

The PLAIN TRUTH

A magazine of understanding

VOL. XIX, NUMBER 1

JANUARY, 1954

Prophesied to Happen to the UNITED STATES!

Our people would be dumbfounded!—if they knew! The American and British governments would make drastic changes immediately in their foreign policies, IF THEY KNEW!

With this 20th anniversary number, we begin the publication, serially, of Mr. Armstrong's forthcoming book—the most startling and eye-opening book, we believe, of this generation.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

WHY HAVE our nations not been warned of this before?

It's time this great American nation, together with the British Commonwealth, knew the staggering turn of events prophesied for them in the next few years.

This has never, to my knowledge, been published before. Yet 90%, approximately, of all Biblical prophecy is concerned with it! And a third of the entire Bible is *prophecy*! WHY has it been ignored?

We of the United States and British Commonwealth nations are involved as the central powers in soon-to-occur world-shaking events that will dwarf the first two world wars to insignificance. Our immediate destiny is laid bare in these momentous prophecies. If we *knew*, we could change our course and avert the most colossal disaster of all history. If *you* know, you can have complete protection.

But our peoples do not know!

Our statesmen and heads of govern-

ment do not know—and will not believe!

If our peoples and their leaders have become too dull of hearing to comprehend, or too stiff-necked to heed, the Eternal our God has decreed that this warning must nevertheless be published as a witness, that they be left without excuse.

Prophecies Grievously Misunderstood

The prophecies of the Bible have been grievously misunderstood.

And no wonder! For the vital KEY, without which prophetic doors cannot be opened to understanding, had become lost. That key is a definite knowledge of the true identity of the American and British peoples in prophecy.

And even the very few who, in our time, have at last come to recognize our prophetic identity, have somehow been totally blinded to *what is prophesied* for our immediate future!

WHERE do we find the United States and Britain, together with the democratic

nations of Northwestern Europe, mentioned in Biblical prophecies? Yes, WHERE?

Think this through! We are the wealthiest of nations. We have been the most powerful. We are of the same family of peoples. Together we possess more than two-thirds of all the wealth and developed resources of the world. All other nations, combined, have little more than a fourth distributed among them.

Amazing though it is, we have acquired nearly all of our national wealth and greatness since the year 1800! Never in history did anything like this occur. Never did any people or nation spread out and grow so rapidly and suddenly into such magnitude of wealth and power. Never was any people so rich. Why?

Could Prophecy Ignore Us?

Consider, too, that our peoples constitute the HOME, and the last defense, of what true Christianity may survive. It is

our peoples who have sent missionaries into every land. It is our nations who have printed and distributed Bibles by unbelievable millions of copies in the languages of all peoples.

We know that Bible prophecies refer definitely to Ethiopia, Libya, Egypt, Greece—and, through other terms of identification to Russia, Turkey, Italy, and others. *Could* these prophecies of twentieth-century world disturbances, then, ignore world-dominant Christian-professing powers like the United States and the British Commonwealth nations? Is it reasonable?

Assuredly it is not. Nor are we ignored! The plain truth is, we are mentioned more often than any other race or nation! Yet our true identity has been hidden from the many, and only recently revealed to the very few.

The plain and simple Bible story of our ancestry, and our modern prophetic identity, is the most amazing—the most astounding—the most fascinating and interesting story you ever read. It is really the story-thread of the Bible itself. It's TRUE. Yet no story of fiction ever was so strange, so absorbing, so packed with suspense and interest, as this gripping story of the Bible.

Our Wealth Promised Abraham

Millenniums ago, this same national greatness, wealth and power was promised by the Almighty to Abraham. Yet few have ever noticed this astonishing fact in Scripture.

We must realize, if we would understand the Bible, its prophecies, or national identities, a peculiar fact. The Holy Bible is the particular Book of a definite nationality—the children of ISRAEL. It is undeniable! It's history, from Genesis to Revelation, is primarily the history of one nation or people—the Israelites. Other nations are mentioned only insofar as they come into contact with Israel.

All its prophecy, too, pertains primarily to this people of ISRAEL, and to other nations only insofar as they come into contact with Israel.

The Bible tells of these Israelites and their God. It was inspired by the God of Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, committed to writing through Israelites exclusively, and was preserved until after the New Testament was written by these Israelites.

In its sacred passages we read that all the promises and the covenants of God, all the sonship and the glory, belong solely to ISRAEL. (Romans 9:4).

The Bible is an Israelitish Book, pre-eminently of and for the Israelitish nationality, inspired by their God, through their prophets! Is it not, indeed, strange that we English-speaking peoples, together with those of the democratic nations of Northwestern Europe, are today the greatest believers in and exponents

of this Book of the Hebrew people—that we are the chief worshippers of Israel's God and Israel's Messiah?

The more these facts are realized, the more apparent it becomes that a full knowledge of these Israelites is necessary to a right understanding of the Holy Bible, which is chiefly concerned with them as a people.

Let us remember, as we approach this fascinating story, that the Bible is concerned with the material, the fleshly, the literal, racial and NATIONAL, as well as with the spiritual. Let us not spiritualize away national things, nor nationalize spiritual things. Let us UNDERSTAND the sacred Word of God as it is!

Nation Began With One Man

Before the days of Moses, there was no nation on earth known as God's particular nation. Prior to Moses there was no written Word of God—no inspired Scriptures—no Holy Bible.

Think of it! For more than two thousand five hundred years—*two and a half millenniums*—mankind existed without any written revelation from God. The only historic record of God's dealing with mankind prior to Israel is the revealed history of the Bible. And of the entire Bible, only the first Book, Genesis is devoted to the history of that first 2500 years—almost *half* of the existence of human life upon earth! And only the first eleven of the fifty chapters of Genesis are devoted to the entire history of the world prior to Abraham—the first approximately 2,000 years—more than one-third of its entire span!

God began this world with just one man—Adam. Whatever God does through human agencies must start the smallest, and, like the grain of mustard seed, grow big. To this first man God communicated directly and personally. God revealed all essential knowledge otherwise inaccessible to the human mind.

The basic essentials of all knowledge—what *is* man?—WHY is he here?—what's the PURPOSE of life?—what is the WAY of life that will produce peace, health, prosperity, happiness and joy?—what is man's END—his destiny?—God revealed this basis of all knowledge to the first man.

God revealed HIMSELF to Adam—the Eternal Creator-Ruler of earth and all the universe. God revealed to Adam that he was only mortal—that he was here to learn and of his own volition choose to live THE WAY of God's Law, under God's rule, to achieve perfect happiness and righteous character. God revealed that under these conditions he could inherit eternal life in the Kingdom of God, freely offered through the symbolic tree of LIFE in the Garden of Eden. But God also revealed that Adam was mortal flesh, of the dust of the ground, and that the

penalty for self-will in disobedience would be DEATH for eternity.

But Adam listened to Satan and leaned to his own human understanding. Making God out a liar he reasoned that he was already an immortal soul. He disobeyed God, and set out on the human course of greed and vanity. He was driven from the Garden of Eden, lest he now take of the tree of LIFE, and gain immortality in unhappiness and suffering.

As men began to multiply on earth, Adam's son's followed in his Satan-inspired human-nature course. Abel was called righteous; Enoch walked with God; and Noah was a preacher of righteousness, which is, simply, *obedience* to GOD's government (Ps. 119:172). Aside from these three and possibly Shem, there is no record that ANY man, prior to Abraham, yielded to the rule of the Eternal God.

After the flood, men surely should have learned their lesson. But human nature is enmity toward—hostile against—God (Rom. 8:7). And in only the third generation from Noah a man of great capacity and leadership rose up who set out to "emancipate" men from the rule of God. Nimrod made *himself* a ruler. He was the world's first despot (Gen. 10:8—Moffatt translation). He built the first cities this side of the flood—Nineveh, Babylon, and others.

As he was the world's first HUMAN king, his wife, Semiramis, was its first queen. As Nimrod "emancipated" mankind from the RULE of God, Semiramis "freed" the human race from the WORSHIP of God, and by use of secrecy, mysticism and deception set herself up as the object of worship. She became the idolatrous "Queen of Heaven," (Jer. 13:18). She was the originator of idol worship. From her sprang the world's religions, which have evolved into different forms in different nations.

As the earth rapidly repopulated and nations developed and grew, men lost all knowledge of the true Creator-Ruler and of His revelation of man's composition and nature, his purpose, the WAY of God to peace and happiness, and to life eternal. Man pursued his *own* ways and devices, walking contrary to the spiritual laws of God. Once again sin and violence filled the earth.

It was in such a world, strayed FAR from God and the glorious benefits of God's rule and the worship of the true God, that the Eternal selected one man who was honest and upright, submissive and teachable, strong and purposeful, and gave him a test-command of obedience.

To this man, Abram, God commanded, "Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee:

(Please continue on page 13)

Does GOD Exist?

Can the existence of God be scientifically proved? Where did the first life come from? Can we know whether God possesses MIND power? Here is Mr. Armstrong's reply to the atheist, as broadcast over the ABC network, Coast to Coast, and to all Europe and Britain over the super-power Radio Luxembourg.

by Herbert W. Armstrong

MAKE no mistake! . . . there's a CAUSE for the disturbances, the unhappiness, and all the suffering in the world today!

People everywhere long for PEACE prosperity, happiness. But our leaders are unable to point the way! We live in a world of perplexity—a world groping in the dark in a vain search for the knowledge of the WAY OUT of world chaos, and of individual empty and unhappy lives.

I wonder if you ever stopped to reflect that the unhappy conditions of this twentieth century have followed in the wake of an educational trend? This trend has gripped human leaders in its clutch! It is a drift into materialism, in which spiritual and moral values have relaxed, and men have become increasingly more skeptical about the existence of GOD, until today most of mankind has FORGOTTEN GOD! The world today has become totally unmindful of the *PURPOSE BEING WORKED OUT HERE BELOW!*

Is God a Myth?

Let's face this question! Is it rational to believe in God? Is God a myth—an invention of an ignorant, superstitious past? Many have asked me that question.

In today's upset and chaotic world, the question of religion is disturbing increasing numbers of people. Many want the TRUTH! They are through taking things for granted, blindly assuming what is popularly taught. They want to KNOW! They want PROOF!

You know, I think *you* ought to feel the same way about it!

The place to start an honest search for the TRUTH is GOD, Himself. It ought to be the very first question in every life to ask,—and to prove— **WHETHER GOD EXISTS!**

So, LOOK ABOUT YOU, today! How did this earth come to be here—and all life upon it? Where did force and energy come from—and all the continuous automatic action we term the laws of physics and of chemistry? The sun, the moon, the planets—the stars

and galaxies in the heavens—how did this all come to be? Did they all come by the processes postulated in the theory of evolution—or IS THERE A SUPREME CREATOR?

The FACTS of Science

There are those who reject any inspiration or AUTHORITY in the Bible. So let's look, first, to *the facts of science*. What has science actually determined?

Well, first, the discovery of radio-activity in the past half century has proved that *there has been no past eternity of matter*. There was a time when *matter did not exist*.

Listen to the thrilling disclosure brought to light by the discovery of radio-active elements! Radio activity is described as a process of disintegration. The atomic age is opening new fields to explore! Until about 50 years ago, it was supposed that the smallest particle of matter was the hydrogen atom. But the discovery of radio-activity, in 1898, revealed an infinitely smaller unit—so small, it requires 1,845 of these particles to equal the mass of one hydrogen ATOM—actually a small particle of negative electricity, called an electron. Soon it was discovered that radium and the other radio-active elements are continually throwing off radiations at an enormous rate.

You can see this, yourself, in the dark-room of an X-ray laboratory. A tiny portion of radium is placed on a mirror at the far end of a hollow tube. You look into this tube through a magnifying glass at the end opposite the mirror. Under this magnification you will be startled to see what will appear as a large, vast dark sky, and out of that sky you will see thousands of shooting stars hurtling toward you from all directions! Actually what you will see are these emanations, or tiny particles being emitted by the radium, greatly magnified.

Astounding Evidence of Radio-Activity

Now listen carefully! Understand

what this newly-disclosed fact of science MEANS: Uranium is a radio-active element heavier than radium. It has an atomic weight of 238.5. It gives off a helium atom, weight 4, repeated three times, and the substance left is radium, atomic weight about 226.4. Radium is simply the end-product of uranium after it has lost three helium atoms. Then the radium continues to emit these infinitely minute light-particles, and the final product of this process of radio-active disintegration is the element lead. Of course this process requires great periods of time. The calculated "life" or, as it is technically termed, "half-life," of radium is 2,500 years—that of uranium much longer.

So what, then, is the significance of this great scientific discovery? Simply this: Within a definite space of time in the future, unless in the meantime there is a new *special creation* of these elements, there will be no radium, no thorium, no uranium! Why? They will have disintegrated by the radio-active process into lead!

These elements exist only for a definite span of years. There was a time, prior to the duration of this span in the past, when these elements DID NOT EXIST!

Here we have definite scientific proof that MATTER HAS NOT ALWAYS EXISTED. Here we have definite specific elements which once, in the long ago, did not yet exist. Then there was a time, later, when these elements CAME INTO EXISTENCE.

Try to imagine, if you can, *something* coming into existence out of *nothing* GRADUALLY! Can your mind entertain the idea?

I think not. No, I think if you are rational you will *have* to accept the fact of a special and necessarily instantaneous CREATION. And SOME POWER—SOME GOD—had of necessity to do the creating. There is a cause for every effect. And in accepting that inevitable FACT, *proved* by findings of Science, of the existence of that GREAT FIRST CAUSE, *we have accepted the FACT of the existence, and pre-existence of the Creator—GOD*. That's merely one scientific

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as the Lord provides. Address
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NOTICE: Be sure to notify us immediately
of any change in your address. IMPORTANT!

proof of GOD. Now let's look at even
more conclusive proof.

Amusing Beliefs of "Science"

You'll be surprised,—and not a little
amused,—at some of the past experi-
ences, and present findings of scientific
research.

And now, what about the presence of
LIFE? Where did LIFE come from?

The wisest of the ancients did not
know what Science makes available
today. Aristotle believed and taught
that lower forms of animal life, includ-
ing fleas, worms, mice and frogs, just
simply sprung up spontaneously from
the moist earth. Let me quote to you
what he said: "All dry bodies," declared
Aristotle, "which become damp, and
all damp bodies which are dried, en-
gender animal life." The wise of the
world once believed, according to Ver-
gil, that bees were produced from the
putrifying entrails of a young bull.
And as late as the reign of Louis XIV, a
celebrated alchemist, Van Helmont,
wrote: "The smells which arise from the
bottom of morasses produce frogs, slugs,
leeches, frasses, and other things."

Would you like his recipe for pro-
ducing a pot of mice? All that is neces-
sary, according to this "authority," is to
fill a vessel with corn and plug up the
mouth of the vessel with an old dirty
shirt. In about twenty-one days, the fer-
ment arising from the dirty shirt re-
acting with the odor from the corn will
transmute the corn into mice! Yes, be-
lieve it or not, this good doctor assured
the world he had witnessed the phe-
nomenon himself. "The mice are born
full-grown, both male and female," he
assured a gullible world.

Yes, strange as it may seem, such

nonsense was the "science" of this world
not much more than two centuries ago!
It was during the days of such beliefs
that the theory of evolution began to
emerge. They believed, then, in the old
pagan doctrine of spontaneous genera-
tion.

The first important step toward re-
futation of this theory did not occur
until the year 1668. In Italy, Redi
happened to observe that decomposing
meat was always surrounded by mag-
gots. Of course the general belief was
that this maggot *life* sprang by some
kind of spontaneous generation out of
the *death* of the decaying meat.

Only "After Its Kind"

Redi put the idea to a real test. He
devised an experiment to keep the flies

away from actual contact with the meat.
He observed that the meat putrified as
usual, but did not breed maggots, while
the same kind of meat exposed to flies
swarmed with them. Next he placed
some meat in jars, covered only with
fine wire gauze. The smell of the meat
attracted the flies as usual, but they
could not reach the meat. Thus it was
seen that LIFE COMES ONLY FROM LIFE,
and that each *kind* reproduced *only*
after its kind (Gen. 1:25).

The works of Tyndall and Louis Pas-
teur, in the field of bacteria and pro-
tozoa, have finally demonstrated scien-
tifically once and for all in these more
minute fields what Redi demonstrated
with larger organisms.

All the advances of recent medical
and surgical science in the treatment
and prevention of germ diseases are
based upon this great truth of the law
of Biogenesis—that LIFE can come only
from pre-existing LIFE.

No fact of Science stands more con-
clusively proved today. Life CANNOT
come from dead matter. THERE IS NOT
ONE SHRED OF TRUTH FROM SCIENCE
TO ACCOUNT FOR THE PRESENCE OF
LIFE UPON THE EARTH BY ANY MEANS
OTHER THAN A SPECIAL CREATION BY
THE GREAT ORIGINAL FIRST CAUSE—
GOD—WHO IS LIFE AND THE FOUNTAIN
SOURCE OF ALL LIFE! It is now absolute-
ly certain, according to all that can be
KNOWN from Science—according to all
that is rational—that it required A REAL
CREATION to produce life from the not-
living—organic from inorganic matter.

God a LIVING Creator!

One cannot rationally deny the exist-
ence of GOD, unless he can account for
the origin of LIFE without a Creator who,
Himself, *is* Life! The Creator, therefore,
begins to be revealed, by Science and by
reason, as a LIVING God—a God in
whom is LIFE, and who alone has *im-*
parted life to all that have it!

I could go further, and show you that
what Science has discovered about en-
ergy and its origin and the laws of conser-
vation of energy, also proves conclusively
that "the works were finished from the
foundation of the world" (Heb. 4:3),
that material Created is a *completed*
work, which is not now going on!

Is God INTELLIGENT?

Next, then, let's rationally examine
whether the Great FIRST CAUSE is a Be-
ing or Person of *intelligence*, or merely
some blind, dumb, unintelligent FORCE.
The answer to this, too, provides the
proof that God exists.

Does God possess intelligence? Well,
just look around you. The transmission
of knowledge to your mind is limited to

(Please continue on page 11)

RADIO LOG

"The WORLD TOMORROW"

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

TO ALL OF EUROPE:

RADIOLUXEMBOURG—23:30 Sun-
days, Greenwich time.

ABC NETWORK, TRANSCONTI-
NENTAL—Every Sunday. Consult
local newspaper radio schedules for
time and station, or keep on hand
the log printed in this issue.

TO THE NATION & CANADA:

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P.M. Central Standard time.
(8:00 Mountain Standard
time.)

XERF—1570 on dial (extreme top of
dial) Sundays, 7:15 P.M. Cen-
tral Standard time.

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

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12:30 P.M., Mon. thru Fri., 12
noon Saturday, 2 P.M. Sun.

KBLA—Burbank—1490 k.c.—7:30
A.M. daily, 9:30 A.M. Sunday.

KXL—Portland—10,000 watts. 750
on dial—2:30 P.M., Sundays.

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

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

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WAIT—Chicago—820 on dial—1:00
P.M. Sundays.

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A.M. Sundays.

KCMO—Kansas City—810 on dial—
11:30 A.M. Sundays.

Science now promises . . . "You May Live Forever"

Scientists are not satisfied with producing the fearful atom and hydrogen bombs. They now promise the means to IMMORTALITY for those now living! Learn the real significance of this latest scientific pronouncement.

by Herman L. Hoeh

THE MOST revolutionary, daring attempt of science is at last revealed!

To a world that stands in awe when science speaks, to a world that listens with trusting amazement to the latest pronouncement of science, a shocking disclosure has been released which reveals the plan of scientists to remake this world!

It is the final goal—the ultimate in human ingenuity—the unbelievable plan to grant immortality to those now living!—to resurrect the physical body!

Fantastic? Impossible?

This latest declaration of science is so astounding that it seems incredible—impossible; nevertheless, scientists declare, they "can promise men and women now living the realization of mankind's greatest dream throughout the ages—the resurrection of the physical body." Think of it! Science promising to resurrect the physical body.

The disclosure of this amazing news was made by William L. Laurence, author of *The Hell Bomb* and ranking medical and science reporter for the *New York Times*. His statement appeared in *Look* magazine.

Mr. Laurence continues to state that "scientific means are now available to assure all persons now living, for all time to come and for as long as life remains on earth, a continuity of existence of their physical bodies in a never-ending, constantly renewing, self-perpetuating act of being reborn—in this world, not in the next."

Think of its significance! The power to perpetuate life claimed by scientists. The power to grant life or to prevent life placed in the hands of frail, frustrated, mortal men!

This is the most shocking plan scientific thinkers have yet produced. Scientists have invented horrible instruments of destruction—the atom and hydrogen weapons—the secrets of which some of their own members have allowed to fall into the hands of vicious,

deceitful, desperate rulers in Moscow who are plotting to destroy millions of human lives to achieve mastery of the world. *And do you suppose that the scientific means to perpetuate life would be protected any more wisely than the atom secrets?*

Men Have Vainly Sought Immortality

In his article, Mr. Laurence explains why he believes that only science can bring to reality man's craving to continue to live after death. We know that for centuries human beings have sought in vain for a glimpse into the abode of death. Some have searched for the fountain of youth. Others for the elixir of life. Men of science have experimented for years and found not one shred of proof that man exists after death. Always the greatest thinkers have come away with no real answer to life after death. Nothing! "No worldly proof of anything!"

Many man-invented ideas concerning the "next life" are promiscuously bandied about. But no ordinary mortal has EVER returned with any proof about the next world!

This frustration and fear of what might lie beyond the grave has at last seized the scientists. They, too, want to live again. To solve this frustration they have experimented for decades with the possibility of perpetuating life forever. At last science announced its discoveries and plans.

The experiments commenced many years ago through the science of embryology—the study of the development of life from the microscopic germ cell. By studying tadpoles and salamanders science found they exhibit the remarkable power to regenerate lost limbs. They also possess the inherent powers to duplicate their entire anatomy under the proper conditions. In one experiment the growth of an entire head on the tail of an adult salamander was brought about.

This wonderful power manifested by certain living creatures, scientists feel, is

exhibited even in man. The PLAN OF SCIENTISTS is to take scar tissue—possibly of your own body if you were willing to submit—and to place it in a delicately controlled duplicate of a mother's womb. Given the proper conditions and nutriments, this tissue, it is claimed, would rebuild itself into an entire new individual—YOU WOULD BE BORN AGAIN!

Such is the claim and the plan of some leading scientists!

The Scientists' World

Notice, here are the world's "great" planners outlining what they think the world ought to be like. Here is the kind of eternity that men would bring into being if they could. Yes, men have always wanted to TAKE THE PLACE OF THE CREATOR!

But observe for a moment! Would you like to live in this scientific dream world?

To put it mildly, the scientists' accounts of their plans are very clever! The body you now are would continue to waste away—even they admit that. But from it the scientists would cause to arise from your old body a new body which could continue living and which would have all your inherent characteristics.

Impossible?

"Not at all," say our great thinkers!

Admittedly it will take possibly 50 years before all this is perfected; but science, never to be outdone, already has a "detour" arranged so that anyone now living can be "born again" within, perhaps, 50 years. Individual bits of scar tissue from your body would be preserved by quick-freezing. Such bits of tissue could be preserved for scores of years till men could develop the proper environment, and conditions for rebirth!

BUT WHAT THE SCIENTISTS FAIL TO SAY IS THIS: those who have died in the past will never have the opportunity for rebirth. The dead have no living scar tissue which can be preserved. But

more important than this is the cleverly disguised fact that even if a new body could be developed out of bits of your living tissue, that could never bring your consciousness back to life again. YOU WOULD REMAIN DEAD FOREVER!

This scientific resurrection is comparable to the development of identical twins. Though identical twins come from the same germ cell and may look alike, even have very similar personalities, they are, nevertheless, DIFFERENT INDIVIDUALS. Your scientific "rebirth" would be exactly like having an identical twin coming from your body tissue, but when you die YOU YOURSELF WOULD NEVER COME TO LIFE AGAIN!

Power of Life and Death

Assuming that scientists could carry out their plan, think for a moment what this power to reconstitute life means. It would be concentrated in the hands of a few "brains"—virtual dictators determining who should be reborn and who should remain dead for all eternity. Scientific men sitting in the place of God, investing themselves with the right to grant a resurrection!

What kind of world are we living in today, anyway, when great and respected men think such *insanity!* Think to what depths the wisdom of this world has degenerated!

According to these men, living forever would not be dependent upon self-mastery and character development, but upon faulty human reason which judges only by external appearances, not according to the heart. Scientists would choose, naturally, those whom *they* would call "great"!

This all goes to prove how far the world has strayed from God. How little it knows of God's plan and the purpose for which He created us and why He endowed us with limited creative powers.

Ponder what it would mean if God were not the Ruler of this world and could not intervene in human affairs. Science would accomplish its master stroke! Already it denies the POWER of God. Soon it would speak with all the authority of God, assuming to itself the right to bestow what is nothing more than a clever counterfeit of the greatest *gift* God has ever offered to us—the hope of immortality with abundance and peace of mind. "For the wages of sin is death; but the free *gift* of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord" (Rom. 6:23, Panin trans.).

The only life that great men of this world can visualize is a perpetuation of this present existence with its human nature, its weaknesses and its carnal criminal tendencies. Philosophers may think that material prosperity can cure the world's ills. But what they overlook

is the proven fact that as long as *human nature remains*, eternal life in this world would be a veritable "hell on earth."

Human nature is the root cause of the injustice, the crime and the fear of destitution and war that engulf this sad age in human history. Yet scientists possess so little understanding that they dream of promising rebirth with the same human nature against which you have had to struggle all your life.

World Gropes in the Dark

For almost six thousand years this world has been groping around in the darkness of the UNKNOWN and cut off from the only true source of understanding, vainly trying to solve the riddle of life. The world has been TOTALLY UNABLE TO KNOW WHAT LIES BEYOND THE GRAVE. Unable to experiment with life after death to prove if it exists, human beings have postulated dozens of ideas and doctrines—belief in reincarnation, in pantheism, in Plato's doctrine of the immortality of the soul.

What science and religions have overlooked is this: Mortal man has no natural way of finding out what lies beyond death. It cannot be experimented with in a test tube. UNLESS THE GOD WHO CREATED MAN SHOULD HAVE REVEALED IT, HUMANITY SIMPLY COULD NOT KNOW! But God has revealed it!—and the scientists' plan is a wretched *counterfeit* of the TRUTH!

After four thousand years of human history, God sent His Son with a message to mankind, revealing the purpose of life. Jesus explained how frail, mortal humanity can gain immortality as a *gift* from God in order to fulfil the purpose of life. No scientist, but God *alone* has the power to give immortality to mortal man. We were born mortal flesh and blood, subject to suffering, misery and ultimate DEATH. We are in desperate need of eternal life as a gift from God. Jesus Christ "brought life and immortality to light through the gospel" (II Timothy 1:10).

Since God alone has the power to bestow immortality and to raise the dead, He alone possesses the power to determine who shall receive it. And He is going to give it *only* to those who *fulfil His purpose* on this earth—human desires or doctrines to the contrary notwithstanding.

Does Life Have a Purpose?

If scientists would have their way the right to a resurrection would not depend on your character, but on your inherent abilities, your talents, your physical strength. But God, who alone has perfect wisdom, and who examines human beings according to their attitude of heart and mind, promises it only to those who through hard experience

and self-mastery conquer human nature and develop into perfect noble characters. Perfect character comes only by *obedience* to the authority and the law of God. It does not come through an empty belief. Jesus said, "If YOU would enter into life, KEEP THE COMMANDMENTS" (Matt. 19:17). When once this perfect character is developed, then—and then alone—God will bestow eternal life on us—but not in a world filled with war and sickness and mental suffering where eternity would be one continuous misery as some scientists envision.

It is the purpose of God not to leave us as frail carnal creatures, *but to elevate us ultimately from man to God—that we should be endowed with the glory of being God.*

Notice how the apostles explained it. "Let us rejoice," said Paul, "in hope of the glory of God" (Romans 5:2). Peter explains that we are to "become partakers of the DIVINE NATURE, having escaped from the corruption that is in the world by lust" (II Peter 1:4). Yes, we are to have this human nature *changed*, and to inherit the divine nature with the ability and power to perform the functions of God! Powers of so great a magnitude that God will not trust such responsibility to anyone who has not exercised self-control and self-mastery and yielded to His rule and His laws which reveal the only way to live happily and abundantly for all eternity.

How different and how much more wonderful is this God-ordained purpose than the feeble promise of a resurrection by science. Or how much grander it is than the doctrine of Plato on the immortality of the soul—which would condemn us to remain powerless human creatures, never to become any greater for having undergone all the suffering and woe of this world.

When will we wake up to the real meaning of Paul's doctrine in Romans 8:18-21: "For I reckon that the sufferings of the present season are not worthy to be compared with the coming glory to be revealed toward us. For the earnest expectation of the creation awaiteth the REVELATION OF THE SONS OF GOD. For the creation was subjected to vanity, not of its own will, but by reason of Him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself also shall be freed from the bondage of corruption into the freedom of the glory of the children of God."

Little are the dreams of scientific men who, knowing only the feeble power of the human body and mind, are unable to grasp that we are to be raised to the plane of God with godly power, might and character—AWE-FULL divine powers! We are not to be limited forever by the physical world, but to be perfect
(Please continue on page 12)

How did this World's RELIGIONS Begin?

Here is the little-known, gripping story of the birth of a great religious system. It began hundreds of years before Christ. It was calculated to DECEIVE humanity—and it has succeeded to this day!

by Dr. C. Paul Meredith

Part III

D ID YOU know that at Christ's time pagan practices bore an amazing similarity to Jesus' teachings?

Did you know that those pagan customs crept into the professing Christian world? The churches of today ignore this fact!

Here is how it happened.

In the two previous articles we discovered that Nimrod, the world's first despot, founded civilization at ancient Babylon. That civilization has engulfed *the whole world*. Nimrod also established apostate Sun-Serpent worship—the worship of the devil and evil spirits. Then God scattered the people (Genesis 11:8).

We also learned that righteous Shem later slew Nimrod to prevent him from reorganizing society in another universal apostasy. *But Nimrod's system lived on!*

Now let us continue.

Origin of "Mystery" System

The death of Nimrod seemingly halted the counterfeit pagan worship which he started. The Egyptians hold that Nimrod's dead body was cut in pieces. It was sent to many cities throughout the country as a warning as to what would happen to others who might desire to apostatize (*Wilkinson's Egyptians*, Vol. V, p. 17).

A similar example of this practice is recorded in the Bible. The dead body of the Levite's concubine was cut in pieces and a part was sent to each of the twelve tribes of Israel (Judges 19:29). Another example is recorded in I Samuel 11:7. It was not an unusual practice.

This warning against paganism had a marked effect on *would-be apostates*. If one as powerful as Nimrod could be slain and disposed of in such a terrible manner, the people rightly reasoned that the same fate would happen to them if *it were known* that they were worshipping forbidden objects—idols. THE PEOPLE WERE AFRAID TO WORSHIP THESE ALTHOUGH THEY DESIRED TO DO SO! If

they were to continue to worship these *same* forbidden pagan idols, there was only one way in which it could be done. And that was for someone to initiate a system whereby the forbidden things of worship were represented by something else.

Thus the ones initiated into these "Mysteries" *would know* that they in reality were worshipping the *forbidden* SUN or SERPENT when they worshipped these new objects, but the outsider would not know. IT WOULD BE A "MYSTERY" TO HIM!

Hislop's *The Two Babylons*, p. 66, says, "In these circumstances, then, began . . . that system of "Mystery" which, having Babylon for its centre, has *spread over the world*." Let us now see how this MYSTERY system actually did come into being and who created it and for what purpose! THE WORLD'S RELIGIONS TODAY ARE DECEIVED BY THIS VERY SAME SYSTEM! How did this come about?

HERE IS THE REASON. At first it was explained to the worshipper what he was *actually* worshipping when he worshipped various symbols. But as time went by *this practice was dropped*. The people continued to worship the same symbols because of custom. But they didn't know *then*, nor do people know *now*, just WHAT is actually being worshipped!

Semiramis Initiates the System

Nimrod had been a man of unbounded ambition but the ambition of his wife Semiramis exceeded even his. Nimrod, her husband, had become the greatest and most powerful figure in the world. He was dead. She clearly saw that if she were to continue to have the great position and power which she had exercised by being the ambitious wife of the most powerful man on earth, something must be done to assure continuance of her power.

Nimrod's kingdom, which consisted of most of the populated world of that time, had fallen to her. *Much of Nim-*

rod's power had come from his setting himself up as the human representative of the Sun-God. She must retain this world rule by any and all means. The religious control which had given so much power to her husband must be used by her also if she were to retain the maximum hold on her subjects. She, by way of Noah, the preacher of righteousness, had heard of the woman's prophesied seed who was to come and through whom mankind might obtain eternal life. This gave to her a daring idea.

"Though the death of her husband has given a rude shock to her power, yet her resolution and unbounded ambition were in nowise checked. On the contrary, her ambition took a higher flight. In life her husband had been honored as a hero; in death she will have him worshipped as a god, yea, *as the woman's promised seed . . . who was destined to bruise the serpent's head* and who, in doing so, was to have his own heel bruised. The patriarchs, and the ancient world in general, were perfectly acquainted with the grand primeval promise of Eden. They knew right well that the bruising of the heel of the promised seed implied his death and that the curse could be removed from the world only by the *death* of the grand Deliverer." (*Hislop*, pp. 58-60).

Nimrod and Semiramis Become Gods

Here, then, was a perfect circumstance which Semiramis could use to perpetuate and even greatly augment her power! The world had been told of the coming of a Deliverer whose *death* would *redeem them* from *eternal death*. The world was awaiting such an event. They also believed that this deliverer would go about doing good deeds before his death. Nimrod, her husband, the most powerful man on earth in his day, had been considered a *benefactor*, as we have seen.

She would *combine or fuse the Sun-Serpent worship* which her dead husband had furthered, *with the teachings of the Eternal God concerning a coming*

Savior of mankind. She planned to make her dead husband, Nimrod, this Savior, and thus procure for herself power over her subjects by posing as the mother of a supernaturally conceived and reborn Nimrod (recall Christ's supernatural conception). A factor of great aid to Semiramis was the popularity of Nimrod and the desire of the people to keep him in their memory.

When the news first spread abroad concerning the violent death of this mighty man, cut off in the midst of his career, it was a great shock and loud were the wails everywhere. Nimrod at the time of his death was well and favorably known by the little groups which had been formed after God confused their various languages at the Tower of Babel. They later formed the large nations of the earth as we know them today by gradually migrating outward to far distant areas after Semiramis' time. Nimrod's popularity is shown by the fact that hundreds of years later these nations still lamented the violent death of their hero—Nimrod or Tammuz.

Japan, China, India, Scandinavia, and Iceland each have their own gods in whose life this event occurred, and each weeps for these at the proper time. In Iceland and throughout Scandinavia, the idea of the weeping is that if everyone on earth would weep for their dead god Balder (Nimrod) he would be restored to life.

The central theme of the whole idolatry in Egypt was the violent death of Osiris (the Egyptians' god representing Nimrod). As the women of Egypt wept for Osiris and the Phoenician and Assyrian women for Tammuz (the Phoenician and Assyrian name for their gods representing the resurrected Nimrod), so in Greece and Rome the women wept for Bacchus whose name means "The Bewailed," or "Lamented One." Japan, China, India, Scandinavia, and Ireland each had their "Lamented One" for which they bewailed annually (*Hislop*, pp. 55-57).

In these Bacchanal lamentations, a spotted fawn was used to represent Bacchus (the Grecian name for Nimrod). At certain stages in the mystical celebrations, the fawn was torn in pieces thus expressing what happened to Bacchus (Nimrod or Tammuz. Remember Nimrod was cut in pieces). THE WAY of disobedience to God is very popular with mankind! Even the Israelites in their time wept for the death of Tammuz: "There sat women weeping for Tammuz." (Ezekiel 8:14.) So we see that in life the people of the early earth had looked upon Nimrod almost as though he were a god! In death Semiramis would make him the *Savior of mankind!*

The False Messiah

Her plan was aided by her own great beauty. Her beauty is said to have once quelled a rising rebellion among her subjects on her sudden appearance among them (*Valerius Maximus*, lib. ix, chap. 3 p. 2). "The scheme, thus skillfully formed, took effect. Semiramis gained glory from her dead and deified husband; and in the course of time, both of them under the names of Rhea and Nin, or 'Goddess-mother and Son,' were worshipped with an enthusiasm that was incredible and their images were everywhere set up and adored. Whenever the negro aspect of Nimrod was . . . an obstacle . . . all that was needful was to teach that Ninus (Nimrod) had reappeared in the person of a posthumous son, of a fair complexion, supernaturally borne by a widowed wife,—herself. (*Hislop*, p. 69.) For this purpose she used one of her many illegitimate children. She was fair complexioned and had several of these.

Nimrod was said to have been the first that invented magic arts. He used tricks of magic to impress his converts (*Justinus Historia*, lib. i, Vol. ii, p. 615). After Nimrod's death, tricks of magic and deceptions were used by Semiramis to impress the converts to her system of Mystery with the power of these imaginary gods which she had concocted.

She deified Nimrod, herself, and their son—Tammuz—and, due to opposition, gave them secret forms known only to the initiated, and these were worshipped. *These, then, were the Mysteries.* Those on the outside of these new religious practices could not see that these new practices of worshipping these symbols such as a calf or tree, were actually the same as the worship of Nimrod or Semiramis who represented the Sun and Serpent (Satan) and were actually the worship of the same things which Shem had suppressed—Sun-Serpent worship!

Those who wished to be initiated into these Mysteries in Semiramis' time had to have their meaning explained to them before they could understand them. The title of the priest who explained these Mysteries to the initiated was called "Peter" in the primitive Chaldee, the real language of the Mysteries; this means "interpreter." (*Parkhurst's Hebrew Lexicon*, p. 602.) It was one of these interpreters or "Peters," who was in pagan Rome long before Christ. He was confused with Peter the apostle of Christ in his time.

Kings of the Earth Spread Mystery System

Using every means within her power,

ambitious Semiramis left no stone unturned to advance this Pagan religious system of mystery which she had formulated. By doing so, she, as head of this system, strengthened her hold over her subjects. Petty kings had arisen over small groups of people having different languages—the beginnings of the nations of the earth. These groups had resulted by God's giving to them different languages in order to confuse them and thereby stop their building of the city and tower of Babylon (Gen. 11:7-9). When as one group with one language, they had established at Babel, or Babylon, a central place of authority of their own, so they could rule in God's stead. Then God divided them "after their tongues, in their countries, and in their nations" (Gen. 10:20). Never could they establish their own authority over the peoples of the earth as easily if they spoke different languages.

For many of these kings, Nimrod, when he had been alive, built cities or towns as we have seen (both he and Semiramis were given titles as builders, after they were deified). These kings he controlled. The other kings of the earth were subservient to him because of his great conquests. How did Semiramis use these kings to further her own ambition when this great empire fell to her because of her husband's death?

The Bible tells us! It was she—she was the original fallen woman that the Bible describes in Rev. 17:1-2 when it says, "I will show the . . . the great whore that sitteth upon many waters (nations): with whom the kings of the earth have committed fornication, and the inhabitants of the earth have been made drunk with the wine of her fornication." (Her character in regard to fornication was well known.) In return, these kings furthered her self-conceived system of religion—the religious Mystery system spoken of in Rev. 17:5—the system formed by the fusion of the true teachings of the Eternal with the teachings of Semiramis concerning her self-conceived gods. *She, the head of this counterfeit of the true Church of God, gave herself to these kings or civil rulers of the earth of her time in order to saddle her own counterfeit system of Satan inspired religion onto the nations of the earth.*

No wonder Revelation 17 uses the symbol of a fallen woman to represent a great unholy church! But Revelation 17 is prophetic—it is dual—these same words tell of the arising in strength of this same system of Semiramis in our day, furthered by another woman (church) which will unite with the civil kings or rulers of the earth to force her religion (including the "mark of the beast") upon the earth of our time!

No wonder this *counterfeit* religion of Semiramis, impressed upon the nations of the earth *in their beginnings* was carried by them to the farthest places of this globe as they migrated outward from this central point!

So here we have a religion set up over 2000 years before Christ which was *calculatedly* patterned on the future coming of Christ! No wonder there were so many similarities to the *real* Christ and his teachings when he came 2000 years later!

Here was a man who was killed for the supposed good he had accomplished, just as Christ would be later; this man was also "resurrected"; he was born "supernaturally"; and he became a god. Did he also offer eternal life to his followers? We will see later that he did. We read in Acts 4:11-12 that the *only* way to salvation is by Christ, yet here we will find one who recommended *similar* ways.

We will find *many* of the practices of this religion to be similar to, yet counterfeits of, the true teachings of God, *but different enough to prevent its followers from receiving eternal life*. The Mystery of Iniquity of *our day* was taking shape *then!* THE OBJECT OF THESE MYSTERIES WAS "TO BIND ALL MANKIND IN BLIND AND ABSOLUTE SUBMISSION TO A HIERARCHY ENTIRELY DEPENDENT ON THE SOVEREIGNS OF BABYLON" (*Hislop*, p. 5). VAST NUMBERS TODAY ARE ALSO IN BLIND AND ABSOLUTE SUBMISSION TO A GREAT CHURCH!

Nimrod Worship Widespread Under Other Names

We have already seen how Nimrod, after his death, was said by Semiramis to have been *reborn* in the form of her illegitimate child Tammuz. That the child (Semiramis' counterfeit of the coming Savior) who was worshipped in the various countries was really *one person*—Nimrod, there is much evidence. An examination of the legends and characteristics assigned to those gods by their worshippers show these coincide with the characteristics of Nimrod and events in his life. (Now as we proceed, please recall that Nimrod was deified by Semiramis and worshipped after his death, but also, in her Mysteries, she said he was "*reborn*" as her *fair skinned* child.)

Egyptian tradition shows that their god Osiris (Nimrod) was *black*. (Plutarch's *De Isid*, et. Os., vol. ii. p. 359.) This is a land where the color of the population is *dusky*. This then clearly shows that the man they worshipped was not of their own nationality.

This negro-featured Osiris was clothed from head to foot in a *spotted dress*, the upper part being a leopard's skin (spotted) and the lower part a *spotted*

dress (*Bunsen*, vol. i. p. 425). The name Nimrod means "subduer of the leopard"—from *Nimr*, a "leopard" and *rod* "to subdue." This name seems to imply that as Nimrod had gained fame by subduing the horse, he had subdued the leopard and used it in hunting (*Hislop*, p. 44). In India, this has been a custom (*Wilkinson*, v. iii, p. 17). *Persian* legends show that Hosang (Cush) the father of Tahmurs (Nimrod) who built Babylon, was the "first who bred dogs and leopards for hunting." (Sir William Jones's *Works*, vol. iv. pp. 341, 353.) The Egyptian high priest's robe of office was the leopard's skin. Here, then, the leopard skin, was the *common* covering for the *main* deity in these two countries!

Nimrod, by the same spotted covering, is identified as being the god Bacchus of the *Greeks*. Leopards were employed to draw this god's chariot; he was represented as attired in leopards' skins and his priests were attired in the same manner or with the *spotted* skin of a fawn. This latter seems to have come from *Assyria* (*Vaux's Ninevah*, chap. viii. p. 233)—indications again of the principal gods being covered with leopard's skins in yet two other countries. The similarity to *one man*—Nimrod—is marked!

Recall that in Babylon, after Nimrod was slain by Shem's followers, Semiramis used secret or mysterious symbols to represent him so that he could be worshipped through these symbols as a god. In *Greece* to *secretly* or *mysteriously* show that Nimrod and their god Bacchus were the same, Bacchus was symbolized as a *spotted fawn*. The rites of the Egyptian Osiris and the Grecian Bacchus are the *same*, and those of the Egyptian Isis (Semiramis) and Ceres, (the Grecian Semiramis) *exactly* resemble each other (*Bibliotheca*, lib. i. p. 9).

In *Egypt*, Osiris, as we recall, was *mystically* represented as a young bull or calf—the calf Apis—"Apis," being only another name for Saturn, "the Hidden one." The name Apis in Egyptian is Hopi, evidently from the Chaldee (Babylonian) word "Hop," "to cover." (*Bunsen*, vol. i. vocab. p. 462.) Other evidence is overwhelming that Semiramis had made her dead husband the great god of the world of that day.

Mankind was deifying himself by causing others to worship him. Here is a very important subject that should be looked into.

"Ye Shall Be As Gods"

A factor that aided Semiramis in her deification of Nimrod after his death was the way in which statues were made of the *mighty men* of renown of that time. As the first of the "*mighty ones*" on the earth after the flood, Nimrod

was symbolized as a bull. But there was yet another way by which his *power* was shown. Says *Hislop*, p. 37, 38, 39, a synonym for "Gheber," which means "The mighty one," was "Abir." But "Aber" signified a wing.

Hislop continues, "Nimrod, as Head and Captain of those men of war . . . who were instruments of establishing his power, was Baal-abin Lord of the mighty ones." But 'Baal-abirin' signified 'The winged one.' Therefore he was represented as a . . . *winged bull*—showing not merely that he was mighty himself, but that he had . . . ones under his command who were ever ready to *carry out* his commands . . . this . . . alone explains the remarkable statement of Aristophanes, that at the beginning of the world 'the birds' were *first* created, and *then*, after their creation, came the 'race of the blessed immortal gods.' . . . Let it be borne in mind that 'the birds'—that is, the 'winged ones'—symbolized 'the Lords of the mighty ones,' and the meaning is clear . . . that men *first* began to be mighty on the earth; and *then*, that the 'Lords' or leaders of 'these mighty ones' were *deified*."

Nimrod was unquestionably the *first* of those *deified* after the flood. He became the "father of the gods"—the first of any "mighty ones" who might be deified after him. The same general method applied to Semiramis—she became the "mother of gods." But what *deeper meaning* did this have?

Answer Found in Eden

Man had brazenly dared to make of himself a god, a god to be worshipped and obeyed by others! He left the True God out of his life. The Ten Commandments say, "Thou shalt have no other gods before me." (Exodus 20:3.) *Many* times in the Old Testament when people sinned, God said words to the following effect: "I will punish them that they may know I am God." Who *first* wanted to be like God? The Devil! "I will be like the most High." (Isaiah 14:14.)

What did the Devil tell Eve would happen if she and Adam would follow his advice and eat of the tree of the knowledge of good and *evil* which God had forbidden? "Ye shall not surely die . . . ye shall be as gods, knowing good and evil." (Genesis 3:4-5.) Satan in effect said, "You will not die, *you can be as gods, deciding for yourselves what is right and what is wrong*—you can attain eternal life *this way*." The churches of Satan have been teaching this philosophy ever since. The philosophy that Adam and Eve followed in Eden is the *type* of philosophy the world has followed from that day to this: it is basically a type of *disobedience*. The Devil's
(Please continue on page 12)

THE BIBLE ANSWERS

Short Questions

FROM OUR READERS

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

What Does "Not Under the Law, but Under Grace" Mean?

Does grace do away with the law? If you keep the law, have you "fallen" from grace?

Most people are *confused* by those who claim to expound the words of Paul. You may hear one group quote one set of scriptures telling of the law, and another group quoting verses mentioning grace. That is the wrong way to study the Bible. *All* scripture is given by inspiration.

What does "grace" mean? Webster defines it as *mercy, favor, unmerited kindness, an exemption or pardon as from a penalty.*

It is by *grace*, the undeserved *pardon* of God, that you are delivered from the penalty of sin. (Romans 6:23.) Christ paid the penalty in your stead. If you accept the grace of God, who permitted His Son to die in your stead, to free you from sin, then you are under grace. You are under an unmerited pardon, not "under the law."

"What then? Shall we sin (that is, transgress the law—I John 3:4) because we are *not under the law*, but under grace?" (Romans 6:15.) That's what Paul asked! Shall we sin—shall we break the law? Remember, sin is the transgression of the law (I John 3:4).

What is Paul's answer? "God forbid." "How shall we, that are dead to sin (transgressing God's law), live any longer therein?" (Romans 6:1, 2.)

If we are under grace, the pardon of God, we are not to live in sin, we are not to break God's law. If we break God's law by sinning, then we come *under the law*. It is *over* us. It has a claim on our lives. It is only those who *keep* the law that are not under the law; it has no claim over their lives.

"Under the law" does NOT mean under their jurisdiction. This has been the common false teaching because of a MISTRANSLATION in I Corinthians 9:21. Notice verse 21. To the Gentiles who

did not know God's law—"to them that are without law"—Paul said he approached them without mentioning God's law immediately. He did not want to offend them. But was Paul doing contrary to the law? No! Paul says he was "NOT without law to God, but WITHIN the law to Christ."

This verse is nearly always *mistranslated*. The original Greek does not say "under the law to Christ." Rather through Christ, Paul was *within* the law—he was able to keep it. To be within the law means to obey it!

Grace does not do away with the law; it pardons our sin, making it possible for us to *keep the law* through the Holy Spirit that is given to those that *obey* God (Acts 5:32).

Wouldn't it be ridiculous for a judge to grant a pardon to a criminal and then tell him to commit the same crime again? Yet that is exactly how ridiculous most people make God's grace. They turn the *grace*, the pardon of God into lasciviousness, license to do evil.

If grace could abolish the law, then there would be no more sin, because there is no sin where there is no law—(Romans 4:15). And if there were no sin, there would need be no grace—no pardon of God—to deliver us from the penalty of breaking the law.

Christ died in your stead and mine so that we could *obey* God unto righteousness and not serve sin. As long as we were under the claim of the law because of transgression, sin had dominion over us, we were its slaves. But now we are free to obey the law unto righteousness (Rom. 6:16).

Does God Hear Sinners?

Everyone has sinned and cut himself off from God. "But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he *will not hear*" (Isaiah 59:2).

God hears not sinners (John 9:31).

He will have no fellowship with those who sin. He hears only those who do righteousness. But if *everyone* has sinned, then there must be *a way* for sinners to come to God, or else we could never become righteous. How can sinners seek GOD?

The prophet Isaiah tells us *the way* sinners come to God. "Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, *call upon him* while he is near." But how do we call on God? How do we seek Him? "Let the wicked *forsake his way*, and the unrighteous man *his thoughts*: and let him return unto the Lord, and he will have mercy upon him; and to our God, for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:6, 7.) Let him *repent* of transgressing God's law, and accept Jesus Christ as Saviour from its penalty. Christ is THE WAY.

That's how you can come to God. *Forsake* the way you have been living, start to *obey* God. Once you REPENT of going the wrong way YOU ARE NO LONGER A SINNER IN GOD'S SIGHT. He will hear you and give His Holy Spirit to you, *if you obey Him* (Acts 5:32). You must be willing to forsake your ways and thoughts and go the way of God. Then He will hear you because you "keep his commandments and DO these things that are pleasing in His sight" (I John 3:22).

What Are the "Souls" Mentioned Under the Altar in Rev. 16:9?

In Revelation 6:9-11 is a description of the fifth seal. When Jesus Christ, who is the Revelator (John is not the revelator) opened the seal, the apostle saw in heaven an altar under which were the souls of people who had been slain. They cried to God, asking Him how long it would be until He would judge the world. Many claim that these verses prove the "immortality of the soul." But do they?

Remember, if one part of this description is literal, then it *all* must be literal. IF there are souls in heaven, then *where* would they be in heaven? Notice what John says, "I saw *under the altar* the souls of them that were slain." Where are the souls? UNDER THE ALTAR! This could not be literally true as those who teach the "immortality of the soul" admit. The entire description is actually *symbolic*.

None of the seven seals could be literal pictures of conditions in heaven. John saw *in vision* a book or scroll bound with seven seals (ch. 5:1) which only Jesus was worthy to open. As each seal was removed, John saw in vision in heaven a picture of conditions described in the book which are to take place *on the earth*.

The BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION, given by Jesus Himself, of the events de-

scribed on the scroll under the seals, is found in Matthew 24. The description of the fifth seal is in Matthew 24:9-28. It is symbolic of the *tribulation!*

Notice that the souls John saw were *slain* for the Word of God and for their testimony, an exact description of the *tribulation!* In Revelation 12:17, the word of God and the testimony are defined as the keeping of the commandments and belief in the gospel of the Kingdom, which is the message that Jesus testified. The souls which John saw were not immortal entities. The Bible definition for soul is a living, physical creature whether animal or man (Genesis 2:7). The apostle saw in vision the souls or bodies of the martyred saints who were *in vision* crying out to God, just as Abel's blood *cried out* to God although he was dead (Genesis 4:10).

The tribulation came on the saints once, during the Middle Ages, and it will come *again*. The souls that *were slain* were told to "rest yet for a little season, until their fellow servants also and their brethren, that *should be killed as they were*, should be fulfilled." These *two* martyrdoms are also mentioned in Revelation 12, verses 6 and 14.

Those who died in the Middle Ages were symbolically given white robes to show that they possessed the righteousness of saints (Rev. 19:8). And righteousness is described in Psalm 119:172 as keeping the commandments—the exact thing for which the devil persecutes the church.

But why were the souls seen in vision under the altar in heaven, though they were actually buried on the earth? This altar, mentioned also in Revelation 8:3, is the heavenly counterpart of the altar of incense which was in the holy of holies (Hebrews 9:4). The altar of incense was an altar *for prayer*, of which incense was a symbol. The saints are pictured under the altar as a *symbol* of their prayers to God, which they offered when they yet lived, that He might judge the earth in righteousness and avenge them. The entire description is picturing the coming final tribulation.

Does God Exist?

(Continued from page 4)

the five channels of your five senses.

So now I ask you, do you know of anything that is superior to *your mind*? Anything you can see, hear, feel, taste or smell? Anything on this earth? Anything of which you can consciously know away from the earth?

Look at the planets coursing through the sky. By the aid of man-invented tele-

scopes we know there are stars thousands of times larger than this earth. Behold, in all its splendor, the entire cosmic universe, with its suns, its nebulae, and galaxies. They are of such immensity, such vastness in number, that our minds cannot fully comprehend them.

Yet they are inanimate. They have no mind, no intelligence. They cannot do what *you* can do—think, reason, plan, and carry out plans according to private volition and will.

Quantity, not matter how vast, certainly does not of itself reflect intelligence. The human mind can know, think, reason, plan, and carry its plans to execution. It can invent and produce instruments by which it may acquire knowledge of the vast universe, or of the minutest particle. Through radar, man has now been able to send a signal to the moon and cause it to return. Men can devise vehicles that speed him over the ground swifter than the fastest animals; airplanes by which he can fly higher, farther, faster, than the swiftest bird. He can produce implements and machines by which he can move mountains. He can harness waterfalls and make them serve his needs, cause rivers to run backward, turn the forces of nature to serving human needs. He can force every other kind of visible life to do his bidding and serve him. He is learning how to conquer time and space. And now he has learned how to break down the atom, and utilize a power so vast that man may be able at last to annihilate all life from off the earth!

But there remains one thing no man ever will be able to do. He cannot build, make, produce, or create anything that is superior to himself!

A man can cut down trees, manufacture lumber; he can mine ores and make nails; he can take existing materials and out of them build a house. But it requires intelligence and power superior to the house to produce the house. An automobile is almost a living thing, but the intelligence and powers required to invent and produce it are superior to the thing produced.

To suggest to *you*, my friend, that anything you could invent, make, build, or bring into being could be superior in intelligence and ability to *you* and *your mind* would certainly insult your intelligence!

Now let me ask you candidly, *do you honestly believe that any power or force of less intelligence than your mind produced YOU?*

If you do not believe in God, then you have only the alternative of believing that something *less* than your intelligence produced *YOU*—that dumb, purposeless UNINTELLIGENCE brought into being your intelligence! The only rational pos-

sibility is to acknowledge that the very presence of the human mind is **PROOF** that the Great First Cause is also the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE, infinitely superior to the abilities of mortal man!

Could YOUR Mind Do It?

Suppose that you could add to your powers of reasoning, planning, designing, the actual CREATIVE power, so that you could project your will *anywhere*, to produce and bring into being whatever your mind should plan and desire. Then, having the POWER to do so, suppose you undertake to apply your intelligence, your reasoning and planning faculties to the task of designing, creating, fashioning, shaping, and setting in motion a limitless cosmic universe—with suns and nebulae and galaxies in all their splendor, each of these vast units being of such intricate and complex construction as the existing universe. On some of these planets you would plan and produce all the forms of life that exist on this planet—and I do not mean *re-produce*, for there would be no present universe to copy. There would be worlds within a world, down to the minutest infinitesimal particles of matter and chemical action such as we know by the aid of microscopes have been produced in this earth.

Do you think your mind would be equal to the task?

Just stop and think. Let your mind—the greatest thing you know—dwell on that problem a moment or two. Without anything from which to copy, how far do you think your intelligence and all your mental powers could go in planning, designing, putting together, and setting in motion all the intricacies that make up the fathomless universe, in all the harmony, symmetry, and order we see about us in what *has* been brought into being? I know my mind would not get far in such an undertaking, and I don't believe yours would, either.

Is it rational, then, to believe that any power or force lacking even human intelligence could have planned, designed, created, formed, fashioned, shaped, put together and set in motion the awesome universe we behold?

Supreme Living RULER!

The Great First Cause who *created* matter, force and energy and all physical and SPIRITUAL LAWS, then, stands revealed as the SUPREME INTELLIGENCE AND ARCHITECT OF THE UNIVERSE. And by the same token, HE IS THE SUPREME RULER, who REIGNS over the realm of men, even though THIS WORLD SEEMS TO HAVE FORGOTTEN GOD—and who, though unrealized by the world today, is WORKING OUT HIS PURPOSE here below! WHAT IS that PURPOSE? WHY does God allow suffering—wars? WHY must

even the converted Christian SUFFER in this world, *after* conversion? THESE are some of the vital questions—the most vital questions of this hour—which now present themselves. The answer will be made PLAIN in future articles.

Science Promises . . . "You may live forever"

(Continued from page 6)

co-rulers and co-creators with the Father and His Son Jesus Christ.

Are you going to accept God's CHALLENGE and *surrender* your ways and your self-will to Him in order that He might develop His character in you through the power of His Holy Spirit?

Without the very life of God—the Holy Spirit—dwelling in you, you cannot obtain a resurrection to eternal life no matter what scientists may proudly promise. It is *God alone* who "shall make alive (immortal) also your mortal bodies through his Spirit that dwelleth in you" (Romans 8:11).

How did RELIGION Begin?

(Continued from page 9)

suggestion sounds good to mankind.

God had said they would *die* if they disobeyed his command and ate of this tree (Genesis 2:17).

They did not *know* God yet—they did not *fear* Him: "The *fear* of the Eternal is the beginning of wisdom." (Psa. 111:10.) They did not know they *must* obey Him above *all* beings or suffer dire consequences—so they ate of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. **THEY USURPED GOD'S PREROGATIVE—THEY DECIDED WHAT WAS GOOD AND WHAT WAS EVIL!** They *made their own law* by deciding that to eat of the forbidden tree was right and *not a sin*. They followed *their law* and broke God's. They *became "as gods"* to make their *own law*; but after they had sinned they were afraid (Genesis 3:10). They *realized their folly*, for God then said, "Man is become as one of us, to *know* good and evil." (Genesis 3:22.)

They had learned by *experience*. They realized they needed a different kind of clothing than their *carnal* minds gave (Rom. 8:7). Paul says mankind has been *made* to desire vain things (Rom. 8:20).

"I put on righteousness and it clothed me." (Job 29:14.) They tried to clothe themselves with *their* righteousness, "They sewed fig leaves together and made girdles." (Genesis 3:7)—a symbol of *their* kind of righteousness, but

Isaiah, inspired by God, says, "All our righteousnesses are as filthy rags." The Bible says of *God's* commandments, "All *thy* commandments are righteousness." (Psa. 119:172.) If we obey God's commandments as revealed then by God's spoken Word, but now by the Bible, we clothe ourselves with *God's* kind of righteousness and are acceptable to God. *We* cannot make our own laws here on this earth! God said Adam and Eve must for their sin be separated from the tree of life at that time. They must die. They needed a Redeemer who could pay the penalty of death in their stead if they were to have eternal life. This was promised very soon afterward (Genesis 3:15).

Now we can see how the Devil rules this world *today!* Are *we* doing today as Adam and Eve did in the garden of Eden?

Are We "As Gods" Today?

It can now be easily seen that if we, today, are following the same *deceptive suggestion* that our human forebears did in Eden—*making their own laws*—then we are "as gods." If Satan has thus deceived us, then our punishment will be the same as that given to Adam and Eve—denial of access to eternal life. Remember, "To whom ye yield yourselves servants to obey, his servants ye are . . . whether of sin unto death, or of obedience unto righteousness." (Romans 6:16.) The Devil, then, rules over us by suggestive deception!

Do the nations or individuals today consult what the Bible says about divorce, for example, before they make *their* decisions and *their* laws?

They do not! They have become "*as gods*" to make their *own laws!* The world, then, *is Babylon*. We are told to come out of her (Rev. 18:4). This we can do by giving *God's* laws *precedent* in our lives—being *ruled* by Him! The proper form of government is *Theocracy*—being ruled over by God and by his laws. This form will soon be set up on this earth.

Like Adam and Eve, when they became "as gods" and made their own laws, the people today, in these end times, are *having their eyes opened* (Genesis 3:5), because of the results of following *their* laws.

World Deifies Self

The tendency of mankind to elevate himself is constant. After the Devil had tried to ascend and be like God (Isa. 14:14), Adam and Eve tried it (Genesis 3:5) and were denied eternal life at that time. In Genesis 6:4-5, we see that mankind had deified itself in the same way as we have shown Semiramis deified herself and Nimrod. These people became "Sons of gods." Wickedness

increases. Verse 11 says the *earth was corrupt and filled with violence*—the inevitable result when mankind make their own laws! Today we see this. What happened? God drowned all on the earth except Noah and seven others!

After the flood, Nimrod and Semiramis set the pace for *self-deification* as we have seen. Israel was guilty of the same thing. In Ezekiel 20 there is a summary of why God said he was going to punish the Israelites. He repeats six times his reason: "That they may know that *I* am the Eternal." Judges 21:25, a summary of Israel's actions, says, "Every man did that which was right in *his own eyes*." Like Adam and Eve, *they* decided what was right and wrong—*they* were "as gods."

There is an outstanding example of man deifying himself today. "Joseph Stalin has long been eulogized by the Soviets . . . as the world's great . . . master. No words have been considered too extravagant . . . East German children were asked to *pray, not to God but to Stalin* . . . his plans always come true." (Los Angeles Times, March 5, 1953, under heading "Stalin Cult Makes God of Dictator.") Only God is worthy of the things this cult ascribes to Stalin!

God knows the world will not voluntarily stop doing this. Soon Christ is coming to chain that deceiver, the Devil (Rev. 20:2), and Christ will rule with a rod of iron (Rev. 2:27). Then those on the earth will *have* to decide whether they will stop deifying self or follow the *real deity*—God.

Why Do We Want To Be "As Gods"?

Yes, why? You and I today wish that this war within ourselves would cease—this inner desire which makes us, against our will, do things that we know the Bible says *not* to do. It makes us not want to do the things the Bible commands us to do. This is the internal battle that even Paul described as raging in himself. "I know that in me (that is, in my flesh) dwelleth no good thing: for to will is present with me but how to perform that which is good I find not . . . I see another law in my members, warring against the law of my mind, and bringing me into captivity to the law of sin." (Rom. 7:18, 23.)

Yes, why do we make ourselves "as gods" and make our own laws and shun God's? Basically, we simply do not seem to like God's laws—going against them (sinning) seems more attractive! Why?

The answer to this provides the *explanation that reveals why the Devil can rule this earth by Deceptive Suggestion!* Never once does the Bible show that the Devil has used physical force to rule mankind.

God has *made* mankind so we will desire (lust) to go contrary to His laws!

Unbelievable, but true! "The law is spiritual but I am carnal." (Rom. 7:14.) Carnal flesh does all sorts of evil things (Gal. 5:19-21). "The carnal mind is enmity against God." (Rom. 8:7.) The carnal mind today is making *carnal* laws to *take the place* of the higher spiritual laws which God has set in motion to govern us. Mankind's laws *seem right* in our *own* eyes. The flesh we are born with desires to lust, "Ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh." (Gal. 5:16. See also II Pet. 2:18; I Pet. 4:2.) "The creature (mankind—the thing *created* by God) *was made* subject to vanity." (Rom. 8:20.) Mankind was made to *desire things of no value*—corruptible and sinful things, by God himself!

God has made mankind with the *inherent* capacity to be upright *but* has given them a *carnal mind*! (Ecc. 7:29.) We *seem* to be free agents to make our *own* laws to provide our *own* plan whereby we *think* (wrongly) that we will obtain happiness. (The United Nations Assembly today is the big example of this.)

Mankind firmly believes that the *capacity* to do this lies within himself. We evidently believe God gave this capacity to us, or else how do we think we received it? *This is the very condition which makes it easy for the Devil to deceive us.*

Proving Selves Wrong Today

Today, God is letting the world *prove* that He has *not* bestowed on human minds the capacity of working out laws of happiness for themselves! He is letting them prove that happiness is beyond their reach as they are now constituted. It is no wonder then that God is perfectly willing that the Devil deceive the world now by encouraging the people in it to be "as gods." He turned even Job, the most perfect man on earth (Job 1:8), over to Satan to be strengthened (Job 1:12; 2:6, and 23:10).

God declared the end result from the beginning (Isa. 46:9-10). He planned it this way! *After* we learn the folly of our ways God says "the creature shall be delivered from the bondage of corruption" (Rom. 8:21) and be "*created* in Christ Jesus unto good works." (Eph. 2:10.) God says he will then (and only then) go a step further in creating us. He will change our fleshly bodies into Spiritual bodies fashioned to do good works.

God has promised to do just this! We must desire this new eternal body; we must repent (Acts 2:38)—show by actions that we realize that our usurping of our Creator's authority was wrong. Then he will beget us as his children and afterward give our bodies this new form. Lucifer, a spirit being, who be-

came the Devil, never did learn his *God given* capacity—he fought against his Creator (Isa. 14:14).

How Satan Rules

How does Satan rule? Paul said, "I fear lest by any means, as the *serpent* beguiled Eve through his subtility, so your *minds* should be corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ." (2 Cor. 11:3, 13, 14.) Satan may suggest evil courses of action to us through evil people over whom he has sway. The ministers of the false churches are here referred to. Notice that Satan is behind such people. Paul says these are "*false* apostles, *deceitful* workers transforming themselves into apostles of Christ." *They corrupt our minds!* Sometimes demons enter people and rule them by taking complete possession of their bodies. Luke tells of devils coming out of many people in Christ's time. (Lu. 4:41.)

Satan lays traps for us. He brings about *circumstances which tempt us* to do evil things. Paul warns us lest we fall into the "snare of the devil." (1 Tim. 3:7) Does our acting on Satan's evil suggestions bring us under Satan's *rule*? Yes. The Bible says so. "HIS SERVANTS YE ARE TO WHOM YE OBEY; WHETHER OF SIN UNTO DEATH, OR OBEDIENCE UNTO RIGHTEOUSNESS." (Rom. 6:16.) We are urged to recover ourselves "out of the snare of the devil" if we are taken captive by him. (2 Tim. 2:26.) Satan is called the prince of this world (Jn. 14:30). He rules it.

The evil spirit helpers of Satan can *directly influence the human mind*. A spirit in old testament times told how he would persuade an ancient king's prophets to lie to this king. He said, "I will persuade him (the king)—I will be a *lying spirit in the mouth* of all his prophets." (1 Kings 22:21-22.)

Satan "*deceiveth the whole world.*" (Rev. 12:9.) Notice that Satan deceives people *everywhere*. As a *deceiver* he makes things seem what they are not. A man because of his *own* lusts can deceive his own heart and this makes Satan's work easier (James 1:26).

Paul says, "We wrestle *not against flesh and blood* but against rulers of the darkness of *this world.*" (Eph. 6:12.) We wrestle against *spiritual* powers—Satan and his helpers. But how does Satan rule over the *large* groups of people on this earth? Let us see. Revelation 12:3 tells of a great red *dragon having seven heads* and ten horns and Revelation 13:1 describes this same beast again. This is a CIVIL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM of four succeeding empires which are to rule this earth until Christ comes. One beast had 4 heads and each of the other three had one head which makes a total of seven heads. Daniel 7:6, 17, 18 describes this in greater detail. Notice that

the *dragon*, identified as SATAN (Rev. 12:9), IS HEAD OF THIS SYSTEM. THROUGH IT HE RULES THIS EARTH!

But now a *second system* through which Satan sways the millions: "I beheld another beast—and he had two horns like a lamb and he spoke as a *dragon* (Satan) and HE CAUSETH THE EARTH AND THEM THAT DWELL THEREIN TO WORSHIP THE FIRST BEAST." (Rev. 13:11-12.) This is a great RELIGIOUS GOVERNMENT or CHURCH through which Satan deceives the earth as to the true way of becoming actual sons of God! Revelation 17:3 gives more of a description of this system.

Yes, through these two agencies Satan truly rules over all!—*for a time*. But Satan knows his time is short! (Rev. 12:13.)

We have seen how the Devil, through Semiramis, perpetuated the Sun-Serpent worship after her husband Nimrod's death, and why God allows this deception to go on. How did Satan pattern these deceptions so they would be usable to smother out and replace the teachings of Christ when he came? We shall see in the next issue of the *Plain Truth*.

Prophesied to Happen to UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 2)

and I will make of thee a great nation." (Gen. 12:1-2).

Here was a command, which was the *condition*, and a PROMISE, provided the condition of obedience was met.

And so now, as God had started the WHOLE WORLD with *one man*, He started HIS OWN PECULIAR NATION in the world from *one single man*—Abraham.

As the WORLD, which has strayed far from God and the blessings of God's worship and rule, was started with one man who rebelled against God and rejected his rule, so God's own flesh-born nation, from which is to be re-born the Kingdom of God, was started with one man who OBEYED GOD without question, and accepted His divine rule!

Did Abram stop to argue and reason? Did he say—"Let's reason this out a bit first; here I am in Babylon, in the very center of all this world's commerce, society and gayety. WHY can't you just as well give me this promise right here, where everything is pleasant and alluring? Why must I leave all this and go over to that uncivilized land?"

By your life, he did not!

The inspired scriptural account states, simply, "So Abram departed."

There was no arguing with God. There was no human reasoning that God was all wrong. There were no fool ques-

tions: "WHY must I leave here?" "Can't I do as I please?" There was no stopping to say, "Well, *here's* the way I look at it."

"ABRAM DEPARTED." Just plain, unquestioned OBEDIENCE!

And God established this man, whose name He later changed to Abraham, as the FATHER of His nation, ISRAEL! To Abraham, and His seed, were all the promises of God made. And we must become *like* Abraham, and through Christ one of his children, if we are to inherit the promise of eternal life in God's Kingdom!

Of His peculiar flesh-born nation, Israel, the Eternal said: "This people have I formed for myself; *they shall* show forth my praise." (Isa. 43:21).

"Ye are my witnesses," God also said of them, "that I am God." (Isa. 43:12). Again, "I will sanctify my great name . . . and the heathen shall know that I am the ETERNAL, saith the Lord Eternal, when I shall be sanctified *in you* before their eyes." (Ezek. 36:23).

Dual Promises to Abraham

Few have realized it, but a *duality* runs all the way through the plan of God in working out His PURPOSE here below!

There was the first Adam, material and carnal; and there is Christ the second Adam, spiritual and divine. There was the Old Covenant, purely material and temporal; and there is the New Covenant, spiritual and eternal. God made man mortal, physical, of the dust of the ground and of the animal kingdom; but through Christ he may be begotten of God to become immortal, spiritual, and of the Kingdom of God.

And in like manner there were *two* phases to the promises God made to Abraham—the one purely material and national; the other spiritual and individual.

The spiritual promise of the Messiah, and of salvation through Him, is well known by the most superficial Bible student. But God made also another, entirely different, most amazing national and material promise to Abraham which has been almost entirely overlooked.

Notice, now, again, how God first called Abram, and the *two-fold* nature of His promises:

"Now the Eternal said unto Abram, Get thee out of thy country, and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: and *I will make of thee* A GREAT NATION . . . and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed." (Gen. 12:1-3).

Notice the *two-fold* promises:

1) "I will make of thee A GREAT NATION"—the national, material promise that his flesh-born children should become a great nation—a promise of RACE;

2) ". . . and in thee shall all the families of the earth be blessed,"—the

spiritual promise of GRACE. This same promise is repeated in Genesis 22:18: "in *thy seed* shall all the nations of the earth be blessed." This particular "*one seed*" refers to Christ as plainly affirmed in Galatians 3:8, 16.

But the plain fact that the "great nation" promise refers alone to race—not the "*one seed*," of Galatians 3:16, who was Jesus Christ the Son of Abraham and the Son of God, but to the plural, multiple seed of natural fleshly birth—is made certain by God's repetition of His promise in greater detail later.

"And when Abram was ninety years old and nine, the Eternal appeared to Abram, and said unto him, I am the Almighty God; walk before me, and be thou perfect, and I will make my covenant between me and thee, *and will multiply thee exceedingly* . . . *thou shalt be a father of MANY NATIONS*. Neither shall thy name any more be called Abram, but thy name shall be Abraham; for a father of MANY NATIONS have I made thee." (Gen. 17:1-5.)

Notice, the promise is now *CONDITIONAL* upon Abraham's obedience and perfect living. Notice, the "great nation" now becomes MANY NATIONS—*more* than one nation. This cannot refer to the "one seed," Christ. The following verses prove that.

"And *I will make thee exceeding fruitful*, and I will make NATIONS of thee, and KINGS" (more than one) "shall come out of thee." (Verse 6). Notice, these nations and kings shall *come out of* Abraham—physical generation—multiple seed, not just one descendant *thru whom* scattered individuals *may* become Abraham's children, by spiritual begetting through Christ (Gal. 3:29). The scattered, individual Christians do not form NATIONS. This is speaking of RACE, not grace.

"And I will establish my covenant between me and thee and thy seed after thee in *THEIR* generations." (Verse 7). The "seed" is *PLURAL*—"in *their* generations."

"And I will give unto thee, and to thy seed after thee, *the land* wherein thou art a stranger, all the land of Canaan (Palestine) for an everlasting possession: and I will be *THEIR* God." (Verse 8.)

Notice, the *LAND*—material possession—is promised to the *PLURAL* seed, of whom He is *THEIR*, not *his*, God. The plural pronoun "*their*" is used again in the 9th verse—"and thy seed after thee in *their* generations."

Not Fulfilled in Jews

Again, notice carefully—the JEWS have never been more than *one nation*. They are not, and never have been, MANY nations.

So here is an amazing prophecy—a solemn promise from Almighty God, that could not be fulfilled in Christ, in Christians, nor in the Jews. We must look for a number of NATIONS apart from either the Christians or the Jews. Amazing as it is, we must do it or deny God's promise!

God put Abraham to the test, and Abraham, *through faith*, OBEYED—even to being willing to sacrifice his only son, if need be. And after that the covenant no longer was conditional. Now it became UNCONDITIONAL.

"By myself have I sworn, saith the Eternal, for BECAUSE thou *hast done* this thing, and has not withheld thy son, thine only son, 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*" (so far the material national promises of RACE); "and in thy seed" (Christ) "shall all the nations of the earth be blessed" (this promise spiritual, of GRACE); "BECAUSE thou *hast obeyed* my voice." (Gen. 22:16-18).

The promise now is UN-conditional. God has SWORN to make it good. God does not promise these things IF Abraham or his children do certain things. He promises them to Abraham BECAUSE he already *has performed* his part of the agreement. If these promises could be broken or annulled, then *no* promise in the Bible is sure!

These promises *cannot* be broken or annulled. Not if it be true that "Heaven and earth shall pass, but my word shall NOT pass away." Now God MUST perform His part without fail.

Notice an additional detail of the promise—the nations who are Abraham's racial descendants are to "possess the gate of his enemies." A gate is a narrow passage of entrance or exit. When speaking nationally a "gate" would be such a pass as the Panama Canal, the Suez Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar. This promise is repeated in Gen. 24:60 to Abraham's daughter-in-law: "Be thou the mother of thousands of millions and let thy seed possess the gate of those that *hate them*."

Notice, Abraham's descendants would possess vital geographic passageways of *their enemies*—those that hate them. This has never been fulfilled in the Jews; nor could it be fulfilled after Jesus Christ returns to rule the nations and establish world peace. This promise could only be fulfilled *in the present world* or else we must deny the Bible as God's revealed Word. We must look for a people either now or in history who possess the sea ports of the world, or we must deny the Word of God. It is a test of the inspiration.
(Please continue on page 16)

Our 20th Anniversary

THIS is the 20th anniversary of The WORLD TOMORROW broadcast, and The PLAIN TRUTH. Think of it!

It hardly seems 20 weeks—and yet, again, 20 years is a long time!

It was back in January, 1934, that The WORLD TOMORROW first went on the air. It was during JANUARY, 1934, that the first issue of The PLAIN TRUTH was written—and mimeographed! We were not able to afford the cost of printing it until a few years later.

Jesus compared the Kingdom of God to the grain of mustard seed, which, when planted, is the smallest of all seeds, but which grows until it becomes the greatest of all herbs. Likewise GOD'S WORK of proclaiming the same original Gospel Jesus preached—the Gospel of the KINGDOM OF GOD—began, thru the media of radio and the printing

press, the smallest of all religious programs, on one minimum-sized radio station of only 100 watts.

The PLAIN TRUTH began as a humble little mimeographed paper, the stencils cut on a borrowed typewriter, and the paper printed on a borrowed mimeograph. That first edition was a mere 300 copies.

But it has grown gradually, steadily, in constantly multiplied power even as Jesus assured us the Kingdom of God is to grow. Today The WORLD TOMORROW is possibly the largest and most powerful radio program on earth, measured in weekly wattage of power, or in size of cumulative listening audience.

And now, we make mention for the first time, it is probable that God's Message will begin going out on television during 1954!

More than 100 radio stations now

broadcast The WORLD TOMORROW. Among them are the most powerful standard-wave broadcast stations on earth—including the most powerful station in Europe, Radio Luxembourg, with 150,000 watts, and three super-power Mexican stations of 100,000 and 150,000 watts, which cover the entire North American continent EVERY night in the year.

And now, also, God opened another tremendous door late in 1953—a major network, ABC, transcontinental! Some of the most powerful stations in America release the program over this network.

This includes four strong stations in Alaska, and now the latest addition, the most powerful station in Honolulu, Hawaii, the 10,000-watt KULA.

Below we reprint our radio log. Keep this handy for reference.

ALL EUROPE AND BRITAIN

Radio Luxembourg, 208 metres medium wave band, 23:30, Greenwich time.

ALL NORTH AMERICA

XEG, 1050 on dial, every night, Central standard time, 8:30 PM
XELO, 800 on dial, every night, 8 PM Mountain time, 9 PM C.S.T.
XERF, 1570, top of dial, Sunday nights, Central time, 7:15 PM

ALL PACIFIC COAST

XERB, 1090 on dial, every night, 7 PM
XEDM, 1580, top of dial, Sunday nights, 6:30 PM

EASTERN

WABC	New York, N.Y.	770 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
WKBW	Buffalo, N.Y.	1520 kcs.	8:00- 8:30 PM
WVET	Rochester, N.Y.	1280 kcs.	1:30- 2:00 PM
WCAE	Pittsburgh, Penna.	1250 kcs.	4:00- 4:30 PM
WHGB	Harrisburg, Penna.	1400 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WIKK	Erie, Penna.	1330 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
WLAN	Lancaster, Penna.	1390 kcs.	7:00- 7:30 PM
WFBR	Baltimore, Md.	1300 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WRNL	Richmond, Va.	910 kcs.	7:30- 8:00 PM
WFVA	Fredericksburg, Va.	1230 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WKNA	Charleston, W. Va.	950 kcs.	3:00- 3:30 PM

NEW ENGLAND

WELI	New Haven, Conn.	960 kcs.	1:00- 2:00 PM
WPJB	Providence, R.I.	1420 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WORC	Worcester, Mass.	1310 kcs.	3:00- 3:30 PM
WHOB	Gardner, Mass.	1340 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WMUR	Manchester, N.H.	610 kcs.	10:00-11:00 PM
WTSV	Claremont, N.H.	1230 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WLNH	Laconia, N.H.	1350 kcs.	12:30- 1:00 PM
WTSL	Lebanon, N.H.	1400 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WTSA	Brattleboro, Vt.	1450 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WABI	Bangor, Me.	910 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM

SOUTH ATLANTIC

WNAO	Raleigh, N.C.	850 kcs.	10:00-10:30 PM
WAYS	Charlotte, N.C.	610 kcs.	7:00- 7:30 PM
WGST	Atlanta, Ga.	920 kcs.	7:30- 8:00 PM
WGAC	Augusta, Ga.	580 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WGIG	Brunswick, Ga.	1440 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WPDQ	Jacksonville, Fla.	600 kcs.	7:00- 7:30 PM
WQAM	Miami, Fla.	560 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WWPG	Palm Beach, Fla.	1340 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WSUN	Tampa-St. Petersburg, Fla.	620 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WMEJ	Daytona Beach, Fla.	1450 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WGGG	Gainesville, Fla.	1230 kcs.	12:00- 1:00 PM
WTNT	Tallahassee, Fla.	1450 kcs.	12:30- 1:00 PM

MIDDLE WEST

WENR	Chicago, Ill.	890 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
WAIT	Chicago, Ill.	820 kcs.	1:00- 1:30 PM
WJBC	Bloomington, Ill.	1230 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
WXYZ	Detroit, Mich.	1270 kcs.	12:30- 1:00 PM
WBCM	Bay City, Mich.	1440 kcs.	3:00- 3:30 PM
WJPS	Evansville, Ind.	1330 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
WGL	Ft. Wayne, Ind.	1250 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
KSO	Des Moines, Ia.	1460 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
KXEL	Waterloo, Ia.	1540 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
KLIL	Estherville, Ia.	1340 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
WCAN	Milwaukee, Wis.	1250 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
WKTY	La Crosse, Wis.	580 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
KTOE	Mankato, Minn.	1420 kcs.	5:15- 5:45 PM
KATE	Albert Lea, Minn.	1450 kcs.	2:00- 2:30 PM
KDMA	Montevideo, Minn.	1450 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
KSOO	Sioux Falls, S.D.	1140 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KSDN	Aberdeen, S.D.	930 kcs.	1:00- 1:30 PM
KLPM	Minot, N.D.	1390 kcs.	4:00- 4:30 PM
KFGO	Fargo, N.D.	790 kcs.	6:30- 7:00 PM
KOIL	Omaha, Neb.	1290 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
KFOR	Lincoln, Neb.	1240 kcs.	2:00- 2:30 PM
KCMO	Kansas City, Mo.	810 kcs.	11:30-12:00 Noon
WIL	St. Louis, Mo.	1430 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
KWTO	Springfield, Mo.	560 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
WREN	Topeka, Kan.	1250 kcs.	2:00- 2:30 PM

SOUTH

KRMG	Tulsa, Okla.	740 kcs.	to be announced
WKLO	Louisville, Ky.	1080 kcs.	2:00- 2:30 PM
KGHI	Little Rock, Ark.	1250 kcs.	6:00- 6:30 PM
WMPS	Memphis, Tenn.	680 kcs.	6:30- 7:00 PM
WSGN	Birmingham, Ala.	610 kcs.	12:30- 1:00 PM

MOUNTAIN

KVOD	Denver, Colo.	630 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KGHF	Pueblo, Colo.	1350 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KOPR	Butte, Mont.	550 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KWRN	Reno, Nev.	1230 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KGEM	Boise, Idaho	1140 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KBIO	Burley, Idaho	1230 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KCNA	Tucson, Ariz.	580 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KCLF	Clifton, Ariz.	1400 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KOAT	Albuquerque, N.M.	1240 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KCLV	Clovis, N.M.	1240 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KRSN	Los Alamos, N.M.	1490 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KTRC	Santa Fe, N.M.	1400 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KVOC	Casper, Wyo.	1230 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM

PACIFIC COAST

KECA	Los Angeles, Cal.	790 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
KGO	San Francisco, Cal.	810 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM

(Please continue on next page)

PACIFIC COAST (Cont'd)

KPMC	Bakersfield, Cal.	1560 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KGER	Long Beach, Cal.	1390 kcs.	2:00- 2:30 PM
KBLA	Burbank, Cal.	1490 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
KMOD	Modesto, Cal.	1360 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KTMS	Santa Barbara, Cal.	1250 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KITO	San Bernardino, Cal.	1290 kcs.	5:00- 5:30 PM
KREO	Indio, Cal.	1400 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KROP	Brawley, Cal.	1300 kcs.	10:00-10:30 AM
KPDQ	Portland, Ore.	800 kcs.	8:30- 9:00 AM
KXL	Portland, Ore.	750 kcs.	2:30- 3:00 PM
KASH	Eugene, Ore.	1600 kcs.	5:30- 6:00 PM

KFLW	Klamath Falls, Ore.	1450 kcs.	9:00- 9:30 AM
KWRC	Pendleton, Ore.	1240 kcs.	12:00-12:30 PM
KJUN	Redmond, Ore.	1240 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KGA	Spokane, Wash.	1510 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KPKW	Pasco, Wash.	1340 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KVI	Seattle-Tacoma, Wash.	570 kcs.	10:30-11:00 PM

ALASKA

KENI	Anchorage	550 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KFAR	Fairbanks	660 kcs.	9:30-10:00 AM
KJNO	Juneau	630 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM
KABI	Ketchikan	580 kcs.	11:00-11:30 AM

Prophesied to Happen to UNITED STATES

(Continued from page 14)

tion of the Bible and of God's power to rule this world!

A Nation and a Company of Nations

These tremendous promises were re-promised to Isaac and to Jacob. Ishmael, and Abraham's other sons were rejected from this birthright. Esau, Isaac's son and Jacob's twin brother, sold it and was rejected. The promise, as confirmed to Isaac, is recorded in Gen. 26:1-5. "I will perform the oath which I swear unto Abraham thy father; and I will make thy seed to MULTIPLY as the stars of heaven; and I will give unto thy seed all these countries . . ." To Jacob it is repeated in Gen. 27:26-29, where MATERIAL blessing of wealth in the things of the ground is added, with the prophecy that heathen nations shall be ruled by the birthright nations of Israel. And again in Gen. 28:13-14, where the added detail that these nations of Israel shall

eventually spread around the world is recorded.

Still later, God appeared unto Jacob, whose name was changed to ISRAEL, still further defining the make-up of these "many nations" thus: "And God said unto him, I am God Almighty: be fruitful and multiply; A NATION and a COMPANY OF NATIONS shall be of thee, and kings shall come out of thy loins." (Gen. 35:9-12).

So the "many nations" are eventually to take shape as A NATION—one great, wealthy, powerful nation; and another COMPANY OF NATIONS—a group, or commonwealth of nations.

This promise never has been fulfilled in the Jews. It cannot be "spiritualized" away by interpreting it as being inherited only through Christ. It could not per-

tain to the Church, for there is but ONE true Church acknowledged in the Bible, and it is not a nation, or a group of nations, but a collection of called-out individuals scattered through ALL nations. Yet this amazing promise MUST stand fulfilled, unless we are to deny the Bible and God's sacred Word!

Here is the enigma of the ages! Is this a divine promise unkept? Thomas Paine and Robert Ingersoll lost faith in God and rejected the Bible because they believed these tremendous national promises were never fulfilled.

The very fate of the Bible as the revealed Word of God—the evidence of the existence of God—hangs on the answer to this momentous question. The Jewish people did not fulfill these promises. They do not refer to the Church. The world with its great church leaders does not know of any such fulfillment. Did God fail? Or has He made good this colossal promise unknown to the world?

The true answer is the most astonishing revelation of Bible truth, of prophecy, and of unrecognized history!

The second installment will appear in the February number.

NOTICE

There was no December issue of
The PLAIN TRUTH.

The PLAIN TRUTH

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