

the
PLAIN TRUTH
a magazine of understanding

MARCH 1977



THE PRIVATE CONFERENCE WITH
MAO
THAT MIGHT HAVE TAKEN PLACE



DEVIL MOVIES
VIEW AT YOUR OWN RISK



ASLEEP ON A
BOMB!



WHATEVER HAPPENED TO
FATHER?

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Vol. XLII, No. 3

March 1977

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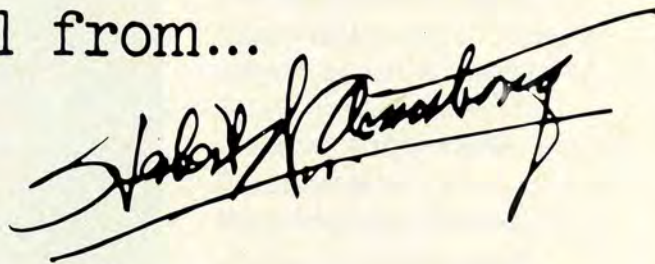
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Where are they all gone — these former heads of government — all of whom I knew — some warmly, affectionately! Why are they gone? What does it all mean? This world was not like this when I was a young man.

Personal from...



VERY FEW MEN in this world know personally as many heads of government as I. Yet I am absolutely AMAZED at how short a period of time most of them last. Many have a tenure in office — if they stay healthy — of only four to six years. Many die in office. Some are assassinated — others shot down in a military coup or violent overthrow of government. Some are forced to resign due to alleged misconduct in office.

I think over in my mind about many I have known, some closely and intimately — *now GONE!* One was Prime Minister Eisaku Sato of Japan. He and I had a personal agreement we would throw away a year annually — to become one year *younger* each year. And also, as he said to me, “One of us must live into the 21st century, so to have lived into *THREE CENTURIES* — and that must be you, Mr. Armstrong, because I was born in *this* century.”

Before he died last year, he received the Nobel Peace Prize.

There was Prime Minister Tanaka of Japan, now under alleged bribery charges, forced to resign. I had acquaintance with him before and during office. There was Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia, taken prisoner in a military coup which overthrew his long-established government. He died in military custody. There was President Allende of Chile, machine-gunned in the back in the very room where I had a private conference with members of his staff. There was President Rahman of Bangladesh, assassinated in an overthrow of his poverty-stricken, illiteracy-cursed country. There was the king of Afghanistan, whom I was invited to visit, but who was overthrown and driven to European exile before my visit could be arranged.

There have been others, affec-

THE REAL SIGNIFICANCE OF CHANGING GOVERNMENTS

tionate friends of mine, whose terms of office have expired, such as V. V. Giri, ex-President of India. And many more, still in office.

I think mine one of the rarest experiences in world history.

And now, even since writing the words above, Prime Minister Thaksin Kraivichien of Thailand has been driven from office in a military coup which overthrew the Thai government. He is being held in “protective custody.” Three weeks before this military coup, I had a private meeting with him in his office in Bangkok, and that night he sat next to me at a banquet.

There was President Suleiman Franjeh of Lebanon, with whom I was spending a day at his summer mountain home, at the time of the Allende assassination in Santiago, Chile. President Franjeh fought desperately on, in the bloody civil war in Lebanon, until forced to “resign” — at least officially.

And what now?

As I write, in a spa near Rome, the Sunday morning *Daily American* front-page headline says: “Christians Seize South Lebanon Garrison Town” — the disastrous civil war still continues in Lebanon.

Other front-page news that appeared as I was writing these words: “Smith [of Rhodesia] Wants Kissinger in Geneva to Untie Rhodesia’s Transition Knots.” I had stopped off here near Rome, waiting for a scheduled meeting between myself

and Prime Minister Ian Smith in Salisbury last November 1st. His emergency meeting at Geneva postponed that meeting. I proceeded on to Johannesburg and other South Africa cities instead.

A recent issue of *Time* had a story on the granting of freedom to the ALL-BLACK NEW STATE of Transkei on the eastern coast of South Africa, last October 26th. There was a great celebration at Umtata, the new capital of Transkei. Its new head of state is Chief Minister Kaiser D. Matanzima. He flew in to Johannesburg for an hour-and-a-half private talk with me and Mr. Stanley Rader (my chief assistant) last June. He invited us to the opening celebration, but we preferred another private talk with him after he would be officially in office.

Just look at the STATE OF THE WORLD, TODAY!

Just WHAT DOES IT ALL MEAN?

Current news headlines — look at the significance — a WHOLE WORLD ON FIRE — fast approaching the final SUPREME END-TIME CRISIS at the END OF THIS PRESENT WORLD!

TODAY’S front-page news headlines — Paris edition of New York *Herald-Tribune* — and *Daily American* of Rome: “Hua Hailed as Leader: Leftist Bid ‘Shattered.’” (That’s the great political CRISIS in the world’s largest nation, China.) “Right Dominates New Thai Cabinet — Military Men Hold Two Key
(Continued on page 42)

“I shall try to be brief as possible. But, written in a book, it could easily fill several thick volumes, if written in more detail. The motion picture, if produced, would probably run three hours or more. Now I know you are very busy, with weighty things on your mind . . .”



THE PRIVATE CONF THAT MIGHT HAVE

by Herbert W. Armstrong

One world leader I now shall never meet was Mao Tse-tung, ruler of the largest nation in the world's history. He was known as one of the world's great thinkers and philosophers. Of course, his thinking flowed primarily in the channel of Communism. I should have liked to have invited him to think and compare his philosophy with a scenario of another form of governmental and economic system as yet nonexistent in any nation. It would certainly have given him something to think about!

I should have liked to have had a personal visit with Mao Tse-tung before he died. I should have liked to ask him to listen to a scenario which might be made into a \$50

million movie. It surely would seem as fictitious to him as any movie.

Only THIS SCENARIO IS TRUE!

Please LISTEN! HERE IT IS, as it might have been:

Chairman Mao: “Mr. Armstrong, you are welcome. Come and sit beside me here.” The chairman and head of state of the largest nation on earth raised a hand. He was confined to a special very comfortable chair and made no move to rise for the greeting.

Myself: “Mr. Chairman, I’m delighted to see you. I’ve been waiting a long time for this privilege and honor.”

Chairman Mao: “Yes, I know. When our former chief of protocol invited you to come, more than three years ago in Addis Ababa, you had written some things against Communism. We decided against pursuing the matter at the time, but offered the invitation to Ambassador Mikasha of Ethiopia, who was to have come with you. But we also

noted that for several years now you have written no further anti-Communist articles; and on a very urgent appeal from nine highly ranked members of the Japanese Diet, saying they think so well of you that they call themselves your ‘nine Japanese sons,’ I decided I wanted to talk to you.”

Myself: “Thank you sincerely, Mr. Chairman, for your gracious hospitality.”

Chairman Mao: “I understand you have something special in mind you wanted to talk to me about.”

Myself: “Indeed I have, Mr. Chairman. You are known as one of the world’s greatest thinkers and philosophers. I know you are deeply concerned about the present state of the world, and about doing what seems right in your eyes to bring this world to a lasting PEACE.”

Chairman Mao: “And I understand you are considered by many heads of state to be a private ambassador for WORLD PEACE. Do we



Wide World

“A man carrying my great responsibilities cannot succeed in those responsibilities unless he can take time, when called for, to listen, and to think. Proceed with your scenario, Mr. Armstrong. I have taken measures to see that we are not to be interrupted.”

ERENCE WITH MAO VE TAKEN PLACE

think, now that you no longer write derogatorily against Communism, that we now think in the same channel?”

Myself: “Mr. Chairman, I am not a self-appointed man trying, myself, to bring about world peace. I represent the most high existing POWER — and I do not mean national — that is *going* to bring about lasting world peace — and in our time. I am merely the advance one, preparing the way by ANNOUNCING to the world and its leaders what is very soon to come. And what I announce is SURE!”

Chairman Mao: (smiling) “I’m sure you really believe that.”

Myself: “But, Mr. Chairman, instead of telling you directly what is soon to happen in this world, I should prefer to have you listen to it as a scenario for a motion picture — *as fiction*, if you please — for I know you will not believe it anyway. But I would like to ask you if you do not find it interesting, *different*, *logical*, and the

commonsense EXPLANATION of things as they are; and to ask if it MAKES SENSE — *if only it were TRUE* — for I know you will not *believe* it true.”

Chairman Mao: “No man ever talked to me like that, Mr. Armstrong. But I will hear you.”

Myself: “I shall try to be brief as possible. But, written in a book, it could easily fill several thick volumes, if written in more detail. The motion picture, if produced, would probably run three hours or more. Now I know you are very busy, with weighty things on your mind . . .”

Chairman Mao: “A man carrying my great responsibilities cannot succeed in those responsibilities unless he can *take time*, when called for, to LISTEN, and to THINK. Proceed with your scenario, Mr. Armstrong. I have taken measures to see that we are not to be interrupted.”

Myself: “The scenario begins with the state of the world as it is today, and after a few short shots into the probable future, there is a flashback

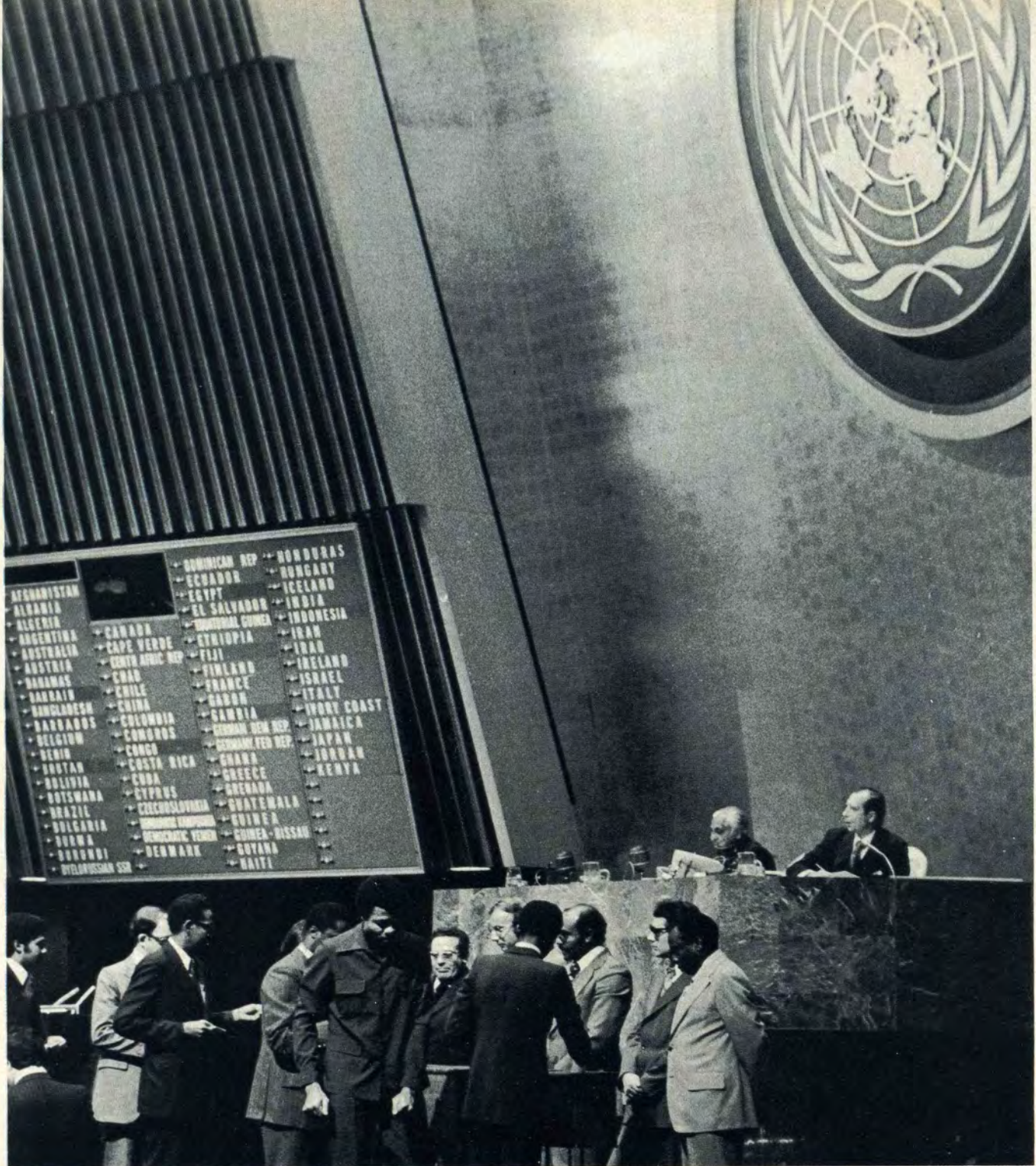
all the way into PREHISTORY, to show how it all started, and how and WHY it has led up to the problems we face TODAY.

“The scenario presupposes there was a time, perhaps even billions of years ago, when there was no MATTER — no material universe. All that existed were two supernatural Beings, formed of spirit, with supernatural minds and powers. They were endued with creative powers.”

Chairman Mao: (interrupting) “Just a moment, Mr. Armstrong. There is NO GOD — no supernatural Being — no spirit. *Nothing* exists but matter. Communism is ANTI-God, you know.”

Myself: “Yes, Mr. Chairman, I am quite familiar with the Communist belief. But there are *many* beliefs in the world — and besides, as I said, this is merely a scenario — a sort of ‘JUST-SUPPOSE’ thing. I want you to consider whether, IF this were true, WOULD IT NOT MAKE SENSE?

(Continued on page 28)



United Nations / Y. Nagata

A "Worldwatch" Special Report

THE UNITED NATIONS CALLS FOR WAR IN AFRICA

by Gene H. Hogberg

The United Nations — hailed at its inception in 1945 as “the world’s last chance” for peace — has finally turned full circle. The General Assembly has gone on record as endorsing war as a means of “liberating” the “oppressed people” of South Africa and adjoining South West Africa, also known — erroneously — as Namibia.

Thus the noble inscription from the prophet Isaiah at the entrance to the U.N. (“They shall beat their swords into plowshares, and their spears into pruninghooks: nation shall not lift up sword against nation, neither shall they learn war anymore”) has been trampled into the mire of incredulous hypocrisy.

Eleven Resolutions

An unprecedented flurry of activity in the current session of the U.N. — the so-called “year of Africa” — has culminated in the passage of eleven highly dangerous resolutions — even more potentially devastating in their total impact than the notorious resolution equating Zionism with racism, passed in the last U.N. session.

The resolutions include demands for an arms embargo against South Africa, its banishment from all international sport, the severing of economic relations with South Africa and the banning of foreign investment in the country — the latter two in flagrant disregard of the economic well-being of the very people who supposedly need to be “liberated.” Apparently South Africa’s black people are expendable for “the cause.”

Other of the resolutions condemn what is called collaboration between South Africa and Israel; declare the South African government “illegitimate”; recognize the outlawed African National Congress (ANC) and the Pan Africanist Congress (PAC) as the “authentic representatives” of the South African people; endorse the right of the “oppressed” of South Africa to use armed force to “seize power”; and call upon the

U.N. DELEGATES cast votes in recent General Assembly meeting. On one resolution, the Assembly, by lopsided vote, called for support for revolutionaries in South West Africa.

members of the U.N. to give “all necessary support and assistance” to the “armed struggle” of the “Namibian people.”

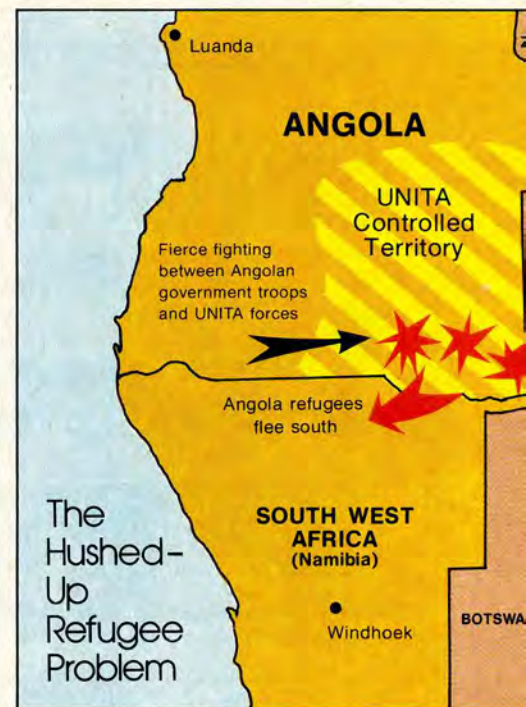
Fortunately, such extremely dangerous General Assembly resolutions — pushed through by the supernumerous Communist-Afro-Asian bloc — are nonbinding. Power to implement such resolutions rests with the Security Council, where vetoes are certain. And even in the Assembly itself, abstentions and negative votes took some of the sting off the ridiculous resolutions introduced by what has come to be called the “tyranny of the majority.”

On some resolutions the number of negative votes was higher than those cast against similar resolutions last year. But what has made things different this U.N. session is the boldness of many Communist and “Third World” nations to introduce the resolutions espousing violent overthrows of constitutional governments. Such activity shows the abysmal depth to which the “sounding board of humanity” has sunk.

Columnist Smith Hempstone couldn’t sit still when he heard the U.N.’s most recent African decision — the 107-6 (with 12 abstentions) resolution endorsing war to “liberate” South West Africa — in total disregard of the fact that the representatives of that South African-ruled territory have already agreed on a formula to peacefully achieve independence in two years. Steamed Hempstone: “With the passage of time, one becomes inured to the vapidities, travesties, calumnies and outright lies uttered on the stage of that theater of the absurd called the United Nations. But the inmates of that diplomatic funny farm the other day delivered themselves of a lalapalooza that cannot be allowed to pass unsung.” After discussing the Namibia resolution in detail, he concluded: “For its day’s work in endorsing war, the U.N., in logic, ought to condemn itself as a threat to peace” (emphasis ours throughout article).

Serious Charge

The Namibian resolution is bad enough — but the one declaring that the “racist regime of South Africa is illegitimate” is a precedent-setting



accusation. Regardless of one’s own personal views on South Africa, the charges of “illegitimacy” against a country which is not only a charter member of the United Nations (its great wartime Prime Minister, Jan Smuts, was one of the U.N.’s principal founders!) but has been a duly constituted independent government for the past 67 years, is an unthinkable intrusion into any country’s internal affairs.

Jan Smuts, as the saying goes, “would turn over in his grave” if he could see what the U.N. has become, and how weak and insipid the response of the Western powers is to the challenges continually made against them in the General Assembly!

U.N. Ignores Helpless Refugees

The deliverance of the unholy eleven resolutions, however, is far from the whole sordid U.N. story. Above all the name-calling in the General Assembly chamber, a real human tragedy is unfolding — one that because of its incredible ideological bias, the U.N. is choosing to overlook.

The tragedy is along the border between southern Angola and northern South West Africa. The Marxist MPLA government in Angola, backed up by Castro’s Cubans (whom Fidel once promised would

One Cartoonist's View of the U.N.



Its double standards and contravention of its own charter and aims have never been revealed as clearly as during the past week. In the General Assembly, resolutions have been passed which *legalize terrorism* inside and outside South Africa. This is *blatant incitement to revolution* against a country where basically stability, peace and order prevail.

According to all signs, a bloody civil war is raging in Angola. And thousands of Angolan refugees are streaming over the border to South West Africa, under jurisdiction of the condemned South Africa.

This, however, the U.N. approves of — as indicated by its silence. In fact, earlier requests by South Africa for refugee aid were refused by the U.N. . . . This is shocking evidence of how far the Third World, the Communists and their allies are prepared to go for the sake of their own political and ideological aims.

be out of the country within a year) and SWAPO units (militant "Namibian" outfits encamped in Angola), is pushing hard in the southern regions of Angola to wipe out the remaining forces of *Unita*, one of the three organizations which vied for control of Angola in 1975. The government forces are engaged in a devastating, all-out, scorched-earth drive.

As a result of the fighting, thousands of hapless, helpless refugees have been streaming out of Angola into northern South West Africa. However, in the eyes of the U.N., the refugees — perhaps 50,000 by now — are *seeking refuge in the "wrong country"*!

And who is taking care of these poor souls? The South African army, backed up by volunteer emergency supplies sent in by the South African Red Cross.

The South African government in Pretoria has appealed *five times* to the U.N. High Commission for Refugees to step in and assume its responsibility for this international calamity. The response from New York has been a cold silence to each plea. (Only those fleeing to Zambia have received U.N. aid.)

The dilemma faced by the U.N. is this: for the "world body" to respond to South Africa's pleas about the Angolan refugees would commit it to recognizing Pretoria's authority

in South West Africa — instead of the SWAPO rebels who are part of the problem, but have been christened by the U.N. as the political heir-apparents to the territory! The quibbling takes absolutely no account of the mounting human toll and the fact that the suffering is being alleviated by South Africa.

Meanwhile, to add insult to injury, the southern African representative of the U.N. High Commission for Refugees *has* been busy of late — handing out picnic baskets in Swaziland to 119 runaway Soweto students who have fled South Africa in the aftermath of the uprisings they helped instigate there.

That apparently is a "refugee problem" that demands urgent attention!

Only one word describes the U.N. today — SICK!

Why aren't these stories being given more publicity worldwide? It's not that the facts are not available, that's for certain! Look at what the editors of some of the leading newspapers in South Africa — and that country has a free press, unlike most of the rest of the continent — are saying:

DIE VADERLAND, Johannesburg:

The United Nations was founded about 30 years ago with lofty ideals that it would be an organization to guard peace in the world. Unfortunately it has lost its way.

OOSTERLIG, Port Elizabeth:

Among the eleven resolutions against South Africa passed by the General Assembly of the United Nations are some which could hold far-reaching consequences for South Africa.

Two in particular are so grave that they may be interpreted as *open declarations of war by the majority of the members of the General Assembly*. These are: first the allegation that the government of South Africa is illegal. . . . second, the identification of the majority in the U.N. with the aims of the PAC and ANC, to *break and overthrow the government by any possible means, using every possible method*.

Although individual representatives have in the past made similar allegations, it is the first time that the General Assembly has declared the government of a member state illegal, and that terror and even open warfare against a member state is condoned in advance.

This amounts to a *blank cheque for everyone who aims at starting a reign of terror in South Africa*.

THE CITIZEN, Johannesburg:

Amazing, isn't it?

Some of the crummiest countries on earth, without freedom of any kind, guilty of racial and religious persecution, some of them practising genocide, all of them deserving of the condemnation of world opinion for their enslavement of peoples, their own and others, sit in judgment on South Africa. . . .

The battle of Angola goes on in all its bloody anguish; the Mozambique of Samora Machel is but a concentration

camp of Marxist re-educators; Idi Amin goes along his lunatic path with a madman's contempt for the world at large . . . and so it goes on in blackest Africa, and beyond in countries of Afro-Asian-Communist persecution and oppression.

But South Africa alone stands in the dock.

Talk about double standards and double dealing!

THE NATAL MERCURY, Durban:

In the sightless eyes of the U.N., only the recognized governments of the MPLA and SWAPO — the organizations which are responsible for the massacre, pillage and rape which are driving hordes of terrified Angolans to seek sanctuary — are entitled to negotiate with the U.N. for refugee aid [in northern South West Africa].

So on the basis of this absurd technicality the whole refugee problem in South West Africa is being left in the lap of South Africa. . . . The pawns of the game are the helpless thousands who have escaped from the horrors of their MPLA and Cuban tormentors and now seek only help and compassion.

Where, then, are the voices of the so-called humanitarian countries?

The United Nations appears to have more pressing matters to consider. There is, for instance, the vexed problem of 119 Soweto students who have fled "police persecution" in South Africa and are seeking political asylum in Swaziland — while distraught parents plead with them to return. It is to this unlikely scenario that the southern African representative of the United Nations High Commission for Refugees has turned his attention. . . .

It might be funny if it were not so contemptible.

DIAMOND FIELDS ADVERTISER, Kimberley:

"The world is going mad," says Mr. Andrew Kloppers, leader of the coloured delegation [in South West Africa], who with a party of others has just visited the Angolan refugees. And with reason. The refugees are there having escaped from a scorched earth blitz by MPLA, SWAPO (in U.N. and OAU eyes the "only true authentic voice of all the South West African people") and Cubans against *Unita* forces and supporters in southern Angola. That they have sought sanctuary in South West Africa is clearly inconvenient for the international community and U.N. in particular. To them, that refugees should actually want to go there to escape terror at home is unthinkable. . . .

Here is U.N. duplicity at its worst. South Africa's response to the need highlights this shame.

EVENING POST, Port Elizabeth:

South Africans have become exceedingly frustrated over the years with United Nations inconsistencies. We are under constant attack by the world body — sometimes justifiably and sometimes unjustifiably. But the *height of hypocrisy* has been reached with the U.N.'s refusal to assist the thousands of Angolan refugees who are pouring across the border into South West Africa to escape MPLA and Cuban troops, who are murdering all they come across as retribution for the *Unita* movement.

The thousands of refugees . . . have been rendered homeless and are in a desperate plight. Many of the children are orphans. *It is an ideal opportunity for the U.N. to show it is genuinely concerned about the hardships suffered by people on the sub-continent. Yet the only reaction from New York has been a stoney silence.*

It is ironic — and an indictment of the United Nations — that it recognises the independence of the strife-torn Angola but is putting every obstacle in the way of a peaceful transition to independence in South West Africa. In Angola a minority government, bolstered by Cuban and Russian forces, is terrorising its people. *There has been no U.N. condemnation.*

THE CAPE TIMES, Cape Town:

The mess in Angola has the U.N.'s blessing. South West Africa hasn't. Yet South West Africa, for the second time in a year, is providing a sanctuary for people whom the U.N. hails as free.

DIE BURGER, Cape Town:

There are reports of refugees being ruthlessly shot and of scorched earth tactics [in southern Angola]: Villages being razed, crops burned and animals slaughtered. *At the U.N. not an eyebrow has been raised*, but cliques calling themselves friends of Africa are rejoicing over resolutions against South Africa. . . .

In Luanda [Angola's capital] it has been acknowledged that the civilian population is in chaos and the country's economy demolished. But at the U.N. there are pleas for violence and sanctions against South Africa. One day Africa will realise what a disservice it has done itself by not lifting a finger against a Communist intruder that has come here with selfish motives to trample down black nations.

U.N. Doomed From the Beginning

Ever since the very beginning of the United Nations over 30 years ago, the editor-in-chief of this magazine, Herbert W. Armstrong — who was on hand for the U.N.'s inaugural session in San Francisco in the spring of 1945 — has said repeatedly with dogmatic insistence the U.N. could not succeed, that it was destined to be wrecked on the shoals of power politics and, as he said, "the savage battle for national interests."

Mr. Armstrong wrote, on April 29, 1945 while attending the 1945 meeting: "Already I see the clouds of World War III gathering at this conference. I saw it first as it was injected indirectly into every press conference. We learn of it in private talks with delegates in hotel lobbies. *The nations can have peace — if they want it. But they don't want it. They want gain at the expense of others.*"

The dis-United Nations has failed to bring world peace and now *it is helping to foment world war!* But it is not only the U.N. which has turned full circle. All humanity has — in a 4,000-year cycle. The Bible records that the earth was "filled with violence" in the days of Noah (Gen. 6:13). God's wrath against humanity's wicked ways brought about *universal destruction.*

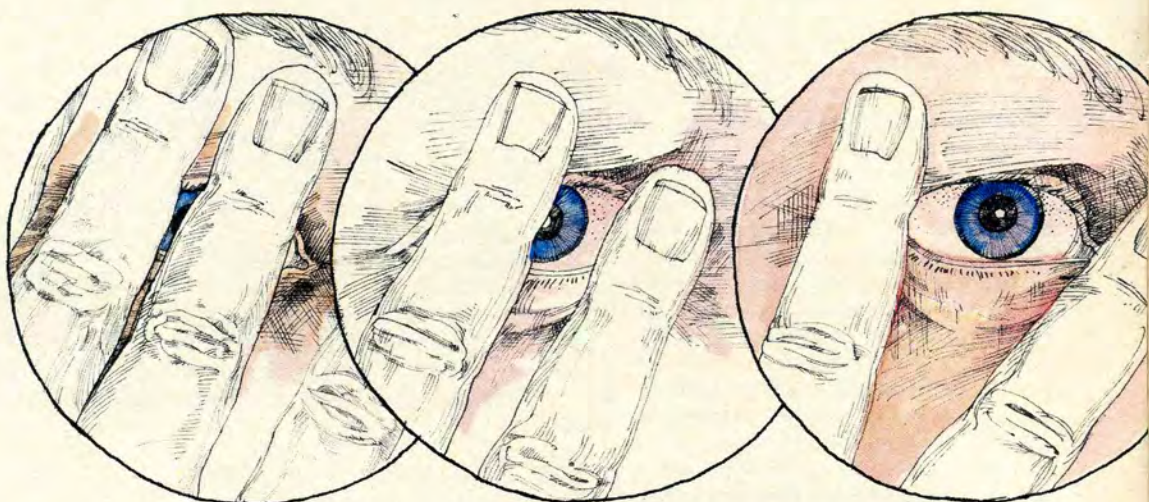
That same book foretold long ago that conditions would get this bad once again just before the return of Christ to at last establish His world-ruling Kingdom of peace. Notice Matthew 24:37: "But as the days of Noe [Noah] were, so shall also the coming of the Son of man be."

Our age of anarchy — multiplied in intensity through awesome means of destruction unheard of in the days before the Flood — will soon be over. But not before man writes the final terrible chapter of living apart from the laws and government of God. □

CORRECTION

In the article "Just What Do You Mean: Born Again?" (February issue), the first sentence should have read: "Why did *not* the Pharisee, Nicodemus, understand when Jesus said to him: 'Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God?'" The word "not" was inadvertently left out.

SATAN, SUPERSTAR



DEVIL MOVIES—VIEW AT YOUR OWN RISK

by Keith W. Stump

Hollywood's obsession with the demonic and supernatural could have some diabolical consequences.

For months, movie marquees all over the country have been hawking a ghastly array of lurid motion pictures featuring Satan and his demonic cohorts. Films such as *The Omen*, *House of Exorcism*, *The Devil Within Her*, *God Told Me To*, and others have enjoyed immense popularity among the theater-going public.

And there's much more to come.

The motion picture industry is busily preparing a hideous assortment of devil movies to satisfy the demand — and cash in on the profits. Twentieth Century Fox plans three sequels to its recent hit *The Omen*. Warner Brothers is putting the final touches on *The Heretic*, its sequel to *The Exorcist*. Universal, MCA, American International Pictures, and other studios each have a number of devil flicks in the mill. Your neighborhood theater will soon be screening *The Sentinel*, *Resurrection*, *The Car* (about a demon-possessed automobile!) and other imitations of imitations for your "viewing pleasure."

The current rash of devil movies was triggered by the 1974 hit *The Exorcist*, though perhaps *Rosemary's Baby* (1968) was the first of the genre. Quick to spot a winning theme, the imitative motion picture studios — having beaten the "disaster" motif to death — jumped on the bandwagon and began churning out devil flicks as fast as scripts could be written and casts assembled. The more lurid and gruesome, the better.

Big Box Office

And who can blame the studios? The supernatural forces of evil are dynamite at the box office. Warner's *The Exorcist* — possibly the highest-grossing movie of all time — is expected to bring in, all told, over \$120 million worldwide. Fox's *The Omen*, costing less than \$3 million to make, has already grossed nearly \$50 million at the box office in the United States alone, and that figure may double after the overseas receipts are raked in.

Clearly, there is demand.

Critics reprove the motion picture industry for its creative impoverishment and penchant for imitation, but in the end it's the *movie-going public* — flocking back to theaters in record numbers — which is ultimately to blame for the continuing outpouring of demonic celluloid.

But why are today's devil movies so popular, and so lucrative?

As with the old, not nearly as lucrative, vampire and werewolf films of decades past, there is still a desire on the part of moviegoers to be *scared*, to be held in *suspense*, to receive a *jolt*. And, as some psychologists have suggested, today's graphic devil flicks may appeal to people's voyeuristic impulses. Many come into the theater *hoping* for something gruesome or bloody to happen.

But there is still another, more significant factor contributing to the popularity of today's devil movies. Studies reveal that popular interest in mysticism, witchcraft, Satanism, psychic phenomena and the occult is greater now than ever before. Dis-



enchanted with traditional religion, people of all ages are becoming increasingly curious about the mysteries of the supernatural. And Hollywood is capitalizing on that interest.

Devastating Effects

Frankenstein Meets Wolfman was never taken seriously. *The Mummy*, in many cases, triggered more laughs than shrieks. Viewers of these old monster flicks knew for certain that what they were seeing was not real, and sensed that the makers of the films were cranking their cameras with tongue in cheek.

But audience reaction to today's devil movies is markedly different. Viewers, in many cases, are taking them very seriously. Interviews with patrons leaving the theater leave little doubt about the films' impact. Some are literally *terrified*, shivering with fright. A few are sick physically, some having actually fainted or thrown up in the theater. Many speak solemnly about the reinforcement of their belief in the supernatural, and demons in particular. Some say they want to study further into the mysteries of the occult and the spirit world. And some, of course, attempt to laugh it off, often unconvincingly.

Follow-up studies show that many viewers go home and can't sleep for days or weeks. Many are afraid to be in the dark. Some start hearing "creaky noises" at night. Many have traumatic nightmares. Some temporarily lose their appetites. One man who viewed *The Exorcist* lost 15 pounds, suffered a stiff neck, and experienced a recurring nightmare in which he attempted to intercede between a blood-lusting vampire and its female victim.

Moreover, viewers who may have been disoriented or emotionally unstable in the first place have on occasion totally "freaked out" after seeing one of these films. Some have suffered hallucinations and delusions. Some have begun thinking that they, their mates, or their children were possessed by demons. Some have become uncontrollably violent, morbidly preoccupied, or self-destructive.

Dr. James C. Bozzuto, assistant professor of psychiatry at the Uni-

versity of Connecticut (Farmington), has recently drawn attention to an illness he calls *cine-matic neurosis* — "a traumatic shock to the ego produced by viewing a horrifying film." Dr. Bozzuto's first cinematically neurotic patients were provided by *The Exorcist*, which deals with the demonic possession of a 12-year-old girl named Regan. The vividly brutal, hair-raising portrayal of her possession and subsequent exorcism was simply too much for them to take.

Ominously, Dr. Bozzuto expects the syndrome to become more prevalent across the country, given the continuing onslaught of devil movies. Quoted in a recent issue of *Science Digest*, Dr. Bozzuto warns that *The Exorcist* and similar films "can produce significant psychiatric impairment, and both the physician and the public should be aware."

Biblical Inaccuracies

Psychological problems are not the only potential danger in devil films. At the same time as interest in the "pop religions" of mysticism and occultism is on the rise, large segments of society remain biblically illiterate. For all they know, the pseudo-biblical pretensions of some of these films are *pure biblical truth*, when in fact they are riddled with biblical inaccuracies, twistings and perversions.

The Omen is a case in point. The film, which deals with the birth and early childhood of the so-called "Antichrist," pictures him as the offspring of the bizarre mating of Satan and a female jackal. The boy's birth occurs on June 6 at 6:00 p.m. — an apparent, but inaccurate reference to Revelation 13:18 — heralded by a comet in the heavens. None of this has any biblical basis.

Even the use of the term "Antichrist" is technically in error. It is mistakenly used as another name for the prophesied "Beast" or great military dictator of the book of Revelation. Actually, the term refers not solely to a specific individual but to an anti-Christian spirit or attitude which has been prevalent in the world for nearly two millennia! The apostle John, writing about A.D. 90, said: "... *Even now already* it is in the world" (I John 4:3). John also

shows that *many* deceivers or antichrists — false ministers perverting the doctrines of Christ — were already at work during his lifetime (II John 7; I John 2:18).

The Omen's three planned sequels will follow the "Antichrist's" growth into manhood and will culminate in a depiction of the prophesied end-time "Battle of Armageddon." Feeling no compunction to be biblically accurate, Hollywood will certainly continue to dish out some bizarre interpretations of prophecy.

Some theologians, consequently, have accused the writers and producers of these and similar films of unwittingly playing into the hands of the very devil whose existence they in most cases deny. By perverting and fictionalizing the Bible — popularizing a false picture of Satan and his future intentions — Hollywood, these critics charge, may be rendering the *real* "Antichrist" (or Beast) virtually unrecognizable. What more could Satan want than a distorted popular image of his future plans?

These charges may indeed be valid, though many theologians themselves are confused on the subject of prophecy.

Demonic Influence

There are much more *immediate* personal dangers in the devil-movie surge, however, than mere scriptural inaccuracies. Despite the unfounded assertions of "enlightened" modern-day psychologists and philosophers, there *is* a spirit world. There *are* such things as demons. There *is* a devil.

The Bible reveals that Satan the devil was originally named *Lucifer* ("Light Bringer"), a superarchangel of great power and beauty created by God even before the earth was made (Ezek. 28:12-15; Job 38:4, 7). Lucifer became exalted in his own estimation, and led one-third of the angels in a rebellion to unseat God from His throne (Isa. 14:12-14; Rev. 12:4, 7-10). Unsuccessful, they were cast down to earth where Lucifer, now called *Satan* ("The Adversary"), and the rebellious angels (demons) have been influencing mankind ever since the days of Adam and Eve. (Write for our free
(Continued on page 38)

WHAT'S WRONG WITH OUR GOVERNMENTS?

by Herbert W. Armstrong and Stanley R. Rader

The man-made governments of the world are toppling at the rate of one a month. Here we give you a comparison between the different forms of government in the world and the government of the world tomorrow, which will bring us, at last, world peace, universal prosperity, abundant well-being.

In my personal present phase of the Work, I encounter things hard to believe. Few if any in political or private life meet and get to know as many heads of state as I do — kings, presidents, emperors, prime ministers, sheiks. Yet, as I have said in my “Personal” appearing in this issue (page 1), I am *astonished* at the very short duration of time most of them remain in office.

Governments of nations are being overturned now at the rate of more than one a month. Half a century ago, a government overthrow was rare. We live in a different time. Sometimes the head of state or chief executive is changed, rather than a complete overturn to a new government.

In this world's national governments, the average tenure in office — IF the chief of state stays alive — is limited to four, six, or in case of re-election, eight years. Could business corporations succeed and grow with total management change so frequent?

I reflect on those I have known — some intimately — NOW GONE!

There were Prime Ministers Sato and Tanaka of Japan, more fully mentioned in the “Personal.” There was Emperor Haile Selassie of Ethiopia. There was President Allende of Chile, machine-gunned down three weeks after I was there in the very room where we held the meeting. At that time I was spending a day with President Suleiman Franjeh of Lebanon, at his summer home high in the mountains. In the bloody civil war in Lebanon, he was forced to officially “resign.” Then there was President Rahman of Bangladesh, assassinated in the overthrow of his government. There

was the king of Afghanistan, whom I was officially invited to visit, but his government was overthrown, and he fled into exile in Europe before I could accept his invitation. Then there is President V. V. Giri of India, affectionate friend, whose term in office now has expired. And, most recently, just a few weeks ago, Prime Minister Thanin Kraivichien of Thailand, with whom I had a private meeting in his office, and whom I sat next to at a banquet speaker's table that evening — only a few days before the violent overthrow of his government in Bangkok.

Why are GOVERNMENTS in this world in constant and growing turmoil, whole national governments being overthrown more often than one a month?

First let me give you the BASIC cause, and then a short description of the various leading types of government.

Very, very few indeed know that once the GOVERNMENT OF GOD ruled this whole world. Then there was, believe it or not, WORLD PEACE. But God's government, too, was overthrown. It was government administered by a superarchangel named Lucifer, over billions of angels who originally inhabited this earth. That's PREHISTORY. The FACTS are in the Bible, but the Bible is GOD'S WORD in writing, and people never have believed what GOD SAID.

That overthrow of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD brought havoc, destruction, decay, waste and emptiness to the face of the earth (Genesis 1:2, literal translation).

In six days God renewed the face of the earth (Psalm 104:30) for the habitation of MAN. God created

MAN, male and female, in His own image and likeness, except that God is composed of SPIRIT, and He made man of “the dust of the ground” — MATTER. Man was informed by God directly of HIS WAY of life, the WAY of LOVE, under the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and freely offered eternal life if he would choose that way.

But Satan is still on his earthly throne UNTIL a successor qualifies to restore that GOVERNMENT OF GOD and is inducted into office. *Lucifer*, his name (meaning “morning bright star”) changed to *Satan* (meaning “adversary,” “competitor,” “enemy”), got to Adam's wife, Eve, in the guise of a serpent and caused the pair to CHOOSE taking to themselves THE KNOWLEDGE OF GOOD AND EVIL, rejecting THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD, based on the divine LAW of LOVE.

Satan had turned to the WAY of LIFE of “GET” instead of “LOVE” or “GIVE.” That is the way of vanity, lust and greed, envy and jealousy, competition and strife, leading to violence and war, and resentment and rebellion against God's law which is the WAY OF LIFE of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD. MAN rejected the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — and with it God's WAY OF LIFE, based on outgoing concern for the welfare of others. Man rejected God as his RULER. Man CUT HIMSELF OFF FROM GOD by SIN (transgression of God's law).

God thereupon set in motion a 7,000-year master plan to accomplish HIS PURPOSE in man on earth. For 6,000 years God vowed to adopt a “hands-off” policy toward MAN. With the rare exception of the occasions NECESSARY for God's PURPOSE and for MAN'S GOOD, God has kept

"hands off" — leaving man, as he decided he wanted, CUT OFF from God, going HIS OWN WAY, taking to himself the knowledge of what is the GOOD way and what is the EVIL — or what is RIGHT and what is WRONG.

In effect, God said to man, "Go your own ways. Organize your own society. Create your own GOVERNMENTS. Formulate your own RELIGIONS. Organize your own industrial, commercial, economic and business systems."

God has determined to TEACH MAN — by HIS OWN 6,000-year experience — that Satan's WAY, rebelling against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, has brought only evils — suffering, anguish, unhappiness, frustration, violence, war, starvation and DEATH!

Witness the results TODAY!

What ARE some of these human-devised forms of government, all under the sway of Satan? Here is a brief analysis of MAN'S IDEAS of GOVERNMENT — cut off completely from GOD — but swayed by Satan.

GOVERNMENTS in the world today can generally be classified broadly as either DEMOCRATIC or TOTALITARIAN. These terms are basically *political* designations.

SOCIALISM, COMMUNISM, CAPITALISM are primarily *economic* terms.

Both capitalism and socialism may operate in a democracy.

DEMOCRACY: From the Greek *demos*, "people," and *kratos*, "power," meaning *government by the people*.

Democracy may be either direct or indirect. In a direct democracy, each individual votes *personally* on every issue, as in ancient Greece. (An example: the old New England town meeting.) In an indirect democracy (called a REPUBLIC), the people elect representatives to vote for them. Those representatives make up the national congress, parliament, diet, or whatever called. Indirect democracy is better suited to modern nations with large populations where direct democracy would be impractical. Indirect democracy was developed in England in the 17th century, and became the method of government in North America and France, as a result of revolution, in the 18th century. By 1850 the majority of civilized nations had adopted democratic institutions.

TOTALITARIANISM: A single party, dictatorial system of government. The totalitarian state extends its influence over the whole of life, private as well as public, and exacts full submission of the individual to

its demands. There is some sort of system of police control, total party control of mass communications, widespread doctrinaire education, and so on.

The term has been used to describe the NAZI (National Socialist) and FASCIST governments of Hitler and Mussolini in Germany and Italy. It also is applied today to the governments of the Soviet Union, China, and other communist states. Totalitarianism did not exist before the 20th century (in the MODERN world).

SOCIALISM: An economic system and theory according to which the masses of production, distribution and exchange are owned and controlled by the people (i.e., by the *government*). Its goal (in human theory) is a fairer and more equitable distribution of the wealth of a country.

Socialism is found today in Britain, Western Europe, Scandinavia, Australia, and elsewhere. Features of socialism in these nations include the nationalization of certain industries, publicly owned housing, comprehensive welfare systems, etc.

Socialism may come 1) through revolution, or 2) people may *choose* to give their government more control over the means of production and distribution of wealth through democratic means. Socialism developed as a reaction against the abuses of capitalism, triggered by the inhuman working conditions during the Industrial Revolution.

Communists use the term "socialism" to describe the way of life in present Soviet society (see "Communism").

CAPITALISM: An economic system characterized by private or corporation ownership of the means of production. Investments are determined by private decision rather than by state control. Prices, production and distribution of goods are determined mainly in a free market, i.e., by competition. Features of both capitalism and socialism may coexist in the same nation.

COMMUNISM: A term used to denote the theory advocating the elimination of private property, with goods owned in common and available to all as needed.

The term came to prominence in

HAILE SELASSIE of Ethiopia greets Mr. Armstrong at their meeting in 1973. The king and emperor was overthrown in a military coup in 1974.



1848 with the publication of the *Communist Manifesto* by Marx and Engels. In political terms, the word "communist" refers to the Communist Party created by Lenin in 1918. It is an outgrowth of the Russian Social Democratic Labor Party founded in 1898. In 1903, this party split into so-called majority (Bolshevik) and minority (Menshevik) factions. Both sought to achieve "socialism" as defined by Karl Marx. But the Bolsheviks under Lenin fought for a small, secret organization and the immediate and violent overthrow of government. The Mensheviks were more like the Social Democratic parties in Western Europe, which believed in bringing about socialism gradually and legally through ballot, trade unions, and a large, open party. In 1918, Lenin renamed his Bolshevik group the Communist Party.

Communists believe that their first task is the establishment of "socialism," and that the final stage is true communism. They say that under socialism they give effect to the principle, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his work," and that there are still distinctions between classes. (The social order found in Russia today, which we call "communism," is termed "socialism" by communist writers.) Under communism (which they have not yet attained in its pure form), social life would be guided by the principle, "from each according to his ability, to each according to his needs." At that time, communists believe, class, labor, and property distinctions will disappear. Eventually the machinery of government will no longer be needed, and the state will wither away.

The doctrines of Marx and Engels are ambiguous on many points, and consequently have given rise to various interpretations. The Soviet Union and China, for example, differ violently in their interpretations of Marxism.

The terms "Marxist" and "communist" are often used interchangeably. The nations of Angola and Mozambique, for example, are usually termed "Marxist" by the press, though "communist" would also be accurate. Often the term



KAKUEI TANAKA, former prime minister of Japan, resigned due to alleged bribery charges.

"communist" implies to many people a connection with the Soviet Union, which may or may not be true. "Communist" Albania, for example, is more closely associated with China than with Russia. One has to examine the history and makeup of the government of each nation in question to accurately determine its international connections and its particular brand of ideology.

The above, condensed and very briefly stated, is what HUMAN THINKING has led to. Leaders in community affairs, government, politics and economics must always *appear* to be public benefactors. They must be seeking to work out that system, theory, ism, government or whatever, that is "FOR THE GOOD OF THE PEOPLE." Or supposedly so. They do not, under human nature which ALL have imbibed, admit to self-motivated or self-advantageous intentions.

Remember, Satan is the arch-deceiver. This world has been deceived into thinking 1) a devil does not exist; 2) that, *if* there be a God, he (Satan) is that god — called in the Bible "the god of this world." Indeed, in one way or another, he *is* the god of every man-made religion. All oppose the LAW OF GOD on which the GOVERNMENT OF GOD is built.

Remember, too, that man was

made with a "human spirit" which imparts the power of intellect to the physical brain. That constitutes the overwhelming difference between human MIND and animal BRAIN. The mental or intellectual output of human MIND is perhaps millions of times greater than that of animal BRAIN — though there are degrees of output of intelligence in different humans, and also in different animals.

But in man is the ONE spirit. *That spirit cannot see.* The physical BRAIN sees through the eye. The physical BRAIN hears through the ear. The human spirit does not, independently of itself, THINK. The physical BRAIN thinks. The spirit contains all memory programmed into it (like a computer) as knowledge enters the BRAIN through the eye, ear, senses of feel and touch, smell and taste. The spirit supplies the physical BRAIN with *instant recall*, making THINKING and REASONING possible.

But the GREAT DIFFERENCE between man and God is that normal MAN, with his one human spirit, can receive and be conscious of ONLY physical knowledge.

Spiritual knowledge cannot be seen, heard, felt, smelled or tasted. The most intellectual, therefore, filled with PHYSICAL knowledge and reasoning and beliefs, really think that NOTHING EXISTS outside of MATTER. There is nothing *spiritual* — there is NO GOD — so they believe.

UNDERSTAND THIS! It is the foundation of ALL UNDERSTANDING!

It is explained in I Corinthians 2:9-14: "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart [mind] of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him. [Only physical knowledge comes through these physical senses.] But God hath revealed them unto us [those who have His Holy Spirit] *by his Spirit*. . . For what man knoweth the things of a man [that is, what man can understand or know HUMAN PHYSICAL KNOWLEDGE — 'the things of man' referring to knowledge possessed by humans, but NOT by animals] save the *spirit of man* which is in him?" Notice the "spirit of man" is NOT the man — it is something other than the man himself that is IN him. He does not receive his LIFE from this

spirit, but from blood and the breath of life. He receives human KNOWLEDGE by this spirit, not human LIFE. This is not an "immortal soul."

Continue: "... Even so [that is, in like manner] the things of God [that is, SPIRITUAL knowledge] knoweth NO MAN, but by the Spirit of God."

Human man has been given one spirit, which I term the "human spirit." This spirit empowers the physical brain with intellect — makes possible PHYSICAL KNOWLEDGE — thinking, reasoning, making decisions and choices. *But it confines the man to physical knowledge.*

Man was made to NEED a *second spirit* — the HOLY SPIRIT of God — which when added to his human spirit opens his mind to comprehend SPIRITUAL KNOWLEDGE — the THINGS OF GOD!

That is why the most learned among men — university professors, educators, world leaders — are often the most IGNORANT of humans — for they are entirely SHUT OFF from spiritual KNOWLEDGE.

Note further: "But the natural man [even the GREAT of this world] receiveth not the things of the Spirit of God: for they are foolishness unto him: neither can he know them, because they are spiritually discerned."

Now back to the main question.

What are the BASIC differences, then, between the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and all these many and varied HUMAN governments in such turmoil, confusion, violence and overthrow in our world today?

The BASIC difference is that God's government is a WAY OF LIFE — the administration of God's SPIRITUAL LAW. It is, simply, the WAY OF LIFE of LOVE — of outflowing LOVE, first of all toward GOD, supreme RULER, and secondly outgoing concern for the GOOD and WELFARE of human neighbor. It is the way of "GIVE," as I so often call it.

Lucifer and his angels turned FROM this way to the WAY OF "GET." That is, the way of vanity, lust and greed, of envy and jealousy, of competition and strife leading to violence and war, of resentment toward real or imagined wrongs, of rebellion against God and His government.

The "GIVE" way is GOD-centered. The "GET" way is SELF-centered.

Secondly, the government of God is administered by GOD, who is *love*, who is all-wise, all-knowing, all-merciful, all-understanding, all-just, all-POWERFUL. The governments of MAN are administered, in whatever form, by HUMANS, who, regardless of their degree of sincerity and honest intent, are fallible, and naturally self-centered. MAN, by comparison to GOD, is utterly incapable of righteous RULE for the GOOD of the GOVERNED.

Thirdly, as to FORM, God's government is government from the TOP down. That is, from the MOST fit, the HIGHEST qualified, the MOST able, on down, each in succession being CHOSEN from higher up; chosen by those who know and can read MINDS and HEARTS, ATTITUDES and INTENTS, and who select for each position the one BEST QUALIFIED, for the GOOD OF THE GOVERNED.

Now compare this with our recent election in the United States. Look at the MILLIONS OF DOLLARS used in campaigning, in state primaries, in conventions devoted more to horse-play and entertainment than to serious concern for the STATE OF THE NATION AND THE WORLD.

Look at all the folderol and confusion in voting over minor ISSUES. Look at the debates — the editorials, the propaganda — to try to convince others to the way of thinking of the politicians and the writers and speakers.

And WHAT IS THE REAL BASIC MOTIVATION, after all, in the mind of both candidate and voter? SELF-INTEREST on the part of the voter, and what the candidate THINKS will appear to the SELF-interest of the largest number.

All is conducted on the SELF-CENTERED WAY of the god of this world. Yes, truly, this is his world!

What about communism and TOTALITARIANISM? In organizational form, totalitarianism closely resembles the organizational form of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, but there the likeness STOPS! Some totalitarian rulers in the past have been good rulers from a human standpoint; most have been tyrants. Even the better ones were still HUMAN and fallible, and subject to mistakes that have been costly to their subjects

beyond estimate, in economy, injustice, pain and suffering.

Six thousand years of man trying to organize himself have WRITTEN THE LESSON in human anguish, pain, suffering, injustice, unhappiness, discontent, frustration — and DEATH!

Religions have failed to reveal to humanity the TRUTH. Truly they have been the "opiate of the people." Governments have failed utterly to solve the world's evils. Social systems have enslaved, harmed, given little or no real help. Science has brought more curses than blessings. Today the engines of MASS DESTRUCTION produced by science are capable of blasting all human life from this planet.

The angels who inhabited the earth before us wrought DESTRUCTION. Look what MAN has done! He has polluted the air, the water, the soil of his earth. He has ruined, harmed, destroyed, or polluted every piece of God's earth he has gotten his hands on!

Pessimistic?

NO! A thousand times NO! The 6,000 years God allotted for man to WRITE this lesson are about over.

The lesson has been WRITTEN — *but not yet LEARNED!*

My GREAT COMMISSION is to ANNOUNCE TO YOU and the WORLD that soon now — yet in OUR GENERATION — God ALMIGHTY will INTERVENE supernaturally and directly. Christ soon will come in the TOTAL POWER and AUTHORITY of the Creator GOD, to RULE ALL NATIONS with the GOVERNMENT OF GOD!

A very FEW have been predestinated to be CALLED NOW, to stand back of me in getting this ANNOUNCEMENT to the WORLD, and in so doing have prepared themselves to be *changed*, at Christ's coming, from mortal to immortal — from human to divine; to be given POWER under Christ in His Kingdom to RULE what humanity is left alive after the present fast-approaching GREAT TRIBULATION — the final CLIMAX of man's REBELLION — shall have been put down.

We shall have PEACE, happiness, joy, abundant well-being — and the offer of ETERNAL LIFE — *for all*. I am merely the advance announcer, preparing the way. □

A PEOPLE WHO "CAN'T AFFORD" TO TITHE

Greed, selfishness, lust and outright stealing are sending the Western world hurtling down the road to destruction. But there is much more to it than just stealing from another human being.

by Garner Ted Armstrong

We steal from each other in numbers and amounts that defy the imagination. Think for a moment. How many keys do you carry? Is your automobile locked? Is your home safe?

What about shopping? Do you readily cash your personal checks where no one knows you? Or must you carry on your person a vast array of personal identification in the form of a driver's license, credit cards, bank cards and check guarantee cards to somehow vouch for the fact that you are who you are?

The Cardinal Sin of Stealing

"Simple" stealing has been one of the most prevalent sins plaguing mankind from time immemorial. And this present world seems to be filled with dishonest, cheating, lying, conniving hypocrites whose consciences seem seared and whose principles have long since disappeared.

From the time when you first had your lunch stolen in elementary school to the time your home was burglarized, you have had to learn the bitter, anguished lesson that this society is simply permeated with people who steal.

Probably you too have indulged in it "just a little"!

Most people admit to having committed at least one act during their lives for which they could have been incarcerated. And nine times out of ten, that "one act" was *stealing*! It's chic to say: "I wouldn't give two hoots in a whirlwind for a boy who wouldn't steal a watermelon

from the neighbor's patch!" It's almost accepted.

What about it? Did you merely snitch a few marbles from the old five-and-dime when you were a kid? Merely pilfer a couple of hubcaps, or "borrow" some tools from the shop, or just use the stamps and stationery from the office?

How many people do you know who wouldn't steal no matter what? Your local butcher? The bank teller? The insurance salesman? The Federal tax consultant? Your neighbor? The local used-car dealer? (Remember the old Edgar Bergen-Charlie McCarthy program, which was on for years in the golden age of old-time radio? Bergen said there was no such thing as a perfect crime, and Charlie wryly retorted: "Oh, yeah? Ever buy a used car?")

"Honest" Thieves

What about Mr. Average? You know, the guy next door who shops at the supermarket the same as you and your wife do?

Every manager of every supermarket knows he can discount a fair percentage of his profits because of shoplifting, pilferage, accidental or wanton destruction of perishables, damaged cans and bottles, and stolen or "borrowed" shopping carts. (Some people make a business of going around in trucks, picking up and returning "borrowed" shopping carts to grocery stores.)

While the checker smiles as he rings up the total, he's also wondering if Mr. or Mrs. Average (people who wouldn't dream of holding up a bank) have any goods concealed on

their persons. When he demands identification, he's doing so because he's ended up holding a considerable number of rubber checks written by those who live by the philosophy of cheating and stealing.

The average American, Briton, Australian, Canadian or South African *regularly commits* the most successful crimes in history (far surpassing even violent street crimes), because they're "nice guys" — not dirty, filthy criminal types straight out of our big-city ghettos. But white-collar crime is not limited to the big-city supermarket. Its ugly tentacles have spread to every profession, every social and economic stratum, and certainly every nation in the world. These so-called "nice guys" range from the proverbial butcher with the heavy thumb, the embezzling bank employee, the stationery-stealing secretary, the cheating mechanic, the price-rigging executive, all the way to the shoplifting housewife.

These people don't think of themselves as dirty, rotten thieves. If you could overhear some of their casual conversations, you'd probably hear them decry Watergate, lament the Lockheed payoffs in Japan and patently condemn high-level corruption. They might be churchgoing, family-oriented, "solid" citizens and subjects of various nations in our Western world.

The Incredible Statistics

FBI Director Clarence Kelley has frankly stated that white-collar crime dwarfs street crime in numbers and dollars many times over.

The tab is "only" 40 to 50 billion dollars in the United States alone. Fully 70 percent of the American population are part-time or full-time white-collar (or blue-collar) thieves. There are "only," by rough estimates, 75 million shoplifting incidents "in the land of the free and the home of the brave" every year. Nobody wants to face *the ugly fact* that the vast majority of U.S. citizens are outright thieves who break the eighth of God's Ten Commandments with utter impunity.

But let's not leave out the United Kingdom. Escalating white-collar crime reaches right across the Atlantic to the British Isles. A recent report from *The Guardian* stated: "British retailers are getting rather hysterical about theft from shops. Recently the retailers and the security companies have formed local committees and a national Association for the Prevention of Theft in Shops. The focus of these organizations is persuading magistrates, parents, teachers and customers that *they must do something to control shop theft*" (David Wainwright, "High Street Living," December 9, 1976).

The white-collar rip-off is a thorn in the flesh to every profession under the sun. More than 80 percent of trucking industry shipment losses are caused *not* by gun-toting hijackers and professional thieves, but by employees of the shipper, the motor carrier, or others having some kind of access to the lading.

You name the profession, we've got the statistics: the transportation industry suffers losses to the tune of \$1.5 billion per annum; 75 percent of all auto insurance claims are excessively padded, according to recent estimates (these are mostly claims by the average American motorist); the IRS admits to losses of upwards of \$6 billion due to unreported taxable income; enough food is stolen from the nation's supermarkets to feed everybody in San Francisco and Boston for a year, according to one security consultant. I could go on and on, but I think you get the point.

And as the saying goes: "Without grease you can't do business in many countries." Many American and Japanese businessmen in one

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Far Eastern country routinely add ten percent to their operating costs *to cover graft!* Recent newspaper headlines have been rife with stories of bribes, payoffs, "donations," gifts and kickbacks which "absolutely have to" be written into the cost of doing business abroad.

The Incredible Average Employee

Security experts tell us that shoplifting, as bad as it is, is responsible for only 25 percent of theft from retail stores. Here is an amazing statistic! You can chalk up the balance — the remaining 75 percent — to *dishonest, thieving employees!* In New York City, at least 1,000 retail businesses go bankrupt every year because of employee theft!

Norman Jaspán, a noted consultant on security problems, stated that one of his studies showed that 70 percent of stock shrinkage was due to employee *malpractice* (a polite word for stealing), 15 percent to shoplifting, the rest to clerical errors.

John T. Lynch, head of one of the nation's biggest investment and security organizations, had this to say about increasing employee crime: "Employee crime is increasing at about 20 percent a year. . . . It could be anybody from the custodian to the president — and sometimes both. . . ."

That reminds me of a passage in the book of Jeremiah: "For from the least of them even unto the greatest of them every one is *given to covetousness* . . ." (Jer. 6:13). Covetousness by its nature is a mental act that always precedes the physi-

cal act of depriving someone else of his private property.

Stealing is a moral sickness that has permeated our entire Western society. It knows no economic stratum, no sex, no race, no color, and lamentably, no creed. It would become so debilitating to our peoples that the God who gave us our fantastic national wealth caused this scripture to be repeated in the same book of Jeremiah: "For *every one* from the least even unto the greatest is given to covetousness . . ." (Jer. 8:10). "*Every one*" means *the vast majority!*

But some would say: "We're God's people. We're churchgoing folk. We attend regularly at least on Christmas and Easter. We can't be all *that* bad!"

God asks a simple question: "Will ye *steal*, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely . . . and come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, *We are delivered to do all these abominations?*" (Jer. 7:9-10.)

Worshiping of God and stealing just don't go together!

At a Military Base

During my naval service, I was in the security department on a naval air base. Our job was manifold. We had to watch the naval personnel and the civil-service employees, who would steal tools, parts, copper tubing, electrical wiring, and almost anything of value. Workers within a motor-pool compound would drive their trucks near the fence, toss over pilfered objects, and then under cover of darkness attempt to retrieve them.

Tools came out of the gates under hubcaps, under seats, in trunks, inside worker's toolboxes or taped under the hood. Every gate guard knew he could detect only a small portion of the goods stolen each year. The loss in dollars was monumental — typical of every military base on earth.

The Simple Commandment

Many of our peoples don't seem to understand that *stealing constitutes a crime against God and man!* The simple economic cost is astronomical. Hidden in the price of all the goods and services the average fam-

ily purchases is a whopping "dishonesty tax." It adds up to several hundred dollars a year. We don't think of it this way, but each one of us shells out up to 15 cents on the dollar to pay for thefts, stock "shrinkages," management corruption, kickbacks, bribery and an endless variety of "accepted" dishonest business practices.

As John Lynch further commented: "Management is seldom in a position to discover disloyalty among its employees *until serious, sometimes irreparable damage occurs.*" In other words, businesses go flat broke; employees lose their jobs; and even the GNP is hurt — to say nothing of incalculable damage to a person's character, which is vastly more important than mere economic loss.

God is not pleased! He stated the eighth of the Ten Commandments in very simple terms: "Thou shalt not steal." There is no way to misunderstand the intended meaning. Both of the accounts of the Ten Commandments — in Exodus 20 and Deuteronomy 5 — use just these four little words: "Thou shalt not steal." The most the apostle Paul could add was: "Let him that stole steal no more" (Eph. 4:28). Stealing is just not all that complicated a concept to understand. Yet millions can't seem to grasp the fact that the theft of *anything* that belongs to another human being *or to God* constitutes a serious moral crime against God and man. You ask: "But what could God possibly have that I could steal?"

The Connection Between the Commandments

The Ten Commandments cannot be isolated one from another. James says that if you break one, you have broken all of them. John says that there is no way that you can love God and hate your brother at the same time. Paul says twice in his various epistles: "Covetousness is idolatry." There is an inextricable, unbreakable, totally binding interrelationship between loving God and loving neighbor, and there is no greater irony than for a hypocritical human being to claim to do one while he is obviously completely omitting the other.

**"Bring ye all the tithes
into the storehouse,
that there may be meat in
mine house, and prove
me now herewith, saith the
Lord of hosts, if I will
not open you the windows
of heaven, and pour
you out a blessing, that
there shall not be
room enough to receive it."**

And, believe it or not, both nations and individuals can steal from God — *directly!* Theft from God is every bit as serious as robbing another human being — if not more so. Eli, an Old Testament priest, asked an interesting question in I Samuel 2:25: "If one man sin against another, the judge shall judge him: *but if a man sin against the Lord, who shall intreat [intercede] for him?*"

Sinning against God — stealing from God — is a very serious matter! It is not to be tossed off with a casual shrug of the shoulders, while continuing on our merry way.

Withholding God's Tithe

Most people either don't pay a tenth of their income to God or they withhold it in a bank account with the idea of paying it at a later time to any organization that ever measures up to their "holier-than-thou" standards. But millions would say: "I simply can't afford it at all."

Listen to this stinging indictment! "Even from the days of your fathers ye are gone away from mine ordinances, *and have not kept them. Return unto me, and I will return unto you, saith the Lord of hosts.* But ye said, Wherein [how] shall we return?" (Mal. 3:7.) ("To return," as it is used in this verse, is an archaic English expression that simply means to start obeying God's laws again.)

Have you ever noticed that these people who don't obey God always seem to have something to say? They pretend they don't know they're not keeping God's com-

mandments. It's a complete mystery to them!

So God *narrows down* the indictment: "*Will a man rob God?* Yet ye have robbed me. But ye say, Wherein have we robbed thee?" (Verse 8.) Same approach! People pretend they haven't the faintest idea about anything they might be doing to offend God.

So God explains exactly what He means in very explicit terms: "*In tithes and offerings.*"

Then God says we are financially cursed because we're breaking a fundamental financial law: "Ye are cursed with a curse: for ye have robbed me, even this whole nation" (verse 9). Does anyone who lives in America, or Britain, or Australia doubt that these Western nations are, in fact, under some kind of horrible curse in spite of their comparative wealth? It's almost a contradiction in terms — cursings and blessings at the same time — yet news of our latest financial debacles are regular headlines in the United States, Britain and Australia. For a while it looked like the bottom was going to drop completely out of the British pound. Only the prospects of a substantial International Monetary Fund loan in the offing, and support from other NATO and Common Market nations, prevented possible economic ruin for the United Kingdom. In the United States, leading economic indicators have flattened out and economists now talk of "getting the recovery going again." In Australia, Canberra's 17.5 percent devaluation of the Aussie dollar doesn't speak too well of the economic situation there.

To spend the next few paragraphs elaborating on the personal financial difficulties of private American citizens and British subjects would waste both my time and yours. You yourself are probably in debt all the way up to your lower lip! And that's another reason you might claim that you cannot afford to tithe!

Simple Solutions

Our Creator does not offer us complex, hard-to-understand, puzzling-in-themselves solutions to our financial problems. He simply states: "*Bring ye all the tithes* into the store-

house, that there may be meat in mine house, *and prove me now herewith*, saith the Lord of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it. . . . *And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightful land*, saith the Lord of hosts" (verses 10, 12).

Oh, that there were a universal tithing system in the United States of America today — with every single person "tenthing" his income to the Church of God! Then the gospel of the Kingdom of God would go out to all nations in such great power that this evil world would be rocked back on its heels! The blessings of God would be poured out on this great land as never before. But there is every indication that this *won't happen!*

Instead, *we will insist on* continuing in our spiritual sicknesses. We will insist on "doing our own thing," no matter what. But God speaks of our worsening moral crisis as it is: "*Ah sinful nation, a people laden with iniquity, a seed of evildoers, children that are corrupters: they have forsaken the Eternal, they have provoked the Holy One of Israel to anger, they are gone away backward. Why should ye be stricken any more? Ye will revolt more and more: the whole head is sick, and the whole heart [of the English-speaking peoples] faint. From the sole of the foot [the lowest-income groups and levels of society] even unto the head [topmost government officials] there is no soundness in it; but wounds, and bruises, and putrifying sores...*" (Isa. 1:4-6).

God charges our nations to repent — to turn from our sins — to quit breaking His laws — to return to Him! "Wash you, make you clean; *put away the evil of your doings* from before mine eyes; cease to do evil; *learn to do well...*" (verses 16-17). Jeremiah adds: "*Amend your ways and your doings, and I will cause you to dwell in this place...* For if you *thoroughly* amend your ways and your doings; if you *thoroughly* execute judgment between a man and his neighbor... then will I cause you to dwell in this place..." (Jer. 7:3, 5, 7).

Can't Afford To?

The people of Israel (our English-speaking peoples) always have a comeback, an answer — they always have something to say! There is always an explanation, an excuse, a reason why they cannot obey their God. Mainly, they can't afford it.

How long tax dodgers can get away with evading taxes before they are indicted, tried, fined and possibly jailed, I don't know — nor will I find out because I pay my taxes when they are due. How long anyone can be guilty of tithe evasion — embezzling God's money — and not suffer any consequences is another question I don't ever want to answer personally. I certainly don't want to be brought before a heavenly court with the sin of having robbed my Creator on my hands — nor do I want to experience any physical or spiritual setbacks in this life.

The real truth is that *you can't afford not to tithe!* Let me share with you the experiences of some who temporarily decided to stop tithing.

"We began tithing last year because it was commanded of God. Then something went wrong and we decided we needed the money for something else. We 'reasoned' that we would make up the \$25.70 'next' time. The next week my pay dropped \$100 per week. Then it dropped to \$57.... That's not all, either. I've gone into debt again, whereas before I was getting out quite rapidly. Believe me, you need not worry about my tithe. It will arrive every week from now on..." (Reader from Sanford, Maine.)

"I went to work about three years ago, and I promised God if He would give me the strength to work I would pay Him His ten percent. But I didn't. So I got sick and had a major operation in April. Now I'm keeping my promise, and sending you my ten percent because I feel that you are really doing God's Work in reaching people." (Reader in Morgantown, West Virginia.)

"I was tithing regularly until last December when I gave it up to boost my financial viability. However, in May of this year I was sacked from my job and have not been able to secure another. I at-

tribute my long layoff to the absence of God's blessings. Should I obtain another job — and I hope to do so early next month — I wish to resume tithing on a 'for-keeps' basis." (Reader in Ghana.)

One more: "Thanks to you and *The Plain Truth* magazine, my husband and I are closer to God than we have ever been in our lives. We sent our ten percent to you every week faithfully for a year until last winter. Then we had to buy so much oil for our apartment that it set us back on our bills. Instead of keeping our faith, we panicked and stopped giving our ten percent. That didn't solve anything because our baby got sick and ended up in the hospital for four days with a virus. Then my son got sick, I got sick and my husband was laid off from his job. Finally, we realized that God was correcting us for not having enough faith. Right then and there we decided to start giving our ten percent. Things sure started to pick up since. Our kids are just fine now and so am I. My husband gets an unemployment check now, but soon he'll be getting back to work. We have more than enough food. I hope you will tell your readers this, so they won't make the same mistake we did." (Readers from North Adams, Massachusetts.)

The Ultimate in Financial Curses

There is one very poignant biblical example of two people *withholding money from God* that continually warns us of the horrible end result of letting lust for money begin to virtually rule our minds and hearts.

God saw to it that the account was preserved for us in the book of Acts: "But a certain man named Ananias, with Sapphira his wife, sold a possession [which they owned outright], and kept back [withheld surreptitiously] part of the price, his wife also being privy to it [a willing accomplice], and brought a certain part [while posturing that it was all], and laid it at the apostles' feet. But Peter said, Ananias, why hath Satan filled thine heart to lie to the Holy Spirit, and to keep back part of the price of the land? Whiles it remained, was it not thine own? And after it was sold, was it not in thine own power? [No one was forcing

him to give it to the Church.] Why hast thou conceived this thing in thine heart? Thou hast not lied unto men, but unto God" (Acts 5:1-4).

And then follows the account of the sudden deaths of Ananias and his wife Sapphira (verses 5-10).

Many others were selling their property and giving the proceeds to the apostles openly and aboveboard (Acts 4:34-37). But Ananias and Sapphira were caught up in this posture of pretense. They were posing in front of the congregation as great givers — while privately holding back a portion of the selling price. Their carefully concealed (they thought) covetousness literally killed them!

There is a very important and vital lesson in this account — even over and above a sober warning against lying and lust for material possessions. Once you decide privately and deliberately in your own mind — just between you and God — to give something (usually money in today's society) to Him, it is no longer yours!

The Other Side of the Coin

One reason God tells us to tithe is so "that the Eternal *may bless thee* in all the work of thine hand which thou doest" (Deut. 14:29). I want you to read a few of the letters out of the great stack of thousands we receive as the years go by from people who have found how wonderfully God blesses those who are willing to give so that many others might hear this end-time warning they so desperately need.

Worry-Free Living. "Enclosed is my tithe. It is really amazing the change that has resulted from the time I have resumed giving my tithe and the time before. I make no more money, but it seems what I have lasts longer. What was once financial chaos is now worry-free living" (Michael N., Dallas, Texas).

Income More Than Doubled. "Enclosed are our tithe and offerings for this pay period plus a special offering, as I have just received my sixth raise in the last three years. In five years our income has more than doubled, and it is certainly true that a person cannot outgive God. We are very thankful and grateful for all of the blessings we have re-

ceived" (Mr. & Mrs. M., Seattle, Washington).

Business Tripled. "I wanted to mention the blessings we've received since we started tithing. Our business is selling used cars. When we started going to church, we could hardly pay our bills. Since then, business has tripled and we could even afford to give the church a 1970 model bus free and clear" (Mrs. R. W., Terre Haute, Indiana).

Tripled Income. "Enclosed are my tithe and offerings. I want you to know that prayers are being answered daily. I have been praying for a new job, and I just started it last month. My income tripled for the month of July" (Joe B., Ashley, Pennsylvania).

Retirement Income Doubled. "Since beginning to tithe, my retirement income has more than doubled, without change on my part" (Harry P., Seattle, Washington).

Unexpected Gift. "Enclosed is a check for rather more than usual. This is due to two reasons. First, I received an unexpected gift of \$2000 from a family member, and, second, my boss gave me an equally unexpected raise in salary after only four months on the job. It looks like tithing does work after all!" (Geoffrey R., Wingate, North Carolina.)

The Tithing System Works. "After three months of tithing, my income has tripled. It is certainly a blessing to be able to tithe this \$150 for the first two weeks of December" (Wyatt G., Bakersfield, California).

God always blesses those who tithe! Not that they always suddenly inherit a huge sum of money, but over the long haul their 90 percent spreads out to accomplish *much more* than the 100 percent would have!

No one can outgive God! We believe in, and serve, a living God — the great Creator who gives us every breath we breathe, who blesses us with life itself, and every emotion, every joy, love, excitement and all the wonderful moments of life. By promising us an abundant life now, and His great protection in the horrible times to come (Rev. 3:10); by promising us eternal life for serving, obeying and fulfilling the very purpose of our calling, our Creator proves *He is on the giving side!*

And God's Word plainly commands us to be on the giving side, too!

Should We Not Ask?

This great Work of God does not operate out of some secluded, protected glass cage with an invisible shield freeing it from all of the ups and downs of this society. God just does not conduct His Work in such a fashion. (He never has!) He is using a body of fallible human instruments (subject to the monetary pushes and pulls of this world) to do His vitally important work of preaching and publishing the gospel.

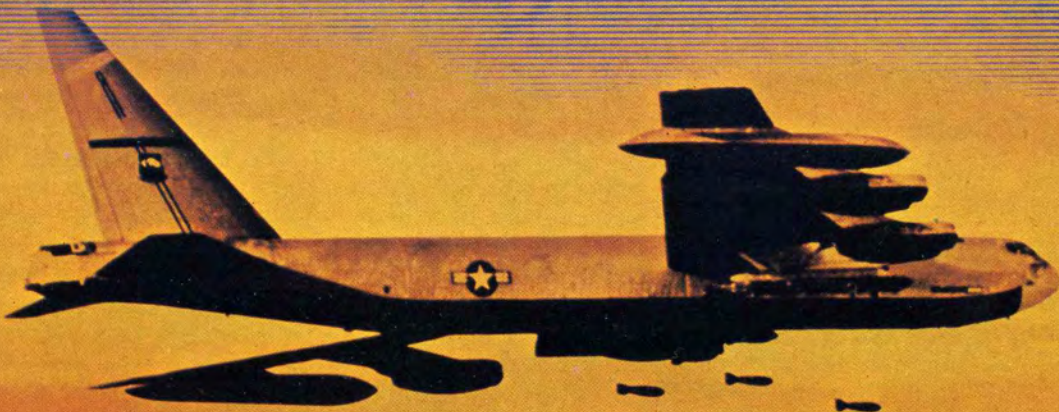
God's Work is affected by the economic problems of this sinning society. Continually we have to mull over and determine more in-expensive ways to get the job done.

But God wants His people to give — even to sacrifice — in order to get this great Work *done!* So I'm not afraid to ask God's people to give in order that *we might give this world a solid warning and witness* before its sins come crashing in on it — and it is forever too late! □

Questions about tithing?

If you've read "A People Who 'Can't Afford' to Tithe," you've seen some examples of the bountiful blessings that accrue to the faithful tithpayer. If you have any questions, or would simply like to know more, write for our free booklet *Tithing*. It shows how tithing was practiced in antiquity, and how this vital principle is successfully applied today. (To request your free copy of *Tithing*, please use the coupon on the back cover of this magazine.)





ASLEEP ON A BOMB!

During the Korean War, I was stationed on a U.S. naval aircraft carrier just offshore Korea. On board were huge "blockbuster"-type bombs weighing up to 2,000 pounds. I used to help lower them into their bins with pulleys. Between loadings we would sometimes take time out for a little catnap. I would actually stretch myself out on the back of one of those great big bombs and go serenely off to sleep. After all, it didn't have a fuse in it. I felt just about as safe as if I'd been in my bunk.

After a few days of personal acquaintanceship with big bombs and guns, they don't look so deadly anymore. You tend to think of them as completely safe and harmless — you never think of one suddenly going off.

Human beings learn to readily adapt their lives to very dangerous circumstances. People just don't think of spaceship earth in terms of an enormous arsenal of thermonuclear weaponry both buried underground in missile silos and in underwater submarines.

Opening Pandora's Box

When man began to tamper with the makeup of matter and to split the atom, he was dealing with the very building blocks of the universe and intruding into an area of unknown consequences. The bomb he finally built, it was feared, would feed on mankind's very environment — the air, the ground, people, horses, animals, buildings — *everything* would explode and be changed into instant energy in a gigantic chain reaction.

Man had succeeded in finding a key with which he could unlock just a tiny bit of the energy contained in matter. The final result is this spaceship called earth is currently harboring a giant, unwanted stowaway capable of rendering all life into just so many tons of pure energy.

We began living in this kind of

world in 1945. Incredibly, it was then possible for the first time in history for one bomber — high in the stratosphere — to carry enough destructive force to obliterate an entire city. Some thirty years later, it is *now possible* for one bomber to carry sufficient firepower to represent the entire destructive force unleashed by all participants in World War II — *including* the atomic explosions at Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

We have come to the point where the United States and the Soviet Union possess enough nuclear stockpiles to annihilate all human life of many, many separate worlds like ours. This kind of nuclear overkill defies human description — it boggles the mind!

How It All Came To Be

About five years ago, on the occasion of the 27th anniversary of the dropping of the first two atomic bombs, an editorial by David Lawrence, the late editor of *U.S. News & World Report*, appeared in that popular American news weekly. It was actually a verbatim reprint of the editorial he had written on August 6, 1945, following the destruction of the two Japanese cities.

It began: "*Man has at last brought forth a weapon that reduces war to an absurdity.* Man has discovered that a means of destroying whole nations is available out of the minerals of the earth and that no people can hope to remain secure against the atomic bombs of another people no matter how distant one country may be from another. A single airplane riding high in the stratosphere, unobserved and undetected because of its great speed, propelled by this new energy, can appear suddenly over London or Washington or Detroit or Pittsburgh . . . and destroy human lives by the hundreds of thousands in just a few seconds."

Remember, this editorial was originally written in 1945, *before* the

present age of missiles and spacecraft.

Later in the article, Mr. Lawrence continued: "All the world knows that the secrets of the atomic bomb cannot long be withheld from the scientists of nations large and small. The tiniest nation with a laboratory and certain raw materials will have a weapon that can be used to destroy its neighbors."

How prophetic that was! We've come a long way since "Little Boy" was dumped out of a B-29 bomb bay over Hiroshima. Now forty nations are ready to join the nuclear club — each one able, perhaps by 1985, to make a few bombs of the low-yield kiloton range — the type that destroyed Nagasaki at the ushering in of the nuclear age.

India already has the bomb. It has been commonly reported that Israel has the bomb. The Arab world has nuclear reactors. In the Middle East, where passions and continual threats of war are potentially explosive, billions of dollars of arms are being stockpiled. History has taught us nothing.

Has the world gone completely mad?

Yerucham Amitai, former deputy chief of the Israeli Air Force, is quoted as saying: "In the end, we may have to choose between action that might pull down the Temple of Humanity itself rather than surrender even a single member of the family to the executioners" (quoted from *90 Minutes to Entebbe*, by William Stevenson).

"Pull down the Temple of Humanity"! What an electrifying statement! What implications! You can draw your own conclusions. What Amitai may well have meant, in this 1970 conversation with author Stevenson, is that Israel has the bomb, and that she would be willing to use it if the nation were ever again threatened with extinction. Will Israel plunge the world into a nuclear holocaust rather than accept destruction by her enemies? Only

by Garner Ted Armstrong

Every night the whole world goes to sleep aboard a huge multimegaton bomb — fully capable of exterminating every man, woman and child from the face of this earth. Yet most people — focusing only on their own day-to-day concerns and how to eke out a "good life" in the midst of economic uncertainty — seem oblivious to the awesome and frightening significance of nuclear proliferation.

“Man has at last brought forth a weapon that reduces war to an absurdity. Man has discovered a means of destroying whole nations out of the minerals of the earth.”

time will tell — perhaps less time than we think!

Amitai only put into words the true feelings and intentions of many nations. Probably others will not be as honest and forward about admitting it. But, in truth, this world is much closer to World War III, to be fought with nuclear arms, than most people realize.

Has there ever been a weapon from time immemorial that has not been used? You name it: knife, spear, Gatling gun, machine gun, torpedo, atomic bomb — all have been used! Have the scientists and the military geniuses — with all their ingenuity in searching for ever greater and more effective methods of dispensing with human flesh — ever failed to eventually use the weapons and systems they've designed?

In the next few years, when 40 nations have the bomb, the likelihood of nuclear war will be that much greater!

What Will Man Do?

Editor Lawrence asked toward the conclusion of his remarkable editorial: “What will man say to this? Will he foolishly toy with the new weapon, build huge factories, and husband supplies of atomic energy against potential enemies?”

That is exactly what man has done! Only he wasn't satisfied with mere atom bombs — they were but the match it took to produce the heat required to cause the fusion of the hydrogen-helium process which brought about the hydrogen bomb. Finally came multimegaton nuclear warheads incorporated into a missile system that can deliver destruction to cities half a world away in less than 45 minutes.

Will man husband supplies of atomic weapons? Oh, yes. They're stockpiled around the world in caves, caverns, ordnance depots and nuclear submarines. Many are deep in the bowels of mountains. The United States has its own private arsenal and the Soviet Union possesses perhaps even more sophisticated nuclear weaponry.

Until a matter of a very few



David Lawrence

months ago, we all thought in terms of a nuclear stalemate — more or less a bomb-for-bomb, missile-for-missile standoff between Russia and the United States. Previously it was almost universally agreed that the U.S. nuclear striking force could eradicate most major Russian population and industrial centers — all of which rendered any possible Soviet adventurism as unthinkable. But this idea was based on the concept that our Minuteman land-based system would hit its many targets in the Soviet Union; likewise our Poseidon submarines.

Soviet Challenge

Startling new developments in recent weeks have revealed that our Minuteman strategic missile system may be obsolete. Apparently the Soviet Union has been pouring far more money into its civil defense programs than the United States — perhaps to the tune of *twelve times* as much. Also it has been reported that Russian scientists have recently come up with a brand-new radar equipped with delicate missile-jamming systems which confuse the missile sensors that guide the warheads to their targets. In other words, American missiles would never reach their targets!

A recent issue of *Aviation and Space Technology* magazine said something that ought to shock us all: “The Soviet Union is wresting nuclear weapons superiority from the United States and endangering

the effectiveness of the U.S. ballistic missile deterrent.”

Further, *Aviation Week* said the Soviets are operating a transportable missile defense radar system known as the X-3 system. If deployed around major population centers, the X-3 is capable, when used in conjunction with antiballistic missiles, “of rendering... ineffective” U.S. land-based Minuteman intercontinental missiles and Polaris/Poseidon submarine-launched ballistic missiles.

Soviet Civil Defense

Put this together with the fact that the Soviets are earmarking massive amounts of rubles for civil defense. *Aviation Week* reported that “Soviet authorities believe that by proper civil defense preparations, losses will be as little as 10% of the population.”

On the other hand, some estimates have indicated that about a third of the American population would disappear as a direct result of the first missile strike.

Civil defense has not been a part of the American mentality since the early sixties, when for a brief time fear of an imminent nuclear war swept the United States. Luridly frightening ads were written — displaying the latest and roomiest ready-made fallout shelters for one's own backyard. Striking newspaper articles talked in terms of “Project Noah” and survival colonies.

It all turned out to be just another money-making scheme which soon petered out. The shelters themselves were far from equal to the task of being practical survival units. But at least, then, the real possibility of nuclear warfare was at the forefront of the American mind. Today American citizens and British subjects think of anything but the possible danger of a nuclear holocaust. Our minds are calloused to the possibility — *which is far greater now than it was then!*

We take the nuclear age casually for granted. We've grown accustomed to it. We've learned to live with it. Few in Britain or America

“Today our [highly mobile, missile-equipped, Soviet] wartime navy plays a universal role. It is able to fight under water, above the water, and in the air.”

worry about an imminent atomic attack. Both Americans and Britons view civil defense as an essentially fruitless endeavor. Obviously, the Russians think otherwise.

In a Pincers Movement

The Western world is being caught in a modern-day, space-age “pincers movement.” Not only has our land-based nuclear superiority apparently disappeared, but also our monopoly on sea power. Britannia ruled the waves for several centuries. And even after British military sea power began to wane, there was always the presence of the mighty U.S. Sixth Fleet.

The Plain Truth warned of the sharp escalation of Soviet sea power as early as 1968. However, at that time it could *still be said* that “the USSR is No. 2 in sea power when compared to U.S. strength” (“The Growing Specter of Soviet Sea Power in the Mediterranean,” October 1968).

Even then the Russians were making heavy inroads into the overall maritime picture. *The Plain Truth* reported at that time: “Already [in 1968] the Soviet submarine fleet outnumbers that of the U.S. ‘The Red navy now possesses a submarine fleet which can bring Europe and the United States under fire with 130 to 200 nuclear war-headed ballistic missiles. An increase . . . to 300 by 1972 is planned . . .’ (*Atlas*, July 1968).”

Remember, this was the grim situation back in 1968. Since then the U.S. position has steadily worsened. *Jane’s Fighting Ships*, the authoritative reference for the world’s navies, now reports that the Soviet Union has *three times* as many submarines as the U.S.

The Russians understand that a modern, highly mobile, missile-equipped navy roaming about in the seventy percent of the earth’s surface that is water is one of the most effective ways to gain control of the thirty percent that is land.

A modern navy’s mobility enables it to move to trouble spots far from home and close to enemy shores.

Tass from Sovfoto



Sergei Gorshkov

Admiral Gorshkov summed up the Soviet situation for *Pravda* back in February of 1968: “Today our wartime navy plays a universal role. It is able to fight under water, above the water, and in the air.”

Since then Admiral Gorshkov has written a book called *The Maritime Power of the State*. In it he outlines total global supremacy at sea for the Soviet Union. But not as an end in itself — only the means to the greater overall purpose of world dominance.

Does anyone in his right mind actually believe that the Soviet leaders have given up their long-term goal of total world domination? The truth is that the *basic* overall communist goal has not changed one little bit since the Russian Revolution of 1917.

Time Running Out

Time is running out on the Western world. Gradually we are being maneuvered into a “vulnerable and untenable global situation,” as one author expressed it. Our leaders are surveying various options open to them. For instance, one option would be to make Red China an ally of the United States in order to offset Soviet military superiority. To effectively bring this about would undoubtedly be difficult, if not impossible.

The plain facts are, we are fast running out of practical options. To catch up and pass Soviet military strength would require a larger de-

fense budget than either Congress or the public would ever allow. Yet to stand still militarily means a wider and wider strategic gap between the two superpowers — with America on the down side.

“Buying allies” is an expensive and dirty business these days. Unfailingly many such “allies” seem to vote against the United States in any critical United Nations General Assembly vote.

Really, the only workable option left open to Britain and America is *to trust God!* But to *seriously* suggest that we ought to turn to God in all our troubles sounds humorous to many. For a member of Congress (or an M.P.) to stand up and with a straight face say that we ought to repent of our national sins and crimes and nationally go to God on our knees, asking forgiveness through Jesus Christ, might invite the following reaction from fellow parliamentarians:

An instant ripple of laughter would softly flow across the big hall, as legislators shifted positions, crossed and uncrossed legs, looked at one another incredulously, doodled on notepaper and silently wished the speaker would sit down and shut up.

To hear a leader of government propose such a “ridiculous” solution to Western world affairs is to wonder if the poor man is suffering from a serious brain disease. That someone would dare to actually inject religion into an august legislative session would be the very height of effrontery.

To *seriously* suggest that Jesus Christ of Nazareth is our *only hope* for true and lasting peace would place the legislator in the position of “religious fanatic” — instantly destroying his credibility — and would for all practical purposes ruin his political career.

To be sure, thousands have chuckled, chortled, sneered or laughed openly at loud Bible-thumping sermons warning of Jesus’ impending return — and even at the more polished assertions of such a futuristic event in the more cultured

tones of generally accepted evangelists.

In Black and White

But take a good look at this ancient quotation spoken nearly 1950 years ago: "For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be. And except those days should be shortened, *there should no flesh be saved.*"

The speaker was Jesus Christ of Nazareth. He was talking to a group of His disciples who had just asked Him: "Tell us, when will this be, and what will be the sign of your coming and of the close of the age?"

Those words of Jesus — "*there should no flesh be saved*" — could not have been understood before 1945 and the advent of the atomic age! This is a biblical description of a time so unprecedented, so unparalleled in the entirety of human civilization, that unless there was some type of supernatural intervention there wouldn't be a man, woman or child left on the face of this round earth.

You just read the quotation with your own eyes in black and white. If you don't believe me, pick up almost any translation of the Bible and open it to the twenty-fourth chapter of Matthew.

But let's return to the editorial by David Lawrence from which I quoted earlier:

"But we shall miss the entire significance of the new discoveries [the atomic bomb] if we do not apply a spiritual interpretation. It is man and not God who must assume responsibility for this devilish weapon. Perhaps He is reminding us all that man-made weapons can, *if their use is unrestrained, destroy civilization*, and that man still has the chance to choose between the destructive and constructive use of the findings of science."

Jesus Christ was nearly 2,000 years ahead of David Lawrence, who was well ahead of *his* time, back in 1945. Christ foretold a time in human history when *no one* would be left alive if He didn't intervene in this world's affairs and cut the days short. He was way ahead of the movie *On the Beach*. He was way ahead of science-fiction novels about the annihilation of hu-

manity. Jesus knew, two thousand years in advance, that humankind would be fast asleep on a gigantic bomb — with a slow-burning fuse!

He further predicted: "Nation shall rise against nation, and kingdom against kingdom [wars]; and great earthquakes shall be in divers places, and famines, and pestilences; and fearful sights and great signs shall there be from heaven . . . And there shall be signs in the sun, and in the moon, and in the stars; and upon the earth *distress of nations*, with perplexity . . ." (Luke 21:10,11,25).

Jesus described our fearsome days. He foretold the chaos among nations, the increasing natural calamities, the impending nuclear holocaust.

We live in a time when the fulfillment of the major prophecies of the Bible is in the immediate offing. We don't like to acknowledge that. We always like to think that history is going along pretty much as always; that we're in the middle of history. But our nuclear-armed age *is* different.

We are told that the UN is "the world's last hope for peace." That was its reason for being created out of the ashes of World War II. But what a shaky hope it is proving to be! The UN has degenerated into a forum for puny nations to attack the United States and the rest of the free world and all we hold dear. What a paradox! The world's last hope for peace has become an instrument for nations to berate one another like squabbling children!

The uneasy stalemate between "the war that cannot be fought and the peace that cannot be achieved" cannot last much longer.

But how does all this information help you? What can you possibly *do* about it?

What Should You Do?

What possible recourse do you, as a private citizen or subject of whatever nation, really have? How can you cope with this mind-bending nuclear age? What are *your chances of survival*? What are the options left open to you?

Building private civil defense shelters seems pretty impractical in this day and age. "Escaping" to the mountains or the desert would

probably only bring you an early death from exposure. Is there no way out of the nuclear dilemma?

Here is some *good news*! You are *not* going to live in a world like today's — under the shadow of the bomb — *very much longer*. A new world is going to come soon — a world of peace and genuine cooperation among the nations; a world where our young people will never again be sacrificed in senseless wars.

But, before that, a time of great suffering and tribulation is coming. Each one of us needs to *watch carefully* (Luke 21:36) what is happening in the world so we know where we stand. The good news is *some are going to escape* and live on into the wonderful world tomorrow!

Your only real recourse is to do personally what this world's governments *refuse* to do. *Trust God!* Jesus said: "Watch ye therefore, and pray always, *that ye may be accounted worthy to escape all these things* that shall come to pass, and to stand before the Son of man." Are you willing to do that?

Personally, I *am*. But, in the meantime, every night following a busy day in this great Work of warning our peoples, I curl up and go to sleep — on a great big nuclear-tipped bomb. I only hope that somehow we can prevent the stupid thing from going off! □

RECOMMENDED READING

Here is some literature that will help you to know what to look for on the world scene: Jesus Christ mentioned four specific developments — described in the book of Revelation as "four horsemen" — that would afflict the world with various types of plagues (one of them being "religion" itself).

This series of four booklets — explaining each of the four mysterious "horsemen" — has been completed just in the last few months.

Write for all four of these brand-new, fully illustrated, full-color booklets:

The White Horse: False Religion

The Red Horse: War

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International addresses are on the inside front cover. If you'd prefer faster service and you live in the *continental* United States, please dial this toll-free number: 1-800-423-4444. Readers residing in California, Hawaii and Alaska may call 213-577-5225 collect.

PART 2

A TALE OF TWO PROPHETS

by Jon Hill

The first article in this series introduced some striking similarities between Moses and Jesus. Moses' personal relationship with the One who became our Savior is a 120-year-long story more fascinating than the well-known epic of history that is Moses' life to most. In this article Moses tries in every way possible to avoid performing the commission God created him for, and for which you and I know him so well. Moses' attitudes, arguments and pleas — God's response in kindness, love and anger — help us love both more!

Moses' first forty years was a piece of cake. A miraculous answer to the prayers of Pharaoh's daughter provided her with the son she sought. Born on the bosom of the great god-Nile, a tiny ark of bulrushes floated the new Prince of Egypt into her arms. She dubbed him "Drawn Out" (Moses), because she drew him out of the water — he who was born to "draw out" the whole nation of Israel from slavery to sovereignty and make "exodus" a household word.

Reared in the lap of luxury unimaginable, honored, praised, loved, lauded, protected, pampered, educated and prepared to become a Pharaoh himself, Moses struck tragedy at age forty. Through a careless act of his own, and undoubtedly

spurred by palace intrigue from his royal Egyptian semi-siblings who hated him in jealous rage, Moses fled into exile to save his life. A fugitive from the justice of Egypt, Moses plummeted from the pinnacle of riches and honor into an unknown future.

Cloak of Humility

That future stretched another forty years, preparing him for the commission God had prepared for him. The prince became a pauper, and scratched out a living in the searing sands of Sinai as a shepherd for a Midianite mogul named Jethro. Trading his bejeweled, golden staff which designated him prince of the greatest nation on earth for a crude, gnarled, hardwood shepherd's staff, Moses began his forty years of humbling hard work. Moses married Zipporah, eldest daughter of his boss. They had two sons. Moses wandered through the woeful wilderness of Sinai for forty years, yet won no wealth. Unlike his own great grandfather Jacob, who hired out as shepherd for Laban and in twenty years became rich and a sheik in his own right, Moses remained a shepherd, virtually penniless.

Moses put on the cloak of humility in the place of princely robes. Long, endless hours under desert sun and stars were spent in contemplation and soul searching. Alone in the empty waste, Moses had time to mature. He became both hardened — and softened.

Hardened physically, following his father-in-law's flocks for limitless leagues, trudging sandal-clad, sleeping in the open where night would find him, yet ever alert for predators or bandits that might do harm to his charges. Hardened in self-reliance, because there were no longer eager servants available to answer whim or need. Hardened in character, spirit, faith — hardened with bands of steel in his relationship with the as yet unseen God of his fathers, Abraham, Isaac and Jacob.

Softened with the compassion so necessary for a successful shepherd, tenderly caring for little lambs and kids, foals and calves. Softened with solitude and inward search, seeing the real helplessness of humanity in a harsh world. Softened with memo-

ries and nightmares of the condition of his real kin, the slaves of Egypt: Israel in ignominy. Softened in malleable obedience to the demands of a man of Midian. Softened in a personal relationship with a family of his own. Softened with time.

Moses, general of the armies of Egypt, now had for troops only sheep to command. Moses, builder of massive monuments in the empire of Egypt, lived mostly in the open, with no shelter — his best building at home with Jethro and his family, a tent. Moses, the handsome prince, became old man Moses, weather-beaten, wrinkled and burned by sun and sand.

Forty years of opulence and everything — forty years of austerity and hardly anything: eighty years all told, and God felt he was finally ready. Ready for another forty years so fabulous they would seem like forty lifetimes. Ready for the great commission God was about to confer upon him.

God knew Moses was ready — but Moses had his doubts!

Offer Refused

Allow me to quote from *The Living Bible, Paraphrased* and mix in a little of my own: "One day as Moses was tending the flock of his father-in-law Jethro, the priest of Midian, out at the edge of the desert near Horeb, the mountain of God, suddenly the Angel of Jehovah [YHWH] appeared to him as a flame of fire in a bush. When Moses saw that the bush was on fire and that it didn't burn up, he went over to investigate. Then God called out to him, 'Moses! Moses!' 'Who is it?' Moses asked. 'Don't come any closer,' God told him. 'Take off your shoes, for you are standing on holy ground. I am the God of your fathers — the God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.' (Moses covered his face with his hands, for he was afraid to look at God.) Then the Lord told him, 'I have seen the deep sorrow of my people in Egypt, and have heard their pleas for freedom from their harsh taskmasters. I have come to deliver them from the Egyptians and to take them out of Egypt into a good land, a large land, a land flowing with milk and honey.... Yes, the wail of the

people of Israel has risen to me in heaven, and I have seen the heavy tasks the Egyptians have oppressed them with. *Now I am going to send you to Pharaoh, to demand that he let you lead my people out of Egypt!*" (Ex. 3:1-10.)

How could Moses resist an offer like that? Here was the very Creator he worshiped speaking directly to him, Moses, octogenarian has-been from Egypt, and giving him the opportunity of being the one to free the Israelites from slavery and oppression. And more than that: to give them a land of their own, equal to, if not more impressive than, opulent Egypt! Here was Moses' golden chance, guided, inspired, empowered and blessed by God Almighty — not just to lighten the burdens of Israel (as Moses had tried to do in that disastrous crisis of forty years earlier that had led to his exile), but to make of them a sovereign nation, under God!

This was Moses' own dream multiplied. How could he refuse? How? How do you tell God, "No!"? Enoch didn't. Noah didn't. Abraham didn't.

BUT MOSES DID!

"But I'm not the person for a job like that!" Moses exclaimed.

What were Moses' thoughts about this revelation? Let's guess. First, God says *He* is going to deliver the slaves of Egypt. Then He says *MOSES* is going to do it! How does a simple, hireling shepherd of forty years at the age of eighty go charging into the most powerful court on earth where he is wanted for murder and tell the king to let all his slaves — the mainstay of the economy — go free? Forty years ago things might have been different. Then Moses was familiar with all the procedures at court, knew of all the intrigues, had a power base of his own as a popular prince and general, was still young and daring, burning with a desire for the betterment of his Hebrew brethren. His own people had rejected his efforts then, how much more so would they now — why, they wouldn't even know *this* Moses, and if they did, would they recognize any authority he might try to exercise over them as a shepherd when they had rejected his power as prince? He'd be laughed out of the ghetto!

And even if the Israelites did accept him, the Egyptians certainly wouldn't. Moses thought he had forgotten most of what he knew of court protocol. Whom could he go to to even gain an audience with the Pharaoh? Something like this was just not done without long planning, organization, powerful friends . . .

No way, thought Moses, and he immediately conjured up a hundred reasons why he was certainly "not the person for a job like that!"

"Then God told him, 'I will certainly be with you, and this is the proof that I am the one who is sending you: when you have led the people out of Egypt, you shall worship God here upon this mountain!'"

Now, Moses thought about that proof. He had certainly worshiped God on this mountain, but what "proof" was this, that he would "worship God here upon this mountain" AFTER he "led the people out of Egypt"? Not that Moses doubted God, he doubted himself. What good was after-the-fact "proof" — it was getting Israel out of Egypt that he doubted possible.

So Moses reasoned with God. "If I go to the people of Israel and tell them that their fathers' God has sent me, they will ask, 'Which God are you talking about?' What shall I tell them?"

Unspoken Questions

Now God was patient and sympathetic with Moses — after all, He had been preparing him for eighty years. He didn't rebuke Moses for his hesitance. He understood the unspoken questions in Moses' mind. But He also knew Moses to be a man of intelligence and character and no small amount of experience. So His answer was enigmatic: "I Will Be What I Will Be" was the reply. "Just say, 'I Am has sent me!' Yes, tell them *YHVH*, the God of your ancestors Abraham, Isaac and Jacob, has sent me to you.

"Call together all the elders of Israel," God instructed him, "and tell them about *YHVH* appearing to you here in this burning bush and that he said to you, 'I have visited my people, and have seen what is happening to them there in Egypt. I *promise* to rescue them from the

drudgery and humiliation they are undergoing, and to take them to the land now occupied by the Canaanites, Hittites, Amorites, Perizzites, Hivites, and Jebusites, a land "flowing with milk and honey." The elders of the people of Israel will accept your message. They must go with you to the king of Egypt and tell him, "*YHVH*, the God of the Hebrews, has met with us and instructed us to go three days' journey into the desert to sacrifice to him. Give us your permission." But I know that the king of Egypt will NOT let you go except under heavy pressure. So I will give him all the pressure he needs! I will destroy Egypt with my miracles, and then at last he will let you go. And I will see to it that the Egyptians load you down with gifts when you leave, so that you will by no means go out empty-handed! Every woman will ask for jewels, silver, gold, and the finest of clothes from her Egyptian master's wife and neighbors. You will clothe your sons and daughters with the best of Egypt!" (Ex. 3:12-22.)

But Moses still had doubts. Not to be construed as a lack of faith, but it all seemed very vague to him. How was he to convince his slave-brethren with promises? How could he go and tell them: "You'll Find Out Who I Am" sent me, and He promises us freedom and a new country of our own that is presently occupied by six powerful, separate nations. All we have to do is ask Pharaoh to let us go for three days and sacrifice to 'I Will Be What I Will Be' in the desert. But Pharaoh won't let us go until 'I Will Be' has destroyed Egypt. Then all of you can ask for all the riches of Egypt from your former masters; they will gladly give you all their gold, silver, clothes, jewelry — and we will all be rich and free!"

Now who is going to believe a story like that? If I tell them I talked to God who was in a burning bush in the desert, they'll call for the men in white and rush me off to an institution. They'll say I've lost my marbles, that I've been wandering in the desert too long, that I'm just an old man dreaming of restoring my former glory, that I've been hallucinating after being alone so long

with a flock of sheep in the desert...

"They won't believe me!" Moses complained to God. "They won't do what *I* tell them to. They'll say, '*YHVH* never appeared to you!'"

Three Good Miracles

Now, God was again patient with Moses, listened to his arguments, sympathized with his dilemma. "I understand your problem, Moses," God replied. "What's that in your hand?"

"It's just my shepherd's rod," Moses answered sheepishly.

"Well, I'll tell you what we're going to do, Moses. I understand that people have a great difficulty in believing what my servants say I *say* — so I'll let you have three good tricks you can perform, *real* tricks, miracles, that'll make their eyes bug out in disbelief — if they want to *see* something, we'll give them something to *see*! First, throw that rod you have down on the ground and I'll make it into a snake — you grab it by the tail and it'll become a rod again. Second, stick your arm into your robes and when you pull it out it'll be leprous, but when you put it back into your robe and pull it out a second time, it'll be normal again. Third, if these two tricks don't achieve the goal, you take some water from the river Nile and when you pour it out it'll become *blood* right before their eyes! Now, bolstered with those miracles, do you think you could do the job?"

Well, Moses threw down his rod, and sure enough, it became a snake, and when he picked it up by the tail it returned to its original stick shape. He put his arm in his robe and when he drew it out, sure enough it was leprous! Hopefully, he thrust it into his garments again, and thankfully when he brought it out again it was okay! He didn't have any Nile River water handy, so he had to take that one on faith. And Moses *did* believe.

More Excuses

But somehow, Moses just couldn't seem to picture himself performing this job God wanted him to do. He cast about in his mind for yet another excuse that would convince God that He'd picked the wrong man — he was getting desperate!

"Moses *pleaded*, 'O Lord, I'm just not a good speaker. I never have been, and I'm not now, even after you have spoken to me — my speech is slow and halting. I just don't think I'm the one you really want to...'"

Now, God became a little upset. Why was He even listening to the arguments of a mere human being? Who did Moses think he was talking to his Maker that way? Couldn't he see that God was not just *asking* him to do this job, but **TELLING** him?

"Who is it that makes mouths, anyway, Moses?" I Will Be said. "Isn't it I? Am I not the one who makes a man so that he can speak or not speak, see or not see, hear or not hear? Now you do what I tell you, or else! I will tell you what to speak, and then help you to speak it, and *you will do what I say!*"

Incredible, isn't it? You'd almost think that Moses had already read and was convinced of the words of a man called Paul — yet to be born, thousands of years into the future: "This High Priest of ours understands our weaknesses . . . So let us come *boldly* to the very throne of God and stay there to receive his mercy and to find grace to help us in our times of need" (Heb. 4:15, 16). Yes, Moses believed in and practiced that principle long before Paul wrote it — fact is, Moses' own example as well as Paul's own experience and knowledge probably inspired Paul's words.

Patience Worn Thin

You can read the Bible from start to finish and you will not find a more *bold* approach to God by anyone else. Here was a *man*, literally arguing with God! And surviving! And God, in His turn, was reasoning with Moses. It was a give-and-take situation between the Creator and the created! The Ever-living God was so far patiently putting up with mumbling Moses as he tried in every way to squirm out of the job God had for him to perform.

But, believe it or not, even God's patience wears thin. He had allowed Moses to refuse His offer and criticize His choice *four times*. Though Moses may not have known it, he was pushing his luck a little too far, being a little too *bold* when he re-

jected God's offer the *fifth* time!

With no real or imagined excuses left to present to God, Moses simply said: "Lord, *please!* Send someone else!"

THEN THE LORD BECAME ANGRY! "All right," He said, "I've had enough of your excuses! Your brother Aaron is a good speaker; if you don't trust me to make you eloquent before Pharaoh, then you tell Aaron what I told you and let *him* tell Pharaoh — this is almost ridiculous! But I will let Aaron be your spokesman to the people — you will be as God to him, and he will be your prophet to the people and to Pharaoh. And don't forget that rod of yours — be sure to take it along so you can perform the miracles I showed you. Now **GO DO YOUR JOB!!**"

With that, Moses finally got the *hint*! God had made up His mind on who He was going to use to free the Israelites from Egypt, and no matter how stubborn Moses was, God was yet *more* stubborn! The going was getting tough — and it was time for the tough to get going!

Besides, Moses didn't really believe God was going to swallow that excuse about his not being a good speaker — Moses was too eloquent in presenting the argument! Generals and princes don't tend to be "slow of speech." And you and I know what Stephen, the first martyr of the New Testament Church, said about Moses: "... Pharaoh's daughter found him and adopted him as her own son, and taught him all the wisdom of the Egyptians, and he became a mighty prince and *orator*!" (Acts 7:21,22.)

So, like it or not, Moses was stuck with the job. Moses stopped arguing at this point — though he was to repeat that habit many times later — and left the presence of God to begin his next, last and greatest forty years. He had been prince for forty years, pauper for forty — now he was to be prophet for yet another forty!

Reluctant Prophet

The reason all this is brought up is to show Moses in a different light than most see him. Moses was not eager to become the chief executive

(Continued on page 45)



Gamma Photo

(Continued from page 3)

Would it not provide the ONLY explanation for present world conditions, which you, as head of state, must consider? And, remember, you agreed to listen."

Chairman Mao: "Yes, I will listen. No matter how erroneous and foolish your theory might be, this world is in such a frighteningly tragic state, I would listen to almost anything. For I admit that neither I, nor any political-economic system, can today give the PERFECT answer to the cause of this terrifying WORLD STATE. Of course, when all the world becomes Communist, we shall have peace. But matter has *always* existed — and we know there is NOTHING in existence *except* matter."

Myself: "You must know that the very presence of radioactive elements and the FACT of radioactivity PROVES there has been no past eternity of matter. There was a time when matter did not exist. Then came a time when matter came into existence."

Chairman Mao: "I have not invited you to an argument, Mr. Armstrong, but to LISTEN to your fictitious scenario." (smiling) "Go on."

Myself: "These two supernatural SPIRIT BEINGS were endued with creative powers. But, as even human minds think, plan and design — even putting their plans on paper before starting to build or construct — so these two super-Beings

"I admit that neither I, nor any political-economic system, can today give the perfect answer to the cause of this terrifying world state. Of course, when all the world becomes Communist, we shall have peace. But matter has always existed — and we know there is nothing in existence except matter."

thought, and planned, and designed. There was no hurry. They might have thought and planned for many millions of years, as we count years, before starting the actual MAKING, OR CREATING.

"First, being SPIRIT BEINGS themselves, composed of spirit, they designed and produced a type of spirit being somewhat like themselves, only naturally of far lower degree. These beings we will call angels. They were of three or more levels of power and ability in thought — simple angels, a higher grade of angels called seraphs, and the highest, cherubs, of which there were only three — inferior only to their Makers in mind and in power.

"But right here we come to a very significant distinction.

"There are, in general, only TWO philosophies, or WAYS OF LIFE, which one — whether God, angel or man — can travel. The one is the WAY OF LOVE — of giving, helping, serving, sharing, with love first of all to one's superior expressed in obedience — because his superior rules only in LOVE. Love may be defined as an OUTFLOWING *concern* for the welfare of others. I simplify it by calling it the way of 'give,' and the opposite WAY that of 'get.'

"The created beings — angels — were equipped with MINDS — ability to THINK, reason, form conclusions, make decisions, set CHOICES. They were made holy, instructed in the WAY OF LOVE."

Chairman Mao: "An interesting theory, at least."

Myself: "There was, as yet, NO MATERIAL UNIVERSE as we know it, including our earth, with the planets of our solar system as part of our galaxy, which is only one of unknown countless galaxies in the UNIVERSE. Matter was created with many properties, known, of course, to physicists and chemists. It contains force, energy, gravity. Man has developed from it the power of nuclear energy.

"These two supernatural Beings, which we will call GOD, were of equal power, but one exercised supreme AUTHORITY over the other. He is called 'God.' The other is called 'the WORD,' because God created all things *by* and *through* 'the Word.' Since they thought precisely alike in perfect harmony, 'the WORD' created all things precisely as directed by God. Thus God created all things BY OR THROUGH 'the WORD,' who was the Spokesman. Since they were SPIRIT BEINGS, the power of their SPIRIT produced whatever 'the Word' directed. 'He SPAKE, and it was done,' as quoted from Psalm 33:9.

"But 'the WORD' was also God, though a separate Personage, lesser only in authority. Both had always existed. There never was a time when they did not exist — or coexist. The Hebrew name for God, *Elohim*, is a uniplural — more than one Personage forming ONE God.

"In creating matter, it was God's purpose to leave much of the completing of created objects to the angels. I will use a modern object to illustrate. One building contractor might be commissioned to build a steel high-rise building of 50 stories. His phase of the construction would consist merely of the foundation and the steel framework that supports the entire structure. A second contractor might be commissioned to FINISH the construction — the outside walls, the interiors — the walls and floors, walls of corridors and rooms, wall finish, door and window casings, and then the final wall covering, floor coverings, carpeting, furniture, furnishings, etc.

"What God created in this earth and all planets in the universe was PERFECT, just as the foundation and

steel framework of the modern skyscraper might be perfect — but the building as yet unfinished.”

Chairman Mao: “You are quite clear in your illustrations.”

Myself: “This earth originally was created to be the habitation of one-third of all the billions of created angels. They were given all the MATERIAL, within the earth, needed to FINISH the project of a completed EARTH. The earth was the original PROVING GROUND. Once they had completed the earth, they were then to do the same completing job on all the myriads of other planets throughout the UNIVERSE.

“But God knew this Master Project could not be accomplished unless they all — billions of angels — pulled together in cooperative teamwork. If one used his mind to decide to add a certain portion by his own design, and another had a different idea and came along and tore down what the first angel had put up, confusion would result and no progress could be made.

“Therefore God gave them the ‘plans and complete blueprints’ designing how every cubic inch should be put together, just as the contractor of a modern 50-story building has been given plans and blueprints worked out by the architects, engineers and planners for every cubic inch of the entire structure.

“In other words, God knew that GOVERNMENT was needed to exercise authority and oversight over every individual angel’s conduct, else one would tear out what another had accomplished. The result would be confusion, chaos, anarchy — destruction.

“This is a simple way of explaining the need of GOVERNMENT to regulate the lives of millions of people within a nation.”

Chairman Mao: “If it wasn’t our Communist form of government, it was no good.”

Myself: “Every government is based on LAW. The GOVERNMENT OF GOD, as placed over the angels, was based on God’s law — a spiritual law — a WAY OF LIFE based on the principle of LOVE. It is the OUTFLOWING way, not self-centered or incoming.

“One thing God CANNOT create

“You must know that the very presence of radioactive elements and the fact of radioactivity proves there has been no past eternity of matter. There was a time when matter did not exist. Then came a time when matter came into existence.”



instantaneously by fiat is righteous CHARACTER. God’s LAW IS THE WAY of righteous character. In this the angels had been instructed. But they were, of necessity, required to make their own decisions about accepting and obeying God’s government from their own reasoning, else they would not have had character, personality, or been more than automats.”

Chairman Mao: “But you can’t get around human nature.”

Myself: “On the earthly throne over them God set the HIGHEST being He could create by fiat out of SPIRIT — the archangel cherub named LUCIFER. His POWER was next to that of God. But fixed CHARACTER had not yet been developed in him. He had not made his final choice. He used his faculties of THINKING, REASONING. As he reasoned it out, it would be better for HIM to TAKE and POSSESS than to GIVE. He chose the WAY of VANITY — exalting himself even above God. Self-exaltation gave him a good feeling.

“He decided lust and greed were better for HIM than giving, sharing, helping, serving. He concluded that jealousy and envy were better than tolerance, outgoing LOVE; that COMPETITION, even though leading to strife, violence and war, was better than generosity and cooperation. He decided to REBEL against God and God’s government. He persuaded his angels into his philosophy of

GETTING instead of God’s WAY of GIVING.

“The GOVERNMENT OF GOD was rebelled against, rejected, no longer in force on the earth. Lucifer and his angels swept on up to God’s heaven — universe seat of government — in an invasion, attempting to dislodge God from His throne and TAKE OVER the entire universe. It had been God’s intention to give them that anyway, had they qualified under GOD’S GOVERNMENT to get the job done the ONLY WAY it could be done.

“As a result, they were thrust back down to earth, disqualified — with God’s government dissolved from earth. Instead of order, there was anarchy. Destruction came to the face of the earth — and of ALL PLANETS — as a result of the REBELLION.

“Instead of LIGHT, darkness came. All the planets of the universe came into a state of chaos and decay — waste and emptiness. But Lucifer, whose name meant ‘Morning Star,’ now renamed Satan (meaning ‘Adversary,’ ‘Competitor,’ ‘Enemy’), must remain on the earthly throne UNTIL a successor qualifies to restore and administer the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and is installed in office. Then Satan shall be removed.

“WHERE did this leave God?”

Chairman Mao: (laughing) “Your imaginary God was in trouble.”

Myself: “It left Him knowing that He (Elohim in two Persons) was the

ONLY Being existing that could be positively relied upon NEVER to rebel against GOD'S GOVERNMENT. He must have thought, as I often have, 'There just are not enough of me.'

Chairman Mao: "I would say there were not ANY of Him. There is no GOD."

Myself: "Undoubtedly God had foreseen the possibility of this situation, even before creating the angels or the physical universe."

"Nevertheless God had planned, NOW, on the GREATEST, MOST STUPENDOUS, INCREDIBLE FEAT OF CREATION OF ALL!

"God (*Elohim* — the WORD and GOD) now planned to reproduce Himself! Foreseeing this eventuality may have been one of the reasons why God had planned to create MATTER — the physical UNIVERSE. There are properties in matter nonexistent in spirit. Spirit is not subject to CHANGE. Spirit remains the same eternally. Spirit beings are IMMORTAL.

"But, as one noted philosopher of my early acquaintance said (knowing ONLY of the existence of matter), 'Nothing is permanent but change.' Matter is subject to change. Indeed matter does constantly change.

"God could not create perfect righteous CHARACTER instantly by fiat. Character must be DEVELOPED in, and by the assent and effort of the one who has it. That requires experience, and TIME.

"God now proposed to REPRODUCE HIMSELF, using MATERIAL SUBSTANCE IN THE PROCESS. For indeed it was to be a PROCESS, as the only possible way.

"God would form beings in His own form and shape. He would give these beings MINDS — ability to THINK, REASON, MAKE DECISIONS, CHOICES.

"I define holy, righteous CHARACTER as the ability in a separate entity with MIND and free moral agency to CHOOSE the right; who, seeing the WAY to both good and evil, voluntarily CHOOSES the good, even against strongest temptation and pressures and desires to choose evil; and who shall will, against strongest opposing pressures, to DO the GOOD.

"So *Elohim* formed MAN in His own image and likeness — form and shape — of the matter from the ground on

the earth. God had created many other life forms — various kinds, species and varieties of insects, birds, fish and animals. In each was formed a physical BRAIN. In MAN *Elohim* formed a BRAIN almost precisely, in design and composition, like that of elephants, whales, dolphins (all larger than human brain), also like that of chimps (slightly smaller than human brain), and down to the smallest animals. These brains — in animals — were equipped with INSTINCT.

"But the brain of MAN was not regulated by that type of instinct. Instead God put a spirit — of spirit essence — in MAN. This SPIRIT empowered the physical human brain with INTELLECT — of free and independent THOUGHT — power to reason, come to conclusions, make decisions and CHOICES. Man is guided by his thought processes, *not* by animal instinct."

Chairman Mao: "You have a good point there."

Myself: "God formed man so that, under God's conditions, he might also receive from God God's own SPIRIT, imparting to fleshly man, through his human spirit, *the impregnation of God-life* — that is, immortal, divine, supernatural GOD-LIFE, even as GOD HIMSELF. Thus, in the ultimate working of the process, man could be BORN of God — could BECOME GOD — just as a man born of human woman has BECOME HUMAN — is a HUMAN being.

"Remember, this is NOT science. This is NOT religion. This is something science has not yet discovered, religion has never revealed, education has never taught. IT IS THE MISSING DIMENSION IN KNOWLEDGE. IT ACCOUNTS FOR ALL OF MAN'S TROUBLES AND EVILS!

"So after God created the various animals, each after its own kind, God created MAN after the GOD kind (Gen. 1:26). Man's brain was made to function on KNOWLEDGE and THOUGHT, the MIND (brain plus spirit) directing the body's actions.

"The spirit in man we shall term a *human spirit*. For man is NOT a spirit being, but a physical, material being. His spirit cannot see. His brain sees through the eyes. His spirit cannot hear. His brain hears through the ears. The spirit in man

cannot THINK. The physical BRAIN thinks — receiving power to do so *from* the spirit.

"But the spirit is like a computer. It records, for instant recall to the brain, whatever knowledge enters through the eye, ear, or senses of feel, taste and smell. The fact the spirit gives the brain instant recall of knowledge programmed into it — memorized — makes possible human thinking and reasoning BY THE BRAIN."

Chairman Mao: "I confess that sounds reasonable, though not scientific."

Myself: "The human spirit also is like a MOLD. As a mold of a sculptor's work of art reproduces that work in precise form and shape when, for example, molten bronze is poured into it, so in similar manner, every human who dies may be brought back to life in a RESURRECTION FROM THE DEAD, which *Elohim* made part of His GRAND DESIGN.

"The spirit in man does not impart LIFE. Man's LIFE is human, mortal, and resides in the BLOOD, oxygenated by the BREATH of life. Man is a breathing creature whose life depends upon food, water and air from the earth.

"For clarity it is necessary, at this point, to add a few details on this ALL-IMPORTANT difference between human MIND and animal BRAIN.

"The human spirit in man is NOT THE MAN. It is merely something in the man. It (the spirit) does not operate the THINKING process, which is the function of the physical BRAIN, aided by instant recall of memorized (programmed) knowledge, and empowered by the spirit to THINK.

"IT IS NOT an IMMORTAL SOUL. The term 'immortal soul' is as self-contradictory as such expressions as 'the rising sun was setting in the west, as it rained all day that night.' Or, 'a barefoot boy with shoes on STOOD, sitting in the grass.' We used to think a poem including these expressions funny 60 years ago. The term 'immortal soul' is just as ridiculous, since the SOUL means a breathing animal (Gen. 2:7, etc.).

"At death, the spirit returns to God who gave it, and the BODY to the earth. The body that rises in the resurrection is NOT the same body that is buried (1 Cor. 15:37).

"Remember matter decays — CHANGES. Spirit DOES NOT CHANGE. The human spirit acts as a sculptor's mold. God gives it (in the resurrection) a new, different body (I Cor. 15:38) as pleases Him. But the spirit MOLD shall have preserved the MEMORY, the CHARACTER developed — good or evil — the personality, the precise FORM AND SHAPE, even to the fingerprints.

"So much, briefly, for that.

"So to prepare for the creation of man, God first RENEWED the FACE OF THE EARTH by supernatural power (Ps. 104:30). Here Lucifer, now having his name changed to Satan ('Enemy,' 'Adversary'), must by divine LAW remain on the throne of the earth UNTIL a successor has been qualified, *and been inducted* into office. God restrained Satan from making contact with the man and woman He had created — UNTIL He could put into their minds the KNOWLEDGE of God's government, based on His LAW — the WAY of LOVE — or, as I sometimes say it for simplicity, 'GIVE' instead of 'GET.'

"This is symbolized in the Bible (Gen. 2 and 3) by the two trees in the Garden of Eden. The tree of LIFE symbolized THE WAY of GOD's GOVERNMENT — based on GOD's LAW OF LOVE. It symbolized also God's Holy Spirit, which, received by a human and *added to the human spirit*, impregnated man with GOD-life — eternal life. The tree of the knowledge of good and evil — if its fruit was taken and eaten by man — represented man's taking to HIMSELF the knowledge of what is GOOD and what is EVIL — that is, deciding for himself which is the RIGHT WAY of life, and which is the EVIL way. God had explained that HIS LAW of LOVE was the right way that would lead to PEACE, happiness, cooperative effort and achievement, and resultant universal abundant well-being.

"God explained all about His GOVERNMENT and His LAW, transgression of which is SIN and leads only to EVIL results. Otherwise He could not have pronounced on humanity the DEATH SENTENCE for disobedience.

"Then God allowed Satan to present HIS WAY — the SELF-centered way of vanity; lust and greed;

envy and jealousy; competition with strife, violence, murder, war; resentment against authority.

"God had freely offered to GIVE of everything in the Garden *except* the one tree whose fruit would bring evil, suffering and death to man.

"Satan immediately attacked God's WORD — His veracity.

"'Is God so loving — so generous — as He pretends?' challenged Satan sneeringly. 'Did He not hold back one tree for Himself?'

"'He said we may eat of every tree in the Garden,' answered Mother Eve, 'except that one tree. For, He said, if you take of it, you shall surely DIE.'

"'You shall NOT surely die,' denied Satan flatly. 'God lied to you. You have *only His Word for it!* You have no PROOF! You are an IMMORTAL SOUL. You shall not *ever* die. God deceived you. He knows that when you eat that forbidden fruit, your eyes will be OPENED to "NEW TRUTH" — it will give you great exciting thrills of intellect; you will come into SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE.'

"This appealed to her intellectual VANITY.

"She utilized the tools of MODERN SCIENCE: First, she rejected the WORD OF GOD as the SOURCE of basic knowledge. She DISBELIEVED WHAT GOD SAID — as mankind has done ever since. Second, she used observation. When she 'saw that the tree was good for food, and that it was pleasant to the eyes, and a tree desired to make one wise, she took of the fruit thereof, and did eat, and gave also unto her husband with her; and he did eat' (Gen. 3:6).

"The tools of modern science are 1) rejection of revelation as the basic source of knowledge, 2) observation, 3) experimentation, 4) reason. Eve (and Adam) rejected GOD's WORD, used observation, reason, and then EXPERIMENTED. As a result of that experiment, they brought human suffering, sorrow, anguish, confusion, unsolvable problems and mountainous evils into the human world. *They died!* And death passed upon all men (Rom. 5:12).

"There, Mr. Chairman, was the START — the source and CAUSE of all YOUR unsolvable problems here in the largest country on earth — problems you must admit are too over-

whelming for your exalted abilities to handle. That was the START. Humanity has *continued* taking TO ITSELF the knowledge of good and evil — of the right way and the wrong — and *what have we?* Eight hundred million of you think Communism is the best WAY. Three hundred million Russians think Russian Communism is best. Several hundred more millions in the United States, Western Europe and elsewhere think our form of democracy is best.

"Buddhists think they have the right religion. Confucians think theirs is right. Moslems are sure theirs is right. Christians think all others are wrong, and only theirs is right.

"WHAT HAVE WE, Chairman Mao? CONFUSION, CHAOS, human suffering, over half of all humanity in abject POVERTY, living in filth and squalor, over half illiterate. In affluent countries, the rich getting richer, the poor getting poorer. And *all* seem UNHAPPY. We have wars — both civil and international — all over the earth. We have violence in every country. We have hatred, resentment, bitterness. We have UNREST, FRUSTRATION — NO REAL HOPE! Yet you human leaders keep coming up with NEW 'isms' — new varieties of government — always posing as BENEFACTORS of the people. But conditions *grow worse and worse* — and the world is headed now at increasing speed into the vortex of *the supreme world crisis at the close of this age of man-made civilization.*"

Chairman Mao: "You present a NEW fictitious prehistory background — a clever and even thoughtful — if nonsensical — chain of events to explain man's plight. But BE POSITIVE, Mr. Armstrong. You have given me no solution — no hope whatsoever."

Myself: "Not so far, Chairman Mao. So far I have given you the CAUSE — and the prehistory that led up to it. But now I bring you real HOPE — the ONLY hope — for *you* yourself HAVE NONE!"

Chairman Mao: "I have hope — I give MY VAST PEOPLE HOPE — and Chinese Communism is that hope. It simply takes TIME!"

Myself: "Yes, I know, Mr. Chairman! And so do my countrymen



Photo by Hugues Vassal — Gamma/Liaison

“You have brought me a cause — fanciful or not — but which I must admit, if only true, would explain the reason for all our human woes. But this government of God you speak of — it has never been tried. What have you to say to that?”

think that DEMOCRACY offers hope. And so have world leaders before you believed their systems of government offered solutions, from the ancient Nimrod, on through Shalmaneser, Nebuchadnezzar, Alexander the Great, Romulus, Julius, Augustus, Nero — and such thinkers as Epictetus, Buddha, Solomon, Socrates, Plato, Virgil, etc.

“But EVERYTHING is a matter of cause and effect. For every effect there had to be a CAUSE. I have so far presented only the CAUSE which has led to the EFFECT which we ourselves witness in this world. But now let me give you a different CAUSE that will lead to a different EFFECT.”

Chairman Mao: “So far, Mr. Armstrong, you have brought me a CAUSE — fanciful or not — but which I must admit, *IF* only TRUE, would explain the reason for all our human woes. But this GOVERNMENT of God you speak of — it has never been tried. What have you to say to that?”

Myself: “Indeed it has been tried, Chairman Mao, but there is no record of it in profane history — only references to it in the Bible. Yet every Christian religion has glossed right over it, and none has revealed it, so far as I know.”

Chairman Mao: “But you must admit, Mr. Armstrong, that God’s experiment at creating MAN — or, as you put it, reproducing Himself — ended in FAILURE! The MAN God reproduced after His own kind —

after the ‘God KIND’ as you phrased it — rejected God’s government as soon as Satan had a chance to present his WAY of SELF-centeredness — of ‘GET,’ as you put it. MAN made the same choice as Lucifer did! So God’s experiment FAILED!”

Myself: “But God was making no experiment. So far, all proceeded as God well knew it *might*. Just as God knew Lucifer might choose the ‘GET’ way instead of God’s LAW of LOVE, so, of necessity, He made man also a FREE MORAL AGENT — with MIND that could think, reason, make choices. God left that choice to MAN.

“True, God *explained* to Adam His WAY, just as He had to Lucifer. And God allowed Satan to try to persuade the MAN with arguments. But MAN had not yet EXPERIENCED both Satan’s WAY and God’s WAY. Adam made his choice purely from explanations in words. And remember, I said CHARACTER must be BUILT within one by EXPERIENCE.”

Chairman Mao: “Then why did not He build that character into Lucifer and the angels by letting them EXPERIENCE God’s way after they had experienced the ‘GET’ way?”

Myself: “But perhaps you have forgotten that God started out Lucifer and his angels under the GOVERNMENT OF GOD — that they *did* experience the WAY of God’s government, lived under it — we know not HOW LONG. Even after Lucifer had himself decided on and turned to the ‘GET’ way, it conceivably

could have taken a million years to convince all his angels so that they would unitedly serve him in his MILITARY venture to attack and unseat God, putting Lucifer on the throne of the UNIVERSE.

“While under God’s government, the angels EXPERIENCED PERFECT PEACE, happiness, joy! At that time they had not yet made their final CHOICE of REBELLION against the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, and each had to choose for himself the WAY he would live. Once SPIRIT BEINGS made that final CHOICE, it was irrevocable. Spirit CANNOT CHANGE. They had been living *conditionally* under God’s GOVERNMENT. Having free moral agency to CHOOSE, their decision was not SET within them until their choice was made.

“But God made MAN of MATTER. A MAN, prior to having the EXPERIENCE of living under GOD’S GOVERNMENT, could decide from Satan’s argument and under his influence to live the ‘GET’ way of Satan. Yet, being MATTER which is subject to change, it is in GOD’S PLAN AND PURPOSE that man may REPENT — CHANGE HIS MIND — turn FROM Satan’s way and make a final CHOICE to accept GOD’S GOVERNMENT.”

Chairman Mao: “Yes, but being composed of matter, what is to prevent MAN from changing right back to Satan’s ways after experiencing GOD’s way for a while?”

Myself: “Now you are getting to a part of God’s MASTER PLAN I have not yet come to, Mr. Chairman. So let me explain: In the Garden of Eden, Adam was forced to make a CHOICE. Before him were the two trees, as I previously explained. He could have taken from the tree of life immediately. But he chose the tree of death. In so doing both Adam and his wife DISBELIEVED what God SAID. They REJECTED God’s LOVE, His LIFE, His GOVERNMENT (for the tree of LIFE would have given them the love of God — divine LOVE — which alone can fulfill God’s LAW — the law of God’s GOVERNMENT). They REJECTED the GOVERNMENT OF GOD and chose to decide for themselves good from evil and what GOVERNMENT they would follow. Thus they CUT THEMSELVES AND THEIR PROGENY OFF

FROM GOD — and all contact with Him. This put a barrier between them. Yet at all times God has made His truth accessible to man.

“God drove them out of the Garden of Eden, and placed super-angels with flaming swords to PREVENT mankind from entering the Garden and taking for himself ETERNAL LIFE.

“Remember GOD’S PURPOSE: to reproduce HIMSELF. This included the development of His holy, righteous CHARACTER. That had to be built by EXPERIENCE. That would take TIME.”

Chairman Mao: “Then you should understand that the world goal of Communism cannot be achieved immediately — it takes time.”

Myself: “So now in His MASTER PLAN for accomplishing His PURPOSE, God set apart a duration of 7,000 years. The first 6,000 years MAN WAS TO EXPERIENCE Satan’s way of life, *which he had chosen*. God adopted a “HANDS-OFF” policy toward man in his chosen way of life. Mankind, now cut off from God, now under the sway of Satan still on earth’s throne, was to live 6,000 years HIS OWN WAY. Cut off from God, man was now to organize his own society, his own ways and customs, his own GOVERNMENTS, his own RELIGIONS — and Satan was the god of this world, whom its religions, deceived by him, worshipped AS God.”

Chairman Mao: “Just a moment, if you please, Mr. Armstrong. You say Satan was to remain on his earthly throne, swaying mankind — a mankind CUT OFF FROM GOD for 6,000 years. Tell me, HOW could this Satan sway all mankind? And what about this thing called ‘HUMAN NATURE’? Isn’t that human nature within man the force that sways mankind?”

Myself: “Chairman Mao, I’m certainly glad you asked that, for I had almost forgotten to explain it. And right here is the VERY PRESENT ACTING CAUSE of all the world’s troubles and evils.

“It is recorded that when God wanted to cause the Gentile King Cyrus, king of Persia, to send a number of Jews back to Jerusalem seventy years after the destruction

“Indeed it has been tried, Chairman Mao, but there is no record of it in profane history — only references to it in the Bible. Yet every Christian religion has glossed right over it, and none has revealed it, so far as I know.”



of Solomon’s Temple at Jerusalem to build the second temple, He simply communicated through the human spirit in Cyrus. He ‘broadcast,’ so to speak, on a wavelength to which Cyrus’ spirit was tuned (Ezra 1:1-2).

“Satan is a SPIRIT being — the MOST POWERFUL type of super-angel. He is, even now, ‘the prince of the power of the air’ (Eph. 2:1-2). For more than 20 years I broadcast over the air. Until then I could never have understood the biblical explanation of HOW Satan SWAYS the whole world. He BROADCASTS. Every human spirit is in tune with his wavelength. He does not broadcast in words, sounds, or pictures as in TV. He broadcasts in ATTITUDES, emotions, feelings, impulses. Humans hear nothing, see nothing. But Satan instills within them this ATTITUDE of vanity, lust and greed; of jealousy and envy; of competition and strife; of resentment, bitterness, violence and war. All that, Mr. Chairman, is NOT human nature. It is actually SATAN’S nature. Children are not born with it. It is not hereditary; but as children’s minds develop, gradually this attitude is injected into them in their total unawareness. The apostle Paul wrote that he was fearful lest the Christians at Corinth in the first century be corrupted through Satan’s subtlety, as Satan deceived Eve some 4,000 years before.

“The original CAUSE of all man-

kind’s troubles was Adam’s TAKING TO HIMSELF the knowledge of good and evil; but the continuous and present cause of all our evils is what we erroneously call ‘human nature’ — which is Satan’s continuous ‘broadcasting’ which sways all mankind. Satan is so powerful, the air is surcharged with his attitude. Even converted Christians, few though they be, are tuned to Satan’s wavelength, but if they UNDERSTAND and BELIEVE the Word of God (now in writing), they recognize such thoughts and attitudes immediately and resist them. That is how a real Christian must OVERCOME Satan!”

Chairman Mao: “Is there, then, NO religion on earth that is GOD’S religion, apart from Satan? Is there NO government on earth that is GOD’S GOVERNMENT?”

Myself: “Chairman Mao, I say to you on authority of the living GOD that this is a deceived world — cut off from God. It is Satan’s world. Remember, Satan is a SPIRIT being — composed of spirit and IMMORTAL. He is invisible to human eyes. Therefore, he has deceived the world into believing that Satan himself is a myth; that this is GOD’S world; that Satan — as the devil — does not exist. All nations have been deceived by him. They believe *he* — the real Satan — is God.

“BUT, to answer your question further, God did reserve to Himself the right to intervene in world af-

fares WHEN NECESSARY TO ACHIEVE His PURPOSE — for GOD'S PURPOSE STANDS — is IRREVOCABLE! It WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED. It IS BEING ACCOMPLISHED!

"God intervened in the life of Abel, second son of Adam. Enoch, called 'seventh from Adam,' walked with God, and two cannot walk together except they be agreed. God found Noah PERFECT in his generations (physical) and willing to obey Him. God called Abram who obeyed Him, and Abram's name was changed to Abraham, and all PROMISES for immortality, as a gift to humans, were made to Abraham and his descendants. There were Isaac and Jacob to whom the PROMISES were repeated, and Joseph who obeyed God. God intervened in making the Israelite slaves in Egypt HIS OWN NATION, leading them supernaturally under Moses out of Egypt. He promised them physical and national and material rewards, but never the gift of eternal life. He sent many prophets to them and gave the prophets His Holy Spirit in order to empower them to do His WORK, which He assigned to them, of warning rebellious Israel.

"Then God sent 'the WORD,' born of the virgin Mary, as Jesus Christ — the Son of GOD, since His only Father was GOD — and the Son of MAN, since His mother was the human Mary.

"Here we enter a most crucial phase of God's whole PURPOSE and MASTER PLAN for REPRODUCING HIMSELF.

"I have told you, man had to choose. He was made MORTAL — of matter. Being MATTER, the PENALTY of his sin (violation of GOD'S LAW) was fixed as DEATH. How, then, if MAN experienced Satan's WAY of 'get' first — all of which we call falsely 'human nature' — was God to rescue him from death, let him EXPERIENCE life under the GOVERNMENT OF GOD, THEN MAKE HIS CHOICE?

"I would assume that all this was thought out and divinely PLANNED when there existed only the TWO BEINGS — 'the WORD' and GOD — *Elohim*. The 'Word,' being GOD, the One BY WHOM God created all things, including the human race — being CREATOR OF ALL — was one

whose life was of greater value than all human lives combined. He volunteered to GIVE UP all the exalted GLORY and HONOR, to be born as a human by a human mother, FOR THE VERY PURPOSE OF BEING ABLE TO DIE. But, also being GOD in human flesh, He, and He alone of all mankind, would be able to RESIST Satan's temptations, and though tempted as we are, never bring on HIMSELF the penalty of DEATH. He then would take on Himself the SINS OF ALL MANKIND, and, His life outweighing them all, PAY our penalty for us, in our stead, by sacrificing HIS LIFE in exchange for ours. Thus God GAVE His ONLY BEGOTTEN SON rather than compromise one iota with HIS LAW!

"His death wiped out the barrier between man and God. Now man could have access to GOD. But the plan went further. GOD resurrected Jesus Christ from the dead, making possible the resurrection of *all* humans, for whom He died.

"But that is not yet all. Abel, Enoch, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Joseph, Moses and all the prophets, the apostles of Jesus, and those who thereafter received God's HOLY SPIRIT through Christ in the Church of God, shall be resurrected at the coming of Christ again to rule.

"Now you ask, is not the GOVERNMENT OF GOD in force anywhere in the world? Yes, it is — in the true CHURCH OF GOD, now called the Worldwide Church of God — and nowhere else.

"But I am getting a little ahead of myself. Jesus Christ met Satan head-on in a person-to-person confrontation. Under the most severe temptation Satan could maneuver, Jesus overcame him, rejected his WAY, OBEYED GOD, and QUALIFIED to RESTORE THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD on the earth!

"But God's MASTER PLAN for His great PURPOSE called for a 6,000-year duration of MAN attempting to organize himself in society, government, religion and education under Satan's sway — all his human institutions devised on the way of 'GET' contrary to GOD'S LAW. This world's churches FIGHT and OPPOSE the spiritual LAW OF GOD, the very basis of the GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

"But Jesus brought a GREAT MESSAGE from God to mankind — the GOOD NEWS ANNOUNCEMENT (Gospel) OF THE COMING KINGDOM OF GOD.

"Those who have rejected and, in this life, OVERCOME Satan's WAY of hostility to GOD'S LAW; who have BELIEVED WHAT GOD SAID — His written WORD, the Bible; who have REPENTED of sin and of Satan's WAY; and who have lived, in this world, though persecuted for it, GOD'S WAY; and who have received and been led by God's HOLY SPIRIT, *are to be* RESURRECTED IMMORTAL, *composed of* SPIRIT *at Christ's coming*. He is coming in POWER AND GLORY as KING of kings to TAKE OVER all governments of this earth, restoring THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD.

"Resurrected AT His coming will be all *saints* from 'righteous Abel' to those in GOD'S CHURCH TODAY.

"Just as Jesus had to QUALIFY to sit on the THRONE OF THE EARTH (David's) AT JERUSALEM, *so* must all we, who shall be then resurrected to rule with Him, have rejected Satan's WAY, turned to GOD'S WAY, overcome Satan and his WAY, and have lived GOD'S WAY.

"We are merely the very FIRST to be finally BORN of GOD. All in the first resurrection shall have been those few who were PREDESTINED to be called NOW — given God's HOLY SPIRIT to empower us to DO THE WORK God has decreed He wants done NOW, *even in Satan's world*.

"Others have not yet been called by God to spiritual salvation and eternal life. Jesus said plainly, 'NO MAN CAN come to me, except the Father... draw him' (John 6:44). Those so called are they who have been specially predestinated — specially selected and called — for this WORK OF GOD.

"So far as the rest of the world is concerned, for 6,000 years God has adopted a 'HANDS-OFF' policy. They have been cut off from God totally, as if He didn't exist. God simply was not even in their thinking. MAN made it so!

"And now, WHAT OF THEM? I said before, to be born into the GOD FAMILY, one must have EXPERIENCED both Satan's way and GOD'S WAY.

"Those still alive at the coming of Christ to RULE — to restore the GOVERNMENT OF GOD on earth, to RESTORE PEACE, HAPPINESS, JOY — shall then be called to eternal salvation by God. Then EVERYONE living shall be called. They will be EXPERIENCING THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD by then *living under it, after* having lived in Satan's world. They will then CHOOSE!

"But what of the BILLIONS of people from Adam to that time who were NEVER CALLED, nearly all of whom NEVER EVEN HEARD OF God's WAY, OF GOD'S GOVERNMENT?

"After Christ has ruled for 1,000 years with Satan imprisoned, Satan will be released to once again demonstrate how POWERFUL he really is, by tempting and once again DECEIVING millions of those who had been EXPERIENCING LIFE under GOD'S GOVERNMENT. Millions will then turn from Christ, and finally choose Satan's way. A 'lake of fire' will await them.

"But after this millennial rule of the KINGDOM OF GOD, ruled by the BORN family of God, there will be a special resurrection of ALL the billions of people from Adam to Christ's RULE, who lived under Satan's deceiving sway. They shall all then be resurrected to *mortal human life AS THEY WERE AT THE MOMENT OF DEATH*. A certain space of time will be granted, probably 100 years. They will then live that period UNDER THE GOVERNMENT OF GOD — having, in their mortal lifetimes, experienced life under Satan's WAY. During this special postmillennial time THEY will be given their chance to CHOOSE. Those who choose GOD'S WAY will be made immortal. Others will perish in the 'lake of fire.'

"THEN WHAT? As this earth was created INCOMPLETE, so were all the billions of planets of the UNIVERSE. A lake of fire will have DEVoured all humans who, after experiencing BOTH ways, chose Satan's. They will be left neither root nor branch. They will be as though they had never existed.

"I said God would REPRODUCE HIMSELF. Those finally saved, made immortal, no longer composed of physical MATTER, but now changed to SPIRIT COMPOSITION, will then be

BORN children of God — begotten and BORN into the GOD FAMILY of *Elohim*. They will BE GOD! One God — one God family — composed of MILLIONS — yes, BILLIONS — of *God-Beings!*

"Once humans who had been deceived into living Satan's WAY have been UNDECEIVED; have had their eyes opened to the TRUTH; have REPENTED of the 'GET' way; have turned to GOD'S WAY; have believed God; have OVERCOME SATAN and his attitude and his WAY; and have been changed to IMMORTAL SPIRIT, their state is expressed in I John 3:9: 'Whosoever is born of God doth not commit sin [transgress God's LAW]; for his seed [God's life] remaineth in him: and *he cannot sin*, because he is born of God.'

"Then we shall go on and finish the glorious CREATION of the whole VAST UNIVERSE IN ENDLESS SPACE — forever and forever — in perfect PEACE, enthusiasm, happiness, TOGETHERNESS — with the JOY of constant *accomplishment*, always *looking ahead* in joyous anticipation of STILL GREATER ACHIEVEMENTS!"

Chairman Mao: "But what IS the GOVERNMENT OF GOD? How is it different from present man-devised governments?"

Myself: "It is altogether different — a *perfect* government:

"1) It will be government from the TOP down, from GOD the FATHER above all in wisdom, knowledge, LOVE and TOTAL POWER. Next under Him will be CHRIST, then under Christ the one of His choosing, probably the resurrected Abraham, and so on down.

"2) Such a system is IMPOSSIBLE in human governments where everyone is motivated by the 'GET' attitude and everyone uses fallible human reason, deciding FOR HIMSELF which way is right and which is wrong. For example, in our United States, President Abraham Lincoln in all honesty felt absolutely SURE in his own mind that he was right — and Jefferson Davis was equally as certain that *he* was right. They were equally sincere and honorable. But the result? — six-hundred thousand dead, and havoc to a great nation. MAN is incompetent to rule with perfect, infallible wisdom.

"FINAL PEACE is possible ONLY

BECAUSE there *does exist* the ETERNAL, ALL-WISE, ALL-LOVING, ALL-MIGHTY GOD to HEAD the government that will bring ALL together in harmony and cooperation and outflowing CONCERN for one another, in WORLD PEACE, and in UNIVERSAL ACHIEVEMENT beyond the ability or hopes of human minds, NOW, fully to comprehend. Only God is fit to RULE, who is all-wise and rules according to the GOOD of the governed. Thank God who DOES exist, we have that SURE hope!"

Chairman Mao: "Mr. Armstrong, I think that I, myself, do refute your whole scenario contention. I myself rule 800,000,000 people — the largest nation that ever existed on earth. I have only LOVE for my people. I have only outgoing CONCERN for their welfare. We have our politics here in China, of course. There was some political controversy and power politics in the struggle for POWER after the death of Chou En-lai. But I managed that matter peacefully. China lives at PEACE under my own rule. Does this not refute your whole contention?"

Myself: "Mr. Chairman, on the contrary, it emphatically is a living example PROVING the validity of my scenario. You admit there was a POWER STRUGGLE after Chou En-lai's death. Under you, in China, beat hundreds of millions of human hearts, all bent on SELF-advantage. Those near the top — under you — STRUGGLE in COMPETITION for SELF-power. There is ambition, vanity, lust and greed. There is competition and strife, much of it undercover. There is jealousy and envy, resentment of authority *over* them. There is the 'GET' attitude.

"If I were a prophet, I would predict that your days, sir, are numbered. You are not imbued with immortality. You shall die. And after you will ensue the GREATEST POWER STRUGGLE PERHAPS IN ALL HISTORY, in the world's largest nation, for SELF-POWER to rule in your place. True history records here and there an HONEST and CONSCIENTIOUS ruler. But they were human. They died. My scenario stands vindicated by all human experience, and by the FACTS of history, Mr. Chairman."

(Continued on page 42)

WHATEVER HAPPENED TO FATHER?

by David L. Antion

Do your children know you and respect you? Are you the major influence in your child's life? If not, why not? This article shows parents how to avoid a generation gap in their family.

My parents fight . . . they don't understand me . . . my father doesn't talk to me . . . I really hate both my parents . . . my father's away a lot . . . I have no rapport with my father."

These are the confessions of increasing numbers of teen-agers. But why? Why should one of the closest, warmest human relationships end up on the rocks?

One of the biggest social problems today is the parent-child problem. A communication gap has separated teen-agers from their parents. How does it come about? How does this wall of misunderstanding develop? When does it start? And what can one do to correct it?

Teen-agers Speak Out

Interviews with teen-agers, once the loved, cuddled, played-with, and talked-to children, reveal some surprising points.

"There are a lot of things that I don't know about my parents," says Chris, a sixteen-year-old sophomore from New Jersey. "My father goes out on the road. He never talks about what he does, but I have to wonder sometimes. My parents fight . . . they fight all night" (*The Music of Their Laughter*, Thorpe and Blake, p. 1).

Sandy is sixteen, the second of three girls. Here is how she views

her parents: "My father works for a chemical firm. I don't know what he does or how much he makes, but it must be a lot, because we live well.

"My parents are concerned with what other people think. It's really not my mother. It's mostly my father. She's really nice. He's all right but he just doesn't understand. He says that he wants to understand and everything, but I don't think he ever could, really. He's just not like — he just won't understand. I guess he's really concerned about his job, and he's in the Lions Club business. I don't know what that is. He's some head of it or something. He goes to that a couple of days a week, and I don't know . . . I don't know how to describe him really" (*ibid.*, p. 3).

How pitiful! Here is a young girl who does not really know her own father and does not know how to express herself well enough so he will understand. Obviously there is little family contact. She does not even know what his job is or what his club responsibility is.

Sandy's family lacks conversation and cohesion. Sandy has contact with her mother and feels that her mother is "really nice." But she feels that her father "doesn't understand," couldn't understand, and "won't understand." She started the thought, "He's just not like . . ." Then she interrupted her words. We can only wonder to whom she was comparing her father. Perhaps she wished her father could understand like one of her teachers does.

But in any case, we can plainly see that Sandy has virtually given up hope that there will ever be any understanding with her father.

In just sixteen years, starting from birth, here is a girl who has just about ended all fellowship with her father. How can this be?

What's He Really Like?

If you were to meet and talk with Sandy's father, you would probably like him. He is no doubt esteemed highly among his associates at work and in the Lions Club. He is likely to be regarded as a stalwart member of the community — an active, contributing member of society.

In all probability, he doesn't really know what his daughter

thinks. He evidently works hard, giving time and energy to his job to provide for his family. He sees his daughter at home, getting ready for her activities, school socials, etc. Sometimes he must feel frustrated and may comment, "I just don't understand these kids today." At times he may try to come up with something to say to his daughter but is at a loss to find any rapport. So, finding no common ground, he buries his face in the newspaper or hurries off to his club duties.

The above situation describes thousands of homes where there is virtually no father influence. The trouble is that too much time is spent trying to pin the blame on someone, instead of solving the problem. Parents accuse the teens: "They're young, rebellious, and won't listen." The teens accuse the parents: "They're square, hard-nosed, and won't listen."

The common denominator? Neither will listen! Each usually feels the other is at fault. For teen-agers, the subject of parents is so charged with emotion that many do not even want to discuss it with interviewers.

Results of Another Survey

Bibi Wein, author of *The Runaway Generation*, reported: "There was more reticence and emotional charge on the subject of parents than on anything else covered in the interviews." She further explained that the teen-agers interviewed spoke more openly about their sexual activities, drugs, etc. than they did about their parents.

She continued: "Rather than expressing hostility, anger or condescension for the elder generation, most kids just didn't seem to want to talk about it."

Teen-agers were asked, "Was there a time when you liked your parents better than you do now?" Miss Wein reports: "Most answered yes, but could not say when that changed, or what had happened . . . About 65% said their parents did not know much about their attitudes and feelings."

Miss Wein then asked a series of questions to discover the attitude of teen-agers toward their parents.

"Question: Do you want them to know more?

"Many answered yes. Those who said no, did so not because of secrets or fear of punishment, but because of fear of disillusioning and disappointing their parents, or because they felt that there was simply no possibility for more understanding.

"Question: Would you like to know more about them?

"Almost all said yes.

"Question: Was there a time when you decided it was better not to tell your parents personal things?

"I never talked to my parents, was one fairly common answer. Others said there once was such a time, but they could not recall it. Many seemed to feel that time had been around the age of six. There was a strong feeling that parents didn't want to know more about their children and were unwilling to receive communications on any subject where there might be disagreement" (*ibid.*, pp. 307-308).

When Communication Breaks Down

Parents start losing communication with their children about the age of six — about the time they enter school. It seems at this point that parent and child begin to live in two different worlds. Their interests part. Their lives become more enigmatic to each other until there is really nothing to *talk* about.

Here, in many cases, is the beginning of the problem. As long as all members of the family share everything in common and the children are not affected by outside interests, all *seems* to go well. The lack of communication, genuine interest, and outgoing concern between members of the family has not yet shown its weakness at this point in a child's life.

But when children enter school and grow older, new interests and influences begin to make their marks. As time progresses, the weakness allowed to develop in the

family unit becomes more evident. Not all parents realize they are out of contact with their children — that school influences are stronger than the family.

Our youth need direction and a consistent set of guidelines. Every parent should be doing everything possible for preschool children in laying the foundation of discipline and right teaching.

One teen-age girl summarized the feelings of many teen-agers when she was asked: "Do you have pri-

What have you taught your children?

In an interview, Mike, a Penn State junior, made a candid statement about his parents: "I never got one iota of sex training from my parents. . . . I think parents are very naïve."

He says further about his mother: "I can't sit down and talk with my mother about something that's bugging me."

These young people are not unusual. These parents are not, unfortunately, a rarity in our society. These family situations are typical.

When we consider the breakdown of the home, the terribly unhappy marriages, the declining role of father, and the changed role of mother, is it any wonder our societies are literally coming apart thread by thread? The fabric that underlies a healthy society — the home itself — is being ripped apart.

What can you parents do to see that this generation will grow up to be sound, respectful, useful citizens in a world running amuck?

What Can You Do?

The answer involves one basic consideration. You cannot be a good father unless you are first a good husband. And you cannot be a good mother unless you are first a good wife.

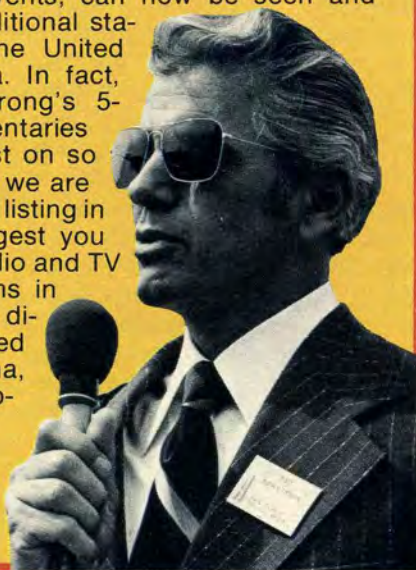
The climate set by the husband and wife definitely influences the climate in which the child will be reared. If a child is reared in turmoil, strife and confusion, how can he learn stability and peace? Children learn by imitating. When the only thing they have at home to imitate is constant bickering and strife between father and mother, they become hostile and aggressive toward others and lose the sense of security that comes from a warm home relationship.

The two people a young child loves most in the world are his

Garner Ted Armstrong COMMENTARY

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vate moments with your father where you sit down over coffee and he tells you something?"

"No."

"Do you wish you did?"

"No, I try to avoid that sort of thing. . . ."

She continues: "I have no rapport with my father. I don't think there's anything binding my father and me. I never got any sex education when I was younger. I came by it, I guess, like most girls my age do, in school, dirty jokes, dirty books."

Does this describe your home?

father and mother. The child wants to see them happy, to see them together. But when they are torn apart by strife, the child's whole world seems insecure.

The emotional effects of this insecure environment on a child are just beginning to be realized. We are now experiencing a generation that has been reared — or rather, allowed to grow up — in homes devoid of love and affection, in homes without proper rules of conduct or organization. No wonder we have a "run-away generation."

If you are married, you have as your first responsibility your mate. You should make your marriage a happy one. Nothing is more worthwhile to your own child. Loving your husband or your wife totally is one of the greatest benefits you can bestow on your child.

Next, parents and teen-agers alike must begin building the bridge of communication. In a survey taken with young people, this question was asked: "What do you do when you are at home?"

"The activity most often mentioned was listen to records. About half mentioned having some household chores, but in general, I got no sense of any activities that were not solitary ones, including watching TV. In most cases, I sensed little participation in family life" (*The Runaway Generation*, Bibi Wein, p. 308).

Too often while parents are home with their children, they might as well be a hundred miles away. If you're going to spend time with your children, spend it profitably. Make it memorable.

You need common interests in order to have conversation. If you and a close friend separate for quite a while, it is difficult to converse when you meet again. You may find that you have little in common. You will have to spend hours bringing one another up to date on your various activities and experiences. Each will have to do a considerable amount of talking as well as listening!

This is the key to rebuilding a bridge of communication with your children. You will have to find out what their interests are. You will also have to bring them into contact with your experiences. But even

here you will need a common bond of experiences and interests.

One very helpful activity is game participation. A family can purchase games that can be played by two to eight people. These can provide a number of happy hours spent together. It brings about a closeness and a common bond — and provides common interests.

Whatever Happened to Father?

Men tend to involve themselves in their work, hobbies, and careers. If a father isn't careful, he can soon find himself consumed with all kinds of outside activities, leaving little time for his family.

Many wives complain that their husbands leave them alone too much. They have virtually no companionship with their husbands, and the marriage suffers.

In the course of planning his life, a man must recognize that he committed himself to certain definite responsibilities when he married. And these responsibilities take priority over most personal preferences in his life. He must insure that he takes enough time to spend with his wife. This should include taking his wife out occasionally — having time alone with her for conversation.

If he fulfills these major responsibilities and has time left over for personal interests, well and good. But what happens in most cases is that a man wants to "have his cake and eat it too." He wants to spend most of his time working or engaging in his favorite recreational activities and hobbies. Then he hopes he has enough time after work to devote to his family. And it is usually his family that is left without the proper attention.

The course each nation will take depends on whether fathers and husbands in that nation have the courage and the fortitude to fulfill family responsibilities by putting their job of father and husband in its proper place as one of life's most important responsibilities.

If men would recognize how important their responsibilities are as husbands and fathers and give the proper attention to their wives and children, then children wouldn't have to ask the question: "What ever happened to father?" □

DEVIL MOVIES

(Continued from page 10)

booklet *Did God Create a Devil?* for the full story.)

Satan is called "the god of this world [or age]" (II Cor. 4:4) and "the prince of devils [demons]" (Mark 3:22), who has "deceived the whole world" (Rev. 12:9). He is pictured as "a roaring lion, walking about, seeking whom he may devour" (I Peter 5:8).

Satan's power, however, is limited. He can do only what God allows him to do, as is clearly seen in the book of Job. Hollywood's portrayal of a great conflict between God and Satan — which God, on occasion, loses — is clearly unbiblical.

Numerous cases of demonic possession are found in the Scriptures, as well as cases of "exorcisms" — casting out of demons by the servants of God. In nearly all cases, God's servants (such as Paul in Acts 16) simply rebuked the evil spirit in the name of Jesus Christ, "and he came out in the same hour." The elaborate Latin incantations and arduous "rites of exorcism" depicted in some of the recent films are not based on Scripture.

Demonic influence and, in some cases, actual possession *still occur* — yes, even in our modern, sophisticated world of the twentieth century. Opening one's mind to demonic influence through a preoccupation with occultism and interest in the supernatural is therefore fraught with potential dangers.

Nearly 2000 years ago, the apostle Paul admonished: "*Have no fellowship with the unfruitful works of darkness...*" (Eph. 5:11). The apostle James warned: "Submit yourselves therefore to God. *Resist the devil*, and he will flee from you" (James 4:7).

Yet there is precious little *resisting* in evidence in the world today. People are not guarding the doors to their minds!

Our free booklet *The Occult Explosion* is a must for a complete understanding of this important subject. Find out what really lies behind today's surge in occult interest. □

Human Survival

And except those days should be shortened, there should no flesh be saved . . . Matthew 24:22

THE NEW BIOLOGY— PANACEA OR PANDORA'S BOX?

Spectacular new breakthroughs in genetics have propelled mankind to the threshold of a new era. By recombining the fundamental molecules of life, some scientists claim great benefits are in the offing. But others are alarmed at the potential for untold peril to all life on earth — far exceeding the menace of the atomic bomb! Thus the new biology poses one of the greatest dilemmas to ever face modern man.

by Robert A. Ginskey

The year 1976 marked the real beginning of the era of genetic engineering. It was just last fall that Nobel Prize winner Har Gobind Khorana of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology announced that he had successfully synthesized the first fully functional gene from off-the-shelf chemicals. Khorana's achievement was the latest in a whole series of stunning biological "advances" that have signaled a new age of discovery — a biological revolution.

"A new genie has emerged from the bottle of scientific research," proclaims Dr. Clifford Brobstein, biologist at the University of California, San Diego.

The new biology has many facets — everything from artificial insemination (including sperm and egg banks), to organ transplants, to genetic tailoring and even human "cloning," the asexual reproduction of individuals that are identical to the original (see box on next page). Even some form of human immortality is held out as a future possibility.

But one thing is certain: revolutionary biological breakthroughs are

destined to become some of the most hotly debated and controversial developments of the twentieth century. "It represents probably the largest ethical problem science has ever had to face," admonishes Harvard biologist and Nobel Laureate George Wald. "I fear for the future of science as we have known it, for mankind, for life on the Earth."

"The ethical problems . . . raised by the population explosion and artificial insemination, by genetics and neurophysiology, and by the social and mental sciences are at least as great as those arising from atomic energy and the H-bomb," declares Dr. W. H. Thorpe of Cambridge University.

Why all the concern? To understand it, we need to briefly review the incredible biological achievements that have recently occurred.

Our Genetic Heritage

Science has known for some 25 years that a remarkable and awesomely complex molecule called DNA controls all heredity. DNA in the form of chromosomes and genes

is found in every cell of every organism. Incredible as it may seem, biologists have demonstrated that each cell in your body contains the entire genetically coded information necessary for a complete human being.

DNA is composed of various sequences of four chemicals known as nucleotides. Until recently, there was little science could do to alter these sequences. But in just the past few years, researchers have shown that it is possible to "transplant" genetic material (sections of DNA) into cells of wholly different species. By splitting open the DNA in one organism, researchers can insert new genes from a different organism, thus changing the hereditary characteristics of the organism! This breakthrough, coupled with other achievements, such as the synthesis of totally man-made genes, means that genetic engineering — and the creation of totally novel organisms — is now within reach.

Proponents of such research say the DNA transplantation technique promises a whole array of benefits to medical research, practical medicine and agriculture. The process could, for example, provide critical insights into the way in which cells — including perhaps cancer cells — reproduce. It might also be used to mass-produce drugs that are now rare or expensive, such as insulin, gamma globulin, and antibiotics, by transplanting into some common host the genes that stimulate the production of these drugs. Some scientists talk of conquering crippling genetic diseases such as Down's syndrome, or sickle-cell anemia.

The so-called recombinant DNA techniques also have potential applications in agriculture. For example, food crops could be given the genetic ability to convert nitrogen from the air directly into the chemical essentials for growth, a

Cloning: Duplicating Humans

Imagine a world where hundreds, thousands, perhaps millions of people all look exactly alike. They have the same strengths and weaknesses, the same proclivities and interests. In short, they are identical replicas of one individual. Such a world may be possible in the near future.

So far, human reproduction has always occurred through the union of a sperm and an egg — the sex cells of male and female. But scientists know that all the other cells of the body contain a full set of genetic instructions for the entire individual. Thus if a body cell could be made to divide and grow, the result could be a reproduction of the person that donated that cell.

This method of asexual procreation is called "cloning," and it has already been successfully accomplished with plants, fruit flies and frogs.

In 1968, Dr. J. B. Gurdon of Oxford University obtained an unfertilized egg cell from an African clawed frog. He destroyed the egg's nucleus (containing the egg's genetic code) with radiation. Gurdon then took a *body* cell from another frog, removed its nucleus with tiny surgical tools, and implanted it in the egg cell. The new "cell" combination began growing and dividing, and produced a new tadpole which grew up to be an identical twin of the frog that donated the nucleus!

How would cloning work with human beings? Roughly the same way. A healthy egg could be removed from a woman's body and its nucleus destroyed. Then the nu-

cleus from a cell taken from another person (the "donor") would replace the destroyed nucleus. The egg would then be reimplanted in the uterus of a woman and allowed to grow into a "photo copy" of the donor. In principle, the process could be repeated hundreds, thousands, yes millions of times (everybody has trillions of cells he or she could "donate" for such purposes).

The consequences of human cloning are almost impossible to imagine. The family unit would have little reason to exist; sexual relations would no longer be needed for reproduction. The whole concept of parenthood, of being a "father" or "mother" would need to be revised or perhaps discarded.

What would cloning be used to produce? Perhaps millions of identical soldiers, cloned from the most aggressive and belligerent stock available? Perhaps a race of complacent passivists? A community of Einsteins? Perhaps an aging despot would seek to ensure his throne with a clone — his genetic double. (Would the real Idi Amin please stand up!) Or perhaps millions of people would seek a new form of "immortality" by engendering numerous clones of themselves.

Fertilization of human eggs has already been accomplished in the laboratory, and such eggs have been successfully implanted in human "mothers." Such techniques are essential prerequisites for implementing cloning. If cloning becomes acceptable in the future, human society will be dramatically altered — perhaps beyond recognition.

process known as nitrogen fixation. Such a breakthrough would dramatically reduce the world's dependence on costly fertilizers.

Industry is also very interested in capitalizing on the new biology. At least one company is trying to use genetic manipulation to create a strain of bacteria that will literally eat up oil spills.

Yet, while optimism over the

genetic manipulation remains high in many circles, an increasing sense of alarm is being expressed by a growing number of scientists. The primary danger is that a new kind of virulent virus or bacteria might eventually be produced that could infect other organisms. This is especially likely in view of the fact that the prime organism currently used in genetic research is *E. Coli*, a bac-

teria that is a normal inhabitant of the human digestive tract and which can easily enter the body through the mouth or nose.

"I myself must admit that, while I felt uneasy about future hazards when I carried out experiments on bacterial transformation 15 years ago, I did not ponder the full scope of the problem until recently," confides Dr. Liebe F. Cavalieri, professor of biochemistry at Cornell University. Warns Cavalieri: "A single unrecognized accident could contaminate the entire earth with an ineradicable and dangerous agent that might not reveal its presence until its deadly work was done. . . . It is possible, intentionally or unintentionally, to construct highly dangerous agents of other types, worse than anything yet envisioned in biological warfare."

Dr. Robert Sinsheimer, chairman of the Biology Division of the California Institute of Technology, warns that the new genetics may well be irreversible. "Because of human fallibility, these new organisms are almost certain to escape," Sinsheimer told *The Plain Truth*. "There's no way to recapture them, and thus we have the great potential for a major calamity."

Erwin Chargaff, professor emeritus of Columbia University and long-time researcher on the characteristics of DNA, states: "I should say that the spreading of experimental cancer may be confidently expected."

A chilling confirmation of Chargaff's prediction has already occurred. Researchers in Texas recently sounded cries of grave concern when they succeeded in genetically tinkering with an otherwise harmless mouse cancer virus, only to find that it was now capable of causing tumors in other species!

"I think our initial feeling was more of fear than anything else," admitted Dr. Alfred Hellman, chief of the Office of Biological Safety at the Southwest Foundation in San Antonio. "If it's doing this to these animals, what's it going to do to us? And if it happens to us, it could happen to anybody."

Because of the furor over genetic manipulation, the National Institute of Health has recently provided

"guidelines" intended to regulate such research. But critics remain skeptical that such unenforceable guidelines will do much good. One outspoken opponent of such research is Dr. L. Douglas DeNike. He is concerned that the guidelines permit continued experimentation with so-called "crippled" forms of E. Coli. "I fear that even 'crippled' forms of this microbe might transmit characteristics to ordinary E. Coli if they were accidentally released," DeNike told *The Plain Truth*.

Other worried officials note that the NIH guidelines do not have the force of law. "At present the only thing the government can do," laments one scientist, "is cut off research funds if they violate the guidelines. But what about industry where they want to work with these bacteria on a massive commercial scale?" "We're talking about the prospects for the demise of biosphere," says DeNike.

"This [research] is more hazardous than the atom bomb," stresses Harvard biologist Dr. Ruth Hubbard. "It could unleash 'super-bacteria' that are resistant to drugs and spread new types of disease world wide." Adds Hubbard: "An experimenter could inhale or ingest some of the bacteria and carry it out of the lab in his body — a common occurrence in even the best labs — and then pass the germ on to people outside, introducing a new disease to humanity."

Even the oil-munching bacteria might have disastrous kickbacks. What happens, for example, if such bacteria were to infest oil wells or gas tanks? Would they consume the oil before it could ever be used?

The Brink of Cosmocide

"Of course such alarms have been raised before," says Cavalieri. "The A-bomb, nerve gas, biological warfare, the destruction of the stratospheric ozone layer by fluorocarbon sprays — all have been held up as threats to human existence. But all of these dangers can, in theory if not in practice, be limited or controlled. The threat of a new form of life is more compelling, for once released, it cannot be controlled, and its effects cannot be reversed. A new dis-

The Biology of the Future

What will the biology of tomorrow be like? Some far-reaching breakthroughs are predicted:*

- 1980 — Choose the sex of children before they are conceived
- 1985 — Artificial heart implantations; brain linked to computer
- 1990 — Chemical synthesis of cheap nutritious food; cancer conquered
- 1995 — First human clone; brain transplants commonplace
- 2000 — Transplantation of almost all organs of the body
- 2005 — Alteration of the processes of aging
- 2010 — Widespread use of artificial insemination to pro-

duce genetically superior offspring

- 2015 — Fetuses grown in artificial wombs
- 2020 — Genetic engineering in humans by chemically modifying their DNA chains
- 2025 — *In Utero* genetic manipulation
- 2030 — Total mastery of human genetics and heredity
- 2040 — Suspended animation of life
- 2050 — Complete control of the aging process; man-made immortality

*Adapted in part from *The Post-Physician Era: Medicine in the 21st Century*, written by Jerrold Maxmen (1976).

ease may simply have to run its course, attacking millions in its path. . . . *This research is the greatest threat ever to our human existence.*"

Knowledge Run Amok

"We have gone along for several hundred years with the belief that knowledge and the means for acquiring knowledge are always beneficial," muses Sinsheimer. "The situation that first led anybody to question that assumption was the atomic bomb. I think that a lot of people wish there were a way to forget all about nuclear physics but there is not. For a while, many people hoped that it was an anomaly. But now here comes another one. How do you cope with this new observation that some kinds of knowledge and some kinds of technology can be very dangerous? . . .

"'Know the truth and the truth will make you free' is a credo carved on the walls and lintels of laboratories and libraries across the land," Sinsheimer observes. But he adds, "We begin to see that the truth is not enough, that the truth is necessary but not sufficient, that scientific inquiry, the revealer of truth, needs to be coupled with wisdom if our object is to advance the human condition. . . . We need to recognize that the great forces we now wield might — just might — drive us too

swiftly toward some unseen chasm."

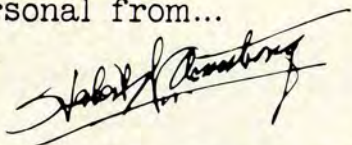
Will the emerging science of genetic manipulation create the same horrors that have resulted from nuclear research? The tragic truth is that man has partaken of "the tree of the knowledge of good and evil," but he simply does not have the wisdom to rightly use the technology he has invented.

"My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge," God told the prophet Hosea (Hosea 4:6). What kind of knowledge is lacking? Certainly not scientific and technological knowledge; but the godly knowledge that would provide the moral, ethical and spiritual framework to guide man's quest in his understanding of the material universe.

Jesus Christ described a last generation when wars, famines and, significantly enough, *pestilences*, would mark the beginning of a time of great sorrow and tribulation (Matt. 24:7, 8). Surely he referred to our times when he stated: "And except those days should be shortened, there should be no flesh be saved [alive]. . ." (Matt. 24:22).

Only the intervention of Christ will prevent global catastrophe and ensure the survival of mankind. Thankfully the most frightening aspects of the new biology may never come to pass. □

Personal from...



(Continued from page 1)

Posts." (Hopefully, the new government will get settled down so that I may yet visit Bangkok on the return of this present trip.) "President of Ireland Resigns Over Anti-terrorism Laws." "Rhodesian-Britain Talks Informally in Germany." (Ian Smith's presence there postponed my personal talk with him in Salisbury scheduled for November 1st.) "War Continues in South Lebanon."

It's WAR, CIVIL WAR, and VIOLENCE — EVERYWHERE ON EARTH! It's in Europe, Asia, Africa. And South America is in tense states of crises.

The world DOES NOT REALIZE! The world takes this VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE as a matter of course. It has increased on us gradually. We seem to suppose it is the natural state of affairs.

It ISN'T.

I see these heads of state personally. I see them IN TROUBLE. And, soon, I get news that THEY ARE DEAD! Men I KNOW! Men with whom I have had private talks! I cannot keep up with it! Doors open so that the warning MESSAGE of the CREATOR GOD may be taken into these nations — *then the GOVERNMENT IS OVERTURNED!* This is disconcerting — actually FRIGHTENING! Because I know what all this MEANS!

Perhaps it is not REAL to you. You have not KNOWN these men in a close, personal way, as I have. It has struck CLOSE to me! When you lose a loved one, you weep — you are shaken — upset all over.

My dear readers, THIS IS JUST AS REAL. Can I make you realize that?

And, whether you realize it or not, it is *just as REAL as it seems to me*. For what it portends as ABSOLUTELY CERTAIN SOON TO STRIKE IS GOING TO AFFECT YOU, personally, just as much as me — and perhaps a LOT MORE TERRIFYINGLY unless you are as READY as I.

It means THE END of this world, as organized, IS UPON US!

God Almighty sent Jonah to warn

MAO

(Continued from page 35)

Chairman Mao: "My congratulations, Mr. Armstrong, on your cleverness in thinking out such a scenario covering such a VAST era of time. I will grant you this much — it would be WONDERFUL — IF ONLY IT WERE TRUE! It has been interesting, and should be to every THINKING mind. But those of us educated in the certainty that THERE IS NO GOD, unfortunately cannot accept your idea — even though I will freely admit *it MAKES SENSE from every angle*. IF ONLY it were true! But leaders and educators are too steeped in the evolutionary theory to ever believe anything else. And unfortunately, the rest of humanity is interested only in the comforts and pleasures of the moment. So I'm afraid you

the Gentile city of NINEVEH! They HEEDED his warning. And the destruction did not come, BECAUSE God saw their deep repentance — their turning from their evil ways — He heard their desperate PRAYERS asking for MERCY!

But God said that if He sends a prophet (*as He now sends me to warn YOU*) that YOU, people of America, Canada, Britain, Western Europe, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa WILL NOT HEED! So, if you DON'T, then I tell you IT IS CERTAIN TO HAPPEN — TO YOU!

Let me give you a picture of it from GOD'S OWN WORD, as GOD HIMSELF HAD IT PICTURED!

"HOWL YE; for the DAY OF THE LORD is at hand; it shall come as a DESTRUCTION from the Almighty. Therefore shall all hands be faint, and every man's heart shall melt; and they SHALL BE AFRAID: PANGS AND SORROWS shall take hold of them; they shall be in pain as a woman that travaileth: they shall be AMAZED one at another; their faces shall be as flames. Behold, the DAY OF THE LORD cometh, CRUEL both with WRATH and FIERCE ANGER, TO LAY THE LAND DESOLATE: and he shall DESTROY the sinners thereof out of it" (Isa. 13:6-9).

Dear readers of mine, I hope you realize mine is not an easy job.

I have to wonder what has be-

will never convince the world of what you appear to BELIEVE, and have put in this scenario form."

Myself: "I thank you, Mr. Chairman, for LISTENING. In the very fact that you DID LISTEN, *I have succeeded in my commission*. I am not the one to BRING ABOUT world peace — but the representative and forerunner preparing the way for the One who most certainly WILL bring us WORLD PEACE, even though it is foretold that *the WORLD WILL OPPOSE HIM* until it is subdued and FORCED against its will by the supernatural Power it denies to live in PEACE, COOPERATION, HAPPINESS, HEALTH, AND ABUNDANT WELL-BEING — with eternal life available to all whose hearts shall be made willing.

"Thank you for your hospitality and generous courtesy. Good-bye, Chairman Mao." □

come of former President Thieu of South Vietnam. I knew him when he was in office — chatted with him an hour. I heard he escaped, just as the Reds were taking over Saigon. Then I wonder where are Senator Pauline of the South Vietnam government, her husband and family whom I learned to love so dearly? I heard they escaped, and are safe somewhere — I know not WHERE!

These tragic conditions all over this world strike DEEP into my HEART! They MEAN something REAL to me. I KNOW what they mean. All I can do for you is WARN YOU. In JESUS CHRIST is your only hope and SAFETY! I can't do YOUR repenting, and YOUR praying for you. Don't think these world happenings now are just ROUTINE world news.

They are GOD'S LOVING WARNING to us of the fast-coming SUPREME CRISIS at the END of this world's society, civilization, government — man's whole evil SYSTEM.

Then, afterward, shall come the HAPPY, PEACEFUL WORLD TOMORROW, ruled by the GOVERNMENT OF THE LIVING GOD!

I travel in all parts of the world as an ambassador for WORLD PEACE. But I know I myself cannot bring about PEACE. I am merely Christ's ADVANCE ambassador, PREPARING THE WAY! □

IN BRIEF

QUEST: THE CELEBRATION OF EXCELLENCE

by Stanley R. Rader

The author accompanies *Plain Truth* Editor-in-Chief Herbert W. Armstrong on his frequent visits with heads of state and other leading international dignitaries.

PASADENA, January 14, 1977:

By the time this reaches you, QUEST/77's inaugural issue will be in the hands of subscribers and available on newsstands across the country. Perhaps a little background on this exciting new publication and its publisher, the Pasadena-based Ambassador International Cultural Foundation, would be in order.

The twin concepts of man as a unique being, with unlimited mental and spiritual potential, and the responsibility of all men to be responsive to the needs of fellowmen, undergird the vision that brought forth first the AICF, founded by Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong to unite caring people everywhere in support of its transcendent purpose, and now the AICF's newest project, QUEST/77.

Mr. Herbert Armstrong has expressed over the years his concern with what man is and what man could become. On the one hand, we see humanity plunging headlong into problems that threaten our very existence; at the same time, the tremendous human capacity and creativity leave us in awe of the incredible *paradox*. It is this *paradox* that has given birth to QUEST/77.

From the outset our publications and other media have shown the enormity of the world's problems. With the long-awaited completion of Ambassador Auditorium, fulfilling Mr. Armstrong's dream of a fitting House for God, the AICF was con-

ceived to bring a glimpse of the excellence that mankind *could* achieve. First AICF brought cultural excellence to Southern California. But that area alone was too small a stage for this sharing. So a new kind of publication was conceived, a unique magazine dedicated to the celebration of excellence in all its manifestations. Mr. Ted Armstrong, too, had long envisioned a balancing, encouraging print vehicle to reverse the trend of journalistic muckraking and the universal appeal to man's baser instincts.

QUEST/77 provides the perfect complement to the warning message which is the mission of Mr. Herbert Armstrong and the great Work he has humanly directed for the past nearly half century to "preach and publish in all the world for a witness" in this age. For, without a voice that seeks out and celebrates, for our encouragement, for our enlightenment and for our example, those areas of breakthrough where mankind's divine source becomes believable in out-of-the-ordinary courage, commitment and accomplishment which are evidence of the fact that God created man, how would the warning have meaning or hope? QUEST/77 is designed to be such a voice.

This voice needed not only real specialists — the best — in the areas of editing, circulation and advertising, but believing converts to this need for a positive note in the dimly negative press of today to broadcast it with conviction. So there is total consistency in the selection of Arthur Murphy, the man most responsible for the successful launch of such titles as *Sports Illustrated* and *Smithsonian*, as publisher; of Robert Shnayerson,

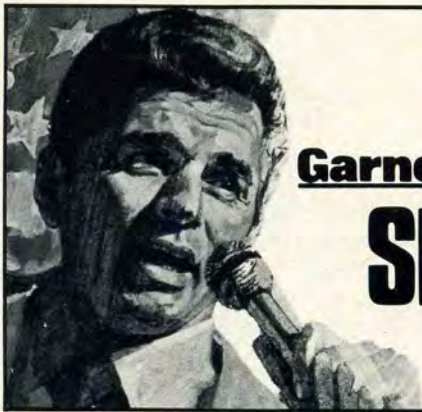
formerly of *Time*, *Life* and *Harper's*, as editor, with his impressive and experienced staff, including Managing Editor Molly McKaughan (*Paris Review*), Art Director Noel Werrett (*Psychology Today*, *Car and Driver*, etc.), Associate Editor Jed Horne (*People*), Photo Consultant John Morris (*Life* and *New York Times*), editorial advisers T. George Harris (*Psychology Today*) and Tony Jones (*Harper's*); of Wendell Forbes, former circulation director at *Life*, in that capacity, aided by Jack Ladd, formerly of *Time* and *Saturday Review*; of Phil Du Val, formerly president of advertising for *Harper's*, *Natural History* and *Atlantic Monthly*, as advertising director.

QUEST/77 will also be dedicated to and capitalize on, quality, dignity, achievement, the transcendence of man, the reach of the human mind and the inherent potential of human life — and this will fully support the efforts of Mr. Herbert Armstrong in his meetings with leaders of government, education and business around the world.

A potpourri of comments from QUEST/77's editor, Robert Shnayerson, shows clearly how identical to our own is his grasp of QUEST/77's underlying concepts. Before we met up with him, Mr. Shnayerson had become "tired of journalistic myopia. Fed up with publications that appeal to our worst instincts. Let other editors drag readers through cesspools of mediocrity," he declared. "I'm interested in people as they really are — and could become . . . the quiet heroism of ordinary people coping, healing, teaching. The unknown best and brightest in a billion corners of the earth — unknown because good news isn't news."

QUEST/77 truly presents to the world what Mr. Herbert W. Armstrong has represented for over 40 years — with all the dignity, quality, appeal, relevance and importance that has been his hallmark.

For subscription information, write QUEST/77, Subscription Department, 300 West Green Street, Pasadena, California 91123. □



Garner Ted Armstrong **SPEAKS OUT!**

The Coming Era of Superweapons

When people talk about the potential for *mass annihilation*, they're usually thinking about the specter of all-out nuclear war — a nuclear Armageddon which would obliterate mankind from the face of the earth.

Many do not realize, however, that nuclear weapons are only a part of man's growing mass annihilation arsenal. Not satisfied with "mere" atomic and hydrogen bombs, science is about to bequeath to mankind a whole new generation of SUPERWEAPONS!

Several months ago, Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev warned that the level of modern technology is now such that, in his words, "a serious danger arises of the creation of a weapon even more awesome than the nuclear one."

While there has been considerable speculation about exactly what weapon Mr. Brezhnev had in mind, former U.S. Deputy Defense Secretary William P. Clements warns that "the Soviet Union is investing heavily in several highly speculative technologies which could have a major impact on future warfare."

U.S. researchers, consequently, are pushing ahead in similar directions.

Among the "superweapons" currently being talked about, worked on, or, in some cases, already in existence, are:

"Advanced" nuclear weapons. Scientists are speculating about the possibility of nuclear weapons

made from materials heavier than uranium, and therefore more powerful. Also, a scientist at a British "think tank" has proposed the development of a portable hydrogen "mini-bomb" the size of a large softball, which would have almost no fallout.

Neutron bombs. Unlike nuclear bombs, a neutron bomb would kill people by means of a stream of deadly radiation, but leave machines and buildings undamaged.

Sound rays. Electro-acoustical advancements in sound pulsation have demonstrated that humans can be totally disoriented by inaudible infra-sound. The military applications of sound rays could therefore become a novel method of human destruction.

Chemical fireballs. A new generation of incendiary weapons is being developed which produces "chemical holocausts," radiating intense thermal energy second only to that of an atomic bomb.

Lasers. Military research institutions in both the East and West are in keen competition to apply the laser to military uses. The Buck Rogers "ray gun," concentrating unbelievable amounts of energy into a narrow death ray, is no longer science fiction.

A recent news headline made the startling announcement, "Russians Use Laser to Knock Out U.S. Satellites." According to several national magazines, one American satellite was destroyed and another "blinded" by powerful Soviet laser

beams within the past year. The Pentagon has neither confirmed nor denied the reports.

Whether this alarming account is true or not, there is no question that an intense race is underway between the United States and the Soviet Union to be the first with operational killer laser beams.

Weather warfare and earthquake stimulation. The ability to unleash hurricanes and tornadoes (or searing droughts) against one's enemy, or to touch off killer earthquakes in strategic cities, would be a powerful weapon in wartime. These new avenues of warfare have not escaped the probing analysis of the Armageddon-makers of the world.

Chemical and biological weapons. Just one canister of some of the new high-potency nerve gases is estimated to be capable of annihilating some one billion people — a quarter of all mankind! Q fever, a biological agent, is so deadly that less than ten ounces, if properly dispersed, could kill all of humanity!

Despite the biological and chemical weapons pacts on the books, there is no reliable verification of compliance against their development and production, nor any safeguards against their use. As one military analyst said: "Implementation of the pacts will be unverifiable *until the next war.*" And then, of course, it's too late.

Other even more mind-boggling weapons of mass destruction are now in the thinking stages in research plants around the world — including bombs based on subatomic particles and antimatter.

What does it all mean? Where is humanity heading? Will these horrifying weapons ever be *used*?

Mankind's Armageddon is coming — but *world peace* will not be far behind. You can *know* what lies ahead, laid bare in the pages of Bible prophecy.

If you want to know what lies beyond the seemingly bleak future, write for our new free booklet *The Red Horse: War*, the second of the prophesied "four horsemen of the Apocalypse" soon to be unleashed against the world. □

TWO PROPHETS

(Continued from page 27)

in the "administration of death" (2 Cor. 3:7). Moses was a reluctant prophet. Faithful and obedient and hard working, granted, but reluctant. Moses *did* the job God wanted done — but it wasn't Moses' idea — it was God's!

"For the law was given by Moses, but grace and truth came by Jesus Christ" (John 1:17, KJV). This scripture is misquoted and certainly misapplied by most. It makes it appear that Moses was the giver of the law — that harsh, unbending, unforgiving, deadly set of rules that condemn and kill — while Jesus *substituted* grace and truth in the stead of law.

Nothing could be further from the truth!

In the first place, the translation in the King James Bible is inaccurate. It should read: "For the law was given **THROUGH** Moses, while grace and truth came **THROUGH** Jesus Christ." This Moses and this Jesus are very much two of a kind.

Law is not opposed to truth. Law is truth. Granted, law is not grace. It was never intended to be. The purpose of law is to show the **NEED** for grace. Grace in no way does away with law — grace forgives the transgression of law.

Without law there could be no grace.

Without grace there could be no life.

Thank God for law — and grace — and life!

Law and Grace and Truth

Moses, the man, or any other man, could not produce or provide grace. Only Jesus, by His perfect life and His perfect sacrifice can grant grace. Hence, the law could be given *through* Moses, the man — but it was, and is, and always will be *God's law* — while grace could *only* come *through* Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and grace was, is, and always will be *God's grace*!

Moses was thoroughly familiar with God's grace, and he wrote *five books* of God's truth. Jesus thoroughly believed in and knew all about law, for it was His voice that

WHY NOT?

by Jon Hill

The Age of Blah!

We live in an age of Blah — despite space travel, potential thermonuclear extinction, increase in major earthquakes, unprecedented population-explosion/famine bomb about to explode, runaway inflation (with world depression on its heels), a plethora of crises from ecology to education.

We live in an age of Blah because original thinking is at its nadir. Despite the fact that there are nearly as many life styles as there are people, and many brag about "doing their *own* thing" but hardly anyone does. We are assaulted on every side by politicians on the one hand and the press on the other, with advertising hitting us head on! We are told what, when and how to think, act, buy, do — and most of us do as we are told!

We are all forced into a dry, dull mold. We're the Pepsi generation, pop-bottle babies. We alleviate the pain at one end with aspirin and at the other with Preparation H. We smother the rest with roll-ons, spray and aerosol unguents, powders and oils. Time, required for proper enjoyment of the quality life, is just not available (though we have the same 24 hours a day all our forefathers did since Adam and Eve in the Garden) — so we substitute profit-making (for someone else) "instants" for as many facets of life as possible: instant coffee, instant tea, instant you and me! Instant TV meals(?). Instant Cup-A-Soup. Instant divorce. Instant potatoes, tomatoes and puddings.

Paper diapers clog our toilets or are a potential cause of disease at the dump.

Beige is our favorite color. Bland is our favorite brand.

Easy credit, no-pain payments: buy now, pay . . . later . . .

Smooth.

Soft.

BLAH!

Why not get out of the rut? And live, just a little.

Why not go to the grocery store, get some good meat and some *fresh* (not frozen or instant) vegetables, some spices of *your own* choosing and come home and make a good Irish stew, that takes two days before it really tastes good?

Why not turn the TV off for a week and read a good book instead, or build a cabinet, or sew a new dress, or attend a lecture with the whole family, go to the zoo, have a picnic (weather permitting), take a *walk*?

Why not take some *time* to **THINK** — about why you do the things you do, or don't do?

Why not?

thundered God's law to millions of Israelites from the heights of the holy mountain of God, Sinai in Horeb — where Moses reluctantly accepted the job God had for him!

In the next installment, we'll see many of the trials and tribulations Moses went through in doing the job the God who became Jesus demanded of him. We'll hear more of

his pleadings, his arguments, his *boldness* before the throne of *grace*. We'll see how thoroughly familiar Moses was with *grace and truth* — and how completely the law belongs to God, comes from God, and was only given *through* Moses, the reluctant prophet.

Don't miss it! □

(To Be Continued)



time." The secret of success is no secret at all. Anyone can be successful — anyone, that is, who is willing to apply a few basic principles. A free booklet, *The Seven Laws of Success*, clearly explains these vital keys and shows how you can begin to apply them immediately. Use the coupon below to request your copy.

