

THE PLAIN TRUTH

a magazine of understanding

COMBINED ISSUE
JUNE-JULY 1979



Showdown Over Namibia

WHAT HAS TRANSPIRED SINCE
MR. ARMSTRONG'S OFFICIAL VISIT IN 1977?



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Vol. XLIV, NO. 6

ISSN 0032-0420

June-July 1979

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ABOUT OUR COVER

In March 1977, Herbert W. Armstrong, Editor-in-Chief of *The Plain Truth*, addressed leaders of South West Africa (Namibia) in the historic Turnhalle building in Windhoek. Seated to the left of Mr. Armstrong at the speaker's table (inset) was Mr. Dirk Mudge, chairman of the Turnhalle Conference, now the head of the Democratic Turnhalle Alliance, Namibia's largest political party. Read about the latest developments in Namibia in the article beginning on page 4.

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PRINTED IN ENGLAND
United States: 300 W. Green, Pasadena, California 91123
Canada: P.O. Box 44, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2M2
Mexico: Institucion Ambassador, Apartado Postal 5-595, Mexico 5, D.F.
Colombia: Apartado Aereo 11430, Bogotá 1, D.E.
United Kingdom, Ireland, Europe, and the Middle East: P.O. Box 111, St. Albans, Herts. AL2 2EG England.
Rhodesia: P.O. Box U.A.30, Union Ave., Salisbury
South Africa: P.O. Box 1060, Johannesburg, Republic of South Africa 2000
Ghana: P.O. Box 9617, Kotoka Int. Airport, Accra

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Personal from...

Now It Must Be Revealed— How the Worldwide Church of God Began

Now it must be revealed—the true story of how Jesus Christ prepared His servant far in advance—then called him in poverty and hunger—and the history of the struggle to raise up this era of God's Church in financial stress and on sheer living FAITH!

As a young man, I had been successful in the advertising profession, earning, while still in my twenties, an income comparable to \$150,000 a year today.

I was then unconverted and proud—ambitious and full of self-confidence. I did not then know Jesus Christ as personal Savior, Lord and Master and coming King!

The living Christ well knew that before He could effectively use me, I had to be humbled, subdued, CONQUERED by Him. I know now that God had guided my life *from the beginning*, preparing His future servant for His purpose—even as He had prepared Moses, Job, Paul and others, in advance. Even in my birth, rearing, and early business life, He was guiding me.

When I was age 16, my employer in my first summer job away from home sparked in me the flame of AMBITION to make something of my life—and with it, the willingness and determination to work hard and pay the price of success.

When I was 18, a book called *Choosing a Vocation* put me through a self-analysis, leading me to choose the advertising profession.

I had developed an intense driving energy. I studied nights, learned by experience during the day.

By age 25 I was well established, with my own office in Chicago's downtown Loop, as a successful publisher's representative in the banking field. My business contacts were with officers of the nation's great banks on South LaSalle Street and on Wall Street in New York—and with presidents and board chairmen of many Midwest industrial corporations.

I was married at age 25 to the wife I was later to know God had selected for me—a marriage that lasted 50 years—until death did part us. She was the help I needed.

But a flash depression in 1920—when I was 28—put my major clients (industrial corporations) into receivership. Ninety percent of my income was lost in that depression.

But I had acquired the business training which was later to be needed in the Work of the living Christ. And I had become proud. God did not make His calling known to me at that stage. First, Christ took me through a humbling experience. By 1926 I was in Portland, Oregon, reduced to poverty, hunger, wearing threadbare clothes. Then a pair of supremely important challenges came. God's time had come to call me.

I was taken through the humiliating experience of finding that everything I had believed, or perhaps better stated, taken for granted, about God and the Bible was proven wrong. By spring 1927, my mind had been swept clean of the religious beliefs I had carelessly assumed, and Jesus Christ had come into my life. Self-confidence was replaced with a living FAITH. I was in desperate financial straits. I had taken a real beating. I had been CONQUERED by Christ Jesus. I repented, was baptized and a totally new life begotten within me.

When I was baptized in the spring of 1927, I received the supreme gift of God's Holy Spirit. God's TRUTH was being opened to me. God had now called me and put me in His Work.

I was used by Jesus Christ, in 1933, in raising up the parent church of the Worldwide Church of God. I had hitchhiked—or walked—to hold services in a one-room country schoolhouse eight miles west of Eugene, Oregon. My one pair of shoes had holes in the soles. I said, in humor, "I have a suit for every day of the week—and this is it!" My wife was wearing her younger sister's cast-off clothes. Our children had been sent to school hungry. It was then the midst of the Great Depression. Church brethren took up a collection to buy me a new suit of clothes.

But now GOD was using me! I had started broadcasting at a cost of \$2.50 (Continued on page 38)

Part Five:

7 PROOFS OF GOD'S TRUE CHURCH

Where is the one and only true Church today—the Church founded by Jesus Christ in A.D. 31? Seven major eye-opening proofs identify it unmistakably.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

The first five proofs of the true Church appeared in the February, March, April, and May Plain Truths. This installment continues with proof number six.

Proof Six:

WHAT AND WHY THE CHURCH?

When we come to the question, **WHAT** and **WHY** is the Church, it is indeed astonishing that the one original true Church of God, still extant after 1,900 years of persecution, opposition, martyrdom, remains **UNIQUE** in having the answer.

The real **PURPOSE** and function of the Church is as little understood as the knowledge of who and what God is, what and why **MAN** is, what was the gospel of Jesus Christ, the government of God and His supreme creative achievement—holy righteous **CHARACTER**.

Isn't it incongruous? Man invents numerous religions for the worship of God—yet doesn't know **WHO** or **WHAT** God is. Man does not know what **HE** is! Or **WHY**! Seven hundred million who do not know the purpose or function of the church join "Christian" churches!

True, indeed it is, that the whole world has been **DECEIVED**!

Church Error Number One

The first and most widespread false belief in this world's churches is the assumption that this is God's world—that God is desperately trying to get everybody "saved," while Satan is trying to *keep* everybody "lost." If that is true, Satan is surely winning that battle!

But 1) God is **NOT** trying to "get everybody saved" spiritually, *now*! And 2) those uncalled are **NOT** "lost"—just not judged—**YET**!

We need first to understand the world out from which God's Church has been called to be a separate, holy people.

Let me restate it briefly. The first

man Adam was given two **MUSTS**: 1) to *reject* Satan's way of "GET" and 2) to give himself to God's way of "GIVE"—the way of God's law—out-flowing **LOVE**, thus developing the holy, righteous **CHARACTER** to *qualify* to restore the government of God on earth.

But Adam rejected God's way. He rejected God as the Source of basic knowledge and as the God to be worshiped and obeyed.

But let it *now* be emphasized that when God sentenced man, on Adam's choice, to 6,000 years of being *cut off* from God, the Eternal retained the prerogative of specially calling to Himself those He chose for special service. And, **ALWAYS**—in every case—those specially called *were called for a mission* **PREPARATORY TO THE KINGDOM OF GOD**!

Understand this! Everyone God called was chosen for a special mission **PREPARING FOR THE KINGDOM OF GOD**!

God is no respecter of persons. He called no "favorites" merely to bestow upon them His gift of eternal

salvation. Each has been called for service to prepare for the KINGDOM OF GOD.

BUT, understand *this* also: That special mission or service to which each called-out one has been chosen was GOD'S MEANS of developing in him the holy, righteous CHARACTER to QUALIFY him to reign and rule with and under Christ in God's KINGDOM—in THE WORLD TOMORROW!

In ancient Old Testament Israel only the prophets were called in this sense. The Holy Spirit was never made available to others in Old Testament Israel. The purpose for the special calling of that nation has been covered in proof number four.

Remember, God creates in DUAL stages. The first stage of man's creation was the *physical* stage. It began with Adam. The second phase of man's creation is the spiritual phase and begins with Christ.

As a group or nation, Israel was called under the physical stage of man's creation. The SPIRITUAL stage began through Christ with righteous Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and the prophets in Israel. But as a *group-calling*, the Church of God begins the spiritual phase.

The Church was called for a very special PURPOSE in preparation for the KINGDOM—a purpose not fully realized from the first century until the present generation.

Adam's Creation Not Complete

The first Adam, formed altogether from the dust of the ground, was given a spirit to empower the human brain with intellect. This was explained fully in proof number three. But he was *incomplete*—he was created to *need* also a *second* Spirit—the Holy Spirit of God. Old Testament Israel was not given God's Holy Spirit.

Man, possessing only the one "human spirit," is, truly, "*not all there*"—yet he is unaware of the fact. He is a natural-born carnal person. He has only the physical, carnal mind.

And what says God of the carnal mind? It is hostile against God and not subject to the law of God, "... neither indeed can be" (Romans

8:7). Also, as Jeremiah explained, this natural carnal mind is deceitful and desperately wicked (Jeremiah 17:9). Hundreds of years of Old Testament Israelitish experience proved this! They were given God's revealed knowledge which was hidden from other nations, yet they rebelled and sinned even above other nations!

The World into Which Jesus Came

It was into such a world—and to such a people (Judah)—that Jesus came. "He came unto his own, and his own received him not" (John 1:11).

First, before teaching or preaching His gospel of the Kingdom, Jesus had to QUALIFY to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and establish the KINGDOM OF GOD. In the most titanic battle ever fought for the greatest stakes in the universe, Jesus overcame Satan, rejected Satan's "GET" way, proved 100 percent obedient and loyal to God (Matthew 4:1-11).

He called and chose the disciples. He trained to be His apostles.

Then He said, "... Thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell [the grave] shall not prevail against it. And I will give *unto thee* [His chief apostle] the keys of the kingdom of heaven: and whatsoever *thou* shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven: and whatsoever *thou* shalt loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven" (Matthew 16:18-19). Plainly Jesus was speaking to one man, His chief apostle, when He spoke of binding and loosing—not to the Church.

For 3½ years Jesus taught His apostles-to-be about the Kingdom of God.

Church Members Must Qualify

The first Adam, in order to qualify to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth, had to overcome Satan—Satan's way ("GET")—and prove obedient to God. Adam failed.

Christ, the second Adam, had to qualify by overcoming Satan and proving loyalty to God and God's way. He QUALIFIED!

Each one in the Church must also qualify in order to sit on Christ's throne with Him! "And he that over-

cometh [Satan], and keepeth my works unto the end, to him will I give power over the nations: And he shall rule them with a rod of iron..." (Revelation 2:26-27). Again, "To him that overcometh [Satan] will I grant to sit with me in my throne, even as I also overcame [Satan], and am set down with my Father in his throne" (Revelation 3:21).

I have shown that the whole world, except those specially called by God, is CUT OFF from God—cut off from access to Him who has eternal life to give. Jesus CONFIRMED THAT plainly and definitely. He said, "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him..." (John 6:44). No scripture can or does nullify that! All others are CUT OFF from God. No one of them CAN COME to Christ!

The Church of God Founded

Jesus was crucified, resurrected after three days and three nights in the tomb (another incidental proof of the one true Church), and after 40 days ascended to the right hand of God in heaven.

Then, on the day of the Feast of Firstfruits (Pentecost), A.D. 31, God sent the Holy Spirit in an amazing display, founding His Church!

The number of disciples who still believed after Jesus' 3½ years of preaching was a mere 120 (Acts 1:15).

"... They were all *with one accord* in one place. And *suddenly* there came a *sound* from heaven as of a rushing mighty wind, and *it* filled all the house where they were sitting. And there *appeared* unto them *cloven tongues* like as of fire, and *it* sat upon each of them. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit, and began to speak with other tongues, as the Spirit gave them utterance" (Acts 2:1-3).

I have purposely emphasized certain words in this scripture, because it was a ONE-TIME-ONLY incident. It never occurred before. It never has since. Modern "Pentecostal" meetings and "tongues speaking" are emphatically not the same thing at all.

Notice carefully! First, they were all of *one accord*—something often
(Continued on page 43)



SHOWDOWN OVER NAMIBIA

One of the world's largest, driest and least-populated regions is caught up in the eye of an international political storm. How the issue is resolved will have great bearing on the future of not only all southern Africa but the economic well-being of the entire Western world.

by Gene H. Hogberg

One would think that South West Africa—more commonly known these days as Namibia—would be the most unlikely area of the world to be embroiled in a dispute of major international importance.

On the surface, Namibia should not demand such high-level attention. It is one of the world's most arid and underpopulated regions. Yet, zero hour is approaching for those who must determine which form of independence the territory will take.

Mr. Armstrong's Visit

Readers of *The Plain Truth* magazine have been made continually

aware of events transpiring in Namibia as well as throughout all of troubled southern Africa. In 1976, the September and November issues of *The Plain Truth* had articles detailing independence proposals that were being hammered out at the time in the so-called "Turnhalle

conference" in Windhoek, Namibia's administrative center and largest city.

This was a remarkable—and, events would prove, tragically unsuccessful—experiment, wherein for the first time in the history of southern Africa whites and nonwhites sat around a table to discuss the peaceful evolution to independence. The conference was similar in many respects to the conference that produced the Constitution of the United States.

A short while later, in March 1977, *Plain Truth* Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong was invited to address conference





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leaders in the historic Turnhalle assembly building (named after a German assembly hall). Mr. Armstrong was the first "non-South-Wester" to be invited to speak to the Turnhalle conference. (Mr. Armstrong's appearance at the Turnhalle was covered in the June 1977 issue of *The Plain Truth*.)

Mr. Armstrong reviewed before the delegates the entire span of human history: How that first Satan, and subsequently the vast majority of mankind, has rejected God's government and the laws of God. These laws are based upon love—outgoing concern for the good and welfare of others. The law of God is, said Mr. Armstrong, "the way of serving, the way of helping, the way of sharing, the way of caring for others." This law will be the very cornerstone of the soon-coming Kingdom of God.

Mr. Armstrong then told the delegates they had the unique opportunity to form a government more nearly based on God's way of life. "God help you to do the best job that can be done and to form the finest government that has ever been formed in the history of mankind on this earth." A government, he added, that would be fair and just for every person in the country, without regard for race or any other consideration.

Mr. Armstrong's words hit home. The Turnhalle delegates listened intently. Mr. Armstrong said after-

wards that he had never spoken to such an attentive audience.

Later that same month, the Turnhalle conference produced a draft of its constitution based upon the division of powers and a unique three-level system of government. The constitution guaranteed the rights of all of Namibia's diverse population groups.

Tragically, however, the Turnhalle conference, as a governmental form, came to naught (although it subsequently spawned, under the direction of Mr. Dirk Mudge, a multi-ethnic political party, the "Democratic Turnhalle Alliance"). This world—Satan's world—was speeding too rapidly in the wrong direction.

Other forces dedicated to violence and revolution were gaining ground. More of this later.

Diverse and Complex Land

Despite the storm clouds gathering over Namibia, the outside world knows little about the unique geographic features and intriguing sociological complexities of this remarkable land. Perhaps this is the reason why the news media inevitably oversimplify the real issues involved.

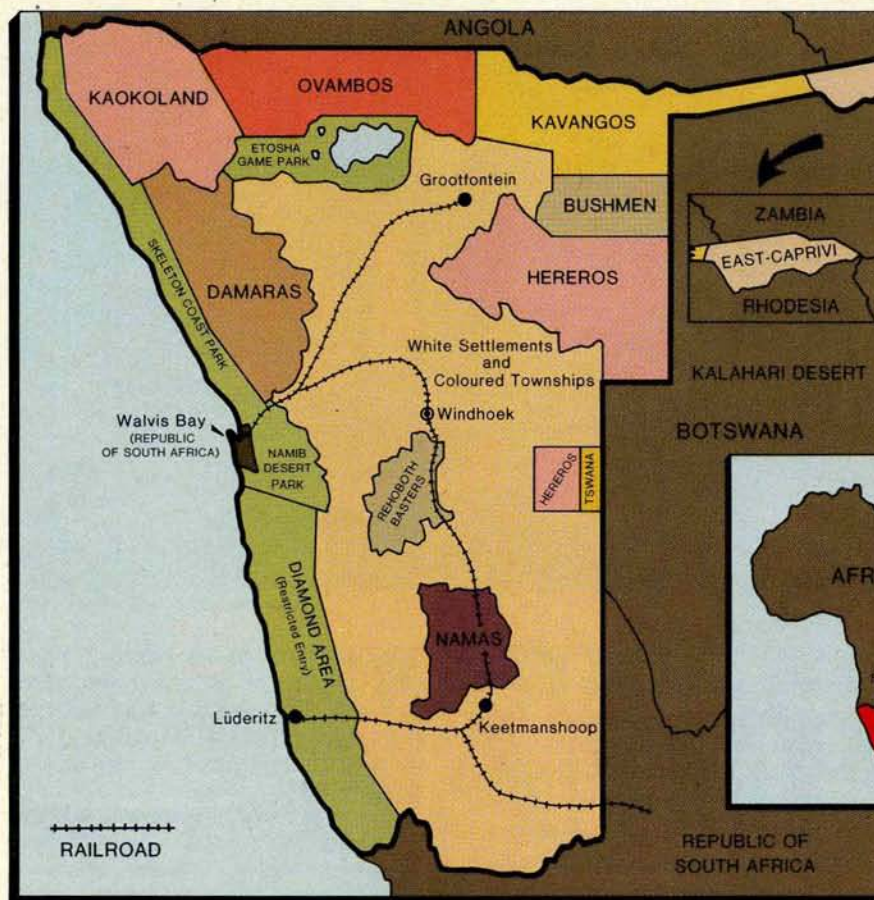
Namibia is approximately four times the size of Great Britain (or roughly the area of the three American states of California, Oregon and Washington combined). Yet it has only one-third the annual water supply of tiny Israel.

So arid is most of the countryside

COLORFULLY CLAD Herero women (left, opposite page) cast their ballots in South West Africa's first universal suffrage election in December 1978. Campaign poster urges voters to support the "DTA" (Democratic Turnhalle Alliance), a party representing a cross section of the territory's many ethnic groups. Center photo: Supporters of the South West African People's Organization (SWAPO) demonstrate in Windhoek. SWAPO has both a recognized political organization inside Namibia and an externally based guerrilla command. Above: DTA supporters enthusiastically endorse their party, which won a majority of seats in the new assembly. Below, opposite page: The most prominent political leader inside South West Africa is Dirk Mudge, head of the DTA, who has worked tirelessly to forge a political alliance between SWA's many diverse cultures and ethnic groups.

that the Bushmen, the region's first inhabitants, called it "the land God made in anger." The name *Namibia* is derived from the coastal Namib Desert, which contains the largest sand dunes of any desert in the world.

With water such a limiting factor, Namibia's total population—just under one million people—is very small. But though sparsely populated, the territory has an extraordinary human matrix, which, in turn, seriously complicates its political picture. Namibia contains no less than twelve distinct ethnic-linguistic groups, with many



Map by Ron Grove

BIG COUNTRY, SPARSE POPULATION, MANY PEOPLES: Less than one million people live in Namibia, but they are divided into twelve distinct ethnic groups with diverse origins, languages and cultures. The traditional homeland areas of these groups are pictured here, although thousands of Ovambo, Herero, Kavango and Damara men and women continually migrate to far-off towns and farms in search of work. Transportation lines are almost exclusively linked with those of neighboring Republic of South Africa, which also provides much of the market for Namibia's products, as well as the bulk of investment capital. No future Namibian government can cut the South African connection without incurring perhaps irreversible economic disaster.

of these further divided into important tribes and subunits.

In the northern part of the territory live the major black Bantu-speaking groups such as the Ovambos, the Kavangos and the Hereros. The Ovambo people alone make up nearly one-half of Namibia's population.

In the southern part of the territory live the Namas, a brown-skinned people earlier known as Hottentots, who migrated northward from the Cape region. The few remaining Bushmen in Namibia are also non-Negroid brown people.

The second-largest population group, at about 100,000, are the whites. Yet even here there is a cultural-linguistic breakdown. About

seventy percent of the whites speak Afrikaans (a derivative of Dutch) as their mother tongue, seven percent speak English, and nearly a quarter speak German, the language of the territory's first colonial power.

Namibia's complex ethnic division does not stop here, however. There are also two important groups of mixed Eurafrikan descent, the Coloureds and Rehoboth Basters, both of whom speak Afrikaans.

"Culturally," reports the pamphlet *South West Africa-Namibia*, by Peter Duignan and L. H. Gann, "Namibia is equally varied. Windhoek, the capital, is a modern town with growing manufacturers; it represents the most modern sector of

the economy, and is part of the jet age. Yet in the remote interior there is still a handful of Bushmen (San) who make their living by hunting and by gathering wild herbs and fruit. An entire book—perhaps a whole shelf—would be required to do justice to Namibia's ethnic diversity."

And as far as politics is concerned, no justice will be done if a formula for independence overlooks these fundamental human and historical factors—as well as the remarkable

progress made in recent years to overcome deep-seated cultural differences and prejudices. For in Namibia, everyone is part of a minority. Yet despite these facts there is now a very clear and present danger of a political solution being imposed upon all the people of Namibia from the outside—upheld by Communist-made machine guns and rockets.

Who Will Rule?

For over thirty years South West Africa has been the subject of lengthy and usually acrimonious debate within the chambers of the United Nations.

There is a cocktail mix of parties involved in the dispute at the moment: South Africa, present authority in the territory under an old League of Nations mandate; the United Nations, which claims succession to the League's mandate responsibility and declares Pretoria's authority to be illegal; SWAPO, the militant South West African People's Organization, whose externally based guerrilla bands launch repeated nighttime raids on the local population from bases in neighboring Angola and Zambia; the neighboring so-called "Front Line" states who provide terrorist sanctuaries as well as moral support for SWAPO; the Western powers "contact group" (the United States, Great Britain, Canada, France and West Germany), who represent the U.N. as a broker between South Africa and SWAPO, but clearly lean in favor of
(Continued on page 40)



© Yale University—Art Gallery

ARE WE TAKING OUR RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS FOR GRANTED?

Is the age-old struggle to preserve religious freedom now at an end in this nuclear age? Is separation of church and state a closed matter? Do the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution absolutely assure our religious freedom in this modern age? Or did the Founding Fathers only create a climate whereby each succeeding American generation could take up the gauntlet and fight to preserve the great principle of freedom of religion?

by Stanley R. Rader

Never at any time in history has the world been enveloped by freedom of religion. There has always been an ongoing struggle to first obtain and then preserve individual freedom of worship. Of course, threats to religious liberty have been many times greater in some periods of history than others. Now another time of great trial is

upon us. In many ways the dangers and problems we now face are far greater and infinitely more complex than the perils which confronted our ancestors. But let us first summarize the historical struggle between church and state—between freedom of choice and dictated worship.

The Historical Antecedents

Religious liberty began in the Garden of Eden. God gave our first par-

ents a clear choice—freedom to worship Him or outright spiritual slavery. You know the story. The Arch-deceiver persuaded Adam and Eve that black was white and evil was good. Their judgment was clouded by their own intellectual vanity. They chose slavery!

Twenty-five hundred years later the nation of Israel found itself in both civil and religious bondage. Freedom of worship was nonexistent

in Egypt. We must assume the Israelites had ceased to observe their sacred Sabbath day. By the time they left Egypt they had no idea upon which day the Sabbath fell. Probably they were forced to gather bricks and straw seven days a week. Their slavery was total!

Finally God sent Moses and Aaron to Pharaoh with a message: "Let my people go, that they may hold a feast unto me *in the wilderness*" (Ex. 5:1). Obviously religious festivals were held in disfavor anywhere in "civilized" Egypt. Afterwards Moses repeatedly pleaded with Pharaoh: "Let my people go, that they may serve their God." But the Egyptian Pharaoh was obstinate. He stubbornly refused until the land of Egypt was drenched with the blood of his own people.

In the interim he had suggested self-serving solutions: "Go, serve the Lord; your children also may go with you; only let your flocks and your herds *remain behind*" (Ex. 10:24, RSV). This kind of extortion is not without its parallels today. But Moses protested: "Our cattle also must go with us; not a hoof shall be left behind" (Ex. 10:26, RSV). He did not compromise one whit with this archextortioner.

Finally the Israelites were delivered from Egyptian slavery. For a short time there was one nation on this earth enjoying total religious liberty. But their freedoms were short-lived. Very soon they were involved in a whole series of periodic slaveries. The book of Judges in the Old Testament depicts one foreign invasion after another, with each one being followed by brief deliverances brought about by various Judges. It is very unlikely that any of these invaders allowed much religious freedom. They were devoted to their gods.

Shortly after Solomon's reign, Israel and Judah split into two entirely separate nations. And in a matter of a very few centuries one followed the other into captivity. The northern house of Israel never did return to Palestine. But a colony of the Jews was sent back to Jerusalem during the time of Ezra and Nehemiah.

For untold centuries the city of Jerusalem has been a symbol of religious liberty and freedom to more than one faith. Ironically, both the

civil and religious leaders turned this symbol of liberty and freedom into one of bondage by the time of Christ. And do not blame the Romans for this strange turnabout of events. The Roman Empire allowed the Jewish vassal state a measure of both civil and religious freedom.

Jesus Christ Struggles for Religious Liberty

Jesus of Nazareth constantly argued against the abuses of the theological system of His day. Jesus charged: "But woe to you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites [the religionists of the day]! Because you shut the kingdom of heaven against men; for you neither enter yourselves, nor allow those who would enter to go in" (Matt. 23:13). That was a serious indictment! The clergy was, in effect, prohibiting the true worship of God.

Jesus' attempts to free men spiritually were soon met with stiff opposition. Persecution from religious leaders set in swiftly. Repeatedly the leading members of the Sanhedrin plotted against Jesus (see John 11:48-53).

The apostles who followed Jesus suffered similar persecutions. Finally, by A.D. 135, both the adherents of Christianity and Judaism were driven out of Jerusalem. The Romans did crack down—and hard. First the armies of Titus in A.D. 70; then the crushing of the Bar-Cocheba rebellion in A.D. 135.

Except for the "little flock" (Luke 12:32), the true Church forced virtually underground by persecution, men did not really follow Jesus Christ and Moses in the many centuries that ensued. Followers of Simon the Sorcerer, who became the Roman Catholic Church, professed to teach and practice the true religion, but their doctrines were perversions of the truth. Christianity was stained by the Crusades and the Spanish Inquisition. Religious battles raged throughout Europe in the Dark Ages. The soil of the Old World was drenched with the blood of millions of martyrs. Tyndale lost his life for daring to translate the Scriptures into everyday English. Church leaders had feared spiritual anarchy if every man had his own Bible. The church-state scheme of things was not working out.

In quest for religious liberty and freedom of worship, men and women began to leave the persecutions of the Old World for the challenges of the New. But their persecutors were not far behind. Pioneer thinking in Protestant areas which sought the supremacy of the individual conscience in religious matters was being overtaken by rigid Puritanism.

Early American Battles for Religious Freedoms

The Founding Fathers clearly perceived that the religiopolitical scheme of joint sovereignty had not protected human rights nor freedom of conscience in the nations of Europe. Church and state had mixed like oil and water. Some other system simply had to be found.

The Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States are both on display in the Library of Congress. Let us now begin to understand how these and other important documents came to be formulated. But we are not unaware of the fact that you cannot have religious freedom without political freedom. The two hang together.

The Founding Fathers of this nation came to our shores to escape the clutches of state-sponsored religions that used the power of the state to persecute those of different religious beliefs. The Founding Fathers knew that religion had to be separated from political authority. No person, they firmly believed, should be interfered with by the state in his right to believe or not to believe, or to affiliate or not to affiliate with a church.

But do not think that these abuses, injustices and outrages were confined solely to England and the continent of Europe. Many in the thirteen colonies were adamantly opposed to this "new order of things" taking shape in the minds of thinking men throughout New England and the other American colonies. Indeed, a heavy "loyalist" element was present right up to 1776 and even beyond.

Soon the very religious intolerance which our forefathers fled from Europe to escape was plaguing the American colonies. For instance, a law emerged on the statute books of Virginia in 1610 requiring Sunday

attendance at church under penalty of death for persistent violation. Fines were assessed against those who rejected the doctrine of infant baptism. Other laws were enacted in Virginia forbidding travel on Sunday. These colonial statutes not only reflect state interference in man's private religious affairs, but also astounding ignorance of the actual biblical requirements.

But let's not pick on Virginia alone. In 1647 Massachusetts enacted a law banning Catholic priests from within its boundaries. First offenders were to be imprisoned or exiled; and, believe it or not, second offenders risked the death penalty. Quakers faced the same fate in Massachusetts. Other American colonies also had their religious laws.

And do not think that these laws conveniently disappeared from state statute books when the Constitution of the United States was finally ratified. Notice this vital statement in the *American State Papers on Freedom of Religion*: "When the Union was formed and a constitutional government was ordained on the basis of total separation of church and state, there were certain religious jealousies and prejudices which prevailed in various sections of the country and which could not be overcome without jeopardizing the ratification of the Constitution and the setup of the Federal government.

"As a consequence, the various States were permitted to retain upon their statute books religious laws which were diametrically opposed to the fundamental principles of religious liberty and human rights as set forth in the Federal Constitution. These un-American laws and religious tests have remained upon some State statute books to plague American citizens and courts until this present time" (p. 12).

Can you now begin to realize what our Founding Fathers were up against?

Jefferson and Madison

It is axiomatic that all Americans owe the Founding Fathers a great debt for our vast religious freedoms. Each one contributed to these liberties something a little different from the other. However, the third President of the United States, Thomas

Jefferson, was a real champion of religious freedom.

In addition to writing the bill for religious freedom in Virginia, Jefferson was a philosophical "father figure" to the Bill of Rights. His ardor for religious liberty was an unquenchable fire. He pressed hard for both freedom of worship and freedom from the oppressions of a state church. As one writer put it, speaking of Jefferson's Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom: "... the preamble hurls fire and brimstone upon the hypocrisy and tyranny long associated in Jefferson's mind with the alliance of church and state, and the unusual final clause contains a Jeffersonian warning to the legislature that any act hereafter framed repealing or narrowing its operation 'will be an infringement of natural right.'"

The heart, root and core of his bill for religious freedom in Virginia is found in section two: "We, the General Assembly of Virginia, do enact that no man shall be compelled to frequent or support any religious worship, place or ministry whatsoever, nor shall be enforced, restrained, molested or burdened in his body or goods, or shall otherwise suffer, on account of his religious opinions or belief; but that all men shall be free to profess, and by argument to maintain, their opinions in matters of religion, and that the same shall in no wise diminish, enlarge, or affect their civil capacities."

Jefferson's *Virginia Statute of Religious Freedom* was the philosophical progenitor of the religious portions of the later Bill of Rights. Religion was not only to be tolerated, but a man's personal religious beliefs and practices were to be protected by law.

In his sunset years, Jefferson indicated that his battles for religious freedom were perhaps the bitterest of his life. We owe a great deal to this man and to his presidential successor, James Madison. The two worked closely together. For instance, it was Madison who pushed Jefferson's bill through the Virginia state legislature.

Madison, our fourth President, excelled in biblical courses as a graduate student at Princeton, especially in Hebrew language studies. He continued his theological studies throughout his life. Yet, in the field

of religion, James Madison was first and foremost an advocate of freedom of worship. In helping draft the state constitution of Virginia, Madison wrote the first rough manuscript of the article on religious freedom.

We quote it here: "... That religion or the duty which we owe to our Creator, and the manner of discharging it, can be directed only by reason and conviction, not by force or violence; and therefore, that all men should enjoy the fullest toleration in the exercise of religion, according to the dictates of conscience, unpunished and unrestrained by the magistrate, unless under colour of religion, any man disturb the peace, the happiness, or safety of Society. And that it is the mutual duty of all to practice Christian forbearance, love and charity towards each other" (*The Journal of the Virginia Convention*, 1776).

Madison had made an historical study of the ecclesiastical problem. He found that state establishment had inevitably led to moral decadence in religious ranks. Yet Christianity had bloomed in the New Testament years and during the Reformation when there was opposition to state establishment of religion.

The First Amendment

But the capstone of President Madison's contribution to religious freedom has to be the inclusion of the First Amendment into the Constitution. It reads: "Congress shall make no law respecting the establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

Previous to its inclusion, the fear that the Constitution had not provided sufficient guarantees for religious liberty was enunciated by a whole host of early American patriots.

Writing from Paris on December 20, 1787, Thomas Jefferson expressed his concern to James Madison: "I will now add what I do not like. First, the omission of a bill of rights providing clearly and without the aid of sophisms for freedom of religion..." (*Papers of James Madison*, Vol. VIII, Manuscript Division, Library of Congress). As he had done before, Madison was instrumental in giving Jefferson's views (which he shared) the force of law.

But the struggle did not end with the inclusion of the Bill of Rights into the Constitution. Old ideas die hard. Enormous pressures were put on Congress and government officials to formulate this or that religious law. Petitions and protests came from every sector of the country. It would not be easy for the fledgling nation to maintain religious liberty.

Very soon various of the state legislatures began to pass religious legislation. Liberty would now have to be found at the bar. The courts would have to defend our constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

Courts do not change constitutions, but they do interpret them in order to apply the principle to specific disputes involving human rights and privileges. In general, the higher courts of the land, usually manned by judges of keen intellect, judicial minds and long experience in dealing with human rights, have upheld the federal principles of religious liberty in rendering their decisions.

State Constitutions

Although the state governments have tended to lag behind the national government in their legal expressions of support for constitutional religious freedom, due credit must be given to those which have guaranteed freedom of worship in their constitutions. Ironically, sometimes a state legislature may even pass laws in contravention to its own constitution. California is a case in point.

We quote article I, section 4 of California's constitution: "The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship, without discrimination or preference, shall forever be guaranteed in this State; and no person shall be rendered incompetent to be a witness or juror on account of his opinions on matters of religious belief; but the liberty of conscience hereby secured shall not be so construed as to excuse acts of licentiousness, or justify practices inconsistent with the peace or safety of this State."

Yet section 9505 of the state Corporations Code states: "A non-profit corporation which holds property subject to any public or charitable trust is subject at all times to examination by the Attorney General, on behalf of the State, to ascertain the

condition of its affairs and to what extent, if at all, it may fail to comply with trusts which it has assumed or may depart from the general purposes for which it is formed. In case of any such failure or departure the Attorney General shall institute, in the name of the State, the proceedings necessary to correct the non-compliance or departure."

Based entirely on a misinterpretation of section 9505, the Worldwide Church of God was placed in receivership by the Los Angeles Superior Court on January 3, 1979, after the California attorney general's office and six ex-church members accused church officers of misuse of funds. And although the receivership has since been lifted, the damages sustained by the church are incalculable, including an estimated \$15 million shortfall in cash that otherwise would have been received in the current calendar year.

The drastic decision to impose a documentary receivership on the church was finally reached when a California judge was told that the church was selling its Big Sandy campus for \$10 million when it was allegedly worth \$30 million. The church has since shown that the appraised value of the property was only about \$6 million.

The lawsuit itself was filed in a rather surreptitious manner. The complaint against the church called for, among other things, the removal of the existing directors of the church. When the receiver did show up on church premises, along with security forces and representatives of the attorney general's office, he had failed to give the church any prior notice of his attempt to seize its operations.

For many years the Worldwide Church of God has enjoyed a tax-exempt status as a nonprofit religious institution. Because of its tax status and section 9505 of the state Corporations Code, California contends that it can now intervene in church business affairs and still not be in contravention of the traditional principle of separation of church and state.

Section 9505 of the California Corporations Code is obviously unconstitutional to the extent that it applies to churches organized as non-

profit corporations. It plainly violates the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the U.S. Constitution and, ironically, article 1, section 4 of the California constitution itself.

It interferes with the free exercise of religion. It constitutes an establishment of religion to the extent that it provides authority for the executive and judicial branches of state government to obtain a receiver or otherwise inspect, control or seize assets and supervise or review policies of religious organizations and their leaders. It deprives churches of the equal protection of the law, in that it purports to affect the rights and privileges of religious organizations set up as nonprofit corporations and does *not* similarly affect the rights and privileges of ecclesiastical organizations that are not nonprofit.

If section 9505 is not wholly unconstitutional on its face, it has been unconstitutionally applied by the executive and judicial branches of the state of California.

Religious Liberty Imperiled

There are numerous other examples in this situation of the unconstitutional use of state power to afflict religious institutions and freedom of worship in direct contravention of the traditional American principle of separation of church and state. But suffice it to say here that the Worldwide Church of God in particular has sustained enormous damages to its entire scope of operations at the hands of the state of California.

The assets of religious bodies cannot be allowed to become the public property of any state. If the course that the state of California has embarked upon is not stopped in its tracks, religious liberty and freedom of worship are decidedly on the wane in this great country.

I cannot improve on the words of Dr. J. Gordon Melton of The Institute for the Study of American Religion. He wrote: "I call upon all committed to preserving the integrity of our religious institutions and the freedom to propagate our beliefs, set our own priorities, and participate in the American religious scene, to join forces at this hour. Raise the hue and cry. Let all know that we will not stand by and allow our freedoms to be subverted." □

PART EIGHT:

THE UNITED STATES AND BRITAIN IN PROPHECY

America and Britain are going down—but why? Why are these nations losing strength, will, prestige? Is it just due to the natural flow of world history, or is it because they have rejected the source of all the blessings that have been showered down upon them? Bible prophecy foretells what will happen to America and Britain—and humanity in general—unless we repent!

by Herbert W. Armstrong

How great, how powerful, and how wealthy did the British and American people become? And what is suddenly happening to us now? Why has Britain already *lost* most of her colonies—her possessions—her resources, wealth, power and influence in the world? Why is Britain no longer considered Great Britain—a **GREAT** world power?

Why is the United States now discredited, despised, hated throughout so much of the world? Why could we not *win* the Korean War? Why couldn't the United States whip little North Vietnam?

First, realize just how great—how rich and powerful—the American and British people did become.

People are prone to take their status—and that of their country—for granted. Few realize what unprecedented affluence our countries enjoyed. We judge all things by *comparison*. The average Briton, Australian or Canadian has never traveled through the illiterate, poverty-stricken, disease-infested backward areas of China, India, the Middle East or black Africa. He has not observed the squalor, the stench, the poverty and wretchedness in which the largest part of mankind lives.

Nor has the average American visited those vast underprivileged areas, nor even the countries of Europe—prosperous compared to the teeming illiterate masses, yet poor by comparison to American standards. No, our people generally have not realized. Nor have they been grateful. Nor have they given God thanks, nor accepted the responsibility that accompanies their lavish blessings.

Few realize that every desired, prized possession imposes with it the obligation of responsibility for its use. Does the eight-year-old boy who is given a shiny new bicycle by his parents feel a consciousness for the responsibility imposed on him—unless the fact is impressed on him by his parents—for the *care* of it, and the carefulness with which he must ride it to avoid injuring himself or others?

When God lavished on our peoples such wealth and power and economic possession as no peoples have ever before enjoyed, did we appreciate what we had or feel the commensurate sense of **RESPONSIBILITY** for its wise and proper use?

WE DID NOT! We didn't even recognize **HOW GREAT** was our blessing, let alone feel a sense of obligation for our



custodianship before our Maker! Just HOW GREAT, then, was this birthright blessing?

The Birthright Wealth

Read again the prophetic promises of Genesis 22:17.

To Abraham God said: "That in blessing I will bless thee, and in multiplying I will multiply thy seed as the stars of the heaven, and as the sand which is upon the sea shore; and thy seed shall possess the gate of his enemies."

And again, the inspired prophetic parting blessing upon Rebekah, leaving her family to become the wife of Isaac: "And they blessed Rebekah, and said unto her, Thou art our sister, be thou the mother of thousands of millions, and let thy seed possess the gate of those which hate them" (Gen. 24:60).

Earlier we quoted the correct Fenton translation: "... and your race shall possess the gates [plural] of its enemies." As explained there, the "gates" of enemy nations are the strategic SEA GATES of entrance to or exit from these nations. Although all wealth comes from the ground, prosperity and affluence on a national scale always have come also by industry and COMMERCE. And commerce between nations has been transacted almost altogether by the SEA-LANES of the world—by SHIPS, and, within a continent, by railroads.

How significant, then, that Robert Fulton operated the first steamboat in 1803—precisely when Britain and America suddenly began to MULTIPLY in national wealth! And also that it was the nineteenth century that saw the development of the railroads!

As explained before, since the birthright pertains to NATIONS, the "GATE" of our enemies would be such passes as Gibraltar, Suez, Singapore, the Panama Canal, etc.

Britain and America came into possession of every such major "gate" in this world! So we MUST be modern Israel. World War II hinged on these "gates." They had become not only strategic passes, but the world's greatest fortifications. But today, we have lost most of them, most recently, the Panama Canal—and it appears that soon Gibraltar, too, will be lost. Why?

Notice Genesis 39:2, 23: "The Eternal was with Joseph, and he was a PROSPEROUS man. . . . the Eternal was with him, and that which he did, the Eternal made it to PROSPER." And God *did* prosper Joseph's descendants, Britain and America, with the fabulous birthright promised Joseph's sons!

Consider Moses' dying prophetic blessing, foretelling what would happen to each of the tribes in these latter days.

"And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the Lord be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath, and for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon, and for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,

and for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof . . . let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph [Ephraim and Manasseh both] . . . His glory is like the firstling [firstborn—birthright holder] of his *bullock*, and his horns are like *the horns of unicorns* [Great Britain's national seal today]: with them he shall push the people together to the ends of the earth: and they are the ten thousands of Ephraim, and they are the thousands of Manasseh" (Deut. 33:13-17).

Whoever is Ephraim and Manasseh today must have been in possession of the earth's choicest agricultural, mineral, and other wealth—the great gold and silver mines; iron, oil, and coal; timber and other resources.

What nations fulfill these prophecies? Why, *only* Great Britain and America!

More than half of all tillable, cultivatable, temperate-zone lands of this earth came after A.D. 1800 into the possession of our two great powers alone! The rich agricultural lands of the Mississippi Valley; the vast wheat and grain fields of the Midwest, of Canada and Australia; the great forest lands of the Pacific Northwest and many other parts of the world; the gold fields of South Africa, Australia, Alaska and the United States; the great coal mines of the United States and British Isles; the natural waterfalls and means of power and consequent prosperous industrial and manufacturing districts of England and the eastern United States; the choicest fruit lands of our Pacific Coast and Florida. What other nations *combined* ever possessed such material wealth?

And nearly all this wealth came to us after A.D. 1800!

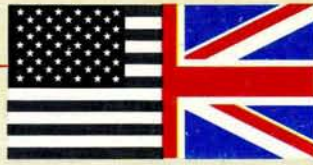
The Actual Statistics

Just to what extent has Almighty God fulfilled His promises *in us* to the descendants of Joseph in these latter years since A.D. 1800—promises of "the precious fruits brought forth by the sun . . . the chief things of the ancient mountains . . . and the precious things of the earth"?

Said Charles M. Schwab, steel magnate, before the Massachusetts Bankers Association, January 5, 1921: "Our United States has been endowed by God with everything to make it and keep it the foremost industrial and commercial nation of the world."

World petroleum output in 1950 was almost 3,800 million barrels. Of this total the United States *alone* produced more than one-half—nearly 52%. Together, the British Commonwealth and the United States produced 60% of the crude petroleum, not including our vast foreign investments. But by 1966—the fateful year in which the British Colonial Office in London closed its doors, marking the official death of the British Empire—that 60% of all the world's crude petroleum output had been reduced to 32%.

Britain and America mined 1½ times as much coal as all other nations combined. But by 1966 our portion had shrunk to less than one-third of the world production—30.9%!



Together, the British Commonwealth and America produced, in 1950, three-fourths of the world's steel—the United States alone producing almost 60% or 105,200,000 short tons in 1951. We produced 1½ times as much pig iron as all other nations combined.

By 1966, this basic index of wealth had skidded down to one-third (33.6%) of steel production and only 17.8% (one-sixth) of the pig iron.

We possessed nearly 95% of the world's nickel (chiefly from Canada); 80% of the world's aluminum; 75% of the zinc. But where did we rate in 1966? Only 3.6% of the world's nickel; 40.2% of its aluminum (aluminium); 12.4% of its zinc.

In 1950, the British Commonwealth completely dominated the production of chromite (from South Africa). Together Britain and America produced two-thirds of the world's rubber, and dominated the world's copper, lead, tin, bauxite and other precious metal outputs. But by 1966, we produced only 2.3% of the world's chromite, 23.4% of its copper, 9.9% of its lead, no tin, and 6.3% of its bauxite.

The British Commonwealth produced two-thirds of the world's gold—about £266,000,000 (\$642 million) in 1950—while the United States had three times as much gold reserve as the total for the rest of the world. But by 1966 the U.S. gold supply had been drained so much that the dollar was in serious jeopardy.

We produced and utilized two-thirds of the world's output of electricity—the United States producing 283 thousand million kilowatt-hours in 1948, and the United Kingdom and Canada outstripping Russia, Germany and France combined. But by 1966 we produced only 20.1%!

Great Britain and the United States *did* possess well over half of the world's merchant fleet tonnage. But by 1966 the figure was only 32.5%. The British Isles constructed more vessels than any other place on earth. But less than two decades later two or three Gentile nations had already outstripped Britain and America. In 1950, we also possessed about one-half of the world's railroad mileage. By 1966 our combined railway freight shipping was only 26% of the world total.

Whereas the United States alone once produced 73% of the automobiles, by 1966 the U.S. combined with the U.K. produced 55%—44% from the U.S. alone. Japan, Germany, France, and Italy are making huge gains.

How Did We Get It?

How did we come into possession of all this vast wealth of the earth? Did we acquire it through our own human wisdom, foresight, energy, ability and power?

Let Abraham Lincoln answer: "*We find ourselves in the peaceful possession of the fairest portion of the earth, as regards fertility of soil, extent of territory, and salubrity of climate. . . . We . . . find ourselves the legal inheritors of these fundamental blessings. We toiled not in the acquirement or the establishment of them.*"

Again, in his proclamation of April 30, 1863, for a nationwide day of fasting and prayer, this great President said: "It is the duty of nations, as well as of men, to own their dependence upon the overruling power of God . . . and to recognize the sublime truth, announced in the Holy Scriptures and proven by all history, that those nations *only* are blessed whose God is the Lord We have been the recipients of the choicest blessings of heaven. We have been preserved, these many years, in peace and prosperity. We have grown in numbers, wealth and power *as no other nation ever has grown*; BUT WE HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD! We have forgotten the gracious Hand which preserved us in peace, and multiplied and enriched and strengthened us; and we have vainly imagined, in the deceitfulness of our hearts, that these blessings were produced by some superior wisdom and virtue of our own."

And because Lincoln saw a nation who had forgotten God—a nation drunk with a success not due to its own efforts—a nation taking all the credit and glory to itself, this great president called upon the nation for a day of fasting and prayer to confess this national sin before God. The fate of the nation hung in the balance when he issued that proclamation. But God heard and answered that great national prayer offensive—and the nation was then preserved!

But today the threat to our fate is a thousand times more seriously hanging in the balance. And today we do not have a president or a prime minister with the vision, understanding and courage to bring our nations to their knees!

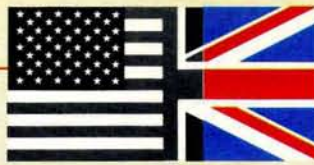
Abraham Lincoln *knew* these great material blessings had not been earned, but had been *given* to our people by the God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel.

And we should face the facts today and *know* that we were given all this vast unprecedented material wealth because God *promised* it, unconditionally, to Abraham. And He promised it to Abraham because Abraham obeyed God, kept God's laws and commandments.

The birthright blessing was *denied* our forefathers after Moses' day because they *REFUSED* to live by God's laws.

And today God warns us, through many prophecies in Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Isaiah, Micah, and many others, that unless we of this generation *REPENT* of our sins, and turn to Him with fasting, and with weeping, and earnest PRAYER, He will destroy our cities, all our fortresses, with the foreign sword; that He will punish us at the hand of a *CRUEL ONE*; that we shall be invaded, defeated, reduced to *SLAVES*! GOD HELP US TO HEED THAT WARNING!

In conclusion, we ask: If we are not national Israel—the so-called "lost" Ten Tribes—prosperous Joseph-Israel—birthright Israel—actual inheritors of the birthright blessings which were to be bestowed beginning A.D. 1803, then who else can be? No other nation or combination of nations possessed these blessings of the birthright—for we held more than two-thirds—nearly three-fourths—of all the raw materials, resources, and wealth of this entire



round earth, and all other nations combined shared among them only a small part.

Do you know of *stronger proof* of the divine inspiration of the Holy Bible as the revealed Word of the living God? Could mortal men have written, without divine inspiration, those prophecies we have considered in this series; made those PROMISES to Joseph-Israel; and, after a lapse of 2520 years, beginning the exact years of 1800-1803, have had power to bring them about in fulfillment? These are no small or trifling promises. They involve possession of the great wealth and vast natural resources of the whole earth.

Present these facts as a challenge to your atheistic and agnostic friends. Ask them to answer, if they can, whether any but the power of the Eternal Creator Himself could have made and had committed to writing such promises thousands of years ago, and, at precisely the promised time thousands of years later, brought about their fulfillment!

How any American—any English-speaking inheritor of God's choicest material blessings—can, in the face of such stupendous, overwhelming fulfillment of prophecy—such awe-inspiring demonstration of the power and might and faithfulness of Almighty God—accept and partake of these blessings, and then carelessly ignore God's WARNING that our sins today are INCREASING, or fail to get to his knees before the great Almighty, repent, and INTERCEDE in heartrending PRAYER for all Israelite nations, and HELP in every way he can to warn our people now of their impending PERIL, seems impossible to conceive.

The Prophecies for the Immediate Future

The birthright, once we received it, was stupendous, AWE-SOME—unequalled among nations or empires! But what have our peoples done with that awesome blessing?

They were still ISRAELITES, even though they themselves knew it not! They were still rebellious, “stiff-necked,” stubborn!

Once the British peoples and the Americans—the “lost” Israelites now supposing they are Gentiles—found themselves basking in the pleasant sunshine of such wealth and power, they were less willing than their ancient forefathers to yield to their GOD and HIS WAYS. They felt no need of Him, now! It seems few ever turn to God until they find themselves in desperate need or trouble.

But after God had withheld the birthright 2520 years, and then, when our peoples deserved *nothing* from God, He *suddenly* bestowed on us national blessings unparalleled in history—the unconditional promise to Abraham was kept! *No longer* is God obligated by His promise to *continue* our undeserving peoples in world prestige, wealth and greatness. Once we had been *given* such unrivaled position, it was up to us whether we should keep it.

So now back to Leviticus 26. We had previously covered verses 1 through 18. God said that IF, for all these

previous punishments, the Israelites would not listen to and obey Him, He would punish them the duration of 2520 years. Then what?

If, after that 2520 years of *withholding* the birthright, our people—with the birthright—still rebel, God continues, *verse 19*: “And I will break the pride of your power; and I will make your heaven as iron, and your earth as brass.” God has already begun that!

We Had Pride in Our Power!

God could not speak about breaking the pride of our national POWER until after that birthright power had been bestowed! He put our nations in the position of possessing the greatest national power any nation or empire ever possessed. We had great *pride* in that national power—in our national prestige.

I remember hearing President Theodore Roosevelt tell of HIS PRIDE in that power—and how he used it when he was president. The Germans were sending a battleship steaming toward Manila Bay, threatening to take over the Philippines. The Philippines were then a United States possession. President Roosevelt sent the kaiser a terse note demanding that the German warship be immediately withdrawn.

“The kaiser didn’t know, then, that *I meant it!*” snapped Mr. Roosevelt. “So I sent another note. Only, I didn’t send this second note to the kaiser. I sent it to Admiral Dewey, in command of the United States Pacific fleet. It ordered the entire fleet to steam full speed toward the German battleship, and if it did not turn around and go back, to SINK IT!” said Mr. Roosevelt with emphatic *force!* In those days, before World War I, we had *pride* in our national power!

... But We Lost It!

Today even little nations dare to insult, trample on, or burn the United States flag—and the United States, still having power, does no more than issue a weak protest! What’s *happened* to the PRIDE of our power?

We have already LOST IT! God said, “I will break the pride of your power!” And HE DID!

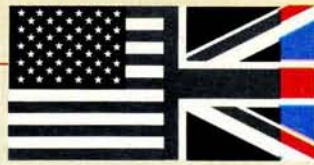
Other prophecies reveal we are to have soon such drought and famine that disease epidemics will follow, taking millions of lives. When our heaven is as iron, our earth as brass, we will realize rain does not come down from iron, and an earth hard as brass is not getting rain, not yielding food!

Verse 20: “And your strength shall be spent in vain: for your land shall not yield her increase, neither shall the trees of the land yield their fruits.”

But will America and Britain *heed*? They never have! Then what? After all that, THEN WHAT?

Verse 21: “And if ye walk contrary unto me, and will not hearken unto me; I will bring *seven times more plagues* upon you according to your sins.”

There again, as in verse 18, is that Hebrew word



shibah. Actually, in the Hebrew in which Moses wrote, there are not the two Hebrew words, one meaning “seven” and the other “times.” There is just the one word, *shibah*.

As explained in the last installment, the word is defined as “seven times,” and also as “sevenfold.” The “seven times” conveys *duration* of punishment. The “sevenfold” meaning of the same word conveys *intensity* of punishment.

Now More Intense Punishment

Because of its use and construction in the sentence, and because of what actually happened, it is certain that in verse 18 this Hebrew word *shibah* refers to DURATION of punishment—seven prophetic times, which, during this punishment, was an actual 2520 YEARS!

But also, because of the very *different* sentence structure and because there cannot now be *another* 2520-year WITHHOLDING of what has now been bestowed, it is just as certain that the *shibah* in verse 21 refers to a sevenfold INTENSITY of punishment.

Notice, the wording in verse 21 is entirely different from verse 18. This time it is not worded “seven times more for your sins,” but “seven times more PLAGUES.” The expression “seven times” in verse 21 is descriptive of PLAGUES to be brought on them.

So now, if twentieth-century Ephraim and Manasseh—Britain and America—refuse to turn to God in obedience—refuse to live the way that *causes*, retains, and increases blessings, God will punish them in a manner far more INTENSE—and even strip entirely from them this colossal, unprecedented national blessing—returning them to captivity and slavery—as continuing verses of this prophecy show.

Do you think so great a fall could not come to so great powers as Britain and America? Do you say, “It *can't* happen HERE?” Do you think the GREAT GOD who was able to GIVE them such unprecedented world leadership and power and wealth is not able to take it away from them and throw them, like their ancient forefathers, back into SLAVERY?

You need to OPEN YOUR EYES to the *fact* that Britain's sun *already* has SET! You need to WAKE UP to the *fact* that the United States, even still possessing unmatched POWER, is *afraid*—fears—to *use it*, just as God said: “I will break the PRIDE of your POWER”; that the United States has *stopped winning wars*—that America was *unable*, with all its vast power, to conquer little North Vietnam! The United States is fast riding to the GREATEST FALL that ever befell any nation!

The handwriting is on the wall!

You need, now, to UNDERSTAND the *remainder* of this prophecy of Leviticus 26—and also of Deuteronomy 28—and the many other prophecies relating to them and events soon to VIOLENTLY affect YOUR life!

You need to look at the prophecies of Jesus, of Jere-

miah, of Isaiah, and others describing how much more intense is to be the punishment God is going to lay on the British and American people.

For MANY prophecies warn us of a CERTAINTY that it will be trouble such as NEVER happened to any nation or people!

Knowing our identity—knowing *how* the British and American peoples are identified in the prophecies—you need now to become AWARE of what is said about us in Isaiah, Jeremiah, Ezekiel, Daniel, Joel, Hosea, Amos, and the other prophecies—*what JESUS foretold*—as well as in these prophecies written by Moses!

Why This Intensity of Punishment

And you need, also, to know why a just and loving God is going to punish His chosen people—people He *chose* for a glorious PURPOSE they have refused to perform.

The very *fact* of punishment implies CORRECTION. We need to understand that correction is applied to correct WRONG WAYS harmful to *us*—to turn us around into RIGHT WAYS that will *cause* desired blessings! Understand! God *punishes* every son He *loves* (Heb. 12:6).

Understand also human nature! Human nature wants to *be* good—to consider itself and *be* considered *good*, while it wants only to *do* evil. It wants the good *result*. But it wants to receive the *good* while it sows the evil. It somehow fails to grasp the truth that *as we sow, so also shall we reap!* It's all a matter of CAUSE and EFFECT!

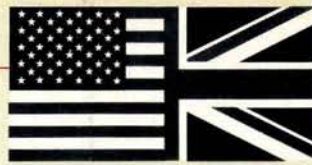
God's punishment only reflects God's LOVE—turning us from *causing* evil results to the way that brings *happy* results! God is now about to STOP US from bringing colossal evils on ourselves! God is not angry because we are harming HIM—but because we are harming *ourselves*—whom God *loves!*

Punishment Is Correction

The prophecies do not stop with revealing the unprecedented multiplied *intensity* of punishment already beginning to descend upon America and Britain. The prophecies record also the RESULT of that intensified punishment. The *result* will be a corrected people. The result will be an eye-opening realization of what we have done to ourselves. The supreme punishment will teach us, at last, our lesson! The punishment will *break* our spirit of REBELLION! It will lift us up from the cesspool of rottenness and evil into which we have sunk. It will teach us the way to glorious peace, prosperity, happiness, abundant well-being!

On beyond the frightful national calamities now descending upon us will come a BLESSING inconceivably greater than the national material birthright we have possessed.

We have to learn that material goods are not the SOURCE of happiness. I have often mentioned the many rich men I have known—men whose bank balances were full—but their lives were empty! Material prosperity is indeed desirable—but it is not the source of happiness.



After all, real happiness is a *spiritual* commodity! The birthright was only one of TWO major promises God made to Abraham. The sceptre promise involved not only a dynasty of human kings. It need not have included them at all—had the Israelites retained and been obedient to GOD as their King. The sceptre pointed primarily to CHRIST and spiritual salvation through Him.

Our peoples have basic lessons yet to learn. The TRUE VALUES are spiritual. Actually, God's law is a spiritual law. It involves physical acts—but it is based on *spiritual* principles. And it requires God's Holy Spirit dwelling in the mind to fulfill!

PUNISHMENT implies CORRECTION. Correction means a change of course. It means REPENTANCE—and repentance means *turning around* and going the OTHER WAY!

Now, before I give you these sensational prophecies, understand WHY national punishment must come, and *who needs* the correction! ONLY those who are sowing EVIL *need* it—who are transgressing God's right WAYS—God's law! Those, and only those, who are bringing on themselves the evils that result from transgression.

And UNDERSTAND THIS: Although the NATIONS as a whole are to be put through this unprecedented punishment, yet those *individuals* who yield to accept God's correction *without the punishment* shall be protected from it! No one need suffer this intense tribulation!

Sevenfold More Plagues

Now notice again what is laid down in Leviticus 26.

After the national birthright had been withheld 2520 years and *then* bestowed; *after* God gave our peoples that national POWER, and has now, because of our national rebellion against His laws, *broken* the pride of our power; *after* He shall have punished us with unprecedented DROUGHT and epidemics of disease in its wake, then IF the British and Americans still continue in their evil ways—still refuse to repent and turn to their God—He warns: "... I will bring seven times more PLAGUES upon you according to your sins." Read that in the Revised Standard Version: "... I will bring more plagues upon you, sevenfold as many as your sins" (verse 21).

What people do not seem to realize is that SIN does bring upon the sinner the *consequences* of sin—the plagues of suffering. The Bible defines sin as the transgression of God's law (I John 3:4), and the law of God is a *spiritual* law (Rom. 7:14).

Material Goods Not Enough

Let's understand this! I have said that *money* is not the source of happiness. Money can buy only material things or services. But there must be the *spiritual* content, as well as the physical, to happiness. Material things *alone* do not provide satisfying happiness. God's law is a *spiritual* law. In other words, it is THE WAY to peace, happiness, abundant well-being. Going that way is what God supplied to CAUSE real happiness.

Conversely, then, can we not see that transgressing that way is to cause *unhappiness*, pain and suffering, emptiness, heartaches, fears and worries, frustrations? All these *evils* are *caused* by transgressing God's law. The sinner is really *plagued* with these evils he brings on himself.

Now study again that 21st verse of Leviticus 26. Punishment *is* CORRECTION. To *teach* us the lesson we have failed to learn by experience, God is going to plague our peoples SEVENFOLD more than our sins already *have* plagued us—sevenfold *more* punishment than we have brought on ourselves!

Or, as the Authorized Version says, "seven times more plagues upon you *according to your sins*." Sevenfold INTENSITY of punishment—OF CORRECTION!

Slavery Once Again

Notice now verses 23-25 (RSV): "And if by this discipline you are not turned to me, but walk contrary to me, then I also will walk contrary to you, and I myself will smite you sevenfold for your sins. And I will bring a sword upon you . . . and you shall be delivered into the hand of the enemy."

SLAVERY once again!

Get the real meaning of this! Our SINS have brought punishment. This punishment we have brought on ourselves. If we still refuse to learn the lesson, and be corrected for our own good, God says, "I myself will smite you sevenfold." We have brought the consequences of SIN on ourselves—now God will Himself bring on us sevenfold more intense punishment—punishment that is CORRECTION!

Now read on to verse 27 (RSV): "And if in spite of this you will not hearken to me, but walk contrary to me, then I will walk contrary to you *in fury* [the seven last plagues—Rev. 15:1], and chastise you *myself* sevenfold for your sins. . . . And I will LAY YOUR CITIES WASTE. . . . And I will scatter you among the nations."

God is going to keep multiplying chastening—correction—upon our peoples *until* they *do* turn from their evil ways—until they turn to the ways that *cause* peace, happiness, prosperity, all the *good things*!

How UNTHINKABLE!—that our Maker shall have to *force* our peoples to be happy, to have peace, to be able to *enjoy* prosperity, to yield, to accept—our own choice—*eternal life* in abundant well-being and JOY for all eternity!

How UNBELIEVABLE!—that human nature, *desiring* these blessings, has insisted stubbornly in going the way that cuts them off and *causes* PUNISHMENT—CORRECTION—and then refuses to *be* corrected until it is MULTIPLIED in *intensity sevenfold*! Yes, sevenfold—three successive times!

How GREAT is our God—and WHAT LOVE for our peoples He expresses, in patiently tolerating and correcting us UNTIL we accept His boundless BLESSINGS! □

(To Be Continued)

God's FAITH in Man

by Jon Hill

For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Eph. 2:8). "O Lord of hosts, blessed is the man that trusteth in thee" (Ps. 84:12).

Faith and trust in God are paramount for salvation—no one questions that. God is faithful to perform all the promises He has made to us; He is merciful, forgiving, always alive and on hand to help His people; holy, just, eternal, loving—perfect in all His ways. Again, no one argues with this premise.

But man, on the other hand, is just the opposite: He is vile, evil, fallible—the wickedness of man is so great that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart is only evil, continually. Full of vanity, lust and greed, the best of them is as a briar, and the most upright as a thorn hedge. David sums it up for us when he says: "God looked down from heaven upon the children of men, to see if there were any that did understand, that did seek God. Every one of them is gone back: they are altogether become filthy; there is none that doeth good, no, not one" (Ps. 53:2-3.)

Helpless Clods

Isaiah nails it on the head when he quotes God as saying, "Thou worm Jacob" (Isa. 41:14.) Peter tells us: "... If the righteous scarcely be saved, where shall the ungodly and the sinner appear?" (I Pet. 4:18.) Paul lays it on the line in his first

book to the Corinthians where he tells us what kind of people the brethren are: foolish, dumb sheep, weak, base, despised, helpless clods!

Don't worry, nothin's goin' to turn out all right! Even after you have done everything God commanded, you are supposed to recognize that you are an unprofitable servant, only doing your duty (Luke 17:10).

Faith and trust are for men to have in God. But you don't suppose your Father in heaven and your Savior put any trust or faith in you, do you? O wretched man that I am, I die daily and beat my body into submission. I can't so much as lift my eyes to God, but just hang my head and say, "Lord, have mercy on me, a sinner."

Sometimes we outrival the "humility" of Job. We know God is so good and perfect and we are so evil and bad that there is nothing we can do to please Him, yet "though he slay me, yet will I trust in him" (Job 13:15.) We develop a negative assumption: God is so good. He is bound to do bad things to us bad people, and we deserve every bit of it!

All these scriptures quoted or referred to are in God's Word, and they are true—but often we, with our guilt complexes, allow them to all gang together to make the situation look hopeless. We forget all the thousands of positive comments God's writers make about Him, and quote Him as making about His people.

Poor George

Sometimes we allow ourselves to get into an attitude where we picture

ourselves spiritually like poor George. George fell off a scaffold from three stories up, broke half the bones in his body, scalded himself with hot tar and lay in the hospital covered with bandages from head to foot, strapped in traction, fed intravenously—only his left eyeball was visible! The doctor came in, checked the chart at the bottom of the bed of pain, hummed knowingly, but not too encouragingly, came around the side of the bed, looked closely at George and said, "I don't like the looks of that eye!"

Hopeless!

Somehow we forget that God in His perfection devised a plan to bring us out of our natural depravity and into the divine perfection of His own family!

Several years ago there was a popular country-western song that pictured God as many see Him, called "God's Gonna Getcha Fer That!" The lyrics told about the common foibles of human nature and each refrain ended with "God's gonna getcha fer that!" It showed God as only concerned with being divine Judge, Jury, Policeman and Jailer. Forgotten were His love, mercy, forgiveness and concern—and no mention was even made of His plan for mankind.

Did God really make a mistake when He created man? Did Satan upset God's appletart when he deceived our first parents in the Garden of Eden? Does the dismal history of man prove that whatever God may have planned for him must have been a failure?

God's going to "get you" all right—but it is His plan to "get you" into His Kingdom, "get you" changed, saved, born into His very family so you become God as *God is God*! It is our Father's pleasure to bring many sons to glory, to see to it that no temptation comes our way which is impossible to overcome, to make all things possible through Christ, to give us freely of His own divine nature, to grant us eternal life, to bring us to the same perfection He enjoys. "But as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name: which were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of the will of man, but of God" (John 1:12-13).

God's Will

That is God's plan for frail man. His counsel will stand. His plan will work. He Himself proclaims that He is not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance—and God's will shall be done!

God has not chosen a plan that has a built-in failure mechanism. God has not created an instrument (man) which is hopeless in the hands of its Creator. And more, God—the Father and the Son—has perfect faith in His own plan, in His instruments. In short, God has faith in man!

Now God doesn't need faith in man in the same way man must have faith in God. God doesn't need to be saved from anything. He is life, self-regenerating, eternal, all-powerful. Yet, by His own design and the purpose for which He created mankind, He will remain alone in His Kingdom with His Son unless that plan succeeds and men become full-born God-Sons. The Bible exudes confidence that the many will eventually make it (see Rom. 11:26; II Peter 3:9; I Tim. 2:4). (Write for our free article "Is This the Only Day of Salvation?")

He is no harsh judge eager to punish every wayward act of every wayward human who so easily goes wayward—He is rather our loving Father, anxious to smooth our way at every turn, nursing, caring for, prais-

ing, blessing us a thousand ways every day to bring us to the point of birth in His own family!

Benefit of the Doubt

Let's see the measure of His trust in us. Let's see the measure of how much He has gambled on us, if you please—because there is with each of us that possibility that we may not make it; we can reject Him, His Spirit, His efforts, His will. Let's see how much of the benefit of the doubt He has given to each of us.

First, mankind is unique in all of creation, both physical and spiritual: We are the only beings God ever created in His own image! (Gen. 1:26.) Physical, mortal, frail, temporal, finite, feeble—but in the image of God! God gave uniquely of Himself in our very basic design. Of the entire created spirit world, the angelic host, our Father God says they were created to be ministering spirits, servants, for them who shall be heirs of salvation! (Heb. 1:14.)

The entire limitless universe was created both as a setting, an incubator, a birthing place—and as a possession, a reward, a responsibility for His future sons (Rom. 8:17). Now, nobody goes to that much effort unless he has faith his plan will work, trusts the instruments he has chosen to accomplish the plan!

In addition, God offers His own life—in the person of Jesus Christ, our Passover sacrifice (I Cor. 5:7)—to pay the penalty of the sins that so easily beset us (Acts 2:38). Given freely before we recognize its need (Rom. 5:8). No other beings are offered that sacrifice!

Beyond that, God designed us to be uniquely capable of receiving His own Spirit, His mind, His power, His essence to be joined to that "spirit in man" so each of us might become a new being, a true Son of God, calling Him Abba, Father—not just as a religious-sounding phrase, but as a spiritual reality (Rom. 8:14-16). No other being is designed with that capacity.

He gives us an "earnest," a down payment of His very Spirit (II Cor. 1:22). He trusts us with His greatest treasure, His Holy Spirit (Luke 19:12-27). He offers all we need at any time,

without measure, to deal with the difficulties we face (I Cor. 10:13)—and add special gifts of that Spirit for us to use! (I Cor. 12.)

"Clouds of Witnesses"

And these evidences of God's trust in mankind are amplified in the daily care He lavishes on us. He says: "Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you. . . . If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children: how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?" (Luke 11:9, 13.)

Examples from the lives of others who have gone before us, that "cloud of witnesses" Paul refers to in Hebrews 11 and 12, help us see how much our heavenly Father is for us—and "if God be for us, who can be against us?" (Rom. 8:31.)

Take Noah, for example. And remember, God is no respecter of persons. The great men of the Bible were great because of their exercise of the spiritual gifts God granted them. They were all erring and very human, just like you and me: "Elias [Elijah] was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain: and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months. And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit" (James 5:17-18). If God trusted Elijah with such power, and Noah with such a job, He will trust you and me to do what He requires of us.

Noah was about 500 years old. Noah was a farmer, a grape grower and a wine maker. Noah was not a shipbuilder. But God's plans called for the construction of a ship the likes of which the world had never seen. A vast vessel half the size of the Queen Mary, a construction feat not duplicated until the turn of the twentieth century! Noah was given the commission and 120 years to finish the job.

I'm sure Noah had his doubts. He doubted his capability, was unsure he could complete such a fantastic task. But God knew he could. God trusted Noah to build that ark. And not only trusted Noah to build a boat, but to save all life on earth! Animal life and

human life. God placed in trust with Noah all life on earth! And God was right—Noah did the job. Thankfully, for you and me!

Mission Impossible?

Moses didn't exactly volunteer for his epic accomplishments either. Check Exodus 3 and 4 for the story. Moses made every excuse in the book: "Why me, Lord? Who am I to go talk to Pharaoh? Select someone else. I'm too old. I've been away too long and don't even know how to talk to those people anymore. I'm slow of speech. Who'll believe me anyway? I don't even know what name to use for you!" etc., etc., etc. But in Acts 7:22, Luke refers to Moses as "mighty in words and in deeds"!

God knew Moses could do the job; it didn't matter that it seemed like a "mission impossible." God knew the power and gifts He was going to supply—God had more faith in Moses than Moses had in Moses, or than Moses had in God at the time! God trusted Moses with the freeing of an enslaved people; with the execution of the fulfillment of His promises to Abraham more than 400 years before; with the establishing of an entire nation; with the giving and codification of His own law; with the establishment of a priesthood, civil and religious laws; with the power to perform some of the most outstanding miracles ever recorded; with the ability to endure putting up with rebellious Israel for 40 years in the wilderness.

And God was right—Moses did the job!

Abraham and Sarah had their doubts. They looked at the circumstances, their age, the track record of a barren marriage. They tried to work out God's promises some other way: by having Abraham produce an heir through Hagar. At age 99 and 89 they both laughed inwardly when God told them they, Abraham and Sarah, not any other combination, were going to have a baby in one year's time! They couldn't believe it!

But God was right again. And when the baby was born, God had them call his name "Laughter" (Isaac) to teach them and us a lesson. God not only trusted Abraham to father a child in his old age, but trusted him to perform

an unbelievable act of obedience: the sacrifice of his miraculously born son Isaac! God was "betting" on Abraham—and both won!

Betting on a Winner

Consider Job. God put a lot of faith in Job. First He brought Job to Satan's attention, then turned Satan loose on him. Satan did his best to cause Job to curse God and die. Satan failed and never would have brought up the subject again. But God persisted, pointed out Job again, and allowed Satan to personally afflict Job in every way—physically, mentally, spiritually—to within an inch of his life. Job had a problem God wanted overcome: self-righteousness. But, problem or no, God wanted Job in His Kingdom. In order to provide the lesson, God unleashed the greatest power known, apart from His own, to afflict Job.

God trusted Job, not only to survive the onslaught, but to survive it with greater spiritual stature and character. God trusted Job to be able to resist Satan at his best (or worst, as the case may be)!

God was right. God "bet" on Job—and again won!

The examples of men exercising faith are too numerous to document, as Paul said (Heb. 11:32).

Walking on Water

What about Peter? Now there is someone you can identify with. Overzealous, naive, suffering from foot-in-mouth disease, jumping to conclusions, weakening at the wrong times—very human. But God believed he could be a leading apostle.

Remember when Peter tried walking on water? Jesus was strolling on the surface and Peter wanted to try. Jesus said: "Come. And when Peter was come down out of the ship, he walked on the water But . . ." (Matt. 14:29-30).

Walking on water was not an exclusive ability of Jesus. He knew what He would tell His disciples later: "He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do; because I go unto my Father" (John 14:12). Granted, it is the power of God that makes all possible, but the

all possible is done through, by and with human beings.

Jesus knew Peter could walk on water. The problem was Peter didn't believe Peter could do it—even after he did it! Peter looked around at the physical circumstances, lost his nerve, dropped his eyes from Christ, and promptly sank!

That same Peter later preached and thousands were converted—a miracle Christ Himself never personally performed! That same Peter passed by sick people, and they were healed by the shadow of his passing. That same Peter exercised the trust placed in him and the power given: "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk"! (Acts 3:6.) How fitting that Peter should be instrumental in causing a man to walk who had never walked! That same Peter raised the dead.

Whom Does God Trust?

And God knew he could do all these things all along. He trusted Peter (and all the other apostles) with access to "all power . . . in heaven and in earth" (Matt. 28:18).

What about you? Do you have faith that God could trust you? Do you believe God could perform wonders through you? Do you think God likes you? Wants you?

"As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name"! (John 1:12.)

How much power does it take to become a son of God? Do you doubt that you are capable of exercising such power? Do you doubt God means you when He said, "As many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God"? Do you think God would ever trust you with power like that?

Wouldn't you like to hear those words: "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world"! (Matt. 25:34.)

You can do it! God is for you! He is willing to trust you with His Spirit, power and mind!

God knows you can!

Do you? □

PERSEVERING TO PEACE

by Stanley R. Rader

Jimmy Carter has snatched victory from the jaws of defeat! As of this writing, the American President, Menachem Begin, and Anwar Sadat together appear to have taken the biggest step toward peace in modern Middle Eastern history.

All three of these statesmen are deeply devoted to their respective faiths. President Carter is an avowed born-again Christian; Mr. Begin is a staunch believer in the Jewish faith; President Sadat is a devout Muslim. All three are noted for their courage and faith. All three have undertaken grave risks to their own political futures from the very inception of these prolonged negotiations over a period

of many, many months. But their courage appears to have paid off in a handsome reward for perhaps all of mankind in spite of the great risks they still must face in the future.

Let's face it. If Mr. Carter's peace mission had utterly failed, the political fallout at home would have been incalculable. If he had been denied the triumph and come home empty-handed, his Republican opponents would have received a great boost in their political fortunes. Not knowing the end result, it took a great deal of courage for him to perhaps stake his political future on the recent peace talks in Palestine.

Prime Minister Begin has been the

proverbial "man on the spot." He has been the natural scapegoat for failure from the onset of his government. But he also is a man of great courage. Mr. Begin placed the life of his government on the line in the cabinet vote on an Egyptian-Israeli peace pact. And even in the presence of President Carter he has experienced the humiliation of a cruel heckling from the floor of the Knesset by members of his own Likud Party.

I can only repeat what I have twice written in previous issues of *The Plain Truth*: "However, because of his political posture in the past, and his genuine credentials as a hawk, he [Mr. Begin] stands, in this writer's view, as the one man who might be able to make the kind of a deal with the Arab nations that would bring about a return of much of the occupied territory in return for the Arab nations' recognition of Israel as a state, which recognition alone is the only real basis for peace in the area . . ." (December 1977, January 1979). In the latter issue I also wrote that "Prime Minister Begin may eventually enter history as the one man who finally brought the state of Israel an honorable peace with security."

President Anwar Sadat is no stranger to courage either! He knows there is and has been strong opposition in the whole Arab world to his peace initiatives with Israel. Many of his fellow Arabs opposed his epochal journey to Jerusalem to address the Israeli parliament; they fought Camp David; they expressed opposition to his recent peace efforts in Palestine in conjunction with President Carter and Prime Minister Begin.

And he also knows very well that he does *not* have unanimous support even in his own cabinet and parliament. This is a high-risk business for political leaders. They must enjoy at least a modicum of success in their peace efforts just to ensure their own political survival.

Anwar Sadat has been tied to various military treaties with just about every Arab country in the Mideast. Not a single one of these countries is even remotely satisfied with the proposed solutions to the Palestinian problem. None can perceive the ben-

IN ACCORD—President Carter, flanked by former adversaries Anwar Sadat and Menachem Begin, announces agreement on terms of Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty.



Wally McNamee—Woodfin Camp

efits of just an opening wedge—a small beginning that could eventually lead to full autonomy both on the West Bank and on the Gaza Strip. It is natural for human beings to want it all *now*, no matter how impractical such impatience might be in the step-by-step world of international diplomacy.

Other dangers are ever present. The Iranian revolution has at least temporarily strengthened the hand of the PLO. The more militant elements of the PLO will apparently continue to completely overshadow the more responsible Palestinians who would recognize and respect the basic right of Israel to exist.

In short there was every good reason for both Israel and Egypt to overcome all obstacles, come to terms and send a happy Jimmy Carter home with an agreement practically in his pocket. This they did!

But it took the exhausting ordeal of around-the-clock deliberations and the tireless efforts of Carter, Sadat and Begin to close the gap. Of course, they all possessed the sure knowledge that if they failed to seize the opportunity of the moment, external pressures from neighboring nations would make the going much harder the next time around.

They knew they could not afford the luxury of quitting. They knew they had to stubbornly persevere! Both Egypt and Israel remembered that they had come a long way since their troops were apparently hopelessly tangled around the Suez Canal in the wake of the Yom Kippur War.

Out of this diplomatic powder keg emerged the unprecedented technique of "shuttle diplomacy." Former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger would seek to narrow the gap in negotiations just a little more with each trip. Weeks went by with little apparent success. And Kissinger was being increasingly assailed as an emissary of evil by well-meaning, but deceived, street demonstrators. More and more it began to appear as if the talks might suddenly abort and gravely threaten the already precarious cease-fire.

Being human, Kissinger himself must have been sorely tempted to

throw in the towel. But good sense finally prevailed and the breakthrough suddenly came amid the gloomiest of dire predictions. The parties had persevered!

The subsequent negotiations between Israel and Syria over the status of the Golan Heights were no easier. The dismal prospect of failure reared its ugly head on more than one occasion. At one point in the talks it appeared that Kissinger would be obliged to announce the suspension of negotiations. Indeed, a hall was rented at Lod Airport for that very purpose.

Time and time again former Secretary Kissinger was tempted to

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The road to peace in the Middle East will not be an easy one. Even with the "magic" solution to the Israeli-Egyptian deadlock, other key nations still remain to be brought into the peace negotiations.

”

abandon ship. But he pressed on, and in the end he persevered. When the negotiations were favorably terminated, Golda Meir was prompted to say: "Today all our efforts that seemed impossible are crowned with success. From today on, I hope that quiet will prevail on the northern borders, a day when mothers and children both in Syria and Israel will be able to go to sleep quietly."

History then repeated itself at Camp David. At one point in the negotiations there, President Sadat was prepared to abandon further discussions. Obtaining vital concessions from Mr. Begin took patient and skillful negotiating. Jimmy Carter must be given every credit for his persistence! Indeed it was he who had boldly brought the two Mideast lead-

ers together to help them construct a viable framework for peace.

Then, in the aftermath of Camp David, the peacemaking process began to flag. Again the American President, almost in the role of a secretary of state, picked up the baton and even humbled himself by going directly to the key countries. He lent the prestige of the U.S. presidency to the arduous negotiations—even indulging himself in a miniversion of "shuttle diplomacy."

And even in the wake of apparent success, all the parties affected are going to have to keep on trying—perhaps at times when damage to dignity and the prestige of one's country would normally dictate an automatic termination to the negotiating process. The stakes are too high in this nuclear age! We simply cannot afford another major Mideast war.

One of the seven laws of success is perseverance! As Mr. Herbert Armstrong has written: "Nine in ten, at least once or twice in a lifetime, come to the place where they appear to be totally defeated! All is lost—apparently, that is. They give up and quit, when just a little more determined hanging on, just a little more faith and perseverance—just a little more stick-to-it-iveness would have turned apparent certain failure into glorious success."

Nations are not exempt from obeying this vital law of success. As I have written before, the road to peace in the Middle East will not be an easy one. Even with the "magic" solution to the Israeli-Egyptian deadlock, other key nations still remain to be brought into the peace negotiations. And, of course, Old Jerusalem will sooner or later have to enter into future talks. Control of the sacred city is the most emotional and potentially explosive issue in Palestine.

These knotty problems are going to try the patience of Middle Eastern and Western statesmen alike. These issues will *not* conveniently disappear. However, they will subside in the face of leaders who are not only totally committed to peace, but who are willing to consistently persist and persevere far beyond what would normally be required. □



M.P.L. Fogden—Bruce Coleman

Solomon once admonished: "Go to the ant, thou sluggard; consider her ways, and be wise: which . . . gathereth her food in the harvest" (Proverbs 6:6-8).

The tiny ant is indeed a remarkable creature. In fact, the social organization and food-gathering abilities of ants are utterly amazing.

Consider the tropical leafcutter ant. These industrious insects harvest leaves with a precision and determination that can quickly strip a whole tree or shrub. The largest worker ants from the colony snip the leaves

LEAVE IT TO THE ANT!

by Robert A. Ginskey

into semicircular pieces of just the right size to be carried off to the nest by other workers.

The sight of a little ant struggling to carry a large-sized chunk of leaf is truly awesome; but the fact is, an ant is unimaginably strong and can carry 100 times its own weight! An ant can handle jobs which would be the equivalent of a man pushing a five-ton truck with flat tires up a steep hill!

So what do the leafcutter ants do with the leaves once they get them back to the nest? No, they don't eat



Peter Wald—Bruce Coleman

INDUSTRIOUS LEAFCUTTER ANTS snip off precise semicircular pieces of vegetation for transport back to the nest. Close-up (above) shows worker ant removing segment of leaf while another worker (below) carries leaf section down to the colony compost pile. The ways of the ant pose perplexing problems for evolution.



Raymond A. Mendez—Animals, Animals

them or store them for food. Instead, like any good organic farmer, they construct their own miniature compost pile by first chewing the leaves into small pieces, then "watering" them down with their own saliva and fertilizing them with their own excretions. The ants then cultivate a special fungus garden which provides food for the colony.

Yet that's not the end of the leafcutter's agricultural expertise. They also maintain proper temperature control over their fungus crop by opening and closing ant-made venti-

lation shafts located near the growing chamber.

The ants don't learn to harvest leaves and cultivate their fungus bed; they do it instinctively.

But could such a high level of sophistication on the part of the "lowly" ant have resulted from time, chance, and natural selection? How did the ant's ancestors discover the art of organic gardening—cultivating a fungus with chewed-up, fertilized tree leaves? Who taught the leafcutters the art of temperature control? Isn't it reasonable to con-

clude they had some outside help?

Interestingly enough, the earliest known fossils of ants are apparently identical with species now living! For this and many other reasons, ants pose a gigantic problem for the theory of evolution.

King Solomon said the study of the ant would make one wise. The apostle Paul said that the mind and power of God could be understood from a study of the things that are made (Romans 1:20). Surely the "ways of the ant" are an excellent place to start. □



Plain Truth Photos

MODERN CHRISTIANITY Vs. CHRIST

by Roderick C. Meredith

Since coming here," an African student told an American friend, "I've discovered the white man has two gods—one that he taught us about, and another to whom he prays. A mission school taught me that the tribal doctrines of my ancestors, who worshiped images and believed in witchcraft, were wrong and almost ludicrous. But here you worship larger images—cars and electrical appliances. I honestly can't see the difference."

This disillusioned young man had

Very few grasp the spectacular difference between today's Christianity and the original teachings of Christ.

discerned that modern "Christianity" had strayed a long way from the original teachings of Christ. The realization hit him like a thunderbolt.

Where Does Christ Come In?

But why have modern Christians forsaken the simple teachings of Jesus Christ?

Let's take a case in point. Jesus Christ declared: "You have heard the saying, 'You must love your neighbour and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you . . ." (Matthew 5:43-44, Moffatt translation).

Do professing Christians in our Western culture follow Christ by loving their enemies and turning the other cheek (Matthew 5:39) as He commanded? Of course not. That would not be practical, we are told.

The truth is that most of the greatest and bloodiest wars in all history have been waged primarily in

Europe—the very heart of Western Christian civilization.

Were the men, women and even children involved in these wars true followers of the humble carpenter of Nazareth who said: “Love your enemies”? Remember that these people called themselves by the name of Christ—“Christian.”

It seems that nearly all Western religions, philosophies and sects persist in applying the name of Christ to their ideas, teachings and practices, however far removed from the teachings of Christ they may be. In ancient times, the pagans at least honestly and openly acknowledged the idols they worshiped.

Using Christ's Name Proves Nothing

Since the life, death and resurrection of the Son of God, Christ's name has been placed on every type of pagan, perverted philosophy of man that has come along! The fact that many doctrines, ideas and practices of men are called “Christian” proves absolutely nothing!

Did Christ start these ideas and institutions? Do they follow His teaching and His example? How can you know? What was the teaching of Jesus Christ?

The only authoritative answer is found in the inspired record of what Jesus did teach and in the perfect example He set for us to follow. Your own Bible contains this inspired record.

With the above questions in mind, let's look into the Bible honestly, openly and without prejudice.

What did Jesus—the Author of true Christianity—actually teach and do? And remember that a true “Christian” is one who *follows Christ* and His teaching!

What Did Jesus Teach?

At the beginning of His ministry, “Jesus came into Galilee, preaching the gospel of the kingdom of God, and saying, The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: repent ye, and believe the gospel” (Mark 1:14-15).

The word “kingdom” implies government. Jesus was talking about the coming government of God over this

earth. He commanded: “Repent ye, and believe the gospel”!

To repent means to be so sorry that you are not only willing to quit living in what theologians call “sin”—but that you are also willing to turn around and go the other way. But what is sin? God answers, “Sin is the transgression of the law” (1 John 3:4).

So we must repent of disobeying God's government—of breaking His law!

Again, notice Jesus' own inspired words on this subject: “Think not [although many do want to think this] that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil” (Matthew 5:17). Greek scholars acknowledge that the word translated “fulfil” means not only to do or perform, but also to fill to the full. In other words, Jesus, in His own life, filled to the full and perfectly performed the spiritual intent and purpose of God's law—to love God with all your might and to love your neighbor as yourself.

Why did He do this? To do away with God's law by this means? That's what men will try to tell you! The ultimate criterion for right and wrong, many church leaders say, is not divine command, but the individual's subjective perception of what is good for himself. “We are delivered from the law,” they expostulate. But let God answer. In a prophecy about the coming Messiah, Isaiah wrote: “The Lord is well pleased for his righteousness' sake; he will magnify the law, and make it honourable” (Isaiah 42:21).

Jesus Magnified God's Law

To magnify does not mean to destroy, but to show forth and enlarge to the fullest possible extent. Jesus perfectly fulfilled and magnified God's law to show us its fullest spiritual application and also to set us an example that we should follow in His steps (1 Peter 2:21).

Jesus continued in this same discourse: “Whosoever therefore shall break one of these least commandments, and shall teach men so, he shall be called the least in the kingdom of heaven: but whosoever shall do and teach them, the same shall be

called great in the kingdom of heaven” (Matthew 5:19). So according to Jesus' teaching, you have to both do and teach even the least of God's commandments if you are to become great in His Kingdom. This is just the opposite of the common teaching of “Christianity” today. Probably you were taught to believe Jesus did away with the law of God.

Jesus showed that even to hate a brother—involving as it does the spirit of murder—is bringing us into judgment before the spiritual law of God (Matthew 5:21-26). He vividly illustrated how one can commit adultery not only by performing the act, but also by just lusting after a woman in his heart (verses 27-28).

Read these examples in your own Bible. Think about them. In every case they obviously do not do away with God's law, but rather they make it all the more binding!

Matthew's fifth chapter ends with Jesus' instruction: “Be ye [“become ye” is the literal, original Greek] therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect” (verse 48).

Obedience to God and His law is the keynote of the entire Sermon on the Mount. Jesus declared: “Not every one that saith unto me, Lord, Lord, shall enter into the kingdom of heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven” (Matthew 7:21).

Did Jesus Set a Perfect Example?

Remember, a Christian is one who literally follows the example of Jesus Christ! Jesus was the “light” that God sent into the world to show man how he ought to live. “That was the true Light, which lighteth every man that cometh into the world” (John 1:9).

Peter was inspired to record that Jesus Christ lived according to God's ways, leaving us an example, that we should *follow His steps* (1 Peter 2:21). Jesus obeyed God. He did not sin—and sin is the “transgression of the law.” Rather He obeyed God and suffered willingly in service to others, and in all this, set an example for us to follow.

The apostle John was inspired to write: “He that saith he abideth in him [Christ] ought himself also so to

walk [to live], even as he walked" (I John 2:6).

The *New English Bible* translation renders this in more modern English: "Here is the test by which we can make sure that we are in him: whoever claims to be dwelling in him, binds himself to live as Christ himself lived."

Jesus lived a life of giving and serving. He conducted Himself as an ambassador of a foreign kingdom or government—God's government in heaven which will soon come to earth to replace all human governments. How many "Christians" really believe this?

Paul was inspired to write that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). Christ has not changed. He will guide you to live the same kind of life today that He lived in His own human body 1900 years ago. And remember, Jesus "was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" (Hebrews 4:15).

How will Jesus guide you to do this? The apostle Paul put it this way, describing his own experience: "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but *Christ liveth in me*: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20).

Here we see that Christ comes to live His life in the true Christian. He does this through His Spirit (Romans 8:9). The Holy Spirit imparts to the individual the very faith of Jesus Christ—the same faith that guided and motivated Jesus when He dwelled in mortal flesh.

Through the Holy Spirit, then, you can receive the very nature and power of Christ to obey the commandments and laws of Almighty God. The Holy Spirit imparts the power to keep God's spiritual law. It is His righteousness operating in your body, a body that you have willingly yielded to Him as His instrument. What percentage of "Christians" do that today?

How the Holy Spirit Functions

But how does one receive God's Holy Spirit? Peter addressed a large audience of people in his day, saying,

"Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:38). This same principle applies to our day.

Since your old self must be figuratively buried—baptized for the remission of sin—you must first repent of sin. That means to repent of breaking God's law! Then, after truly repenting and accepting, through faith, Christ's shed blood as payment for your past sins, you must be baptized in order to receive the gift of God's Holy Spirit.

Baptism—immersion in a watery grave—is an outward acknowledgment of the death penalty you have brought upon yourself by disobeying the law of your Creator and is also an acknowledgment of your willingness to let your old self figuratively die.

The Love of God

Then, through His Spirit, Christ places His nature within you—His love, His faith, His strength to overcome your own nature and the temptations of Satan and of this world (see Galatians 5:22-23).

The love you receive through God's Spirit is not mere human love, but the very love of God, which "... is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit which is given unto us" (Romans 5:5).

Now how does this love operate? Christ's Word gives the true answer: "For this is the love of God, that we *keep his commandments*: and his commandments are not grievous" (I John 5:3).

It is through God's love placed in us by His Spirit that we are able to keep His commandments! Through constant Bible study, earnest prayer, and consistent spiritual overcoming and growth, you can yield to let God fashion you in His spiritual image, so that you can be born of Him in the resurrection as His own son—having His very nature.

This is, in fact, the very purpose of your existence.

Identity of True Christians

Down through history, God has always set apart those who truly serve Him by keeping His commandments

and His laws. The apostle John was inspired to write: "He that saith, I know him, and keepeth not his commandments, is a liar, and the truth is not in him" (I John 2:4).

A person who isn't keeping God's commandments does not grasp the kind of character and personality that the true God is. He is not truly "acquainted" with God! He is simply manufacturing his own private "god" out of his own imagination.

Can we believe that God means what He says in His inspired Word?

The true God doesn't even hear our prayers unless we keep His commandments! "And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight" (I John 3:22). How many professing Christians believe this? Today, as the African student perceived, millions of deceived people worship a sentimental, manufactured "god" who requires no obedience. They have been deceived into believing that the importance of worshiping the true God of creation—the God who requires obedience to His will as a prerequisite for receiving the gift of eternal life—can be lightly set aside.

But God states: "Whosoever transgresseth, and abideth not in the doctrine of Christ [the very teachings of Jesus Himself], hath not God. He that abideth in the doctrine of Christ, he hath both the Father and the Son. If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed: For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds" (II John 9-11).

Those are strong words! The matter of obedience to the true God and His law is of paramount importance! (Write for our free booklets *Just What Do You Mean—"Salvation"?* and *The Ten Commandments*.)

Obedience will make you happy and fill your life with real inner joy. This obedience is what sets real Christians apart from the millions who assume that they are Christians but who have strayed far from the simple truths taught by Jesus Christ. □



IS YOURS A “FEAR RELIGION”?

by Brian Knowles

The late Sir Bertrand Russell declared: “Religion is based, I think, primarily and mainly upon fear.” Presumably he would have agreed with the ancient Greek historian Polybius that the purpose of religion is to keep the masses in check.

And one must admit that in many cases they had a point. So much of what even passes for “Christianity” is based upon the fear motive!

Every human being is conditioned by life itself to have fears of one kind or another. Almost no one is totally free from fears. Russell explained, “Fear is the basis of the whole thing—fear of the mysterious, fear of defeat, fear of death.” Those who, in the name of Christianity, “make merchandise” of people realize this. The late Jim Jones used this fact to control his followers, who, according to reports, lived in constant threat of life and limb.

Jones himself was paranoid. But, as a writer for *Newsweek* observed: “The paranoia that was his constant companion was also his weapon; he forged loyalty by convincing many members that without him they would be killed or imprisoned by the Ku Klux Klan, the CIA or any number of free-floating forces of evil. But as an extra safeguard, he encouraged intramural terror. Members were encouraged to inform on spouses or children who transgressed, and his

supposedly classless society was set up according to a rigid and unforgiving hierarchy."

While Jim Jones was later revealed to be an ecclesiastical charlatan, he was more or less typical of a whole genre of "charismatic" religious leaders who, through fear and intimidation, mesmerize the ignorant into submission. "It was as if all the zany strains of do-it-yourself religion and personality-cult salvation that have built up in America had suddenly erupted with ghastly force," continued the *Newsweek* report.

The principles upon which Jones founded his sect were apparently altruistic and seemingly noble. Like most cults, the People's Temple started out idealistically. But something went wrong. Through his "messianic mix of religion and hatred" Jones carved out an ecclesiastical empire based, in the final analysis, upon fear. Things became twisted. Fear took over and death followed.

"Fear," wrote Bertrand Russell, "is the parent of cruelty, and therefore it is no wonder if cruelty and religion have gone hand in hand."

The Real Danger

To a degree Russell was right. But Russell, because of his disillusionment with organized religion, threw out the baby with the bathwater. He became a much-celebrated atheist. And that's the real danger of fear religion!

How many millions of potential Christians have been "turned off" religion by exposure to the bloody facts of ecclesiastical history? How many have pointed to the senseless Crusades, the cruel and inhuman abuses of the Inquisition, and to the violence of the Protestant Reformation as evidence that religion is a source of endless pain and suffering? And yet all of these damnable events were carried out in religious zeal—in the hope of gaining ground and converts to "Christianity"!

However, as the apostle Paul might have put it, it was zeal, "but not according to knowledge" (as in Romans 10:2)—a misguided zeal which has resulted in the torture, maiming and murder of millions. For though the Inquisitors thought they

were "saving souls from damnation" by torturing people into confessing Christ, for every forced "disciple" they made, they undoubtedly alienated thousands from at least their brand of Christianity!

Fear and hatred have besmirched "Christian" religious communities for centuries. And our day still witnesses the rise, and the fall, of movements, sects, cults and churches founded upon fear and exclusivism, which appropriate the name of Jesus Christ to control the minds of men.

Such religion is clearly *not* of Christ!

The true God of real Christianity is the God of the New Testament whom Jesus came to reveal (Matthew 11:27; Luke 10:22), because the real nature of God was not understood in Old Testament times.

The God of Jesus

What kind of a God did Jesus reveal? When His disciples asked Jesus to show them the Father, He pointed out that if they had seen Him (Jesus), they had, in effect, seen the Father because "I and my Father are one" (John 10:30).

Was He a harsh, brutal, cosmic "hanging judge"? A divine monster capable of unreasonable wrath and incredible vindictiveness?

Not at all. Yes, God would punish. Yes, God would have vengeance upon His enemies. Yes, God would be vindicated in the final analysis. But Jesus also taught that to see *Him*, to know *Him*, was to know His Father.

In short, we understand God by understanding and perceiving Christ! Jesus is His Father's Son in every sense of the term. He was a faithful Son in whom God "was well pleased." He reflected perfectly the sterling qualities of character displayed by His divine parent. To know Jesus is to know *God*!

Jesus was not vindictive. He never required a "pound of flesh." He was not out for blood. He wished the suffering of no man. He was neither condemnatory nor judgmental. To a woman taken in the very act of adultery He said, "Neither do I condemn thee: go, and sin no more" (John 8:11). He was accepting, loving, con-

stantly "moved with compassion" (Matthew 9:36; 14:14; Mark 6:34).

His great abiding commandment was to love—unconditionally and in any and all circumstances. This was to be the greatest sign of a true Christian: "By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:35, RSV).

He "taught them as one who had authority" (Matthew 7:29, RSV)—that means He knew what He was talking about. (It doesn't mean He yelled, screamed, and pounded His scroll!)

To the weak and burdened, Jesus said, "Come unto me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I will give you *rest*" (Matthew 11:28). He said nothing of vengeful fear. He did not threaten or intimidate. He was meek, and rode into Jerusalem, not with a show of power, pomp and circumstance, but on an ass—the humblest of animals (Matthew 21:5).

He made no attempts to overcompensate so He could somehow "prove" His masculinity, yet that didn't make Him effeminate in any way. He was simply a natural, unaffected, tenderhearted man. Yet He was also God in the flesh. And in Him could be viewed a perfect reflection of the character of God the Father.

Jesus and Hell

It is quite true that Jesus spoke of a real hellfire. He spoke of a fire that would burn up the incorrigibly wicked. But He did not imply it would be the fate of *most* of mankind! He was not constantly screaming, "Hellfire and damnation! Repent or you'll fry in hell for all eternity!" Neither did He proclaim, "Give your heart to the Lord and your pocketbook to the preacher and ye shall be saved!" This was *not* the message of Jesus, even though He spoke clearly both of hell (the Bible kind, not the kind that is commonly but erroneously believed in) and of repentance.

Jesus brought a positive message of a coming Kingdom that would one day encompass the earth. He spoke of a time when the Spirit of His Father would be poured out on the nations—a message prefigured by

the Old Testament prophets. He spoke of a time of rest, a time of peace.

Jesus, in His now-famous Sermon on the Mount, taught: "Blessed are the *peacemakers*. . . . Blessed are the *pure in heart*. . . . Blessed are the *meek*" (Matthew 5:9-12, 5).

He spoke of the Church as a community of brethren—a family, if you please. Of authority in the Christian community He taught: "You know that the rulers of the Gentiles lord it over them [tyrannize—Goodspeed translation], and their great men exercise authority [dominion—KJV] over them. *It shall not be so among you*; but whosoever would be great among you must be your *servant*" (Matthew 20:25-26, RSV). He then pointed out that He did not come to be waited on, ministered to, or to be served: ". . . even as the Son of man *came not to be served but to serve*" (Matthew 20:28, RSV).

Jim Jones, and many others, lorded it over their congregations. They ruled with force and cruelty. They controlled with threat, fear and intimidation. And, in so doing, they violated the spirit and intent of Jesus' own instructions to His disciples.

The Apostles' Teaching

Later, the apostles also taught love, and against fear. "There is no fear in love; but perfect love casteth out fear: because fear hath torment" (I John 4:18). Jesus Christ never intended His brethren to live in a state of torment and constant fear!

Christians have been called to peace—not to fear. Paul spoke of "the peace of God, which passeth all understanding . . ." (Philippians 4:7). He wrote that peace of mind should "*fill* the hearts" of Christians. And, again, there is no room for fear in a heart full of peace! Both love and peace are listed as fruits or products produced by the indwelling of the Holy Spirit in Christians (Galatians 5:22).

If you, as a professing Christian, lack a sense of peace and well-being in your life, it could be because you are failing to follow the leading of the Spirit of peace. Perhaps you are failing to "stir up the gift" (II Timothy 1:6) that is in you.

Returning to the teaching of the Founder of Christianity, Jesus Himself, we find Him saying, "Fear not them which kill the body . . ." (Matthew 10:28). That is, Christians should not fear man! He went on to say, ". . . but rather fear him which is able to destroy both soul and body in hell [gehenna]." That is, whatever "fear" a Christian has should be directed toward God. And even that is not a morbid or neurotic fear. Rather it is a healthy respect for the power and majesty of God. "The fear of the Lord is the beginning of wisdom" (Psalm 111:10). It is a willing acknowledgment of the supremacy and sovereignty of the Creator. It is a submission to divine authority.

But it is not the fear that "hath torment." If it were, it would contradict the other teachings of Christ and His original apostles! Neither is it the "fearful looking for of judgment and fiery indignation" spoken of by Paul (Hebrews 10:27). That is the fear of the damned! That is the fear of the incorrigibly wicked. That is the fear of the devil!

For those who are "in Christ" — that is, in a relationship with God through Christ and the Holy Spirit—"there is therefore now *no condemnation* . . ." (Romans 8:1). True Christians do not live in a state of fear.

To be "in Christ" is to be forgiven. It is to be justified of past transgressions. It is to be accepted of God and considered "righteous." The natural response of a person in such a relationship with God can only be gratitude and love—not morbid fear.

Representing God?

Those who peddle fear in the name of God are misrepresenting Him. Those who seek to bring congregations into subjection to themselves, as opposed to God, by means of threat and intimidation, are misusing their authority and probably the Scriptures. The Bible shows that the relationship of Christians to each other should be that of a loving, nurturing family. The apostle Paul, for example, taught: "Do not rebuke an older man but exhort him as you would a father; treat younger men like brothers, older women like mothers, younger

women like sisters, in all purity" (I Timothy 5:1-2, RSV). Here we see the family relationship of Church members. Here there is no room for tyranny. There is no room for "lording it over" one another. The Church of God, ideally, should be a loving family of God's own children. It should be a nurturing community. It should be a community of peace and harmony and of mutual cooperation. No one in it should be striving to force others to do things or see things his way, or to obtain a preeminence over them.

The carnal, unconverted disciples of Christ, prior to their conversion, pursued such selfish aims and squabbled about who among them should be the greatest. This craving for self-importance and dominance is a mark of unconversion! A converted person leaves all such matters to God and concentrates on the service of love.

The apostle John warned against a man named Diotrephes who "loveth to have . . . preeminence" or, as the RSV puts it, "likes to put himself first" (III John 9). Such men think that a man's spirituality is measured by his position in some arbitrary ecclesiastical pecking order, or vice versa. But such is not the case. True spirituality is not equated with authority, or position or status. It is measured by attitude, humility, and service. Above all, it is measured by grace! Of and by himself, no man is righteous. If anyone is considered righteous, it is strictly by the grace of God—not by anything he has done.

There is no room in the true body of Christ for a Jim Jones. There is no place for intimidation and threats. There is no room for power struggles or the rule of fear.

The God of love is not a God of fear. The God of mercy is not a God who delights in the suffering and death of His children. The God of the Bible is not any of the anthropomorphic aberrations of men. The God of the universe is not a cosmic tyrant oblivious to the sufferings of His human creation. The true God is not a divine hanging judge who has galloped from here to eternity awaiting the necks of mankind.

God and God's way are love—not fear. □

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' RADIO AND TV LOGS

Herbert W. Armstrong analyzes today's news, with the prophecies of 'The World Tomorrow'

THE WORLD TOMORROW RADIO LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location and frequency and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WYDE, Birmingham — 850, 7 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KFMM-FM, Tucson — 99.5, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
KIKX, Tucson — 580, 9:35 a.m., Sun.
KTUC, Tucson — 1400, 1 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

CALIFORNIA

KFRE, Fresno — 940, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.
KIEV, Glendale — 870, 11 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
KCMS-FM, Indio — 103.1, 7:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
KLAC, Los Angeles — 570, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.
KGUY, Palm Desert — 1270, 6:15 a.m., Sun.
KFBK, Sacramento — 1530, 11:05 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.
KCKC, San Bernardino — 1350, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
KNBR, San Francisco — 630, 9 p.m., Sun.
KUNA-FM, San Luis Obispo — 96.1, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WRC, Washington — 980, 9 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WAPE, Jacksonville — 690, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WQIK, Jacksonville — 1090, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
WINZ, Miami — 940, 12:05 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WIOD, Miami — 610, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WKIS, Orlando — 740, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

GEORGIA

WPLO, Atlanta — 590, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

HAWAII

KKON, Kealahakua — 790, 6 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

ILLINOIS

WMAQ, Chicago — 670, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6 a.m., 10 p.m., Sun.
WMBD, Peoria — 1470, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 p.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WNTS, Indianapolis — 1590, 10 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBT, South Bend — 960, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 4:30 p.m., Sun.

IOWA

KIOA, Des Moines — 940, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KXEL, Waterloo — 1540, 11:45 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 5 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

WIBW, Topeka — 580, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

KENTUCKY

WHAS, Louisville — 840, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WKLO, Louisville — 1080, 9 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WGSO, New Orleans — 1280, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

WPOC-FM, Baltimore — 93.1, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

WITS, Boston — 1510, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.
WSPR, Springfield — 1270, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WDEE, Detroit — 1500, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WTRX, Flint — 1330, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

KTCR-FM, Minneapolis — 97.1, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.

MISSOURI

KMBZ, Kansas City — 980, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11 p.m., Sun.
KGBX, Springfield — 1260, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 a.m., Sun.

KIRL, St. Louis — 1460, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KRNY, Kearney — 1460, 10 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KBCQ, Roswell — 1020, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WBEN, Buffalo — 930, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WOR, New York — 710, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., 11:30 p.m., Sun.
WHAM, Rochester — 1180, 11:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WSOQ, Syracuse — 1220, 6:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WBT, Charlotte — 1110, 9 a.m., Sun.
WSOC, Charlotte — 930, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WNCT, Greenville — 1070, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WSLR, Akron — 1350, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8:30 p.m., Sun.
WCKY, Cincinnati — 1530, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sat.; 8:15 p.m., Sun.
WBBG, Cleveland — 1260, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WMNI, Columbus — 920, 5 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WONE, Dayton — 980, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WCWA, Toledo — 1230, 11 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 8 a.m., Sun.

OKLAHOMA

KVOO, Tulsa — 1170, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KXXO, Tulsa — 1300, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

KWJJ, Portland — 1080, 9 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 p.m. Sun.

PENNSYLVANIA

WHP, Harrisburg — 580, 7:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
WRCP, Philadelphia — 1540, 6 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 11 a.m., Sun.
KQV, Pittsburgh — 1410, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 7 a.m., Sun.

WQSU-FM, Selinsgrove — 88.9, 7 p.m., Sun.
WARM, Wilkes Barre — 590, 7 a.m., Sun.
WSBA, York — 910, 9 a.m., Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WEAN, Providence — 790, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.
WGNG, Providence — 550, 9 a.m., Sun.
WJAR, Providence — 920, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

SOUTH CAROLINA

WKSC, Kershaw — 1300, 1:15 p.m., Sun.
WSPA, Spartanburg — 950, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 6:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WDEF, Chattanooga — 1370, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 p.m., Sun.
WMPS, Memphis — 680, 6 p.m., Sun.
WREC, Memphis — 600, 11:06 p.m., Mon.-Fri.

TEXAS

KRLD, Dallas — 1080, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Sun.
KPRC, Houston — 950, 10:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., WSun.
KVWG, Pearsall — 1280, 10:30 a.m., Sun.
KTLU, Rusk — 1580, 10 a.m., Sun.
WOAI, San Antonio — 1200, 10:15 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10 a.m.; 7:30 p.m., Sun.

UTAH

KSL, Salt Lake City — 1160, 5:30 a.m., Sun.

VIRGINIA

WCPK, Chesapeake — 1600, 12:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.
WHNE, Norfolk — 1300, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WZAM, Norfolk — 1110, 8 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KGRG-FM, Auburn — 89.9, 12 noon, Sun.
KAYO, Seattle — 1150, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri., Sun.

WEST VIRGINIA

WCAW, Charleston — 680, 11:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WKEE, Huntington — 800, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WKEE-FM, Huntington — 100.5, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.
WWVA, Wheeling — 1170, 5:30 a.m., Mon.-Fri.; 10:30 a.m., Sun.

WYOMING

KTWO, Casper — 1030, 9:30 p.m., Mon.-Fri.; 9 p.m., Sun.
KYCN, Wheatland — 1340, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

'THE WORLD TOMORROW' TELEVISION LOG

Listed by state are the station's call letters, location and channel number and the time *The World Tomorrow* is aired.

ALABAMA

WAPI, Birmingham — 13, 7 a.m., Sun.

ARIZONA

KGUN, Tucson — 9, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

ARKANSAS

KARK, Little Rock — 4, 10 a.m., Sun.

CALIFORNIA

KMJ, Fresno — 24, 7 a.m., Sun.
KTTV, Los Angeles — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
KTVU, Oakland — 2, 10:30 a.m., Sat.

COLORADO

KKTV, Colorado Springs — 11, 8:30 a.m., Sun.

CONNECTICUT

WATR, Hartford — 20, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

WTTG, Washington — 5, 7 a.m., Sun.

FLORIDA

WCIX, Miami — 6, 7 a.m., Sun.

ILLINOIS

WCIU, Chicago — 26, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WFLD, Chicago — 32, 7:30 a.m., Sat.
WRAU, Peoria — 19, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

INDIANA

WKJG, Ft. Wayne — 33, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WISH, Indianapolis — 8, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WSBT, South Bend — 22, 10 p.m., Sun.

IOWA

KWWL, Waterloo — 7, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

KANSAS

KGLD, Garden City — 11, 4:30 p.m., Sun.
KARD, Wichita — 3, 4:30 p.m., Sun.

KENTUCKY

WLEX, Lexington — 18, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WHAS, Louisville — 11, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

LOUISIANA

WAFB, Baton Rouge — 9, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WWL, New Orleans — 4, 7 a.m., Sun.

MAINE

WGAN, Portland — 13, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

MARYLAND

WBFF, Baltimore — 45, 12 noon, Sun.

MASSACHUSETTS

WHYN, Springfield — 40, 9 a.m., Sun.

MICHIGAN

WUHQ, Battle Creek — 41, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WXON, Detroit — 20, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WJRT, Flint — 12, 8 a.m., Sun.
WILX, Lansing — 10, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

MINNESOTA

WTCN, Minneapolis — 11, 7:30 a.m., Sun.

MISSOURI

WDAF, Kansas City — 4, 12 noon, Sat.
KMTC, Springfield — 27, 6:30 a.m., Sun.
KNDL, St. Louis — 30, 9 a.m., Sun.

NEBRASKA

KCNA, Albion — 8, 8 a.m., Sun.
KWNB, Hayes Center — 6, 8 a.m., Sun.
KHGI, Kearney — 13, 8 a.m., Sun.
KSNB, Superior — 4, 8 a.m., Sun.

NEW MEXICO

KGGM, Albuquerque — 13, 6:30 a.m., Sun.

NEW YORK

WTEN, Albany — 10, 8:30 a.m., Sun.
WUTV, Buffalo — 29, 9:30 a.m., Sun.
WOR, New York — 9, 10 p.m., Sun.
WROC, Rochester — 8, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

NORTH CAROLINA

WRET, Charlotte — 36, 7:30 a.m., Sun.
WNCT, Greenville — 9, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

OHIO

WAKR, Akron — 23, 11 p.m., Sun.
WLWT, Cincinnati — 5, 11:30 a.m., Sun.
WSPD, Toledo — 13, 10:30 a.m., Sun.

OREGON

KPTV, Portland — 12, 11 a.m., Sat.

PENNSYLVANIA

WIIC, Pittsburgh — 11, 11 a.m., Sun.
WSBA, York — 43, 12 noon, Sun.

RHODE ISLAND

WPRI, Providence — 12, 11:30 a.m., Sun.

TENNESSEE

WRCB, Chattanooga — 3, 12:30 p.m., Sun.
WKPT, Kingsport — 19, 12 noon, Sun.

TEXAS

KTVV, Austin — 36, 9:30 a.m., Sun.

WASHINGTON

KXLY, Spokane — 2, 11 a.m., Sun.

WISCONSIN

WVTV, Milwaukee — 18, 10 p.m., Sun.

You Need To Know Why FIERY TRIALS Are Necessary

Throughout history, God's people have experienced many persecutions and tribulations. God's children often experience severe trials and tests! Why? Do you know why a loving Creator has decreed that all of His children must go through their share of fiery trials? Read and understand this. Trials are a vital part in developing spiritual character.

by Raymond F. McNair

Many Christians fail to realize that trials and tribulations—unpleasant though they may be at the time—are really blessings in disguise. You need to understand why our loving Father has ordained that all His children must experience a number of temptations and trials.

God Almighty has deliberately designed the begetting and birth of a child in this life to be a type—an exact picture—of the spiritual begetting and birth which the child of God must experience before he can be born into His family.

We were born into this world under terrific pressure! In childbirth, both mother and baby usually experience much stress and strain, as well as a certain amount of physical pain.

This is an exact type of the spiritual birth.

Jesus Christ said to Nicodemus: "Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot

see the kingdom of God" (John 3:3).

What are the very beginning steps toward salvation? 1) Repentance, 2) baptism, and 3) the receiving of God's precious Holy Spirit (Acts 2:38). But—after our real conversion and baptism—we must continue to "grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ" (II Pet. 3:18).

The apostle Peter revealed how this growing must take place: "As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby" (I Pet. 2:2).

After repentance, baptism and the receiving of God's Holy Spirit, we must continue the vitally important process of spiritual growth in the womb of the Church, so we can someday be born into God's family. We can only continue to grow spiritually if we steadfastly keep drinking in our daily supply of God's living waters—His Holy Spirit (John 7:37-39; Isa. 55:1).

We continue to receive our daily portion of God's Holy Spirit if we continually feed on the Word of God. "It is written, That man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word of God" (Luke 4:4).

The words of God Almighty as re-

corded in the Bible are life-giving and will nourish us—if we regularly receive them into our very innermost being! Christ said, "It is the spirit that quickeneth; the flesh profiteth nothing: the words that I speak unto you, they are spirit, and they are life" (John 6:63).

If we mix prayer and fasting with our daily study of God's Word, we receive a rich supply of spiritual food which will nourish us to full spiritual maturity. After safely completing a full term—usually much longer than the nine months required for physical birth—of growth in the womb of the Church, we will then finally be ready to be born into God's spiritual family.

Can you now see how the spiritual birth, like a human birth, is usually preceded by a most difficult period of stress and strain?

Stress and Strain Are Necessary

Jesus Christ, our High Priest, doesn't want us to be relaxed Christians! God does not want us to go to sleep on the job (Matt. 25:5). "Wherefore he saith, Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ shall give thee light" (Eph. 5:14).

Jesus Christ will reject any who remain lukewarm (Rev. 3:15-16).

We can only be born into the Kingdom of God under stress and strain—under pressure! You need to understand why this is necessary, and also why God permits us to be sorely tried at times!

King David, a man after God's own heart, will have a very high position of rulership in the Kingdom of God. He will be king over all Israel (Ezek. 37:24; Hosea 3:5; Jer. 30:9). In order to qualify for this high position of responsibility and service in God's Kingdom, David first had to suffer many trials, persecutions and afflictions. His life was, in fact, full of tribulations.

He understood that God's people must experience many trials and tests in this life: "Many are the afflictions of the righteous: but the Lord delivereth him out of them all" (Ps. 34:19).

David made some very serious mistakes in his life and had to be afflicted by God to learn his lesson—the lesson that sin never pays!

In a moment of weakness, David yielded to the terrible sin of lust. He gave in to his carnal urge and committed adultery with Bathsheba. Then, when she had conceived an illegitimate child by him, he sought to cover his sin by devious means. When this failed, he connived to bring about the death of Bathsheba's husband Uriah. He had him put in the hottest part of the battle where he would be certain to be killed by the Ammonites (II Sam. 11).

But is God a respecter of persons? Would He turn a blind eye to David's sin? "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap" (Gal. 6:7).

God sent Nathan to point out David's terrible sin to him (II Sam. 12). David bitterly repented of this grievous sin (II Sam. 12; Ps. 51). Nevertheless, God Almighty showed that he must reap what he had sown.

What would his punishment be? He would have perpetual war from that day forward! God also afflicted David through sickness, and through taking the life of the very child which he had begotten in adultery! This was a very high price to pay for sin—but this was God's way of bringing David to his senses!

Did David know why God had afflicted him? Certainly! "Before I was afflicted I went astray [I sinned]: but now have I kept thy word" (Ps. 119:67). He then freely confessed that God was righteous in punishing him: "It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes" (Ps. 119:71).

Much Tribulation

The zealous apostle Paul also understood the absolute necessity of God's people going through tribulation in this world in order to purify them. He exhorted the disciples "to continue in the faith, and that we must through much tribulation enter into the kingdom of God" (Acts 14:22).

He solemnly warned the evangelist Timothy: "Yea, and all that will live godly in Christ Jesus shall suffer persecution" (II Tim. 3:12).

Paul will certainly have a very high position in the Kingdom of God. The many trials which he endured fully qualified him to receive a position of great responsibility.

Have you ever carefully noticed just how much this dynamic apostle suffered and endured for Christ's sake?

"Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; in journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils by mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; in weariness and painfulness, in watchings often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness. Beside those things that are without, that which cometh upon me daily, the care of all the churches" (II Cor. 11:23-28).

In addition to these trials, Paul revealed that he had certain physical infirmities which Jesus Christ had refused to heal—in order to keep Paul humble—so he would look to Christ and glory in God, rather than

in what he had done (II Cor. 12:1-9). Paul concluded: "Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong" (II Cor. 12:10).

The Fiery Trial

Did the apostle Peter believe the lot of a Christian would be an easy one? No! He revealed that the faith of the Christian must sometimes be sorely tried: "Wherein ye greatly rejoice, though now for a season, if need be, ye are in heaviness through manifold temptations: That the trial of your faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, might be found unto praise and honour and glory at the appearing of Jesus Christ" (I Pet. 1:6-7).

This same apostle was also inspired to give the following warning: "Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you: But rejoice, inasmuch as ye are partakers of Christ's sufferings; that, when his glory shall be revealed, ye may be glad also with exceeding joy" (I Pet. 4:12-13).

Christ's exemplary life—especially during the three and one half years of His earthly ministry—was not a life of idleness and ease but a life filled with constant trials of every sort! He was continually opposed, persecuted, slandered, criticized, and was finally crucified by the very people whom He loved—loved so much that He was willing to die for them!

Yes, Christ knew what real tribulation was. "In the world ye shall have tribulation," said Jesus, "but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world" (John 16:33).

Many Bible prophecies reveal that the peoples of America, Britain and the British Commonwealth (modern Israel) have become terribly enmeshed in loathsome sins (Hosea 4:1-3; Jer. 30:11-15). God also shows that He will correct and chastise Israel because of her sins. "And though the Lord give you the bread of adversity, and the water of affliction, yet

shall not thy teachers be removed into a corner any more, but thine eyes shall see thy teachers" (Isa. 30:20).

Why will God so severely afflict Israel? Because He loves Israel and wants our people to turn from their mounting sins!

There are various ways in which God tries us. God tried and tested Abraham by commanding him to offer up his son Isaac. Abraham had to be willing to give up his only true, legitimate son in order to obey his Creator and receive God's incredible promises. Actually, God didn't want Abraham to slay his son. He only wanted to test Abraham to see if he loved Him, his Creator, more than anything else (Gen. 22).

How does God try and test us? How does He learn what is really in our heart?

We have already seen that God sometimes afflicts us in order to humble us or teach us an important lesson (Ps. 119:71; II Cor. 12:7-10).

God Chastens Us in Love

Yes, God Almighty has to chasten all of His sons and daughters—just as we have to correct our children: "And ye have forgotten the exhortation which speaketh unto you as unto children, My son, despise not thou the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when thou art rebuked of him: For whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth" (Heb. 12:5-6).

The apostle Paul then goes on to show that if we "endure chastening," God will deal with us as with sons.

But if we will not receive this loving correction, then what does God call us? He bluntly calls us spiritual "bastards"! We are not really God's sons at all but are merely pretending to be His sons.

Does godly chastisement cause us to bear good fruit?

Notice why God chastens us. "Now no chastening for the present seemeth to be joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yieldeth the peaceable fruit of righteousness unto them which are exercised thereby" (verse 11).

God has ordained that this life will

not be an easy life—for a very good reason. He knows that if we have no severe trials and tests we become spiritually soft and flabby!

A comfortable man is a complacent man. A comfortable man doesn't want to change—doesn't want to alter the status quo! Why should he? He is quite happy to let things continue as they are. Why change when everything seems to be going along so very smoothly?

God Almighty knows that we need trials to stir us to action—to stir us up enough to overcome our spiritual lethargy!

God promises a special blessing on those who steadfastly resist and overcome temptations: "Blessed is the man that endureth temptation: for when he is tried, he shall receive the crown of life, which the Lord hath promised to them that love him" (James 1:12).

How We Are Tried

What are some of the main ways in which we are afflicted? Ways by which we are caused to go to our knees to God in heartrending prayer? What are some of the trials which cause us to really cry out to God (as unto a merciful and loving Father) for help and strength to overcome our trials and tribulations?

Persecution is one of the main ways by which God's people are drawn closer to Him.

Physical necessities often cause God's people to have to go to Him in prayer. When we don't have the necessities of life (food, clothing, shelter), we are often brought to our knees before our heavenly Father.

Weaknesses, physical infirmities and sickness are often the means by which God brings us back into line. When we are told that we may remain an invalid for the rest of our life, or when we know that we may actually die of an incurable disease (unless God miraculously heals us!), then this sobers us, brings us to our senses. Such a shock often causes us to get down on our knees in heartfelt prayer, beseeching our compassionate God for mercy—for health and healing (II Kings 20:1-7).

Overpowering temptations are often the means by which we are

brought to the realization of how weak and wretched our human nature is. Through strong and persistent temptations (fears, worries and anxieties; lust and covetousness; hatred and malice; envy and jealousies), we are often sent to the throne of grace for additional strength to overcome our wretched nature (Rom. 7:14-25).

God has solemnly promised to deliver us from all of our temptations—if we will only rely upon Him. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it" (I Cor. 10:13).

When we really repent of our sins and turn from them, accepting the blood of Christ as the means by which our transgressions are washed away, then we are assured by God that sin will no longer rule over us—will no longer dominate our lives.

God promises: "For sin shall not have dominion over you: for ye are not under the [death penalty of the] law, but under grace [pardon]" (Rom. 6:14). Once we are forgiven our sins, God has solemnly promised that sin will no longer reign over us—will not control our lives!

A true Christian must continually suffer hardships and temptations of every sort. But God will not let them overcome or defeat us as long as we steadfastly look to Him for complete deliverance: "For he hath said, I will never leave thee, nor forsake thee. So that we may boldly say, The Lord is my helper, and I will not fear what man shall do unto me" (Heb. 13:5-6).

Is it God's will that His children be kept under a certain amount of pressure? He knows that we need to have continual trials, tribulations and persecutions in order to toughen us up spiritually—in order to show us how weak and helpless we are so that we will always look to Him and rely on Him for everything!

Pressure Is Essential

There are several analogies in the Bible—analogies which clearly show us why God permits us to have trials and tribulations.

The Christian is compared to precious metals—gold or silver—which have to be put into a fiery furnace in order to burn away the dross and impurities. Also, gold and silver must become molten before they can be poured into a mold. This is true with the Christian. We must at least be heated to red-hot in order to be malleable enough to be easily bent and shaped by the hands of our faithful Creator (see I Pet. 1:7; 4:12; I Cor. 3:12-15).

The Bible compares the saints to precious jewels or precious stones (Mal. 3:17). Again, it is interesting to note that diamonds, rubies and other precious jewels can only be made under terrific heat and pressure!

So it is with us. We must be subjected to the tremendous heat of our fiery trials and to the constant pressure of temptation, persecution and tribulation in order to become a precious jewel in the sight of God!

God even compares His people to common clay in the hands of the Master Potter: "But now, O Lord, thou art our father; we are the clay, and thou our potter; and we all are the work of thy hand" (Isa. 64:8).

When in Egypt I was privileged to see a potter at work. The potter must first make sure the right amount of water is mixed with the clay so it will be pliable. God reveals that the Holy Spirit is the living water (John 7:37, 38) which will enable our adamant minds and hearts to voluntarily yield to God so He can mold and fashion us into the spiritual shape, image or character of His Son Jesus Christ.

By using a very simple potter's wheel an experienced potter is able to quickly and expertly make beautiful pieces of pottery—cups, plates, bowls, vases, waterpots and jars of every description.

But, after the potter molds the clay into the desired shape, he must then bake the pottery in a fiery furnace. It is in the fiery furnace that the clay takes the permanent shape into which the potter has molded it. So it is with the Christian. Is it not in the furnace of affliction that God Almighty sets (or fixes) us in the partic-



CAN EVERYONE BE A SUCCESS?

Picture yourself five years from now, doing just what you'd like to do with your life. Now take a pen and paper, and write out what it is you'd like to accomplish or become. Congratulations! With this little exercise, you have just discovered one of the most important "secrets" for success—that of setting goals! Real success is not based on luck, on intimidation, or on "fooling most of the people most of the time."

Actually, the secrets of success can be summarized in seven basic principles that anyone can apply. The free booklet *The Seven Laws of Success* explains these vital keys and shows how you can immediately put them into practice. Use the literature request card in this issue to receive your free copy.

The Seven Laws of
SUCCESS

ular shape (or character) He would have us take for all eternity?

Endure Hardness

The Word of God compares the true Christian to a spiritual soldier for Christ: "Thou therefore endure hardness, as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (II Tim. 2:3).

Before a raw recruit can really become a good soldier, he must first take an intensive course which will toughen him up for the battles ahead.

The best soldiers have always been those who have been toughened and hardened by being subjected to hard work, exercise and discipline. So it is with the Christian. He must submit himself willingly to his Captain, Jesus Christ, and must voluntarily endure hardness—persecution, deprivation, tribulation and severe temptation—if he ever expects to become a good soldier for Jesus Christ.

And must not he put on all of the spiritual armor mentioned in the sixth chapter of Ephesians—the breastplate of righteousness, shield of faith, helmet of salvation, sword of the Word of God, and all the other pieces that make up the complete spiritual armor of a Christian?

We are commanded: "Put on the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

God Almighty knows that we tend to get flabby, spiritually speaking, when things go too smoothly. We tend to let down in our prayer, Bible study and fasting when we have very few trials, problems or persecutions.

God would like to see us prosper and be in health (III John 2), but He will even deny us these blessings if He knows that we need to suffer deprivation, affliction or persecution in order to cause us to really look to Him as our Provider and our Deliverer from all our trials.

Jesus Christ will reject anyone who remains in a lukewarm condition (Rev. 3:15-16). He doesn't want to see us become spiritually drowsy—insensitive to our Creator's wishes. God doesn't want us to be spiritual drones.

Spiritual Exercise Is Vital

God Almighty knows that it is only through the spiritual exercise of

problems, trials, tests, persecutions, temptations and tribulations that we develop real spiritual sinews and strength. If one doesn't actually tire himself with a certain amount of strenuous daily exercise, he can't develop his body to its optimum and remain in the best physical health.

So it is spiritually. If we don't daily exercise our spiritual faculties by overcoming and solving our spiritual problems, trials and hardships, then we will not remain in very good spiritual shape. We will then become spiritually weak and flabby. God doesn't want that to happen!

Whether we like it or not, this is the type of life our loving Father has ordained that we must lead. It is only those who constantly overcome who will make it into the Kingdom of God (Rev. 2, 3). Only those who exert themselves enough to hang on for dear life—to endure unto the very end—will be saved. "But he that shall endure unto the end, the same shall be saved" (Matt. 24:13).

We came into this world under terrific stress and strain—under pressure and anguish—and we will not be born into the Kingdom of God unless and until we have proven that we can withstand the pressures and strains of the everyday trials, tribulations, persecutions and temptations of this world.

"If Any Man Draw Back"

But, regrettably, some prefer to give up and quit—to turn back! What does God think of these quitters?

If we willfully, deliberately sin against God, we will never receive forgiveness (Heb. 10:25-31). "Now the just shall live by faith: but if any man draw back, my soul shall have no pleasure in him" (Heb. 10:38).

Yes, some are not willing to really fight, to endure, to labor, struggle and strive in order to make it into the Kingdom of God. Christ showed that we must really strain if we wish to make it into His Kingdom. "Strive [struggle and strain] to enter in at the strait gate: for many, I say unto you, will seek to enter in, and shall not be able" (Luke 13:24).

Furthermore, Christ revealed that it is only those who are so fervent in

their desire to make it into God's Kingdom that they are willing to be "violent" with themselves who actually make it (Matt. 11:12).

Trouble Is Certain, But . . .

The truth of the matter is that we are going to have trials and tribulations whether we obey God or not. Job declared: "Man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward" (Job 5:7). Yes, we will have troubles whether or not we obey God. But if we obey Him, He will give us the needed wisdom and strength to overcome all our trials and temptations (I Cor. 10:13).

Hardships, trials and persecutions are certain to befall all who live an upright, godly life. But these tribulations are all designed by a loving Creator to teach us to go to Him daily—completely trusting in Him for our every need, including deliverance from all our sore trials.

God declares: "If thou faint in the day of adversity [hardship], thy strength is small" (Prov. 24:10).

An all-wise, loving Creator God has deliberately designed life in such a way as to include many trials and afflictions. The Almighty even goes out of His way to rebuke and chasten us—in love—to keep us on the straight and narrow path.

Knowing this, should we not earnestly desire God's correction? You need to learn to desire—and even pray daily for—chastisement from the hand of God!

"Behold, happy is the man whom God correcteth: therefore despise not thou the chastening of the Almighty" (Job 5:17).

Don't ever forget that God corrects us for our good—because He loves us and longs to share with us the eternal inheritance of co-ownership and co-rulership of the whole universe.

Can you now clearly see how trials, temptations, pressures and hardships have been put here as a blessing in disguise? These tribulations assist us in building the kind of perfect, godly character that we need to possess throughout all eternity.

Thank God for the blessing of these trials! It is through them that we develop godly character! □



Illustrations by Garry Haggerty

WILL THEY RIDE AGAIN?

The book of Revelation contains a disturbing vision of four fearsome horsemen (Rev. 6:1-8). Each of them is a symbol of a major punishment to be inflicted upon rebellious mankind—probably in the not-too-distant future! Each represents the final, end-time culmination of a major crisis with which the world has been confronted for centuries—false religion, war, famine and disease epidemics. For an explanation of the significance of these symbolic horses and riders, send for the four free booklets illustrated. They'll let you in on the good news behind one of the most

frightening messages in all the Bible. For your free copies, send your request to our office nearest you (see inside front cover for addresses).



Personal from...

(Continued from page 1)

per week for radio time. The money came BY FAITH! Everything, from that time, came by living FAITH.

God gave miraculous answers to fervent prayer. The sick—even cancer victims—were being healed.

No operation could have started smaller. But God blessed it, and it grew at the rate of 30 percent per year for 35 years.

In 1947 God used me in founding Ambassador College—on sheer FAITH! The Church of God began to GROW—steadily.

I had to realize God was dealing with me, in principle, as He had dealt with Job. God allowed Satan to take away every material thing Job had to bring him to God—but then, after Job was humbled and brought to repentance, God DOUBLED Job's former wealth—and he had been the greatest and wealthiest man in the East.

Also my experience resembled that of the apostle Paul, in principle.

And now, 46 years after the founding of the present era of the true Church of God, the ever-living Christ continues to give me severe tests of faith.

As God's Church, then named the Radio Church of God, began to grow, God led me to incorporate it in such a manner that I would always be UNABLE to profit financially from its growth.

It is doubtful whether any institution in human history started from as humble and small beginnings. When God starts something on His power alone, it is BIG from the beginning. For example, the creation of the UNIVERSE—the creation of the earth. But when God starts something through humans, it usually, like the grain of mustard seed, starts the very smallest and most humble, and then grows as the spiritual character of the human develops.

I had rejected a salary of \$3 per week prior to the start of the Worldwide Church of God. As for me and my family, we received almost *no* financial aid at our beginning in God's service. It was, indeed, a Work of FAITH. I trusted God in faith to

supply the need. We paid \$5 per month house rent. I had to pay \$2.50 per week at the radio station—in advance—before every broadcast. God was supplying the need as He promised (Phil. 4:19).

One Sunday morning dawned without even the \$2.50 for the Sunday morning broadcast. My wife and I knelt in prayer, asking God to supply the need. I was aroused from prayer by a knock on the front door. A man at the door said, "Here's my tithe," and dashed off, saying he had to hurry for an appointment.

Another Sunday morning when I did not have the \$2.50 on hand, no one came to the front door. Yet, in faith, I started walking to the radio studio. On the way a man I did not know handed me the needed money.

I could give you the story of many other similar occurrences.

But after I was actively in God's Work, although it had to be carried on in living FAITH, we never again had to be hungry, without food—although we often did have to eat beans and the least costly food. It was a financial struggle from the beginning. After moving to Eugene, we rented a house costing \$7 per month.

After two years, I was able to add a second radio station in Portland, costing \$10 per broadcast. Once, on starting to drive to Portland for the Sunday afternoon broadcast, I lacked the \$10 I had to pay in advance. I stopped at Salem, Oregon, for lunch, and somebody—I do not now remember who—handed me the needed broadcast money.

I was still going with only one pair of shoes and one suit of clothes, but was no longer hungry.

When I was 19 years of age, a multimillionaire called me to his office. He was starting me out as an employee of his corporation, and my job would entail some long-distance rail travel. He wanted to give a young man some good advice.

"When you travel, always (when you can afford it) travel in a Pullman car. Always stay at the best hotel, even though you take their minimum-priced room. This throws you among the more successful people, and everyone we contact has an influence on us."

But when I had to stay overnight

in Portland, or a year later in Seattle, I could not afford the best-quality hotel, so I stayed at the second or third best. I always tried to live within my means.

A newspaper writer, in a story about the Worldwide Church of God, said he had learned that when royalty or overseas VIPs visited us in Pasadena, I did not take them to McDonald's or Jack-in-the-Box for lunch or dinner, but to Perino's (Los Angeles's best restaurant). But royalty is accustomed to the best in quality, and it would be virtually an insult to take people of that stature to a low-price restaurant. If I had to fast without food a few days in order to afford to take such guests to the quality place to which they are accustomed, I would do it. I do take such guests to the type place they expect to be taken.

What would I have done, when I had to go to the lowest-price places myself and had only one pair of shoes and one threadbare suit of clothes? Well, I did not have royalty or VIPs visiting me in those days. I probably would have been forced to find some way to avoid having to host them at all.

In train travel back in the 1920s, '30s and '40s, I traveled often in day coaches on trains, and ate at low-price lunch counters. But God has promised to supply all our need (Phil. 4:19), and in the Work of God in these days certain things are *necessary* in order to serve God—and He provides what is needed.

I have never engaged in extravagance. "Extravagant" is defined in the dictionary as "exceeding the limits of reason, or necessity; extremely or exceedingly elaborate, profuse or unreasonably high in price."

The best quality of things may be expensive, but not extravagant.

At this point let me inject a little current news. Some of the dissidents who brought this civil lawsuit on God's Church spread the rumor that in fact this was not a suit against me or against the Church, but against Mr. Stanley Rader. Of course, that is not true, for every effort in their power was made to take over and confiscate the Church property—to turn all management of the Church over to the court-appointed receiver. They told the press the suit was

brought against us because they claimed that both Mr. Rader and I had been "siphoning off millions of dollars every year from Church funds." That wild allegation is so utterly false I have not considered it necessary to dignify it with a denial. Our Church members have PROVED by their loyalty, financial support and loving letters that they know well such a thing is impossible.

A couple days ago Mr. Rader went in person to the deputy attorneys general, told them of this persistent rumor, and offered that, if they would dismiss all charges against me and the three corporations, he would hand them complete records of all transactions involving him, on a silver platter. They know well their charges of our stealing millions of dollars are utterly groundless. But they replied that they cannot now afford to "lose face" by admitting that it is THEY, not we, who are guilty of wrongdoing. They said it would leave them "emasculated"—using that very word! Now they are going to try to make me move to a lower-cost residence and insist I travel, when I do, at something like third-class accommodations, etc.

So I am going to see that they learn that: 1) I own absolutely NOTHING, except the property in which my wife and I now live in Tucson, Arizona, until it is safe for me to resume residence in the college-owned home on the campus in Pasadena where I have lived for 13 years; and 2) the Pasadena property and all in it belongs to Ambassador College, and cost only \$17,500 of Church or college funds.

The very purchase of that property is an example of how God has been blessing us and His Work. Here are the circumstances behind the college acquiring that property.

Dr. and Mrs. Hal Lisman wanted to move from San Pedro to Pasadena. They wanted this particular property, said it could be bought for \$37,500—a bargain of bargains at that time. They offered to put in the \$10,000 down payment. We agreed that \$5,000 of their down payment could pay for five years' rent and the other \$5,000 could be taken off their income tax as a contribution to the college.

At the end of five years, they paid

another \$10,000 for another five years' rent. When Dr. Lisman died, Mrs. Lisman housed eight girl students. When neighbors complained that the property was not zoned for taking in roomers, we had to move them out. Mrs. Lisman felt it was too large a house for her to maintain alone.

That was when I decided to live there. After the Lisman had paid \$20,000 of the \$37,500, it remained for the college to pay only the \$17,500. There was a certain amount of repairing, which was done with our own labor.

My wife Loma and I lived there around two years before her death. During the remainder of the night after her death, I remarked to my son Garner Ted that I planned to move into a small apartment, and that I didn't know how to use that large home.

"Dad," said Ted, "no other minister but you could live here. It seems to me we'll have to turn it into a student social center."

I agreed; that was its only possible use. But then came the idea of inviting all senior students each year, in a number of small groups throughout the year, for a formal dinner with me at my home. And, in doing that, I decided it would be better for me to live on there. Many students yet today will say that the formal dinners they attended were the outstanding event of their four-year college careers. That home now has a bronze sign in front of the entrance marked "PRIVATE—Student Social Center." So, if the deputy attorneys general decide I must live elsewhere, what will become of the Student Social Center?

Among those who have been entertained in that house are King Leopold III and family, Judge Nagendra Singh (India's representative on the Court of International Justice at The Hague) and his wife, Dr. Franz Josef Strauss (often called the "strong man of Europe") and his wife, the president of Tokyo University and his wife, officials from the state of Israel, and others. Another guest was Gloria Swanson, the most glamorous star of Hollywood from the silent-movie days (she was lecturing at the college).

Of course, IF these deputy attor-

neys general and these court judges demand that I move into some third- or fourth-rate shanty, it would not be a new experience for me. I did have to live in poorer circumstances than most of our brethren for many years, and I would feel right at home.

Why is it, I often wonder, that if a Hollywood movie star lives ostentatiously, that is EXPECTED?—and they do nothing more of real value than entertain people. But if the servant of the living GOD ministers to multiple thousands, leading many to ETERNAL LIFE, some people expect him to live like a tramp or pauper.

How did Jesus live? We know little of that, but there is evidence that He owned His own property in Capernaum. He wore a robe that was of extra fine quality, for it was seamless. Even Jesus was accused of "extravagance," when a woman washed His feet with precious and expensive ointment. Jesus rebuked those who criticized this.

I know what it is to be POOR! I know what it is to go HUNGRY for lack of money for food. I have lived at as low a cost of living as my position in God's service allowed. And I would be willing to do it again—but I don't think the living Jesus Christ wants me to do that again, now. In the Kingdom of God there will be no paupers, tramps, nor the VERY poor. Our God has something better in store for us!

For fifty-two years now, since my conversion, I have tried to live simply, without extravagance, and to make every dollar of God's tithes go as far in His Work as possible! But the living Jesus Christ *does* guide His apostle and shows me HOW He wants His Work managed. Every dollar is made to go farther and more effectively than in any other organization in the world—because this Work is headed and led by Jesus Christ!

And it will continue to be administered as Jesus Christ leads me—and not as some state official or a court judge would MISmanage!

This is NOT the work of man's government but the work of the living God! Attorneys general or court judges, who do NOT follow Christ, *shall not* manage or operate this precious Work of the LIVING God! □

NAMIBIA

(Continued from page 6)

the latter; and, tragically last, the moderate political leaders representing the vast majority of the people of Namibia, whose wishes have largely fallen on deaf ears at the United Nations.

The preference of the Third-World and Communist-dominated United Nations is well known; it unreservedly supports SWAPO, having declared it the "sole and authentic representative" of the Namibian people, to the exclusion of all other political parties in South West Africa. This affirmation was made years ago, despite the fact that SWAPO is predominantly an Ovambo-based group (and enjoys less than half of the support of the Ovambo population at that). Still, the U.N.'s Council for Namibia funds a SWAPO office in New York City to the tune of \$185,000 a year. And when the Namibia question is discussed at the United Nations Security Council, a SWAPO representative is automatically invited. Not invited and notably absent are representatives of the "Democratic Turnhalle Alliance," the multi-ethnic party which overwhelmingly swept Namibia's internal (non-U.N. supervised) elections last December. (Knowing it could not win the battle of the ballot, SWAPO boycotted the election.)

Given this bias on the East River, it is little wonder that responsible leaders inside Namibia seriously doubt that either the U.N. or the Western powers have the will to bring SWAPO to contest an election fair and square—or that U.N.-supervised elections in Namibia can ever be conducted impartially.

Bullets Over Ballots

The SWAPO leadership has repeatedly professed its preference for shooting its way to power in Namibia. This was reiterated in January by its representative at the U.N., Mr. Theo Ben Gunrab. SWAPO, he stressed, remained "totally and resolutely" committed to the belief that "armed struggle" was the only way to settle the future of Namibia.

In the past seven months SWAPO "freedom fighters" have backed up their resolve with over 350 separate acts of violence—from assassinations of chiefs and village headmen to abductions of schoolchildren, to the first-ever bombings in Windhoek.

As for SWAPO's regard for elections, the democratic process, and the principle of one-man-one-vote, SWAPO president Sam Nujoma said in New York in 1978: "The question of black majority rule is out. We are not fighting even for black majority rule. We are fighting to seize power in Namibia for the benefit of the Namibian people. We are revolutionaries."

Though SWAPO disdains the democratic process, the fact that it is permitted to operate as a legitimate political party inside Namibia (represented by its internal wing) shows the remarkable extent to which personal liberties are enjoyed in the territory.

"There is, in fact," report Duignan and Gann, "a good deal more personal liberty in Namibia than in Angola or under any Communist regime. SWAPO is allowed to operate in Namibia in a way not tolerated in any African one-party dictatorship or military regime. Indeed no Communist regime in the world would permit what the South African government has allowed in Namibia: the organization and political activity of a party whose purpose is to overthrow the regime."

But the wide freedoms now allowed Namibia's diverse peoples would be radically and tragically reduced if SWAPO were ever to come to power. Continue Duignan and Gann: "The future of Namibia under a SWAPO regime is not hard to predict. The Europeans presumably would leave of their own accord, or they would be driven out. . . . The party seeks to create a unified Namibian nation, based on one nationalism and one culture. In practice, SWAPO rule would entail Ovambo supremacy and would therefore lead to widespread resistance on the part of other ethnic communities. Namibia would then require a vast amount of military and economic aid from the Eastern bloc to consolidate its rule.

"This would gain enormous advantages for the Communists. SWAPO is not in a position to effectively govern Namibia. Dependent as a SWAPO government would be on foreign military and economic help, such a government might well become a Soviet client, as is the MPLA in Angola. . . .

"The position of the Western powers in the Southern Atlantic would be further weakened, a serious matter in view of its strategic importance in the worldwide pattern of Western maritime trade. If Namibia's enormous potential mineral wealth, including its vast resources in uranium, did not pass into the Soviet orbit, these resources at least could be denied to the West in case of need.

"There is no better hope for Namibia and for the world at large than the ascendancy of the moderates. Wherever radicals have come to power in recent years, bloodshed, expulsions, forced labor camps, confiscation, and 'reeducation programs' have resulted. The record of the radicals in Angola and Mozambique is disastrous; in Ethiopia it is barbaric, and elsewhere it has been inept—even if more humane."

Weak-Willed West

Despite this appallingly grim picture of what a SWAPO-ruled Namibia tied to Moscow would be like, the Western nations seem to be unable to take a firm stand for a solution to the budding Namibia crisis that would keep the territory from passing into the Communist orbit.

This has been amply demonstrated in the position of the "Western Five" Security Council members who have attempted to mediate the dispute between Pretoria and SWAPO.

Time and time again the Western powers have backed away from firmly negotiated "final" positions, caving in to a succession of SWAPO demands.

In 1977, responding to U.N. pressure, South Africa gave up on its own "internal" formula for independence of the territory.

After months of extremely difficult negotiations, South Africa, on April 25, 1978, agreed to a proposal, as put forth by the Western powers, for a plan for Namibian indepen-

dence. The proposal—which Pretoria was assured was “final and definite”—embraced the principle of free elections, under U.N. supervision, geared toward an independence date of December 31, 1978—obviously long since passed. (September 30, 1979 is the new deadline.) The groundwork of a cease-fire before elections was established. The South Africans agreed to scale down their forces in the territory to 1,500 men, provided SWAPO would cease its terrorist activities.

The proposal also unequivocally stated that the future of the coastal port enclave of Walvis Bay—South African territory never a part of the former German South West Africa—was to be treated as an entirely separate matter, “subject to discussion between the South African government and the elected government of Namibia.”

Although the Western “Big Five” claimed to have gotten SWAPO’s approval of the same “final” proposal, it wasn’t long before the agreement began to break down due to new demands made by the SWAPO high command, acting under instructions from the Soviet Union. (Once asked during an American television interview what direction SWAPO would next take, South Africa’s Prime Minister P. W. Botha answered: “That depends on what SWAPO’s ‘boss’ says—and SWAPO’s boss is in Moscow.”)

The first serious breach of the “final” proposal came in July 1978, when the “Big Five” not only voted for, but actually sponsored, a resolution in the Security Council which declared that Walvis Bay must be “reintegrated” into Namibia.

The most serious rupture of the original accord, however, occurred in February 1979. This rift is still unresolved and the situation as it stands now is so precarious that the entire independence process is on the verge of a complete breakdown.

SWAPO has presented two specific new demands: 1) that its base camps in the neighboring “Front Line” states not be subjected to U.N. monitoring, and 2) that SWAPO troops be permitted during the cease-

fire period to set up five military bases within Namibia itself!

Incredible though it may seem, the United Nations Security-General, Dr. Kurt Waldheim, has more or less bought the SWAPO idea, although the U.N. plan is worded much more cleverly.

With regard to the first point, the U.N. proposes to hand over the job of monitoring SWAPO’s bases to the “host” countries. Secondly, the U.N. proposal states that any SWAPO forces who happen to be inside Namibia during the time of the cease-fire will be “restricted to base” there.

The U.N. plan simply ushers the fox into the hen house. Neither “host country,” Angola or Zambia, is in complete control of its own territory. Even if they wanted to, they couldn’t monitor the SWAPO forces. And on the second point, SWAPO guerrillas presently have no bases in Namibia proper. Thus the U.N. plan would give them on a silver platter what they have been unable to achieve through years of fighting. During the cease-fire, with South African troops confined to their bases, the SWAPO command would effect a massive infiltration of all of its externally based troops across the border into its U.N.-provided bases.

It simply boggles the mind that the Western democratic powers would be party to such an arrangement.

And to make certain that the U.N. task force monitoring the cease-fire is more to his liking, SWAPO chief Nujoma is insisting that no soldiers from NATO countries be represented. Instead, Nujoma says he prefers the participation of African and Scandinavian countries who “showed sympathy with SWAPO.”

Says Willie le Roux of the Institute for Africa Studies at the University of Potchefstroom (South Africa): “The present crisis in SWA stems from SWAPO’s refusal to take part in the democratic process. It will prevent elections for as long as it possibly can, and for this reason makes impossible demands on South Africa in order to make South Africa out to be the culprit. . . .

“Nujoma is regularly advised from Moscow and this latest demand is part of the strategy of continually

showing up Western inability to take a firm stand.”

Realignment of Southern Africa

As things stand at the moment, there appears to be little or no chance that the South African government will accept the latest gross deviations from the original proposal. Moderate leaders inside Namibia, constituting the majority of the assembly elected last December, have already asked Pretoria to take the first steps toward implementing an interim government.

All along, Pretoria has said it would respect the wishes of the majority of the Namibian people. It has also repeatedly said it would not run away from its responsibility to guarantee the safety of SWA’s diverse and scattered peoples.

The stage, therefore, could be set for an “internal” settlement of the political crisis similar to the one which now bedevils Rhodesia. Ironically, this is what the men in the Kremlin would prefer as well.

An internal settlement would not receive international recognition. SWAPO, excluded from power, would be portrayed as the injured party. The guerrilla war would heat up more than ever, with South African defense forces—“the bad guys”—drawn into the conflict deeper than ever.

At the United Nations, the Western members of the Security Council would probably no longer resist demands for economic sanctions against South Africa—sanctions which if imposed would seriously harm their own economies.

South Africa is now reconciled to the likelihood of sanctions. Unless the U.N. and the West come to reason, Pretoria has no choice but to stay in Namibia and defend its 750-mile-long border with radical Angola.

South Africa also intends to work closely with Zimbabwe-Rhodesia’s newly elected black majority government. In turn, Prime Minister Bishop Abel Muzorewa advocates continued close commercial and military ties with South Africa and the creation of an economic community embracing several countries in the subcontinent.

These and other moves are serving notice on the West that a new, neutralized alignment of forces may be underway in southern Africa.

Moscow's Goals

The Soviet Union, unperceived to most in the West who see the struggle in southern Africa in purely a social or racial light, has two principal objectives in its Namibia policy. First, in backing SWAPO to the hilt, it aims to turn another emerging nation into a client state, claiming another victory in the "international class struggle."

Second—and far more important—a Marxist Namibia would provide a new springboard for terrorism directed at South Africa. The overthrow of the capitalist, Western-oriented government in Pretoria remains Russia's ultimate objective in Africa, as stated time and again in Soviet strategic readings. The primary purpose in this regard is to deprive the Western world of the region's vast mineral wealth, or to hold it hostage at high ransom.

A recent American intelligence report reaching the White House warns that in the case of four strategic minerals—chromite, manganese, vanadium and platinum—the Soviet Union would become the dominant supplier if South Africa were out of the market.

An editorial in the April 23, 1979 issue of *Aviation Week and Space Technology* said this: "The President of Somalia, situated on the strategic Horn of Africa, recently told top-level British officials that Soviet leaders had made it bluntly clear to him when he was their temporary ally that their current policy had two goals:

"First, pinch off the oil of the Middle East from the economic systems of the West.

"Second, disrupt and deny the mineral resources of Africa on which the Western industrial nations are dependent."

While the Soviet Union portrays itself as the champion of the oppressed, its professed concern for the welfare of the African people is hypocritical in the extreme. Its aims are purely geopolitical, and because the West is paralyzed over South Afri-

ca's internal affairs, it has a relatively free hand to stir up trouble.

The naive societies of the West apparently can no longer recognize who their real enemy is.

Africa's "Common Market"

Few people realize how closely intertwined the economies of the nations of southern Africa really are—and why the Communists want to break things up to their advantage.

The facts of geography, natural resources and national development, moreover, dictate that the economic pulsebeat of the entire region be the Republic of South Africa. It is the transportation and communications hub of the entire subcontinent (from Zaire's Shaba province southwards). It supplies the bulk of necessary foodstuffs and manufactures.

Even outside the region, the much-maligned country plays an indispensable economic role. Nearly all the nations of black Africa trade with the "colossus of the South," either openly or covertly.

The imposition of trade sanctions against South Africa, as a result of the Namibian impasse or for any other reason, would send the economies of many black African nations reeling. Most of them would suffer far more than the largely self-sufficient republic.

Namibia itself is tied into the South African economy in literally thousands of ways. South Africa provides many of its skilled managers and technicians. It provides the major source of capital investments as well as guaranteeing markets and marketing services for the bulk of Namibia's exports. Pretoria subsidizes Namibia's budgetary deficits and directly funds costly irrigation and hydroelectric projects. It operates vital services such as telecommunications, railways, the postal system, schools and health services. Is all of this to be jeopardized on the altar of revolutionary politics?

Authors Duignan and Gann, quoted earlier, say this about Namibia's future—and by extension, the future of many of the countries in this part of the world: "The country's economic and social advance has been impressive. American academi-

cians would certainly have made much of this progress had it been achieved in a socialist country under socialist auspices. . . . No future Namibian government can cut the South African connection then without incurring speedy and perhaps irreversible economic disaster."

Age of Unreason

The outlook for peace in southern Africa in general and Namibia in particular is not good. An editorial in the newspaper *Die Vaderland* states, rather gloomily: "If a compromise [over Namibia] is worked out sensibly there is still hope—but then one probably has to remember that we live in a world in which there is not often room made for a reasonable point of view."

How true. We live in an age of unreason, of intractability in many quarters. This is, as readers of *The Plain Truth* know, not God's world, but Satan's. And everywhere Satan is stirring up the wrath of "nation against nation" (Matthew 24:7). This is happening with increased intensity the closer we come to the end of this world and the dawning of the wonderful world tomorrow, the reign of the Kingdom of God.

"The greatest lesson in the events" unfolding in southern Africa, noted one observer, "is that there can only be mutual advantages if there is economic, technical and other cooperation."

Again, very true. All peoples of this troubled region must learn to live together in harmony and mutual respect. The alternative is, to borrow the phrase of former South African Prime Minister John Vorster, "too ghastly to contemplate."

Another very apt saying concerning the human complexities of southern Africa goes like this: "You can shoot a zebra in either a white stripe or a black stripe—but the animal dies nevertheless."

Tragically, one senses that we will have to wait for the world tomorrow in order for southern Africa to achieve the utopia some of the region's economic theorists have long envisioned. It certainly won't occur under the brutality of Communist totalitarianism. □

CHURCH

(Continued from page 3)

not true today. Second, the Holy Spirit came *suddenly*—they did not “work it up” by emotionally shouting, as is usual in such meetings today. Third, the Holy Spirit came with a *sound*—they *heard* it—like a blast of a rushing mighty wind. No such thing occurs today. Fourth, the Holy Spirit is here twice called “it,” not “he”—not a ghost or personage. Fifth, they *saw* the Holy Spirit. It appeared as divided tongues *like fire*. This was actually *seen*, sitting on each of the 120. No such thing is ever repeated in so-called “Pentecostal” meetings today!

Now, further, do they today speak with the *same kind* of tongues? Here again the REAL Pentecost experience is not in any sense duplicated today. Read on:

“... There were dwelling at Jerusalem Jews, devout men, out of every nation under heaven. Now when this was noised abroad [word spread rapidly of this once-only amazing experience—hearing and seeing the Holy Spirit], the multitude came together, and were confounded, because that *every man heard them* [the 120] speak in his own language” (Acts 2:5-6).

Study this again carefully. The Mede among these devout Jews who came running in heard *them*—the 120—speaking the language of the Medes. And he understood what they were saying! The one Mede heard and understood 120 Galileans speaking the language of the Medes! But the Parthian heard *them*—the same 120—speaking his Parthian language! And so on! It was not a gibberish—unintelligible—as “tongues people” speak in their meetings today! And it needed no interpreter. I well remember experiences in such meetings, where in service after service the same man rose to interpret—and although the gibberish of different ones was entirely different, the “interpretation” had been memorized, and in every case was the same! I saw that kind of experience drive sincere people hungry for God’s truth away in disgust!

Let me add here that God’s Holy Spirit is the Spirit of a SOUND MIND

(II Timothy 1:7). The one and only original Church of God was founded that day of Pentecost, A.D. 31. They were all of SOUND mind—like-minded—of ONE accord.

God Adds to His Church

The multitude who came running in were all amazed—in wonderment doubting and asking, “What does this mean?”

Then God’s chief apostle, Peter, stood up to explain—to deliver to these thousands the first inspired sermon by an apostle.

These devout Jews were “pricked in their heart” by Peter’s sermon and asked, “What shall we do?”

Peter gave no twentieth-century “altar call”—pleaded with none to talk them into conversion—but answered their question, saying, “Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Spirit” (Acts 2:38). It was the power of the Holy Spirit that had struck straight in their hearts. GOD HAD CALLED THEM!

“Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there *were added* unto them about three thousand souls” (Acts 2:41).

“And they continued steadfastly in the *apostles’ doctrine*...” (verse 42).

Note here this important point! They did not appoint among themselves a “doctrinal committee” to decide intellectually in which doctrines they could believe God’s apostle. God gave them the true doctrine through His apostle, and they continued together with one accord in “the *apostles’ doctrine* and fellowship.”

Now WHO added members to the Church? Not apostolic or evangelical salesmanship—but “the LORD added to the church daily such as should be saved [were to be saved]” (Acts 2:47).

Apostles Preached; Church Backed Them

But what was the FOUNDATION of the Church? It is referred to as a “building,” and a solid building must be built on a solid foundation.

Of course Jesus Christ is the foundational Rock. But the Church is

built on the FOUNDATION of the apostles (New Testament) and prophets (Old Testament), Jesus Christ Himself being the chief CORNERSTONE (Ephesians 2:20). Jesus taught the apostles. The CHURCH followed the apostles’ doctrine. Lay members were not free to set, change or decide doctrinal TRUTH—but only to receive and *believe* it.

A day or two after the Church was founded, Peter and John went up to the Temple. At the Beautiful Gate entrance was a crippled beggar, lame from birth. Peter, being asked for alms, took the cripple by the right hand, lifted him up, saying, “In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth, rise up and walk” (Acts 3:1-6). “And he leaping up stood, and walked, and entered with them into the temple...” (verse 8).

The beggar was known to all. This miracle drew a huge crowd. Peter, explaining, preached to them about the resurrection of Jesus. He proclaimed the good news of the Kingdom, saying the heaven had received Jesus *until* the time of restoration of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD by the KINGDOM OF GOD (Acts 3:20-21).

As Peter spoke, the priests, the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them and threw them into prison for the night.

Next morning, Peter and John were brought before the rulers, elders, scribes, the high priest and his family. Peter spoke briefly but boldly to them. They then threatened the apostles, forbidding them to preach any further about Christ and His Kingdom.

Peter and John, though now inspired by the Holy Spirit, were human, and naturally were somewhat shaken up and frightened.

Being released, they went immediately for moral support and encouragement to “their own company” (Acts 4:23), the Church.

The Church “lifted up their voice to God with one accord” (verse 24). And when they (the Church) had prayed, God answered by shaking the place where they were assembled, filling them with His Spirit, courage and power.

Another incident: The apostles had continued preaching, healing the sick and performing miracles. God added to the Church, but also the

persecution grew. Peter again had been imprisoned. Steven had been stoned to death. In Acts 8:1 "...there was a great persecution against the church... and they were all scattered abroad throughout the regions of Judaea and Samaria, except the apostles."

By the following Passover, persecution had mounted. "About that time Herod the king stretched forth his hands to vex certain of the church. And he killed James the brother of John with the sword. And because he saw it pleased the Jews, he proceeded further to take Peter also. (Then were the days of unleavened bread.) And when he had apprehended him, he put him in prison... intending after [Passover] to bring him forth to the people. Peter therefore was kept in prison..." (Acts 12:1-5).

Why Members Called

Now came another example of how the Church stood back of the apostles. Remember, the word *apostle* means "one sent forth." Jesus had given the great commission to Peter and the apostles. The other members of the Church were not sent forth with the gospel. They were called to support and encourage the apostles in getting out the gospel message, as GOD'S MEANS of developing in them God's holy, righteous CHARACTER, qualifying them for places as kings and priests in the KINGDOM!

So here came *another incident* showing how the Church supported the apostles. Continue, verse 5 of Acts 12: "...but prayer was made without ceasing of the church unto God for him"—Peter. The brethren stood loyally 100 percent back of God's apostles.

What happened when the Church so unceasingly prayed? "...The same night Peter was sleeping between two soldiers, *bound with two chains*: and the keepers before the door kept the prison. And, behold, the angel of the Lord came upon him, and a light shined in the prison: and he smote Peter on the side, and raised him up, saying, Arise up quickly. And his chains fell off from his hands" (verses 6-7), and Peter followed the angel on out of the prison. Peter fled on to Caesarea.

Jesus gave His GREAT COMMISSION

to the apostles—those sent forth with the message. The lay brethren *were added* to the Church to *support* the apostles.

The Great Commission

Notice the GREAT COMMISSION as recorded by Matthew: "Now the eleven disciples [Judas had left them] went to Galilee, to the mountain to which Jesus had directed them. ... And Jesus came and said to them [not the whole Church], All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. GO, THEREFORE, and make disciples of all nations. ... " Notice, "make disciples OF," or within all nations. A disciple is a student—one learning, being taught. "... baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. ... " Notice here, this does not and cannot refute Jesus' own statement that "NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father which hath sent me draw him." The GREAT COMMISSION was not a commission to try to persuade ALL in those nations to come to Christ. Jesus said plainly, "... make disciples OF [within] all nations." He referred to those whom God had *called*—and they were, comparatively, exceedingly FEW by proportion to the whole population. Then Jesus continued, "... teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Matthew 28:16-20, Revised Standard Version).

The apostles were NOT sent forth on a soul-saving crusade, but to TEACH those whom God had called and made willing to listen. That is what God's apostle does to this day. Today we are able to utilize modern methods of MASS COMMUNICATION—radio, television, the printing press. We TEACH the good news of the coming KINGDOM to those whom God calls and makes willing to listen. In this way we TEACH and PROCLAIM the true GOSPEL MESSAGE to many MILLIONS worldwide. Our magazine, *The Plain Truth*, has more than TWO MILLION subscribers, and estimates are that each copy is read by at least three people—actually reaching six or seven MILLION people! And we teach all *who willingly listen* to observe all that God commanded His apostles!

Now notice Mark's account of the

GREAT COMMISSION: "Afterward he appeared unto the eleven. ... And he said unto them, GO YE into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature" (Mark 16:14, 15). Naturally Jesus did not mean every human being on earth—but all they might reach who would hear. "He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved. ..." Yet only those God *called* would be able to believe—for Jesus meant they should believe what was SAID—believe the GOOD NEWS!

However, this is quoted from the 1611 King James Version, but nearly all other translations omit it, saying Mark did not write the words beginning in verse 9 through the end of the chapter, but that they were added by some later editor trying to make it harmonize with Matthew 28:18-19.

But the great commission was given to the apostles—not the Church as a whole—although as cited above, the Church completely, prayerfully, wholeheartedly backed up and supported the apostles. That was their part in the great commission. □

(To Be Continued)

WHERE WILL YOU BE IN THE NEXT LIFE?

Yes, there is life after death. But it's not at all like the "heaven" and "hell" concepts commonly believed. If you'd like to have a better understanding of what the Bible says about the next life, why not request two free booklets *What Will You Be Doing in the Next Life?* and *Just What Do You Mean... Salvation?* To obtain your copies, use the literature request card in this issue.



orchids & onions

L E T T E R S

Jews Are a Nation Again

The Egyptian-Israeli peace efforts need the clarification of the ancient background of the Arab-Jew situation you give in your article ["Jews Are a Nation Again"]. Such information is much better than the emotional terrorist approach.

Edna Kennedy,
Ukiah, California

Please discontinue sending me further issues of *The Plain Truth*. I am particularly outraged with your biased anti-Arab and pro-Zionist article "Jews Are a Nation Again." I pray for the victory of the Arab and the final destruction of the illegal state of Israel!

Wan Muda Wan Yahaya,
Stillwater, Oklahoma

I believe your article to be somewhat misleading. It stated: "The Jews in Palestine declared themselves a nation." Not a mention that the U.N. voted for the establishment of two states—one to be Jewish, one Arab (the latter rejected it).

However, another *Plain Truth* article, "Mideast Treaty: Peace or Empty Promises?," very fairly presents Israel's dilemma. Mr. Armstrong warns that only the "give" principle will produce results. To whom is that warning applied? Israel? What if the present Egyptian government is followed by another with opposing viewpoints? Then, it seems, Israel will have given away much—for nothing! Why wasn't Mr. Armstrong's "give" plea addressed to Egypt?

B. Brodsky,
Brooklyn, New York

A Jewish neighbor of mine saw your February *Plain Truth*. "The plain truth," she said, "is that many Christians could never let us live in peace with our Judaism." She pointed out that the beautiful paragraph by Stanley Rader ("only God's laws, laws based upon love of God and love of neighbor, will permit what all people of goodwill so avidly yearn for—peace and prosperity, health and happi-

ness for people everywhere") contradicts all the bigotry about the Jews having to confess their sins, loathe themselves for ignoring God, etc., on the next page. As my neighbor said: "They always want to convert us. Don't they realize that we are very content with our religion?"

Iris McDonald,
Baltimore, Maryland

Simon the Sorcerer Repentant?

On page 5 of the January 1979 *Plain Truth*, Mr. Armstrong states: "By A.D. 33 the Pater-leader of the Babylonian mystery religion, one Simon the Sorcerer (Acts 8:9-24), falsely claimed Christianity and applied that name to his religion." After searching the Scriptures, and especially Acts 8:9-24, I find the last words recorded seem to show Simon to be repentant. Mr. Armstrong's statement is probably correct but not thoroughly shown to be true. Could we have a clarification of this in the next *Plain Truth*?

Ken Bryant,
Port Credit, Ontario, Canada

Editor's Note: "I perceive," said the apostle Peter, according to the King James Version, "that thou [Simon] art in the gall of bitterness, and in the bond of iniquity." But what he really said was: "I see you are a bitter poison and a bundle of iniquity" (Goodspeed; the Moffat translation is very similar). In other words, Peter was in effect prophesying of Simon's future role as a deceiver and a snare to Christians. The following verse does not indicate Simon repented, as one might think at first glance. Notice that instead of changing his attitude or his actions or seeking real contact with God, Simon merely responded, "You pray for me, that the things you said won't happen to me," while he kept on following his own ways.

Later history shows some of what Simon did do. The fourth-century church historian Eusebius mentions repeatedly that Simon and other false teachers who followed his lead and started their own churches all called themselves Christian, but did not teach the doctrine of Christ.

Justin Martyr, who lived in the second century, also brands Simon as the arch heretic, as do other early writings.

Onions for "Orchids and Onions"

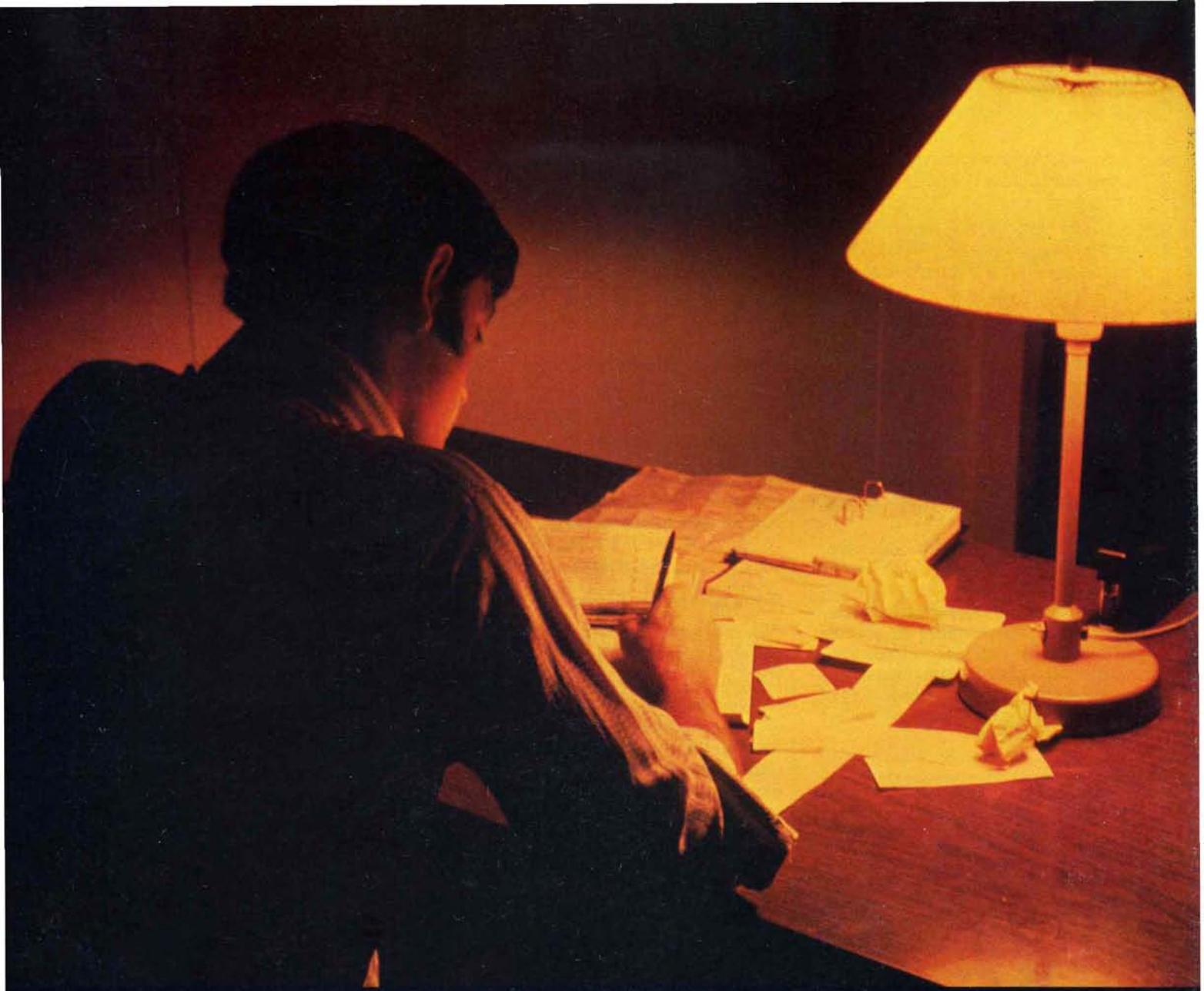
One of the letters in the March *Plain Truth* caught my attention. It was from a lady named Norton who asked why Mr. Armstrong visited foreign dignitaries but not American leaders. I was disappointed that you did not answer the letter since I have asked myself the same question. Why even print letters if you are not going to answer them?

William Callisto,
Reading, Pennsylvania

I have to take issue with the "Orchids and Onions" page. I've never cared for the debating approach on doctrinal subjects or subjects based on principles of the Bible. Now I'm not saying questions should not be answered, but I prefer the question-and-answer approach. Almost every day many of us are subject to opinions like the ones in the April issue of *The Plain Truth* where the readers' minds are only open to evidence that fits their mold of the Bible. We have it enough without *The Plain Truth* printing opinions of people who just don't understand. Let's print the "plain truth" and say it like it is, correct ourselves when we're wrong, and leave the debates to the world.

Chris Holding,
Kalispell, Montana

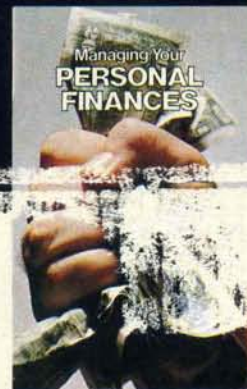
Editor's Note: "Orchids and Onions," like similar features in other magazines, is devoted primarily to the expression of reader opinion. We try to balance varied and opposing views, believing that one person's comment or expression is usually the best response to another's opinion. Many questions are only rhetorical, being used for the purpose of expressing praise (or its opposite), or offering a suggestion, as in Ms. Norton's letter mentioned above. So generally we engage in dialogue only when a response from us can set the record straight or prevent obvious doctrinal error from passing itself off as truth.



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