almost gone.

"Why did you do this to me?" he demanded of Jacob. "If you had told me you were going, I would have prepared a great feast. As it happened, I didn't even get to tell my daughters and grandchildren goodbye." (Verses 25-29.)

"I left while you were away because I knew you might otherwise force your daughters to stay with you," Jacob answered.

"I have enough men with me to force them from you right now," Laban went on. "And I would do it now if it weren't for a dream I had last night. I dreamed that God warned me not to harm you."

"It is good that you are obeying that warning," Jacob answered. "No one can stand against God."

"Probably that is so," Laban said. "I respect your belief. But it is plain to me that you don't respect mine. Just before I started out after you, I found that certain little images that mean much to me were missing from my tents. Some one in your caravan stole them, and I want them back!"

"If you think we have your images, then search our tents and belongings," Jacob said. "If you find them with the property of any person in my caravan, then let that person die!"

Jacob was certain that Laban had come searching in the wrong place for the images. He didn't know that Rachel had stolen them from her father's tent because she knew that Laban looked to them for advice the same as many people even today look to images, crystal balls and other lifeless objects for advice. (Verse 32.)

Rachel didn't want her father to pursue Jacob. She was fearful he would find out through his idols which route Jacob's caravan had taken. Perhaps she realized that relying on idols and sorcery and such things can sometimes result in getting in touch with demons that will make known some surprising things.

While Laban and his men searched for the images, Rachel was resting at her tent seated on a camel saddle. It was there that she had hidden her father's little idols.

Soon Laban came to her tent and searched.

"Get up from that saddle, so that I may look there," Laban said.

"I'm sorry, father," Rachel said to him, "but I'm not feeling well. Please excuse me if I stay here and rest."

When Laban went to Jacob to admit that the images couldn't be found, Jacob was angry. He demanded to know why Laban, who had not been fair to him through Jacob's twenty years of honest service, had come to treat him like an enemy.

Laban knew that Jacob deserved better treatment. Therefore he suggested that they make an agreement that there would be no more wrong feeling toward each other. Their men piled up stones as a monument to their agreement. Then they ate a meal together as a further sign of friendliness.

Next morning Laban said goodbye to his daughters and their children, and returned to Haran. (Gen. 31:55.) At the same time, Jacob's caravan moved on toward Canaan.

*(To be continued in next issue)*

## THE BIBLE ANSWERS

# Short Questions

## FROM OUR READERS

Why is the stone under the royal chair in Westminster Abbey in London called "Jacob's Pillow Stone?"

In Westminster Abbey is an intriguing stone, steel gray in color, mixed with red veins, twenty-two inches long, thirteen inches broad and eleven inches deep. Attached to each end is a worn iron ring by which the stone may be carried. This rock is not beautiful, *yet it is more important than all the crown jewels!* On it Elizabeth II was crowned.

For centuries the kings of Scotland—the ancestors of the present British royal family—were crowned upon it. Upon this stone the ancient Irish kings of this same royal family were also crowned, even as far back as five and one-half centuries before the birth of Jesus Christ.

What is the true significance of this rock? Where did it come from?

Ancient Irish annals prove the rock—which they called "Lia fail" meaning

stone of destiny—did *not* originate in Ireland, but came by way of Spain *from the East*. It was brought by a white-haired old man—a prophet—who also brought a daughter of an Eastern king. Through her marriage to the king of Ireland, she not only *continued her father's throne* but also became the ancestor of a dynasty which has continued to Elizabeth II.

If you were to go to Westminster Abbey, you would see that this stone is labeled *Jacob's pillow stone* or *Jacob's pillar stone!*—traditionally the very stone upon which the patriarch Jacob rested his head that evening about 3700 years ago when fleeing from his father's house!

Here is the astonishing origin of the coronation stone!

Turn to Genesis 28:11-22. Here you read that Jacob, tired after miles of walking, stopped for the night and took one of the stones to serve as his pillows. After dreaming in his sleep, "Jacob rose

up early in the morning, and took **THE STONE** that he had put for his pillows, and set it up for a pillar, and poured oil upon the top of it" (verse 18).

This verse shows that Jacob used *one* particular stone. Although verse eleven of this chapter implies that Jacob used several stones, it is a mistranslation. The word "them" is in italics and not in the original Hebrew. It should be translated "and he took *of* the stones of that place, and put *one* for his pillows, and lay down in that place to sleep."

Now notice verse 22. Jacob poured oil on the stone and said: "And this stone, which I have set for a *pillar* shall be *God's house*." This stone was anointed, set aside to become a pillar or witness proving which is God's house, which is the royal family God had chosen.

Many years later Jacob again speaks of this stone as a "shepherd."

Notice Genesis 49:1. Jacob called his sons together and told them what would befall them in our day, "in the last days." In verse 24, when speaking of Joseph's descendants he interjects by saying that from the tribe of Joseph—not Judah—will be found "the *shepherd*, the **STONE** of Israel."

This same rock—the coronation stone—accompanied the Israelites during their forty years wandering in the wilderness. Paul says in I Corinthians 10:4

that just as the Israelites had manna as a type of Christ, so they had, as a type of Christ, *a rock* which gave them water and which *followed* or *went with* them in their wanderings! Christ provides spiritual waters—the Holy Spirit, and Jacob's shepherd stone, a type of the Divine Shepherd, miraculously provided material water in the wilderness.

During those forty years the stone accompanied Israel. That is undoubtedly why the two iron rings fastened to either end are so worn. The stone and its rings could never have become worn by lying untouched in England's Westminster, or Scotland's Scone or in the halls of Tara in Ireland. It must have been worn during the wilderness wanderings.

As this stone is used in the coronation ceremonies to this day, let's turn to a scripture which proves that this pillar stone was used in the family of David in the days of ancient Israel.

Open your Bible to II Kings 11:14. The event mentioned here occurred at the time when Josiah was proclaimed king in the temple and when wicked Athaliah, who had usurped the throne, was about to meet her doom. Notice what it says: "And when Athaliah heard the noise of the guard and of the people, she came to the people into the temple of the Lord. And when she looked, behold"—what? "the king stood by a *pillar*, as the manner was, and the princes and the trumpeters by the king, and all the people of the land rejoiced, and blew with trumpets."

So it was the manner or custom even in that day to have the pillar of stone—Jacob's pillar stone—used in the coronation ceremonies!

But how did that stone finally reach London, England, where it may be seen today?

The World today, in its ignorance, looks upon any government or throne as deriving its power from human authority, little realizing that it is God who sets up rulers and who breaks down thrones. Almost 3000 years ago God made an amazing promise whereby David's dynasty would continue ruling through *all generations* and that he should *never lack an individual* to reign upon his throne. "I have sworn unto my servant David, Thy seed will I establish *forever*, and build up thy throne to *all*

*generations*" (Psalm 89:3-4).

"David shall *never* want [lack] a man to sit upon the throne of the *house of Israel*" (Jer. 33:17). Notice it reads "the house of Israel," not the "house of Judah." Remember that after the days of Solomon, the children of Israel were divided into two houses, the House of Judah and the House of Israel. The throne of David ruled in the House of Judah until the days of Zedekiah. When the throne of David apparently was at an end, God caused the prophet Jeremiah to take king Zedekiah's daughters (Jer. 43:5-7) and Jacob's pillar stone with him to transplant the throne of David from Judah to the House of Israel where Jacob prophesied the stone of destiny would be found in our day!

Jacob said that the stone which he anointed would be a pillar—a witness proving which is the house, the nation, the royal family that God has chosen. That stone is found today in *England*—in London's Westminster Abbey.

The world may scoff and sneer at the truth, the world may deny the *facts of history*, but Queen Elizabeth is ruling over part of Israel—the tribe of Ephraim. She sits upon the throne of David!—the very throne that Jesus Christ shall take when he returns to rule the world. "And the Lord God shall give unto him [Jesus] the THRONE OF HIS FATHER DAVID: and he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever" (Luke 1:32-33).

Yes, on the throne of England reigns a daughter of David, a descendant of King Zedekiah's daughter whom Jeremiah the prophet took to Ireland together with the stone of destiny. From the marriage of that young princess has descended a dynasty that has ruled Ireland, Scotland and England for over 2500 years! And all of them have been crowned over the stone of destiny, Jacob's pillow stone.

### NOTICE!

Mr. Armstrong was unable to complete the 19th installment of his AUTOBIOGRAPHY before press time because of the many other responsibilities which had to be completed before leaving for Europe with his son, Garner Ted. A vital report on the progress of this Work and of events in Europe will appear in succeeding issues.

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